

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S GOUDHURST

England & Wales - Charity number 1175082

## Details

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**Other names** ST MARY'S PCC GOUDHURST, ST MARY'S PCC GOUDHURST

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2017-10-10

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** The Vicarage  
Back Lane  
Goudhurst  
Cranbrook  
TN17 1AN

**Phone** 01580211739

**Website** [www.gkchurch.org.uk](http://www.gkchurch.org.uk)

## Activities

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

**Activities:** Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Kent

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£284,343	£295,251	-	-
2024-12-31	£268,944	£287,789	-	-
2023-12-31	£243,011	£233,212	-	-
2022-12-31	£310,227	£245,337	-	-
2021-12-31	£220,927	£279,783	-	-
2020-12-31	£221,118	£213,263	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Rev Rachel Robertson</b>	Chair	2021-01-07
ALISON WILLIAMS		2016-04-24
Christopher David Williams		2025-04-13
Claire Cooke		2020-10-11
DAVID LODGE		2016-04-24
Denis Edwin Darvill		2025-04-13
Emma-Louise Copplestone		2022-03-10
Gillian Wallis Hosken		2020-10-11
Grace Rebecca Wain		2025-04-13
JAMES MAYHEW		2017-04-29
John Justin Hsuan		2024-05-10
Martin Loy		2020-10-11
RICHARD BRAY VINTON		2016-04-24
Simon Davis		2022-04-24
Westley Richard Hinsley		2019-04-14

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# Accounts

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**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Goudhurst  
c/o The Church Office, Back Lane, Goudhurst, Kent TN17 1AN  
Registered Charity No 1175082  
Trustees' Annual Report**

**St Mary's Goudhurst Book of Reports: May 2025 to March 2026**

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## **1. Introduction from Vicar Rachel**

Dear Church

Thank you for taking the time to read our Book of Reports for the period May 2025 - March 2026. Thank you to those who have prepared these reports, and for all who serve God in many and varied ways. As 1 Corinthians 12:12 says, 'There is one body, but it has many parts.'

These reports detail finance, governance and goals relating to St Mary's. As GK Church we have two PCCs, two buildings but we are one church. As St Mary's, our worship, our ministry and our direction, is interwoven with Christ Church - sharing the same vision.

### **GK Church - our vision**

Jesus was asked: what is the greatest commandment? His response guides our overall vision and purpose:

“You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”  
This is the greatest and first commandment.  
And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”  
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’  
(Matthew 22: 37-40).

This reminds us of who we are, and why we do the things that we do.

Alongside this we have identified **five characteristics of our church life** that we feel God has gifted to us to shape our actions and our reflections on how and where He wants to be at work.

1. **Who is our God?** That we would develop in our understanding of who God is through study of His word and be able to articulate this confidently.
2. That we are called to **go deeper with God**, establishing really deep faith foundations.
3. That church has the element of **campfire** about it: welcoming, with space to share stories, a place for all to gather, visible to those from afar who may be drawn to the edge of the campfire - and open to the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. As GK Church, we are to be **beacons of Christ's light**, one of many beacons in the area, as Christ's saving power transforms the nation and the world.
5. That one by one, we would see people come to know God and his love, and be able to confidently declare, **'I am the Lord's.'**

### **Life of the Parish of St Mary's: A flavour of our extraordinary ordinary life through the year**

- Weekly services to worship God: Thursday Morning 10am Holy Communion, Sunday 8 o'clock said Holy Communion and the 10:45 (Holy Communion alternates with a service of the word, Worship for Everyone). Groups for children and young people are offered at the 10:45 on Holy Communion weeks
- Annual rhythm of services throughout the church year (Advent to Remembrance)
- St Mary's specials: beach trips, New Year's Day walk, Gaudete Sunday, clipping the church)
- Safeguarding and safer recruitment
- Weekly small groups
- Communication (including the weekly GK News and the monthly Parish magazine)
- Prayer life, including our monthly prayer meeting (the first Wednesday every month and the GK emergency prayer chain - a WhatsApp with 75 people praying).
- Baptisms, confirmations, weddings, vow renewals and funerals and the pastoral care around key life events
- Anna Chaplaincy (focusing on pastoral support to those of older age)
- The Weald Family Hub (provision of subsidised professional mental health counselling to children in 11 local primary schools)

- Home Communion visits
- Meal Train (meals provided to those under particular pressure)
- Community Cupboard (a food bank serving the local community)
- Financial giving to others including through the mechanism of the Community Care Fund (providing temporary financial assistance to those in crisis/ emergency need) and donations to local, national and international charities as part of our commitment to tithing
- Community Lunch
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Life Skills courses
- Café Toddlers (weekly parent/carer and toddlers group)
- Crafty Mondays
- Gatherings for children and youth (e.g. gingerbread house decorating, worship nights, film nights)
- Alpha
- Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School connection including weekly collective worship and involvement from several church family as governors
- Community and fundraising (for ourselves or others) including The Goudhurst Fête and Dog Show, FOSM Christmas Fair, Dinner dance
- Care of the church building, grounds and fabric from ironing altar linens to checking there's oil in the tank
- Conferences, Christian festivals, and worship days elsewhere in the UK
- Men's and Women's ministries

We are blessed to have the opportunity to work with several partners and value these relationships highly including: Friends of St Mary's (FOSM), Lunch Club, Weald Deanery churches and their Vicars, Sacred Heart church, Goudhurst Parish Council, Goudhurst Pre-school, Goudhurst, Kilndown & Lamberhurst bell ringers, the Goudhurst branch of the Royal British Legion, Goudhurst Scouts, the Old Parsonage Surgery, Cranbrook Bakery, Angela Jones and many others. Goodwill extended by Mr Ryan Laker & staff at the school, the Quarry Centre, Ladysden, the Star & Eagle, Weeks Bakery, Burgess Stores and many other businesses and individuals is most humbling.

### **Three areas of focus**

In October 2025, the PCC articulated that alongside our existing outreach and areas of ministry, three areas would be given particular attention and focus in the year ahead.

#### **1. Small groups and participation *Going Deeper***

In the medium term our goal is that 50% of our church family would be in a small group.

#### **2. Small groups leaders, Sunday group leaders *Going Deeper***

We are disciples following Jesus. How can we refresh leaders? Equip them? Train others? Grow disciple making disciples?

### 3. Prayer life *Going Deeper / Campfire / Who is our God?*

How can the conversation with God be something that we all experience more of? How can we hear from God together?

These focus areas are in addition to the extraordinary ordinary of our daily life and what I continue to see is that through our regular worship we are filled up by word, sacrament and Spirit, equipped to carry Christ's light wherever it is needed.

#### **Thank you**

Thank you all for learning more about who God is so that we can be more confident in who we are as his children. Thank you for investing in your relationship with God so that your roots extend more deeply. This will help you in times of trial and also give you access to the deepest source of joy. Thank you for sharing your lives with one another so that we can spur each other on, be authentic, and experience the wonder of God's story being written.

We are called as the people of God to be a blessing in this part of the world at this time, for His glory. All of us are part of that. Thank you for saying yes to God and the ways in which you give glory to God in who you are. Some of this is seen in the tasks undertaken to make church 'run.' Thank you for those things being done with care and love, from the person who makes sure the wheelie bins are out on the street for collection each week, to the one who welcomes home communion being brought to them, in order to share being church together. Thank you to those serving in one of the ministry areas we are able to offer, and those whose ministry doesn't have a recognised title.

Thank you for shining Christ in the daily lives you lead. You have much influence, whether you are flying to different parts of the world or praying with a friend over the phone. Thank you that you are eager and excited to see more and more come to know Jesus as Lord. I'll never grow tired of that. Each one matters.

For the last five years as your Vicar, I have witnessed our one true living God draw us into His works of goodness. I'm excited that God delights in us participating in and benefiting from His Kingdom work of transformation and grace. I am well supported in my role by you as an amazing team. I am so privileged to be walking with you.

Recently we reminded ourselves of God's delight in creation at the beginning of Genesis. God saw what He had made, and it was 'very good.' May you hear God's voice of affirmation and encouragement to you as a member of the body of Christ here.

With thanks, love, anticipation and trust,

Rachel

**Vicar St Mary's Goudhurst with Christ Church, Kildown**

## **2.**

### **Activities of the PCC prepared by Huthrie Copplestone and Barney Mayhew**

The PCC is the governing body of the church and Charity Trustees. We met regularly throughout the year.

The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 defines the principal function of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical." It also says that the PCC has a duty to "consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish."

Our responsibilities include thinking about the mission of the church and how it can continue to grow; continuous improvement of safeguarding; employment of staff; financial oversight; accountability; and keeping within charity law.

The PCC has put prayer and thought into most of the activities described elsewhere in this report. Sometimes it is a relatively simple case of saying yes to a proposal and supporting it with encouragement or funds. At other times it may not be so obvious, or there is a dilemma or difficulty that requires prayerful discernment. We often pray for wisdom to help us as we discuss and make decisions.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). In line with Diocesan guidelines, safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting, and PCC members undertake appropriate training.

During the past year, the PCC has included the following members:

Rachel Robertson (Vicar)  
Grace Wain (Churchwarden)  
Chris Williams (Churchwarden)  
Martin Loy (Deanery Synod representative)  
Ali Williams (Deanery Synod representative)  
Emma-Louise (Huthrie) Coplestone (Secretary)  
Claire Cooke  
Denis Darvill  
Simon (Sam) Davis  
Wes Hinsley  
Justin Hsuan  
Dave Lodge (Treasurer)  
James (Barney) Mayhew  
Kat Ogden (ordinand)  
Richard Vinton  
Gill Wallis-Hosken  
Phil Wright

The Standing Committee of the PCC has delegated authority to carry out the work of the PCC between meetings, within certain limits. The Standing Committee for 2025-6 were Revd Rachel, Grace Wain, Chris Williams, Wes Hinsley, Kat Ogden, Dave Lodge, Barney Mayhew, Ali Williams.

3.

**The Financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2025 prepared by Dave Lodge, approved by the PCC on 23 February 2026, independently examined by Graham Langlay-Smith - see attached report.**

4.

**Property, fabric, goods and ornaments of the church report prepared by Churchwardens Chris Williams and Grace Wain including a report on the Church Rooms prepared by James Wickham**

## **Church building**

One of the various responsibilities of being a Church Warden is the care and maintenance of the church buildings, goods and ornaments. This report will focus mainly on the fabric of our buildings where there has been the majority of activity in the preceding 12 months.

### **The Quinquennial Report (QR)**

The last QR was produced by Clague LLP (Architects) in August 2023. The QR's main conclusion was that St Mary's is generally in a very well-maintained condition compared to other churches not least because of the extensive external masonry repairs undertaken following the previous Quinquennial, generously funded in part by the Friends of St Mary's.

The main areas identified as needing attention were:

1. The interior kitchen wall where damp coming through from the outside had led to peeling paint. Clague's initial suggestion was trenching work externally to try to limit damp ingress.
2. The interior West-facing toilet wall where again damp ingress has resulted in flaking plaster. Clague's suggestion was that the Camellia tree planted just outside this section be cut back to minimize the risk of damp ingress prior to repair works being conducted. The pruning of the Camellia has been done, arranged by James Wickham.
3. In addition to the above, Clague identified a number of minor plastering, masonry and glazing repairs which, while not urgent, could logically be packaged with the two items above to create a meaningful workload to interest a contractor.

Due to urgent repairs required to tiles in the nave sinking resulting in a trip hazard (see below) work on the three points above has not progressed but will be a priority in the next 12 months.

### **The nave floor**

In May 2025, the sound of running water was heard in the vicinity of the sound desk. Upon lifting the floorboards underneath the last row of the central bank of pews, a severely corroded pipe (part of the heating system) was revealed. It was unclear how long the pipe had been leaking but it was obvious a substantial volume of water had drained into the ground under the flooring towards the west end of the church. Some weeks after the water supply to the pipe was switched off, the tiles in the aisle at the back of the pews started to subside, and in the following weeks this subsidence progressed. The tiles that had subsided became a serious trip hazard that had to be covered by a sheet of plywood. After a faculty was sought and approved, extensive discussions with the architect, our insurers, their appointed loss adjusters and a company of specialist plumbers, a repair to both the pipe and the flooring was completed in October 2025 and the heating system recommissioned. A successful insurance claim was made (£5,225 net of the compulsory excess of £250).

## **Church heating**

With the Church of England's drive to net zero in mind, we have started work on considering a long-term solution to the current heating system. The Diocese of Canterbury offered a free Energy Audit survey of the church building which was carried out in November 2025. The report was provided to us in January 2026. The findings are being discussed with members of the congregation who have professional knowledge of the subject matter and will carry on until we settle on the solution.

## **The Culpeper Effigies**

This project, owned and coordinated by the Friends of St Mary's, to conserve the Culpeper Effigies, was completed in September 2025. This project was a huge undertaking and has taken over 6 years to complete and will be brought to an official close by the visit of a minor working royal in July 2026. The new window which provides both UV and Infra-red protection looks spectacular and shows off the figures themselves to superb effect. Our thanks go to the Friends of St Mary's for funding the works and especially Pam Stubbs the Chair of the Friends at the time the project was conceived and to Ali Williams for successfully applying for several grants to help with the costs. It's not an overstatement to say the works are a legacy to the future generations of worshippers at St Mary's and to the wider village.

## **The Bells**

Damage to the Tenor Bell wheel resulted in an inspection of the bells in early 2025. This resulted in the recommendation of urgent works being needed to return the bells to a condition where they can be rung both safely and without struggle. This work includes, but is not limited to, replacement of the bearings, removal and reconstruction of a wheel, and replacement of clapper fittings. The Friends have offered to fund these works, and we are very grateful for their ongoing support. Permission to undertake the work has been granted and we are waiting for a start date from the company of specialist engineers appointed to carry out the works.

## **Goods and ornaments**

There are two main items to note regarding goods and ornaments:

1. The church silver and plate not used in regular services is held securely in a safe deposit box.
2. The Terrier detailing contents of the church and additions/deletions is held in the Church Office.

## **Thanks, and acknowledgements**

We would like to record our thanks to all of those who have helped us in our first year of office. In particular we thank James Wickham, whose knowledge of the idiosyncrasies of the building and for just getting things done, has been a huge support

## **Church Rooms**

The Church Rooms have had a successful year providing the venue for the village based Pre-School nursery and for renting out for functions. A big thank you to Jo Galloway for not only running the nursery, but also for coordinating the bookings for the rooms.

Pre-School bookings continue to attract pupils from within the village and beyond, with numbers remaining stable and the finances remaining stable despite funding changes. Thank you to Jo and her staff for making it such a welcoming nursery.

Work has continued to improve the fabric of the building with a new composite decking upgrade which will enable the children to spend more time outside in a safe environment as well as adding an estimated ten years to the life of the decking structure. Thank you to the Church for funding the majority of this with the Pre-School also contributing.

If you're interested in booking the Church Room for an event, please contact Jo Galloway.

5.

### **Changes in the electoral roll since the last APCM prepared by Electoral Roll Officer, Shona Griggs**

The Electoral Roll should be revised annually and every sixth year the preparation of new Church Electoral Rolls takes place, which means that everyone must re-apply to be included on the Electoral Roll of their church. This occurred last year in 2025 when St Mary's Electoral Roll stood at 154, this remains unchanged in 2026.

6.

### **Deanery Synod proceedings prepared by Ali Williams and Martin Loy**

St Mary's is part of the Canterbury Diocese in the Church of England. The Church of England has 43 Dioceses. The Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin is the Bishop of Dover and the Bishop in Canterbury and was consecrated in 2019. The new Archbishop of Canterbury is Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally.

Canterbury Diocese stretches from Maidstone southwards and includes the Weald, Romney Marsh, Ashford, Dover, Thanet, Faversham, Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey. We are part of the Weald Deanery and meet as Deanery Synod (clergy and lay representatives) throughout the year. Martin Loy and Ali Williams are our Deanery representatives and Revd Rachel also attends.

Meetings between May 2025 and March 2026 rotated between different churches, highlights from the year include:

- A Deanery Roadshow was held in September at St Dunstan's, Cranbrook which included an address from Bishop Rose and three breakout workshops and a space to share good news from across the Deanery (of which there was much from GK Church!)
- At an open Deanery Synod in February at Sandhurst Mission Church we spent time getting to know Diocesan Secretary Iain Blythe, in post for 18 months, and newly appointed Archdeacon Revd Estella Last. We got to know about them as people and also had the opportunity to discuss various pertinent issues within the Deanery and Diocese, including Parish Share and Safeguarding.

## **Administrative information**

Bankers:

CAF Bank  
15 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4JQ

Nat West Bank  
58 High St  
Tenterden  
Kent  
TN30 6AX

Independent examiner:

Graham Langlay-Smith

Architects:

Clague Architects  
62 Burgate  
Canterbury  
Kent  
CT1 2BH

Signed:

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Name:

Dated:

St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Goudhurst

Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2025

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2025

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		2025	2024
GENERAL FUND Income and Expenditure Account	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>INCOME</b>			
Incoming Resources From Donors			
Planned Giving		110,466	101,562
Collections and other giving		16,085	16,862
Card Machine - General Donations		809	303
Card Machine - Building Donations		492	603
Income Tax recovered	1	<u>32,667</u>	<u>31,518</u>
		160,518	150,849
Other Voluntary Income			
Restricted Donations & Legacies	2	-	-
Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	3	<u>6,794</u>	<u>7,728</u>
		6,794	7,728
Income From Investments			
Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	4	<u>3,232</u>	<u>3,591</u>
		3,232	3,591
Grants and Insurance Claims Received			
Culpepper Tomb - Grants		16,000	-
Bell repairs - Insurance Claim (Transfer to FOSM)		5,270	-
Floor & Heating Repairs - Insurance Claim		<u>5,200</u>	<u>-</u>
		26,470	-
Transfer from Other Funds			
Transfer from Church Room Fund - for Kilndown Loo Fund		<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>
		5,000	-
Income from Operating Activities			
Sales of Parish Magazine		1,793	3,202
Magazine Advertisement Fees		4,172	3,961
Fees from Weddings and Funerals etc.		6,919	10,962
Fairware Clothing		64	561
Fund Raising	5	<u>12,999</u>	<u>3,351</u>
		25,947	22,037
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b><u>227,961</u></b>	<b><u>184,204</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Grants & Donations			
Contribution to Weald Family Hub		6,000	6,000
Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	6	8,810	8,491
Gift to Christchurch, Kilndown - Loo Project		<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>
		19,810	14,491
Activities relating to the Work of the Church			
Diocesan and Deanery Parish Share		85,588	79,221
Music including Organ and Organist		1,719	1,992
Service Consumables - printing, coffee, communion		2,345	2,837
Weddings & Funerals (including Diocesan share)		4,434	6,714
Clergy Expenses		915	967
Alpha, CAP, Marriage Course etc		963	1,239
Sunday Groups and Childrens/Youth work		684	839
Magazine Printing		<u>6,770</u>	<u>4,435</u>
		103,418	98,245
Church Running and Fabric Expenses			
Heating & Utilities		6,447	6,711
Insurance		9,046	8,810
Church Cleaning & Supplies		4,108	5,019
Repairs and Maintenance	7	10,946	6,816
QI Works	8	1,861	9,275
Culpepper Tomb Restoration		17,000	-
Transfer Insurance Proceeds to FOSM		5,270	-
Enhancements	9	<u>-</u>	<u>11,167</u>
		54,677	47,798
Church Management and Administration			
Church Office - Salaries, Printing Stationery, Telephone etc.	10	35,401	14,821
Safety Deposit Box at bank		830	750
IT and Social Media costs		<u>2,769</u>	<u>2,877</u>
		39,000	18,448
Costs of Operating Voluntary Income			
Fund Raising Events	5	<u>844</u>	<u>33</u>
		844	33
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b><u>217,749</u></b>	<b><u>179,016</u></b>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>10,212</b>	<b>5,188</b>
General Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>46,720</u>	<u>41,532</u>
<b>General Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>56,932</u></b>	<b><u>46,720</u></b>

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
COMMUNITY CUPBOARD (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations received	12,441	20,852
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u><b>12,441</b></u>	<u><b>20,852</b></u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Cost of produce purchased	7,594	6,862
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u><b>7,594</b></u>	<u><b>6,862</b></u>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>4,847</b>	<b>13,990</b>
Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>15,417</u>	<u>1,428</u>
<b>Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u><b>20,264</b></u>	<u><b>15,417</b></u>

This fund continues to support a number of local families with provision of basic food and household items. A loyal group of helpers collect, purchase and deliver on a weekly basis. It also includes the weekly Community Lunch providing a hot meal and social space

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
BEACON FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
INCOME		
Donations received	2,832	2,872
	<u>2,832</u>	<u>2,872</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u><b>2,832</b></u>	<u><b>2,872</b></u>
EXPENDITURE		
Lay Minister Costs (including expenses)	8,151	15,777
Less: Receivable from Canterbury Diocese	<u>(7,580)</u>	<u>(13,222)</u>
	<u>570</u>	<u>2,555</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u><b>570</b></u>	<u><b>2,555</b></u>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2,262</b>	<b>317</b>
Beacon Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>34,361</u>	<u>34,044</u>
<b>Beacon Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u><b>36,622</b></u>	<u><b>34,361</b></u>

The Beacon Fund is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2017 to fund and support the appointment of a Lay Minister to develop work with local children and young people.

In 2025 Emma Simmonds commenced as Youth & Childrens Pastor. Canterbury Diocese are financially supporting this appointment on a sliding scale over the next four years

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
WEALD FAMILY HUB (Restricted Fund)			
INCOME			
Donations received		26,373	38,836
Bank Interest received		79	107
St Mary's Goudhurst Contribution		<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
		32,452	44,944
TOTAL INCOME		<u><b>32,452</b></u>	<u><b>44,944</b></u>
EXPENDITURE			
Spurgeons Costs		33,692	37,340
Coordinator Salary and Expenses		14,854	10,962
Other Expenses		<u>60</u>	<u>2,184</u>
		48,606	50,486
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u><b>48,606</b></u>	<u><b>50,486</b></u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(16,154)</b>	<b>(5,542)</b>
Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>52,185</u>	<u>57,727</u>
<b>Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	11	<u><b>36,031</b></u>	<u><b>52,185</b></u>

The Weald Family Hub was set up in 2018 to provide funding for Mental Health counselling in local schools and parent support, working through the Fegans charitable organisation (now part of Spurgeons). St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and a number of local schools

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
PROJECTS FUND (Designated Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
INCOME		
Donations received - Camp Bursary Scheme	550	-
TOTAL INCOME	<u>550</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Camp Bursary Scheme payments	99	-
Costs re Wall Repairs Project	<u>-</u>	<u>24,516</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>99</u>	<u>24,516</u>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>(24,516)</b>
Projects Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>371</u>	<u>24,887</u>
<b>Projects Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>822</u></b>	<b><u>371</u></b>
Balance of funds at 31st December		
Wall Repairs Project retention	<u>371</u>	<u>371</u>
Camp Bursary Scheme	<u>451</u>	<u>-</u>
	<b><u>822</u></b>	<b><u>371</u></b>

The retention for the Wall project was due in 2025, but we have not yet received a request for this. The balance has therefore been carried forward.

A number of donations were received in 2025 to support families attending the 2026 Wildfires Festival in July 2026. Only one bursary has so far been paid out - the balance of donations has been carried forward into 2026 to enable further bursaries to be made ahead of the festival.

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
 Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
CHURCH ROOM FUND (Designated Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions to the use of Church Room	10,060	9,064
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>10,060</u></b>	<b><u>9,064</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Repairs and Maintenance	6,915	4,171
Insurance	539	874
Utilities	4,028	2,264
Cleaning	<u>87</u>	<u>1,096</u>
	11,569	8,404
Transfer to Other Funds		
Transfer to General Fund - for Kilndown Loo Fund	5,000	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>16,569</u></b>	<b><u>8,404</u></b>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(6,509)</b>	<b>660</b>
Church Room Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>38,466</u>	<u>37,807</u>
<b>Church Room Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>31,958</u></b>	<b><u>38,466</u></b>

The Church Room Fund is a Designated Fund, held to ensure the ongoing maintainance and repair of the Church Rooms. £5,000 of the remaining balance was agreed by the PCC to be transferred to the General Fund - this was used to support the Loo Project at Kilndown Christchurch

CARE FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations received		-	500
		-	500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Donations paid		6,017	7,041
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>6,017</b>	<b>7,041</b>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(6,017)</b>	<b>(6,541)</b>
Bank Balances at 1st January		20,225	26,766
<b>Bank Balances at 31st December</b>		<b>14,208</b>	<b>20,225</b>

The Care Fund was launched in 2023 to support local families with emergency support. This was funded by 2 significant donations received in 2022. During 2025 we paid out 19 (2024: 17) donations ranging from new kitchen appliances and oil supplies to support for car repairs

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
 Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2025

	2025	2024
LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (Restricted Fund)		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Restricted Donations	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	-	-
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Support Payments made	-	2,400
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	-	<b>2,400</b>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	-	<b>(2,400)</b>
Local Community Fund Balance at 1st January	-	2,400
<b>Local Community Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	-	-

The transactions included in this account are where donations are received through the church account to support specific needs and love gifts. They are not part of our normal church outreach.

One donation for £2,400 was received in the final week of December 2023 and paid out in early January 2024

There were no transactions recorded in 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>			
General Fund		10,212	5,188
Community Cupboard		4,847	13,990
Beacon Fund		2,262	317
Weald Family Hub	11	(16,154)	(5,542)
Projects Fund		451	(24,516)
Church Room Fund		(6,509)	660
Care Fund		(6,017)	(6,541)
Local Community Fund		-	(2,400)
		<u>(10,908)</u>	<u>(18,845)</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARY OF BALANCES</b>			
General Fund		56,932	46,720
Church Room Fund (Designated)		31,958	38,466
Projects Fund (Designated)		822	371
Community Cupboard (Restricted)		20,264	15,417
Beacon Fund (Restricted)		36,622	34,361
Weald Family Hub (Restricted)	11	36,031	52,185
Care Fund (Restricted)		14,208	20,225
Local Community Fund (Restricted)		-	-
		<u>196,837</u>	<u>207,745</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Bank Balances - NatWest		72,597	33,869
Bank Balances - CAF Bank		19,584	92,712
Bank Balances - Shawbrook		10,489	10,417
Bank Balances - MetroBank		5,283	6,113
CCLA Deposit Account		68,687	65,713
CCLA Investment Account - cost	12	1,766	1,679
		<u>178,406</u>	<u>210,503</u>
Debtors and Prepayments		19,516	13,562
Creditors and Accruals		<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>(16,320)</u>
		<u>196,837</u>	<u>207,745</u>

The accounts are prepared on an Accruals basis

Note

1	Income Tax recovered	Income Tax is recovered on a monthly basis direct from HMRC		
2	Restricted Donations & Legacies	These are donations with uses specified by the donor		
3	Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	One (2024: one) donation of over £1,000 was received during the year; these donations did not contain any restrictions on use		
4	Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	Income represents deposit account interest and dividend income received during the year		
5	Fund Raising	Income:	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
		Fete Takings and Share	4,470	3,351
		Dinner Dance	8,529	-
		Per General Fund	<u>12,999</u>	<u>3,351</u>
		Costs:		
		Fete	578	33
		Dinner Dance	266	-
		Per General Fund	<u>844</u>	<u>33</u>
6	Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	The list of charities supported during the year is as follows:		
		Porchlight	1,250	1,200
		Goudhurst Scouts	1,250	1,200
		Lend With Care	1,250	1,200
		Maidstone Samaritans	1,250	1,200
		TearFund	1,250	1,200
		Street Pastors - Tunbridge Wells	1,250	-
		Kent Kindness (closed in 2025)	-	1,200
		Bibles for GK Primary School & Preschool leavers	650	833
		Lunch Club - Hire of Parish Hall	655	452
		Other	5	6
		Total Payments	<u>8,810</u>	<u>8,491</u>
7	Repairs and Maintenance	Floor Repairs	5,501	-
		Heating System Repairs & Servicing	1,537	1,648
		Plumbing Repairs	-	1,662
		Electrical Maintenance and Repairs	820	3,384
		Fire Safety Maintenance	950	449
		Lightning Conductor Maintenance	144	114
		Roof Repairs	300	300
		Window Repairs	-	313
		Bell Tower repairs & redecoration	814	-
		Other (including VAT reclaim)	1,694	(1,054)
			<u>10,946</u>	<u>6,816</u>

		<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
8	Quinquennial Report	The latest inspection was carried out in 2022 with the report issued in 2023. A major item was the upgrade of the full electrical systems which was carried out in 2024.	
	Electrical works	-	11,130
	Architects Fees	1,861	-
	Less: VAT reclaims under Government Scheme	-	(1,855)
		<u>1,861</u>	<u>9,275</u>
9	Enhancements	Church heating upgrade	
		-	12,374
	Less: VAT reclaims under Government Scheme	-	(1,874)
	Office upgrade	-	668
		<u>-</u>	<u>11,167</u>
10	Church Office - Salaries, Printing Stationery, Telephone etc.	Office Staff Salaries	
		31,390	11,521
	Telephone	979	869
	Stationery, Printing etc	1,528	816
	Payroll Processing	792	792
	Other	712	823
		<u>35,401</u>	<u>14,821</u>

2024 staff costs were lower due to only relating to a part year. In 2025 additional staff costs were incurred to support DBS and Safeguarding administration and other office work

11 Weald Family Hub Fund

The Weald Family Hub (WFH) was set up in 2018 to provide support for young people and their families who are struggling with issues of mental health across the Wealden villages, working with the Fegans charitable organisation (now part of Spurgeons). St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and local Primary schools. There are a number of regular donors to the Fund, together with donations from local fund raising events and charitable trusts. St Mary's has committed to continue financial support for this project

12	CCLA Investment Account	The market value of the CBF Investment Fund was as follows:	
		31-Dec	31-Dec
		<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	Number of shares held	137.11	133.30
	Value per share (pence)	2,219.83	2,312.27
	Market Value	£3,043.61	£3,082.36
	Original Cost of Shares plus dividend reinvestments	£1,765.55	£1,679.00

13 Physical Assets

The PCC is responsible for certain physical assets in St Mary's Church both fixed and movable which are not detailed in the financial statements, but are covered by insurance

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Goudhurst**

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 1 to 11

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Institute Of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

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

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

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

Mr Graham Langlay-Smith  
Chartered Accountant  
Waller Hill Farmhouse  
Grandshore Lane  
Frittenden  
Kent TN17 2DB

date 2026

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Mr Graham Langlay-Smith  
Chartered Accountant  
Waller Hill Farmhouse  
Grandshore Lane  
Frittenden  
Kent TN17 2DB

13th February 2026

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# Accounts

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Goudhurst  
c/o The Church Office, Back Lane, Goudhurst, Kent TN17 1AN  
Registered Charity No 1175082  
Trustees' Annual Report

St Mary's Goudhurst Book of Reports : May 2024 to April 2025

**Introduction**

Our last annual report was from May 2023-May 2024. This report covers May 2024-April 2025 and includes:

1. The life of the parish generally and the activities of the PCC - prepared by Revd Rachel Robertson
2. Financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2024 prepared by Dave Lodge, approved by the PCC **by 6 April 2025**, and independently examined by Graham Langlay-Smith.
3. Fabric, goods and ornaments of the church prepared by Churchwardens Jo Alsop and Sam Davis.
4. Church Rooms report prepared by James Wickham.
5. Changes in the electoral roll since the last APCM - prepared by Kat Ogden and Revd Rachel Roberston.
6. Deanery Synod proceedings prepared by Ali Williams and Martin Loy.

*With thanks to those noted for these reports, and for all here who serve God in many and varied ways, for His glory.*

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1.

**The life of the parish generally and the activities of the PCC  
prepared by Revd Rachel Robertson**

Our calling is to love God and love our neighbour as we love ourselves, and our purpose is to give God the glory with all of our lives. As we walk along side one another it fills me with deep joy to see this in action in our lives.

(a) The life of the parish in worship, prayer, understanding the bible, discipleship, pastoral care and mission

We are first called to love God with heart, mind, soul and strength, and then love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22: 37-40).

We continue to be blessed in our worship life together, aiming to give God glory, grow in understanding of who God is and our calling and identity. Equipped, we are then sent out to serve God in the world.

Our three main weekly services are the Thursday Morning 10am service, and Sunday services of said Holy Communion at 8 o'clock and the 10:45. Complementing these is our 9.15 Sunday morning service of Holy Communion at Christ Church.

Looking at 2024/25 we can be encouraged by numbers attending, especially on weeks when groups for children and young people are offered, and levels of engagement, including the range of gifts widely offered from those who serving up front or behind the scenes.

Prayer is to be the heart of church life. Whilst numbers participating in the monthly prayer meeting are currently low, engagement with the GK emergency prayer chain is high, with 72 people currently involved.

God reveals Himself to us through the bible. This year more of our congregation have started to take notes during the sermons. Weekly questions are prepared by Kat Ogden which are distributed by the small groups. Small groups, coordinated by Martin Loy continue to grow in terms of numbers belonging.

Pastoral care includes the quiet way our church loves and looks out for each other, as well as the Pastoral offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals. Defined pastoral care in the church includes the work of Sonja Drew as Anna Chaplain (focusing on pastoral support to those of older age), Meal Train (meals provided to those under particular pressure), Home Communion visits, Community Cupboard (a food bank serving the local community), Community Care Fund (providing temporary financial assistance to those in crisis or emergency need), Community Lunch, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Life Skills courses, Café Toddlers (weekly parent/carer and toddlers group), Crafty Mondays and Blend (weekly after-school pop-up café for children of years 7 to 10).

Many of these expressions of pastoral care would also be viewed as *mission*. The Anglican communion recognises Five Marks of Mission: to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom; to teach, baptise and nurture new believers; to respond to human need by loving service; to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation; and to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Areas of our mission not already noted includes: Alpha, Lend With Care, the Weald Family Hub, our work supporting Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School, the Goudhurst Fête and Dog Show, fairwear.

We are blessed to have the opportunity to work with several partners and value these relationships highly including: Lunch Club, Weald Deanery churches and their Vicars, Sacred Heart church, Goudhurst Parish Council, Goudhurst Pre-school, Goudhurst, Kilndown & Lamberhurst bellringers, the Goudhurst branch of the Royal British Legion, Goudhurst Scouts, the Old Parsonage Surgery, Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) and many others. Goodwill extended by Lindsay Roberts & staff at the school, the Quarry Centre, Ladysden, the Star & Eagle, Weeks Bakery, Burgess Stores and many other businesses and individuals is most humbling.

#### (b) The activities of the PCC

The PCC as governing body of the church and Charity Trustees, and met regularly throughout the year.

The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 defines the principal function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic,

social and ecumenical.” Our responsibilities include continuous improvement of safeguarding, employment, engagement with our partners, financial oversight, and keeping with charity law.

**Safeguarding:** The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). In line with Diocesan guidelines the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults is an agenda item at every PCC meeting, and PCC members undertake regular training.

Andrea Kirkby was thanked during the year for her outstanding work as our Safeguarding Officer. Merja Hart was appointed as parish Safeguarding Officer and we express thanks for her work in keeping the PCC and Church aware of our safeguarding responsibilities, and being a source of advice along with the Diocesan team. During the year we acknowledged the publication of the Makin report and lamented the life long impact of abuse on victims and survivors.

**Employment:** Becky Addis was employed as our Church Administrator for 9 years, finishing employment in April 2024. Karen Gillett was employed as our Youth & Children's Pastor from February to September 2024. Shona Griggs was appointed as our Operations Manager in October 2024. Louise Vickerman is employed as the Weald Family Hub Coordinator. Kat Ogden is not employed by the PCC but works closely with Rachel as an ordinand, someone training for the vocation of priesthood. Thank you Becky, Karen, Shona, Louise and Kat for your wonderful contributions.

The Standing Committee has delegated authority to help further PCC priorities between meetings and met regularly. The Standing Committee are Revd Rachel, Jo Alsop, Sam Davis, Wes Hinsley, Dave Lodge, Barney Mayhew, Kat Ogden, Ali Williams.

During the past year, the PCC has included the following members. My thanks to them for their service and commitment:

Rachel Robertson (Vicar)

Joanne Alsop (Church Warden)

Simon (Sam) Davis (Church Warden)

Martin Loy (Deanery Synod representative)

Ali Williams (Deanery Synod representative)

Emma-Louise (Huthrie) Copplestone (Secretary)

Claire Cooke

Wes Hinsley

Justin Hsuan

Catherine Lloyd

Dave Lodge

James (Barney) Mayhew

Kat Ogden (ordinand, co-opted from November 2024)

Richard Vinton

Gill Wallis-Hosken

James Wickham

Phil Wright

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2.

**Financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2023  
prepared by Dave Lodge, approved by the PCC on 6 April 2025,  
independently examined by Graham Langlay-Smith**

- see attached report.

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3.

**St Mary's Church Goudhurst – Property & Fabric Report for APCM April 2025**

**Fabric, goods and ornaments of the church  
prepared by Churchwardens Jo Alsop and Sam Davis**

**Church Building**

One of the various responsibilities of being a Church Warden is the care and maintenance of the church buildings, goods and ornaments. This report will focus mainly on the fabric of our buildings where there has been the majority of activity.

As many of you will be aware, we are required to appoint an architect authorised by the Diocese to carry out a review every five years (Quinquennial) to establish what repairs and maintenance are needed, typically split into urgent (within 1-2 years), less urgent (2-5 years) and nice-to-have (further out). We appointed Clague LLP as architects in 2023 and they conducted the Quinquennial Review (QR) in August 2023.

The QR's main conclusion was that St Mary's is generally in a very well-maintained condition compared to other churches not least because of the extensive repairs overseen by Ali Williams following the previous Quinquennial, generously partially funded by the Friends of St Mary's. The two main areas identified as needing attention were:

1. The interior kitchen wall where damp coming through from the outside had led to peeling paint. Clague's initial suggestion was trenching work externally to try to limit damp ingress;
2. The interior West-facing toilet wall where again damp ingress has resulted in flaking plaster. Clague's suggestion was that the Camellia tree planted just outside this section be cut back to minimize the risk of damp ingress prior to repair works being conducted. The pruning of the Camellia has been done, arranged by James Wickham.

In addition to the above, Clague identified a number of minor plastering, masonry and glazing repairs which, while not urgent, could logically be packaged with the two items above to create a meaningful workload to interest a contractor.

Sadly, the original architect on our account has subsequently been diagnosed with a terminal illness and has been replaced on the account by another Clague partner who visited St Mary's on 10<sup>th</sup> February to review the potential list of works with Jo Alsop and

Sam Davis. In relation to 1. above he suggested external trenching is unnecessary given the lie of the earth just outside the kitchen wall. He suggested instead stripping off the existing paint, letting the wall dry out as the weather warms and repainting with appropriate Earthborn paint. We await his recommended work package for 2. above and any other minor works.

While major building repairs have not been necessary, we have, over the last year, completed the following significant upgrades:

1. In July specialist contractors completed repairs to the church yard wall, implementing a lowered design that will help prevent further damage. The works were completed in one week with minimal disruption to the village. The cost of the work was covered in full by an insurance payout;
2. The Culpepper Effigies – fundraising for and replacement of the glazing above the effigies with protective glass incorporating the beautiful new stained-glass design was led by the Friends of St Mary's with much involvement from Ali so we can claim no credit for this but it is worth celebrating here as a major achievement and extending thanks again. The preservation work on the effigies themselves is due to start later in the year, led by specialist conservationists;
3. Installation of five new larger and more powerful fan convectors to replace either outdated or faulty units, together with associated plumbing works relating both to the installation and to upgrading the header tank and related pipework feeding the single loop hot water system (combined cost £12,908). As of 3.3.25, an element of plumbing work to try to make the two new fan convectors on the South wall operate more effectively remains outstanding;
4. Upgrade of the electrical cabinet in the Community Cupboard storeroom given the old arrangement would have failed its 5-yearly NICEC report and to accommodate future potential growth in electricity demand including possible installation of a greener heating system (cost £11,130). This work also involved the installation of remote activation functionality via an app for the heating system.

### **Building maintenance**

In addition to the work he does in relation to the Church Rooms (see separate section) and ensuring we remain supplied with heating oil, James Wickham kindly conducts regular inspection of gutters, hoppers and gulleys to ensure they are free of blockages, vegetation etc as well as to light fixtures. He has also been instrumental in oversight of the electrical cabinet upgrade and associated works and heavily involved in the heating system upgrade so we thank him for his time, diligence, energy and expertise.

### **Churchyard**

As regards the Churchyard, this is maintained by the Goudhurst Parish Council (GPC), who, over recent years have been making efforts to encourage biodiversity through rewilding areas under their control and reduction of pesticides. Jo, Richard Vinton, James Wickham and Gill Wallis-Hosken have been working with Geoff Mason of GPC (with input from Caring For God's Acre) to come up with a mutually agreed plan on how to reflect this across our churchyards in a way that achieves a balance between respect for those wanting loved-ones' graves to be well tended and the pressing needs of the environment. We have now agreed to return the Church Graveyard to a fully mowed regime while allowing the Victorian Churchyard grass to grow longer while keeping the bushes and

trees within a managed programme to ensure that visitors can safely find and visit the graves.

### **Goods and ornaments**

There are two main items to note regarding goods and ornaments:

1. The church silver and plate not used in regular services is held securely in a safe deposit box;
  2. The Terrier detailing contents of the church and additions/deletions is held in the Church Office.
- 

4.

### **Church Rooms report prepared by James Wickham**

The Church Rooms have had a successful year providing the venue for the village based Pre-School nursery and for renting out for functions. A big thank you to Jo Galloway for not only running the nursery, but also for co-ordinating the bookings for the rooms. These bookings are from some organisations that have regular booking and others that just want a one-off booking; for example a children's birthday party.

Pre-School bookings continue to attract pupils from within the village and beyond. At present there are 43 pupils in total with 37 from Goudhurst and Kilndown. Thank you to Jo and her wonderful staff that make it such a welcoming Pre-school nursery.

Work has continued upgrading the fabric of the building with half a new roof of tiles, and further investment in the drains. This is all done to ensure that the building will last long into the future.

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5.

### **Changes in the electoral roll since the last APCM prepared by Kat Ogden and Revd Rachel Robertson**

The Electoral Roll should be revised annually and every sixth year the preparation of new Church Electoral Rolls takes place, which means that everyone must re-apply to be included on the Electoral Roll of their church. This occurred this year 2025 and St Mary's Electoral Roll stands at 154 (in 2024 the Electoral Roll was 208).

We give thanks for 19 new names in 2024, and have analysed the details of those who did not re-join the roll after the 6 year revision. This includes many who now would call Christ Church their main church. We note with sadness the death of David Nichol.

Thank you to Kat Ogden for preparing this year's Electoral Roll.

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6.

**Deanery Synod proceedings  
prepared by Ali Williams and Martin Loy**

St Mary's is part of the Canterbury Diocese in the Church of England. The Church of England has 42 Dioceses. The Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin is the Bishop of Dover and the Bishop in Canterbury and was consecrated in 2019. The position of Archbishop of Canterbury is currently vacant.

Canterbury Diocese stretches from Maidstone southwards and includes the Weald, Romney Marsh, Ashford, Dover, Thanet, Faversham, Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey.

We are part of the Weald Deanery, and meet as Deanery Synod (clergy and lay representatives) throughout the year. Martin Loy and Ali Williams are our Deanery representatives and Revd Rachel also attends.

Meetings between May 2024 and April 2025 rotated between different churches, highlights from the year include:

- A Deanery Roadshow was held at St George's Benenden which included an address from Bishop Rose and four breakout workshops, and a space to share good news from across the Deanery.
  - An open synod meeting at St Mary's Goudhurst with a "CAP Life Skills" presentation by Ali Williams and a discussion afterwards about how the Deanery could partner with this. Diocesan 2025 Budget discussion for The Weald Deanery and a report from Goudhurst & Kilndown from Rev Rachel.
-

**Administrative information**

**Bankers:**

CAF Bank  
15 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 4JQ

Nat West Bank  
58 High St  
Tenterden  
Kent  
TN30 6AX

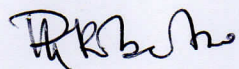
Independent examiner: Graham Langlay-Smith

**Architects:**

Clague Architects  
62 Burgate  
Canterbury  
Kent, CT1 2BH

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Signed:



On behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Name:

Rachel Robertson (Rend)

Dated:

13th April 2025

St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Goudhurst

Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2024

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2024

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		2024	2023
GENERAL FUND Income and Expenditure Account	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>INCOME</b>			
Incoming Resources From Donors			
Planned Giving		101,562	99,150
Collections and other giving		16,862	11,483
Card Machine - General Donations		303	446
Card Machine - Building Donations		603	583
Donation transferred from Projects Account		-	5,000
Income Tax recovered	1	<u>31,518</u>	<u>35,150</u>
		150,849	151,813
Other Voluntary Income			
Restricted Donations & Legacies	2	-	210
Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	3	<u>7,728</u>	<u>9,899</u>
		7,728	10,109
Income From Investments			
Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	4	<u>3,591</u>	<u>2,173</u>
		3,591	2,173
Income from Operating Activities			
Sales of Parish Magazine		3,202	1,112
Magazine Advertisement Fees		3,961	4,146
Café Toddlers - donations / Wreath Making workshop etc.		-	690
Fees from Weddings and Funerals etc.		10,962	10,575
Fairware Clothing		561	279
Fund Raising	5	<u>3,351</u>	<u>5,473</u>
		22,037	22,276
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b><u>184,204</u></b>	<b><u>186,371</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Grants & Donations			
Contribution to Weald Family Hub		6,000	6,000
Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	6	<u>8,491</u>	<u>9,658</u>
		14,491	15,658
Activities relating to the Work of the Church			
Diocesan and Deanery Parish Share		79,221	76,300
Music including Organ and Organist		1,992	2,209
Service Consumables - printing, coffee, communion		2,837	3,489
Weddings & Funerals (including Diocesan share)		6,714	6,648
Clergy Expenses		967	609
Alpha, CAP, Marriage Course etc		1,239	1,236
Sunday Groups and Childrens/Youth work		839	1,615
Magazine Printing		<u>4,435</u>	<u>2,896</u>
		98,245	95,002
Church Running and Fabric Expenses			
Heating & Utilities		6,711	7,412
Insurance		8,810	8,779
Church Cleaning & Supplies		5,019	5,492
Repairs and Maintenance	7	6,816	3,698
QI Works to Electrical System (2023: Tower and Stonework)	8	9,275	456
Enhancements	9	<u>11,167</u>	<u>-</u>
		47,798	25,836
Church Management and Administration			
Church Office - Salaries, Printing Stationery, Telephone etc.		14,821	27,144
Safety Deposit Box at bank		750	637
IT and Social Media costs		<u>2,877</u>	<u>1,874</u>
		18,448	29,656
Costs of Operating Voluntary Income			
Fund Raising Events	5	<u>33</u>	<u>935</u>
		33	935
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b><u>179,016</u></b>	<b><u>167,086</u></b>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b><u>5,188</u></b>	<b><u>19,285</u></b>
General Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>41,532</u>	<u>22,247</u>
<b>General Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>46,720</u></b>	<b><u>41,532</u></b>

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
COMMUNITY CUPBOARD (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
INCOME		
Donations received	20,852	6,103
TOTAL INCOME	<u>20,852</u>	<u>6,103</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Cost of produce purchased	6,862	9,259
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>6,862</u>	<u>9,259</u>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>13,990</b>	<b>(3,156)</b>
Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>1,428</u>	<u>4,584</u>
<b>Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>15,417</u></b>	<b><u>1,428</u></b>

This fund is being ring-fenced for the Community Cupboard - there are a number of regular and one-off donors. The number of clients supported in 2024 continued to increase reflecting the general national trend. Costs of produce reduced from the previous year mainly as a result of increased donations in kind.

This fund continues to support a number of local families with provision of basic food and household items. A loyal group of helpers collect, purchase and deliver on a weekly basis

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
BEACON FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
INCOME		
Lay Family Worker Donations	2,872	7,952
	<u>2,872</u>	<u>7,952</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u><b>2,872</b></u>	<u><b>7,952</b></u>
EXPENDITURE		
Lay Minister Costs (including expenses)	15,777	-
Less: Received from Canterbury Diocese	(13,222)	-
Other Costs	<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>
	<u>2,555</u>	<u>200</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u><b>2,555</b></u>	<u><b>200</b></u>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>7,752</b>
Beacon Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>34,044</u>	<u>26,292</u>
<b>Beacon Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u><b>34,361</b></u>	<u><b>34,044</b></u>

The Beacon Fund is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2017 to fund and support the appointment of a Lay Minister to develop work with local children and young people.

In 2024 Karen Gillett was employed as Youth & Childrens Pastor but resigned after the probationary period. This role is yet to be replaced

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2024

		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
WEALD FAMILY HUB (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations received		38,836	23,473
Fete stall takings	5	-	496
Bank Interest received		107	97
St Mary's Goudhurst Contribution		<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
		44,944	30,066
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b><u>44,944</u></b>	<b><u>30,066</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Spurgeons / Fegans Costs		37,340	22,991
Coordinator Salary and Expenses		10,962	10,658
Other Expenses		<u>2,184</u>	<u>60</u>
		50,486	33,708
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b><u>50,486</u></b>	<b><u>33,708</u></b>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(5,542)</b>	<b>(3,642)</b>
Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>57,727</u>	<u>61,369</u>
<b>Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	10	<b><u>52,185</u></b>	<b><u>57,727</u></b>

The Weald Family Hub was set up in 2018 to provide funding for Mental Health counselling in local schools and parent support, working through the Fegans charitable organisation (now part of Spurgeons). St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and a number of local schools

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
 Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
PROJECTS FUND (Designated Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
INCOME		
Donations received	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Transfer to Care Fund	-	30,000
Donation released to General Funds	-	5,000
Costs re Wall Repairs Project	24,516	2,093
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>24,516</u>	<u>- 37,093</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(24,516)</b>	<b>(37,093)</b>
Projects Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>24,887</u>	<u>61,980</u>
<b>Projects Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>371</u></b>	<b><u>24,887</u></b>
Balance of funds at 31st December		
Wall Repairs Project (Retention to be paid in 2025)	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<b><u>371</u></b>	<b><u>24,887</u></b>

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
 Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
CHURCH ROOM FUND (Designated Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
INCOME		
Contributions to the use of Church Room	9,064	9,141
TOTAL INCOME	<u>9,064</u>	<u>9,141</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Repairs and Maintenance	4,171	4,456
Insurance	874	956
Utilities	2,264	2,723
Cleaning	1,096	1,310
	<u>8,404</u>	<u>9,444</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>8,404</u>	<u>9,444</u>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>(303)</b>
Church Room Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>37,807</u>	<u>38,110</u>
<b>Church Room Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>38,466</u></b>	<b><u>37,807</u></b>

The Church Room Fund is a Designated Fund, held to ensure the ongoing maintainance and repair of the Church Rooms.

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
CARE FUND (Restricted Fund)			
INCOME			
Transferred from Projects Fund		-	30,000
Restricted Donations		<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>
		500	30,000
TOTAL INCOME		<u>500</u>	<u>30,000</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Donations paid		7,041	3,234
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>7,041</u>	<u>3,234</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(6,541)</b>	<b>26,766</b>
Bank Balances at 1st January		<u>26,766</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Bank Balances at 31st December</b>		<b><u>20,225</u></b>	<b><u>26,766</u></b>

The Care Fund was launched in 2023 to support local families with emergency support. This was funded by 2 significant donations received in 2022. During 2024 we paid out 17 donations ranging from new kitchen appliances and oil supplies to support for dentist costs

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
 Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (Restricted Fund)		
INCOME		
Restricted Donations	-	13,750
TOTAL INCOME	<u>-</u>	<u>13,750</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Support Payments made	2,400	11,350
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>2,400</u>	<u>11,350</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(2,400)</b>	<b>2,400</b>
Local Community Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>2,400</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Local Community Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>2,400</u></b>

The transactions included in this account are where donations are received through the church account to support specific needs and love gifts. They are not part of our normal church outreach.

One donation for £2,400 was received in the final week of December 2023 and was paid out in early January 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
<b>SUMMARY OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>			
General Fund		5,188	19,285
Community Cupboard		13,990	(3,156)
Beacon Fund		317	7,752
Weald Family Hub	10	(5,542)	(3,642)
Projects Fund		(24,516)	(37,093)
Church Room Fund		660	(303)
Care Fund		(6,541)	26,766
Local Community Fund		(2,400)	2,400
		<u>(18,845)</u>	<u>12,009</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARY OF BALANCES</b>			
General Fund		46,720	41,532
Church Room Fund (Designated)		38,466	37,807
Projects Fund (Designated)		371	24,887
Community Cupboard (Restricted)		15,417	1,428
Beacon Fund (Restricted)		34,361	34,044
Weald Family Hub (Restricted)	10	52,185	57,727
Care Fund (Restricted)		20,225	26,766
Local Community Fund (Restricted)		-	2,400
		<u>207,745</u>	<u>226,591</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Bank Balances - NatWest		33,869	55,263
Bank Balances - CAF Bank		92,712	89,620
Bank Balances - Shawbrook		10,417	10,344
Bank Balances - MetroBank		6,113	6,863
CCLA Deposit Account		65,713	62,401
CCLA Investment Account - cost	11	1,679	1,597
		<u>210,503</u>	<u>226,089</u>
Debtors and Prepayments		13,562	2,947
Creditors and Accruals		(16,320)	(2,445)
		<u>207,745</u>	<u>226,591</u>

Reconciliation of Accounts

The basis of accounts was amended in 2024 from a Receipts and Payments basis to an Income and Expenditure (Accruals) basis, as total income exceeds £250,000 for the year

The comparative 2023 results have also been amended to an Accruals basis

The following tables show reconciliations of both 2024 and 2023 between the original Receipts and Payments basis to the revised Income and Expenditure (Accruals) basis

2024 - Income & Expenditure Account						
	Per Receipts and Payments basis	Debtors and Prepayments - 1st Jan 2024	Creditors and Accruals - 1st Jan 2024	Debtors and Prepayments - 31st Dec 2024	Creditors and Accruals - 31st Dec 2024	Revised - Income & Expenditure Basis
General Fund	3,509	(2,947)	2,358	8,809	(6,541)	5,188
Community Cupboard	14,094	-	-	-	(104)	13,990
Beacon Fund	(4,437)	-	-	4,753	-	317
Weald Family Hub	1,242	-	-	-	(6,784)	(5,542)
Projects Fund	(24,516)	-	-	-	-	(24,516)
Church Room Fund	3,463	-	87	-	(2,891)	660
Care Fund	(6,541)	-	-	-	-	(6,541)
Local Community Fund	(2,400)	-	-	-	-	(2,400)
	<b>(15,586)</b>	<b>(2,947)</b>	<b>2,445</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>(16,320)</b>	<b>(18,845)</b>

2023 - Income & Expenditure Account						
	Per Receipts and Payments basis	Debtors and Prepayments - 1st Jan 2023	Creditors and Accruals - 1st Jan 2023	Debtors and Prepayments - 31st Dec 2023	Creditors and Accruals - 31st Dec 2023	Revised - Income & Expenditure Basis
General Fund	21,981	(3,859)	574	2,947	(2,358)	19,285
Community Cupboard	(3,156)	-	-	-	-	(3,156)
Beacon Fund	7,752	-	-	-	-	7,752
Weald Family Hub	(8,538)	-	4,896	-	-	(3,642)
Projects Fund	(37,093)	-	-	-	-	(37,093)
Church Room Fund	(312)	-	96	-	(87)	(303)
Care Fund	26,766	-	-	-	-	26,766
Local Community Fund	2,400	-	-	-	-	2,400
	<b>9,799</b>	<b>(3,859)</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>2,947</b>	<b>(2,445)</b>	<b>12,009</b>

2023 Balances Carried Forward				
	Per Receipts and Payments basis	Debtors and Prepayments - 31st Dec 2023	Creditors and Accruals - 31st Dec 2023	Revised - Income & Expenditure Basis
General Fund	40,943	2,947	(2,358)	41,532
Community Cupboard	1,428	-	-	1,428
Beacon Fund	34,044	-	-	34,044
Weald Family Hub	57,727	-	-	57,727
Projects Fund	24,887	-	-	24,887
Church Room Fund	37,894	-	(87)	37,807
Care Fund	26,766	-	-	26,766
Local Community Fund	2,400	-	-	2,400
	<b>226,089</b>	<b>2,947</b>	<b>(2,445)</b>	<b>226,591</b>

The accounts are prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis

Note

- 1 Income Tax recovered Income Tax is recovered on a monthly basis direct from HMRC
- 2 Restricted Donations & Legacies These were mainly specific donations to be paid onto third party charities
- 3 Unrestricted Donations & Legacies One donation of over £1,000 was received during the year; this did not contain any restrictions on use
- 4 Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds Income represents deposit account interest and dividend income received during the year

- 5 Fund Raising The Goudhurst Fete is run by 4 local groups: St Mary's Church, Scouts, Parish Hall and Primary School who take it in turn to lead - in 2023 it was St Mary's turn. This means that we dealt with all of the finances, paid the costs, and then divided the profit between the other parties. In 2024 the accounts show our share of income from church stalls and a share of group income subsequently received from the 2024 lead organisation.

The full details for 2023 are as follows:

	Income	Costs	Net
Shared fete takings and Advert revenue	6,136	1,598	4,538
Paid to the other groups			(3,403)
Balance: quarter share for St Mary's			1,134
St Mary's stalls (including BBQ)	4,302	935	
Fairware stall	301		
Weald Family Hub Stall	496		
Total St Mary's stalls	5,099	935	
<i>General Fund Reconciliation:</i>			
St Mary's stalls (including BBQ)	4,302	935	
St Mary's Quarter Share	1,134		
Other fund raising	37		
Per General Fund	5,473	935	4,538

- 6 Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving The list of charities supported during the year is as follows:
- |  | 2024  | 2023  |
|--|-------|-------|
| Lisell Mukola Community School - Rose's Project  | -     | 100   |
| Porchlight                                       | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Goudhurst Scouts                                 | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Lend With Care                                   | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Maidstone Samaritans                             | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| TearFund   | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Kent Kindness                                    | 1,200 | 1,700 |
| Bibles for GK Primary School & Preschool leavers | 833   | 482   |
| Lunch Club - Hire of Parish Hall                 | 452   | 512   |
| Earthquake Appeals                               | -     | 859   |
| Other  | 6     | 5     |
| Total Payments                                   | 8,491 | 9,658 |

		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
7	Repairs and Maintenance		
	Heating System Repairs & Servicing	1,648	403
	Plumbing Repairs	1,662	-
	Electrical Maintenance and Repairs	3,384	1,732
	Fire Safety Maintenance	449	446
	Lightning Conductor Maintenance	114	114
	Roof Repairs	300	-
	Window Repairs	313	-
	Audio Visual System	-	518
	Other	(1,054)	485
	Less: VAT reclaims under Government Scheme		-
		<u>6,816</u>	<u>3,698</u>
8	Quinquennial Report		
	The latest inspection was carried out in 2022 with the report issued in 2023. A major item was the upgrade of the full electrical systems which was carried out in 2024.		
	Electrical works	11,130	-
	Architects Fees re Tower Project	-	991
	Less: VAT reclaims under Government Scheme	(1,855)	(535)
		<u>9,275</u>	<u>456</u>
9	Enhancements		
	Church heating upgrade	12,374	-
	Less: VAT reclaims under Government Scheme	(1,874)	-
	Office upgrade	668	-
		<u>11,167</u>	<u>-</u>
10	Weald Family Hub Fund		
	The Weald Family Hub (WFH) was set up in 2018 to provide support for young people and their families who are struggling with issues of mental health across the Wealden villages, working with the Fegans charitable organisation. St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and local Primary schools. There are a number of regular donors to the Fund, together with donations from local fund raising events and charitable trusts.		
	St Mary's has committed to continue financial support for this project		
11	CCLA Investment Account		
	The market value of the CBF Investment Fund was as follows:	31-Dec	31-Dec
		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	Number of shares held	133.30	129.76
	Value per share (pence)	2,312.27	2,260.53
	Market Value	£3,082.36	£2,933.21
	Original Cost of Shares plus dividend reinvestments	£1,679.00	£1,596.74
12	Physical Assets		
	The PCC is responsible for certain physical assets in St Mary's Church both fixed and movable which are not detailed in the financial statements, but are covered by insurance		

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Goudhurst**

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 12

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Institute Of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

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

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

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

Mr Graham Langlay-Smith  
Chartered Accountant  
Waller Hill Farmhouse  
Grandshore Lane  
Frittenden  
Kent TN17 2DB

28th March 2025

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Goudhurst**

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 12

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Institute Of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

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

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

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



Mr Graham Langlay-Smith  
Chartered Accountant  
Waller Hill Farmhouse  
Grandshore Lane  
Frittenden  
Kent TN17 2DB

28th March 2025

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# Accounts

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**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Goudhurst  
c/o The Church Office, Back Lane, Goudhurst, Kent TN17 1AN  
Registered Charity No 1175082  
Trustees' Annual Report**

**St Mary's Goudhurst Book of Reports : May 2023 - May 2024**

## **Introduction**

Our last annual report was from April 2022-May 2023. This report covers May 2023-May 2024 and includes:

1. The life of the parish generally and the activities of the PCC - prepared by Revd Rachel Robertson
2. Financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2023 prepared by Dave Lodge, approved by the PCC on 29 April 2024, and independently examined by Graham Langlay-Smith.
3. Fabric, goods and ornaments of the church prepared by Churchwardens Jo Alsop and Sam Davis
4. Changes in the electoral roll since the last APCM - prepared by Becky Addis
5. Deanery Synod proceedings prepared by Revd Rachel Robertson and Martin Loy.

*Thank you to Becky, Rachel, Dave, Graham, Jo, Sam and Martin for their contributions to these reports, and for anyone who in any way has served the Lord and encouraged others to do likewise.*

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## **1.**

### **The life of the parish generally and the activities of the PCC - Revd Rachel Robertson**

(a) The life of the parish in worship, prayer, understanding the bible, discipleship, pastoral care and mission

We are first called to love God with heart, mind, soul and strength, and then love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22: 37-40). The Church of England expresses its vocation as 'To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ afresh in each generation to the people of England.'

Worship is about giving God honour, praise and glory for who He is. It can be offered in the day to day of our individual lives, but we are also called to build up the Body of Christ and so corporate worship is part of our calling and privilege. In it we adore God, are built up, and then sent out into the world equipped and renewed to love each other as God loves us. We worship in hard times and in times of plenty, through the ordinary and seasonal times of the year. It is *wonderful* to gather in worship together.

Our three main weekly services continued strongly in 2023/24 - the Thursday Morning 10am service, and Sunday services of said Holy Communion at 8 o'clock and the 10:45.

Complementing these is our 9.15 Sunday morning service of Holy Communion at Christ Church. We hold services of Holy Communion at St Mary's two or three times a week. Each service is served by a multitude of church family - with different and complementary gifts, and spanning the generations.

Prayer is to be the heart of church life. We have organised prayer in place including prayer ministry, liturgy and intercessions as part of church services, a monthly GK prayer meeting, calls to prayer including 24/7 prayer before Easter Day and the GK emergency prayer chain. We encourage one another to pray in our exchanges, and it is becoming more natural to start any gathering in prayer.

God reveals Himself to us through the bible, which is living and active (Hebrews 4:12) and so time in our services is spent reading the bible aloud, and preaching about how God may be understood through it. We encourage one another to read the bible for ourselves from an early age, and to learn from it in our small groups so that we deepen our understanding of God and how, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we use that understanding to live out our faith.

We are called not to merely believe in Jesus, but to follow Him as Lord. Supporting people to follow Jesus as His disciples includes the provision of Karen Gillett as our Youth & Children's Pastor from February 2024, Sunday groups for 0-18s where each can feel a sense of belonging on Sundays and during the week, sermons (preaching, recording and follow up notes for small groups), small groups (meeting regularly to prayer together, read the word and share fellowship) and the Marriage Course.

Pastoral care covers services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals, and the related care around them. Demand for these from the Church as provider (as opposed to a secular alternative) continues to be stable. Pastoral care also covers the very many ways in which we love as He first loved us, including practical service to the community. Expressions include caring for one another in small groups, consideration shown in fellowship over coffee, Sonja Drew's ministry as an Anna Chaplain (focusing on pastoral support to those of older age), the Meal Train (meals provided to those under particular pressure), Home Communion visits, Community Cupboard (a food bank serving the local community), Community Care Fund (providing temporary financial assistance to those in crisis or emergency need), Community Lunch (which celebrated its first birthday), Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Life Skills courses run in Staplehurst Free Church and East Sutton Women's Prison, Café Toddlers (weekly parent/carer and toddlers group) and Blend (weekly after-school pop-up café for children of years 7 to 10).

Many of these expressions of pastoral care would also be viewed as *mission*. The Anglican communion recognises Five Marks of Mission: to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom; to teach, baptise and nurture new believers; to respond to human need by loving service; to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation; and to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Areas of our mission includes the everyday sharing of who God is into the myriad of opportunities each of us has daily. Organised missional areas that we are excited by includes: fairwear, Lend With Care, Alpha, Café Toddlers, the Weald Family Hub, Collective Worship at Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School, Crafty Mondays, the Goudhurst Fête and Dog Show.

We are blessed to have the opportunity to work with several partners and value these relationships highly including: Lunch Club, Weald Deanery churches and their Vicars, Sacred Heart church and Father Ethelbert, Goudhurst Parish Council, Goudhurst Pre-school, Goudhurst, Kilndown & Lamberhurst bellringers, the Goudhurst branch of the Royal British Legion, Goudhurst Scouts, the Old Parsonage Surgery, Friends of St Mary's

(FOSM) and many others. Goodwill extended by Lindsay Roberts & staff at the school, the Quarry Centre, Ladysden, the Star & Eagle, Weeks Bakery, Burgess Stores and many other businesses and individuals is most humbling.

### **Reflecting and giving thanks**

We notice that reporting 'activity' does not adequately capture all the ways in which God is moving and calling us to follow Him. Neither do our actions fit neatly into categories of 'pastoral' or 'missional.' We spend time reflecting alone and together asking: What went well, what improvements do we need to capture, and crucially *where can we see God at work?* Often we try and reflect using the five pictures God has given us to stir our holy imaginations: Who is our God? / Going deeper with God / Campfire / Beacons of Christ's light (one of many) / one by one saying, 'I am the Lord's.'

### **(b) The activities of the PCC**

To follow God and seek His heart, the PCC carries out some of this reflection and planning work and between May 2023 and May 2024 has met formally in June, September, October, November, January, February, March and April. The Standing Committee has delegated authority to help further PCC priorities between meetings and met regularly.

The PCC is, more or less, the governing body of the church. It contains the Vicar, the church wardens, the representative(s) to the Deanery Synod, and about 12 others who are elected by the church family. We meet, we pray, and we discuss and decide on anything major that needs a decision.

The idea is to seek God's will, and to try to translate that into what the church does. That covers a wide range of topics, starting with the church's vision, and how to encourage and enable every aspect of its mission and ministry from services, to young people's groups, to the Community Cupboard, to the CAP life skills work and dozens of other initiatives. It also includes the church's income and spending, buildings, safeguarding, training, relationship with the wider church, community events, and future plans.

During the past year, the PCC has included the following members. My thanks to them for their service and commitment:

Rachel Robertson (Vicar)  
Joanne Alsop (Church Warden)  
Simon (Sam) Davis (Church Warden)  
Martin Loy (Deanery Synod representative)  
Claire Cooke  
Emma-Louise (Huthrie) Coplestone  
Karen Gillett  
Wes Hinsley  
Catherine Lloyd  
Dave Lodge  
James (Barney) Mayhew  
Richard Vinton

Gill Wallis-Hosken  
James Wickham  
Ali Williams  
Phil Wright

Thank you to Becky Addis who stepped down from being our Church Administrator after serving the church and wider community in this role for over nine years.

**Safeguarding:** The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). In line with Diocesan guidelines the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults is an agenda item at every PCC meeting, and PCC members are aware of their need to undertake regular training including the minimum of Basic, Foundation and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. Thank you to Andrea Kirkby our Safeguarding Officer for keeping the PCC and Church aware of our safeguarding responsibilities, keeping up to date with her professional development in this area, and providing training opportunities for those who find in person training preferable to on line training.

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Our calling is to love God and love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Thank you for your contributions to our common goal. As we give thanks, reflect, and commit ourselves afresh to His Kingdom work, let us be encouraged, taking hold of Hebrews 12: 28 :

'since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.'

2.

**Financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2023  
prepared by Dave Lodge, approved by the PCC on 29 May 2024,  
independently examined by Graham Langlay-Smith**

- see attached report.

3.

**Fabric, goods and ornaments of the church  
prepared by Churchwardens Jo Alsop and Sam Davis**

One of the various responsibilities of being a Church Warden is the care and maintenance of the church buildings, goods and ornaments. This report will focus mainly on the fabric of our buildings where there has been the majority of activity. As many of you will be aware, we are required to appoint an architect authorised by the Diocese to carry out a review every five years (Quinquennial) to establish what repairs and maintenance are needed, typically split into urgent (within 1-2 years), less urgent (2-5 years) and nice-to-have (further out). We

appointed Clague LLP as architects in 2023 and they conducted the Quinquennial Review in August 2023. Ancient buildings like St Mary's will always need some maintenance work so it is unsurprising that the review produced a list of "to-dos". However, with the exception of works needed to remedy damp affecting the North wall of the kitchen and the sacristy/loo walls, there is little in the urgent category and the architect commented that St Mary's is one of the best maintained churches he has seen. Much thanks must therefore go to Ali Williams for her work on overseeing the significant works arising from the 2018 Quinquennial and all others involved in that, not least The Friends of St Mary's who provided significant funding, as those works have put the fabric of the church in a generally robust position. We are awaiting further input from the architect on the kitchen and sacristy wall works which will proceed in due course.

Other highlights from a fabric perspective include the following:

1. Hopefully, by the time of the APCM, five of the existing under-powered fan convectors will have been replaced by larger, more powerful units and two more reconditioned using parts from the four removed. We are expecting this to have a material effect on church warmth, especially in the lobby area, when external temperatures drop again. These convectors will circulate the heat generated from the existing piped hot water system which is fired by an ancient oil-fired boiler. We continue to consider options to convert our principal energy source to a "greener" option whether that is Air Source Heat Pumps, Green Kerosene or replacement with a more efficient conventional boiler.
2. The Churchyard Wall – as you will hopefully all know, we have received permission from the relevant authorities to repair the much-damaged churchyard wall on the S-bend towards the Star & Eagle with a new design from Clague incorporating a lowered wall section. This should, we believe, prevent further damage from HGVs catching the wall as they turn and takes into account the longer lorry lengths now permitted. Contractors have been appointed and repair work will begin later in the summer.
3. The Culpepper Effigies – fundraising for and organisation of preservation work to these important artefacts and replacement of the glazing above them with protective glass incorporating a new stained-glass design has been led by the Friends of St Mary's with much involvement from Ali so we can claim no credit for this but it is worth noting here and extending thanks again.

As regards the Churchyard, this is maintained by the Goudhurst Parish Council (GPC), who, over recent years have been making efforts to encourage biodiversity through rewilding areas under their control and reduction of pesticides. Jo, Richard Vinton, James Wickham and Gill Wallis-Hosken have been working with Geoff Mason of GPC (with input from Caring For God's Acre) to come up with a mutually agreed plan on how to reflect this across our churchyards in a way that achieves a balance between respect for those wanting loved-ones' graves to be well tended and the pressing needs of the environment. Many thanks to all those involved in this important initiative.

Special mention must also be made of the Church Office refit led by Dave and Val Lodge. Many thanks to them for making such huge improvements to this important space, transforming a rather tired, cramped workspace into an administrative hub that is bright and inviting and to Becky, Karen and Rachel for all the related sorting-out required.

There are a variety of other fabric-related activities that have taken place during the period under review but these are, we believe, the highlights. It only remains for us to extend special thanks to James Wickham who works tirelessly behind the scenes to deal with many of the

day-to-day issues that arise both with the St Mary's church building but also the Church Rooms and also to Don Sargeant who takes an active role in a variety of maintenance activities.

4.

#### **Changes in the electoral roll since the last APCM**

The Electoral Roll should be revised annually. Since the APCM in May 2023 the Electoral Roll has changed from 225 to 208 members. Every sixth year the preparation of new Church Electoral Rolls takes place, which means that everyone must re-apply to included on the Electoral Roll of their church. The next occasion for the preparation of new rolls is 2025.

The number of people in the community served by the church is much greater than the number on the electoral roll, for example through ministries such as the Community Cupboard, Community Lunch, Crafty Mondays, the CAP Life Skills course, Café Toddlers, Blend, the Community Care Fund, and activities with Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School, among others.

We have a vacancy for an Electoral Roll officer. Thank you to Becky Addis for her work in this area and for preparing this year's Electoral Roll.

5.

#### **Deanery Synod proceedings prepared by Revd Rachel Robertson and Martin Loy**

St Mary's is part of the Canterbury Diocese in the Church of England. The Church of England has 42 Dioceses. Our Bishops are The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby who became the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2013, and the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin who is the Bishop of Dover and the Bishop in Canterbury and was consecrated in 2019.

Canterbury Diocese stretches from Maidstone southwards and includes the Weald, Romney Marsh, Ashford, Dover, Thanet, Faversham, Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey.

We are part of the Weald Deanery, and meet as Deanery Synod (clergy and lay representatives) throughout the year. Martin Loy is our representative and we have one vacancy. Revd Rachel also attends.

Meetings between May 2023 and April 2024 rotated between different churches, and were held on 17 May, 7 September, 12 October, 22 November 2023 and 13 March 2024. Highlights from the year include:

- an open synod meeting to hear from two General Synod representatives on the General Synod Living in Love and Faith discussions
- presentations from the central Diocesan teams including Bishop Rose at a Deanery Roadshow
- Understanding Vocations - with Jon Marlow

- an excellent presentation from Louise Vickerman on the Weald Family Hub
- hospitality from host churches and a chance to hear from them how other church families are, increasing our ability to work well together for God's Kingdom in this area.

### **Administrative information**

Bankers:

CAF Bank  
15 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 4JQ

Nat West Bank  
58 High St  
Tenterden  
Kent  
TN30 6AX

Independent examiner: Graham Langlay-Smith

Architects:

Clague Architects  
62 Burgate  
Canterbury  
Kent, CT1 2BH

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Signed: Rev Rachel Robertson

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Goudhurst

Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2023

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2023

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		2023	2022
GENERAL FUND Receipts and Payments Account	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Incoming Resources From Donors			
Planned Giving		99,150	101,338
Collections and other giving		11,483	10,264
Card Machine - General Donations		446	329
Card Machine - Building Donations		583	527
Donation transferred from Projects Account		5,000	-
Income Tax recovered	1	<u>37,137</u>	<u>26,737</u>
		153,800	139,194
Other Voluntary Income			
Restricted Donations & Legacies	2	210	1,747
Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	3	<u>9,899</u>	<u>17,039</u>
		10,109	18,785
Income From Investments			
Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	4	<u>2,173</u>	<u>954</u>
		2,173	954
Income from Operating Activities			
Sales of Parish Magazine		1,112	1,890
Magazine Advertisement Fees		4,146	3,871
Café Toddlers - donations / Wreath Making workshop etc.		690	493
Fees from Weddings and Funerals etc.		10,575	8,524
Fairware Clothing		279	661
Fund Raising	5	<u>4,398</u>	<u>6,964</u>
		21,201	22,404
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b><u>187,283</u></b>	<b><u>181,338</u></b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Grants & Donations			
Contribution to Weald Family Hub		6,000	6,000
Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	6	<u>8,458</u>	<u>8,816</u>
		14,458	14,816
Activities relating to the Work of the Church			
Diocesan and Deanery Parish Share		76,300	74,875
Music including Organ and Organist		2,209	1,954
Service Consumables - printing, coffee, communion		3,470	2,527
Weddings & Funerals (including Diocesan share)		6,284	5,776
Clergy Expenses		609	1,064
Alpha, CAP, Marriage Course etc		1,236	1,125
Sunday Groups and Childrens/Youth work		1,615	957
Magazine Printing		<u>3,200</u>	<u>3,338</u>
		94,923	91,617
Church Running and Fabric Expenses			
Heating & Utilities		7,412	4,123
Insurance		8,779	8,530
Church Cleaning & Supplies		4,862	6,187
Repairs and Maintenance	7	3,824	2,971
QI Works to Tower and Stonework	8	456	3,213
Enhancements	9	<u>-</u>	<u>1,013</u>
		25,332	26,037
Church Management and Administration			
Church Office - Salaries, Printing Stationery, Telephone etc.		27,144	23,825
Safety Deposit Box at bank		637	45
IT and Social Media costs		<u>1,874</u>	<u>1,087</u>
		29,656	24,956
Costs of Operating Voluntary Income			
Fund Raising Events	5	<u>935</u>	<u>336</u>
		935	336
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>165,302</u></b>	<b><u>157,763</u></b>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>21,981</u></b>	<b><u>23,575</u></b>
General Fund Balance at 1st January		18,963	(4,612)
<b>General Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>40,943</u></b>	<b><u>18,963</u></b>

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
COMMUNITY CUPBOARD	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Donations received	6,103	9,342
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>6,103</u>	<u>9,342</u>
PAYMENTS		
Cost of produce purchased	9,259	6,275
Purchase of storage cupboards	-	-
Support payments to Community	<u>-</u>	<u>40</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>9,259</u>	<u>6,315</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(3,156)</b>	<b>3,027</b>
Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>4,584</u>	<u>1,556</u>
<b>Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>1,428</u></b>	<b><u>4,584</u></b>

This fund is being ring-fenced for the Community Cupboard - there are a number of regular and one-off donors. The number of clients supported in 2023 increased over previous years, reflecting the general national trend

This fund continues to support a number of local families with provision of basic food and household items. A loyal group of helpers collect, purchase and deliver on a weekly basis, together with some additional support for a number of these clients.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
BEACON FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Lay Family Worker Donations	7,952	12,952
	<u>7,952</u>	<u>12,952</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><b>7,952</b></u>	<u><b>12,952</b></u>
PAYMENTS		
Lay Minister Costs (including expenses)	-	14,973
Other Costs	200	-
	<u>200</u>	<u>14,973</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><b>200</b></u>	<u><b>14,973</b></u>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>7,752</b>	<b>(2,021)</b>
Beacon Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>26,292</u>	<u>28,313</u>
<b>Beacon Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u><b>34,044</b></u>	<u><b>26,292</b></u>

The Beacon Fund is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2017 to fund and support the appointment of a Lay Minister to develop work with local children and young people.

We employed Kat Ogden as Youth and Childrens Pastor in 2022 before she started Ordinand training. The PCC agreed to seek a replacement and an advert was published in late 2023. An appointment was made in early 2024. Part funding has been granted by the Diocese to support this role for 5 years

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2023

		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
WEALD FAMILY HUB	<u>Notes</u>		
RECEIPTS			
Donations received		23,570	62,985
Fund Raising - 50% St Mary's Charity Ball		-	4,235
Fete stall takings	5	496	-
St Mary's Goudhurst Contribution		<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
		30,066	73,220
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u><b>30,066</b></u>	<u><b>73,220</b></u>
PAYMENTS			
Spurgeons / Fegans Costs		27,887	24,963
Coordinator Salary and Expenses		10,658	10,646
Other Expenses		<u>60</u>	<u>24</u>
		38,604	35,634
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u><b>38,604</b></u>	<u><b>35,634</b></u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>(8,538)</b>	<b>37,586</b>
Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>66,265</u>	<u>28,679</u>
<b>Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	10	<u><b>57,727</b></u>	<u><b>66,265</b></u>

The Weald Family Hub was set up in 2018 to provide funding for Mental Health counselling in local schools and parent support, working through the Fegans charitable organisation (now part of Spurgeons). St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and a number of local schools

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
PROJECTS FUND	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Community Care Fund - donations received	-	30,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>-</u>	<u>30,000</u>
PAYMENTS		
Transfer to Care Fund	30,000	-
Donation released to General Funds	5,000	
Released to Canterbury for Ordinand training	-	8,000
Costs re Wall Repairs Project	2,093	656
Paid to Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	-	4,608
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>37,093</u>	<u>- 13,264</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(37,093)</b>	<b>16,736</b>
Projects Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>61,980</u>	<u>45,244</u>
<b>Projects Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>24,887</u></b>	<b><u>61,980</u></b>

In 2020 a settlement claim of £30,000 was reached regarding the repeated damage to the church wall. Work is ongoing to establish the most appropriate action to avoid further damage, for which this fund will be used. Architect costs have been paid in both 2023 and 2022 in respect of this project.

In 2022 we received two significant donations totalling £60,000 for use within the local community. Working with the donors, we agreed to use half of this for Weald Family Hub support and the remaining £30,000 to set up a Care Fund for the local community, providing crisis and emergency support. This was launched in early 2023

Balance of funds at 31st December	<u>2023</u>	<u>2,022</u>
Wall Repairs Project	24,887	26,980
Community Care Fund	-	30,000
One-Off Donation (not Restricted)	-	5,000
	<u>24,887</u>	<u>61,980</u>

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
CHURCH ROOM FUND (Designated Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Contributions to the use of Church Room	9,141	9,152
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>9,141</u>	<u>9,152</u>
PAYMENTS		
Repairs and Maintenance	4,456	8,103
Insurance	956	903
Utilities	2,723	3,101
Cleaning	<u>1,319</u>	<u>686</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>9,453</u>	<u>12,794</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(312)</b>	<b>(3,642)</b>
Church Room Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>38,206</u>	<u>41,848</u>
<b>Church Room Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>37,894</u></b>	<b><u>38,206</u></b>

The Church Room Fund is a Designated Fund, held to ensure the ongoing maintainance and repair of the Church Rooms. Drainage works in 2023 amounted to £3,480 to rectify a previously unknown issue

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
 Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
CARE FUND Receipts and Payments Account	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Transferred from Projects Fund	30,000	-
Restricted Donations	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	30,000	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><b>30,000</b></u>	<u>-</u>
PAYMENTS		
Donations paid	3,234	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><b>3,234</b></u>	<u>-</u>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>26,766</b>	-
Bank Balances at 1st January	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Bank Balances at 31st December</b>	<u><b>26,766</b></u>	<u>-</u>

The Care Fund was launched in 2023 to support local families with emergency support. This was funded by 2 significant donations received in late 2022. During 2023 we paid out 12 donations ranging from new kitchen appliances and oil supplies to home security systems

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (Restricted Fund)		
RECEIPTS		
Restricted Donations	13,750	7,330
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>13,750</u>	<u>7,330</u>
PAYMENTS		
Support Payments made	11,350	7,330
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>11,350</u>	<u>7,330</u>
<b>SHORTFALL OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2,400</b>	-
Local Community Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Local Community Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>2,400</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>

The transactions included in this account are where donations are received through the church account to support specific needs and love gifts. They are not part of our normal church outreach.

One donation for £2,400 was received in the final week of December 2023 and was paid out in early January 2024

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>			
General Fund		21,981	23,575
Community Cupboard		(3,156)	3,027
Beacon Fund		7,752	(2,021)
Weald Family Hub	10	(8,538)	37,586
Projects Fund		(37,093)	16,736
Church Room Fund		(312)	(3,642)
Care Fund		26,766	-
Local Community Fund		2,400	-
Sri Lanka Fund		-	(7,933)
Mustard Seed Project Fund		-	(2,437)
		<u>9,799</u>	<u>64,890</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARY OF BALANCES</b>			
General Fund		40,943	18,963
Church Room Fund (Designated)		37,894	38,206
Projects Fund (Designated)		24,887	61,980
Community Cupboard (Restricted)		1,428	4,584
Beacon Fund (Restricted)		34,044	26,292
Weald Family Hub (Restricted)	10	57,727	66,265
Care Fund (Restricted)		26,766	-
Local Community Fund (Restricted)		2,400	-
		<u>226,089</u>	<u>216,289</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Bank Balances - NatWest		55,263	50,721
Bank Balances - CAF Bank		89,620	93,292
Bank Balances - CAF Bank Deposit Account		10,344	10,294
Bank Balances - MetroBank		6,863	-
CCLA Deposit Account		62,401	60,464
CCLA Investment Account - cost	11	1,597	1,518
		<u>226,089</u>	<u>216,289</u>

The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis - no provision is made for items that do not fall within the year. There are no significant items that were outstanding at 31st December 2023 nor 2022

Note

- 1 Income Tax recovered Income Tax is recovered on a monthly basis, through the Diocese. This has changed in 2023 when the Diocese collection scheme ended. We are now making claims direct to HMRC - this has reduced the time limit for receiving Gift Aid significantly
- 2 Restricted Donations & Legacies These were mainly specific donations to be paid onto third party charities
- 3 Unrestricted Donations & Legacies Three donations of over £1,000 were received during the year; none of these contained any restrictions on use
- 4 Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds Income represents deposit account interest and dividend income received during the year, It is allocated between the funds on the basis of the balances at 1st January
- 5 Fund Raising The Goudhurst Fete is run by 4 local groups: St Mary's Church, Scouts, Parish Hall and Primary School who take it in turn to lead - in 2023 it was St Mary's turn. This means that we deal with all of the finances, pay the costs, and then divide the profit between the other parties. The General Fund only shows our share of income and costs.

The full details are as follows:

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Net</u>
Shared fete takings and Advert revenue	6,136	1,598	4,538
Paid to the other groups			<u>(3,403)</u>
Balance: quarter share for St Mary's			<u>1,134</u>
St Mary's stalls (including BBQ)	4,302	935	
Fairware stall	301		
Weald Family Hub Stall	496		
Total St Mary's stalls	<u>5,099</u>	<u>935</u>	
<i>General Fund Reconciliation:</i>			
St Mary's stalls (including BBQ)	4,302	935	
St Mary's Quarter Share	1,134		
Less: Advert revenue not received until 2024	(1,075)		
Other fund raising	37		
Per General Fund	<u>4,398</u>	<u>935</u>	<u>3,463</u>

- 6 Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving The list of charities supported during the year is as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Lisell Mukola Community School - Rose's Project	100	1,400
Porchlight	1,200	1,200
Goudhurst Scouts	1,200	1,200
Lend With Care	1,200	1,200
Maidstone Samaritans	1,200	1,200
TearFund	1,200	1,200
Kent Kindness	500	-
Bibles for GK Primary School & Preschool leavers	482	516
Lunch Club - Hire of Parish Hall	512	895
Earthquake Appeals	859	-
Other	5	5
Total Payments	<u>8,458</u>	<u>8,816</u>

		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
7	Repairs and Maintenance		
	Heating System Repairs & Servicing	529	557
	Electrical Maintenance and Repairs	1,732	775
	Fire Safety Maintenance	446	546
	Lightning Conductor Maintenance	114	-
	Roof Repairs	-	300
	Audio Visual System	518	-
	Other	485	793
		<u>3,824</u>	<u>2,971</u>
8	Quinquennial Report		
	The previous inspection was carried out in November 2017 with the report issued in January 2018. The subsequent work on the tower stones was completed in 2022. The next inspection was carried out in mid-2022 and highlighted works to be carried out within the next 5 years - these have not yet been started		
	Architects Fees	991	-
	Traditional Stone - Tower and other stone work	-	3,213
	Less: VAT reclaims under Government Scheme	(535)	-
		<u>456</u>	<u>3,213</u>
9	Enhancements		
	CCTV installation	-	90
	TV Monitors	-	923
		<u>-</u>	<u>1,013</u>
10	Weald Family Hub Fund		
	The Weald Family Hub (WFH) was set up in 2018 to provide support for young people and their families who are struggling with issues of mental health across the Wealden villages, working with the Fegans charitable organisation. St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and local Primary schools. There are a number of regular donors to the Fund, together with donations from local fund raising events and charitable trusts. St Mary's has committed to continue financial support for this project		
11	CCLA Investment Account		
	The market value of the CBF Investment Fund was as follows:	31-Dec	31-Dec
		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	Number of shares held	129.76	126.12
	Value per share (pence)	2,260.53	2,106.60
	Market Value	£2,933.21	£2,656.84
	Original Cost of Shares plus dividend reinvestments	£1,596.74	£1,518.04
12	Physical Assets		
	The PCC is responsible for certain physical assets in St Mary's Church both fixed and movable which are not detailed in the financial statements, but are covered by insurance		

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Goudhurst**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 11

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner**

The members of the PCC 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:

- a. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- b. Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- c. State whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records, It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- a. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - i) to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - ii) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- b. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Mr Graham Langlay-Smith  
Chartered Accountant  
Waller Hill Farmhouse  
Grandshore Lane  
Frittenden  
Kent TN17 2DB

18 April 2024

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Mr Graham Langlay-Smith  
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18 April 2024

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# Accounts

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## St Mary's Goudhurst Book of Reports : April 2022 - May 2023

### Introduction

*We are the Body of Christ, and each one of us is a part of it  
1 Corinthians 12:27*

There are many ways in which we participate in being part of the Body - ways which give glory to God and help to build each other up as we follow Christ together. Not all of those ways are noted in a document! However, each year, we try and capture different areas of our church life in the Book of Reports and this is a key part of what is reported at our APCM.

Those who have kindly led an area of service and ministry and written contributions for this report were asked to:

- Give a brief overview of the purpose of this area of church life - what is it, why do we do it?
- Reflect: what has gone well, what has been learnt, and crucially, where have you noticed God at work?
- Note prayer pointers: as you allow your hopes to be shaped by God looking forward in this area of ministry, how would you like the church family to be praying?

This report is not trying to present the best version of ourselves, but trying to be attentive to how God is moving and shaping us.

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## **Vision: Vicar's report - Revd Rachel Robertson**

Jesus was asked: what is the greatest commandment? His response is our overall vision and purpose:

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.  
(Matthew 22: 37-40)

This reminds us of who we are, and why we do the things that we do.

Alongside this we have **five characteristics of our church life** that I feel God has given us to shape our actions and our reflections on how He wants to be at work. I have selected just some of the examples in which God has been at work under these areas this last year.

***Who is our God?*** - *That we would develop in our understanding of who God is, and be able to confidently articulate this.*

Last year I wrote that I hoped we'd see more times of testimony so that we become even more confident in our own ability to articulate who God is in our day to day. I think we have seen this happening more this year - from times when you have shared testimony up front in our 10.45am service, to sharing stories over coffee at the 9.15. Keep noticing, and keep sharing - it gives glory to God. In doing so you are continuing a long held oral tradition of speaking out about who God is, and also refuting characteristics that are sometimes wrongly attributed to Him. Today's society needs to hear not just that there are those who have faith, or believe in God, but what God is like.

*That we are called to **go deeper with God**, establishing really deep foundations.*

Evidence of going deeper with God includes further growth around small groups (numbers meeting, content). Last year in this report I said that someone to help co-ordinate this ministry alongside the tremendous work being done by Martin Loy would help. I am delighted that Becky Addis has joined Martin in this key area. When we meet together during the week as well as Sundays to read the bible, pray and share fellowship, our roots with God will become more established. This is a shared joy when times are good, and when times are testing, we need our roots to be firmly established.

This next year I would look to have more of our church adult family join a small group, and for levels of engagement to increase.

Likewise, we have seen a huge number of individual young people come through our doors. This year ahead I would look for engagement to be more frequent.

*That church has the element of **campfire** about it: welcoming, with space to share stories, a place for all to gather, visible to those from afar who may be drawn to the edge of the campfire - and open to the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Alongside more established ministries such as Café Toddlers, Crafty Mondays, Blend, church on Sunday and youth gatherings, we have seen the birth of Community Lunches. These are all ways in which, with the encouragement of being mission-minded with fellow Christians, we can encounter those whose faith may not be so established, listen, and gently share our experience of God at work in our lives. It still takes courage for a first time mum to walk through the door of Café Toddlers, but hopefully these sorts of ministries have the sense of the presence of God at the heart of what we do, the Holy Spirit being infectious in those who know the Lord, and an open edge that others may come and see God for themselves as His people gather.

Our mid week and Sunday worship is also open to all, and week by week we see missional opportunities in those who are drawn to the experience of being with others at the campfire. I think of someone part of the Thursday 10am for a season and how that also shaped us, of visiting family members at the 8 o'clock, of a retired priest on holiday at the 9.15 who then suggested to his wife to come to the 10.45 that day, and of Stuart & Karen one of our wedding couples who through building up their connection to the church in legal preparation for their wedding now feel part of our church family.

The image of campfire speaks of something drawing us to the centre - and at the centre of all that we do is God: the burning fire of God's love for us, and his Holy Spirit - the presence of God in our hearts. May I encourage you this year to seek encounter with Him as priority.

*As GK Church, we are to be **beacons of Christ's light**, one of many beacons in the area, as Christ's power transforms the nation and the world.*

A dictionary definition is that a 'chain of beacons carries the news.' This is true of us individually carrying Christ's light out into the world, but it also a picture of GK Church being one of many other churches in the area sharing God's good news. If I speak to an engaged couple who will marry in one of our churches, but live further afield, I say confidently - the church is invested in the long term success of your marriage. Your local parish church wherever you live in the future will support you and be a resource to you in the years to come, as well as ourselves.

Encouraging other church beacons of Christ's light is key - we want all of them to flourish. Two examples highlight ways we have hopefully helped encourage this: (1) when Christ Church choir joined me to celebrate the installation of Revd David Commander as our new

Area Dean in St George's Benenden, and (2) when we regularly pray for the right appointment of a new Vicar for Cranbrook.

*That one by one, we would see people come to know God and his love, and be able to confidently declare, 'I am the Lord's.'*

When someone makes this declaration, the heavens rejoice, and we do too. Each person is called by name. One by one - keep praying them into the Kingdom!

Conversion is one moment of saying 'I am the Lord's' - when someone steps from death to life. It also conveys the moments of confidence when someone stands up for the faith, proclaims it boldly into the world - this is who I am, I am the Lord's!

This year, baptisms of Lissie, Jonty and Joseph and the confirmations of Jo, Cecily, Natalie, Sebastian, Mackenzie, Lydia, Sam and Sam were joyous moments where we rejoiced in this excitement of theirs to proclaim their faith. Even Noah wearing his football shirt on a youth bowling trip with 'Jesus' clearly on the back - all these moments make me tingle with the excitement of the Holy Spirit at work. Keep praying!

## **Thank you**

Thank you to Sam and Jo for their first year as churchwardens. I love working with you both - so professional, calm, prayerful and encouraging - and in the midst of the business, to keep our eye on God.

Becky and Kat - I am blessed. You work well, you work hard, you are righteous, and you are FUN.

Louise - thank you for your passion for improving the mental health of our young people, and for your grace and good humour.

PCC and within that, the Leadership Team: thank you for your prayer, fellowship and wisdom as we seek God together.

Huge thanks to Dan, without whose unfailing support I couldn't be on the front line as it were. Catriona, David and Kirsty also encourage me daily and I'm so delighted that this role also benefits them in their friendships and faith.

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

## **Vision: Letter from our Churchwardens – Jo Alsop and Sam Davis**

### **Summary of the role**

It is difficult to summarise concisely the role of a churchwarden! Its multi-faceted nature seems to evolve dynamically depending on the season, involving both reactive fire-fighting and longer-term proactive planning. There are elements which are theological – prayer, advice, pastoral support - and those that are practical – upkeep of the buildings, roles in services, faculty applications and stewardship of the church silver! Some aspects of the role are done individually but most as part of a leadership team working with Rachel, Becky and Kat to try to grow God's Kingdom in Goudhurst and beyond. But in essence the ministry of churchwarden, if we can call it that, is to support and advise the vicar, to the best of our ability and be familiar, present, and approachable members of the church family.

### **Where have we seen God at work?**

We are sure we can't claim much, if any, credit for this but it seems to us that the most obvious way in which God has been working is through Rachel. It has been wonderful to experience her evident joy in the Lord Jesus Christ, her prayerfulness, her faithful inspired preaching, her pastoral gifts and her ability to worship authentically across multiple different service styles. It is rarely easy as a new incumbent in an established church and in Rachel's case, her transition was made more complicated by COVID but her graciousness, humility and honesty has allowed her to make the role her own.

God has also clearly been at work in growing the church family, at both St Mary's and Christ Church as congregation numbers have continued to recover post-pandemic. It is so encouraging to see growth across multiple age groups. This growth is evident in the critical mass experienced in services, the sudden surge in numbers as the "youth" return from their groups, gregarious post-service coffee sessions, new faces in the band, continued expansion of small groups and a recovery in faithful giving of time, talents and money. New and rebranded ministries are also testament to God at work with Community Lunches, CAP Life Skills and fairwear all examples of faithful outreach into the community and their amplification through the generosity of those often beyond church family shows us the light within is a beacon with far reaching potential. We thank God and celebrate all involved for their time and effort in making these possible.

### **Where do we see the need for prayer?**

The areas where we have seen God at work are all under-pinned by prayer, supported by faithful prayer warriors in the Prayer Ministry Team, those praying as Prayer Chain WhatsApp messages ping in, the 10am pray-ers and many more. God has clearly been at work healing, physically, mentally, spiritually in many of those cases we have been collectively praying about and we thank Him for his reconciling grace. In a recent testimony, Delaehle listed prayers that had been answered - God's faithful response to our prayers prompts us to pray more often and more faithfully. And as Simon Taurins recently pointed out, if we raise our expectations of what God will do, God will meet us there. As Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Any vibrant church proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ is likely to be a target for spiritual attack and we have seen this on a number of fronts. When Paul talks about putting on the full armour of God for protection against the devil's schemes in Ephesians, he says this:

*“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”*

Please pray for us as Churchwardens, for Rachel, for the leadership team and for the whole congregation for spiritual protection as well as physical and emotional well-being. Please pray for anyone involved in mounting an attack that they might know God's grace and be reconciled to Him.

---

### **Worship - Adoring God: Revd Rachel**

Worship is about giving God honour, praise and glory for who He is. It is thanking Him for what He has done. It is learning to listen to His voice. It can be offered in the day to day of our lives, but through ordinary and seasonal times of the year, it is *wonderful* to worship together.

In the last year we have also had the joy and sorrow of responding to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, her death and the King's Coronation in worship.

Thank you to those who help enable worship in any way - from up at the front to behind the scenes including many lay, and the wonderful Stephen, Lesley, John, Jean and Neville who as experienced clergy are full of love and wisdom, and a huge blessing to me.

### **Worship - Adoring God: Thursday Morning 10am congregation - Marion Vellino**

There are currently 10-12 regular worshippers, some of whom are not always able to attend Sunday Services, so the Thursday Services are very important to us and we much appreciate that Rev Rachel has continued to hold them. We have developed a special fellowship which enables us to support each other in times of crisis both practical and spiritual.

Some additional people also attend on periodic occasions for their own private and personal reasons and we welcome them joining us.

These worshippers prefer the old liturgy and the utter peacefulness and reverence of this Holy Communion Service which, for many of us, is a stable reminder of our upbringing.

Rev Rachel gives a short talk during the Service which we find meaningful, helpful and uplifting.

Our members set up before and tidy away after the Service so there is no extra work for the incumbent.

### **Worship - Adoring God: 8 o'clock Sunday congregation - Gill Wallis-Hosken**

The 8 o'clock service has continued to thrive with a small but dedicated core, and then many others joining in now and then. A big thank-you has to go to this dedicated core of people, especially in the depths of winter, setting up, reading, collections etc who keep us going, filling in when necessary. This quiet reflective service is a good way to start our Sunday worship affirming and reflecting God's love for us and others. We are a good caring family, looking after others, and love to welcome new people to come and join us.

### **Worship - Adoring God: 10:45am Sunday congregation - Wes Hinsley and Becky Addis**

For the last year, we have alternated between communion services with groups for the kids and teens, and all-together worship services, where we have the chance to be together as families worshipping God. In both kinds of service, we have the same hope that we would encounter God with praise, hear what He is saying, and see what He is doing.

Along with Rachel's preaching, we have enjoyed hearing from Stephen and Lesley, Kat, Simon, Joe, Olly and others, along with a recent visit from Hugh, who returned to see a church of friends bursting with life, having moved during the difficult lockdown season. With many folk of all ages contributing to readings, times of prayer, tea and cake, the 10:45 remains a great team effort, where we are together as a family, serving one another.

We're also really grateful for those who offer prayer ministry, and those who provide for our young people in groups during 10:45 services, as well as all of the musicians, and those who help with the technical side. More about those teams elsewhere in the book of reports.

After a long while streaming our services on Youtube, we moved to the more private approach of using Zoom for those who can't be with us in person but would love to be. We did this for a great reason: because we want folk in our 10:45 to feel safe to share what they feel God saying, which can be a little scary at first. But it can also be a huge blessing what God speaks to one person, and we feel that it's important and relevant for us.

A few Sundays ago, Simon invited us to raise our expectations of what God can do, and during the last year we have seen more people responding to the Holy Spirit at the 10:45 service. This might have been someone wanting to share their testimony, someone chatting before the service about an injury and another person immediately praying with that person – others have heard God speak words during the service which have then been shared with the congregation in the hope that the word speaks into someone's

circumstances. We have an awesome God who wants to become more and more part of everything that we're doing here at St. Mary's, and we're growing in our discernment of hearing his voice in our services and that feels exciting.

We have continued to meet online each Monday to review our 10:45 service – what went well, how we can grow, and where did we see God moving. We pray, raise concerns, and talk about our hopes and dreams for how we can continue to grow.

### **Worship - Adoring God: Sung worship at the 10:45 – Wes Hinsley**

“But now bring me a musician.” And when the musician played, the hand of the LORD came upon him.

*2 Kings 3:15*

The band for the 10:45 service has continued to grow in skill, in experience and in friendship, as a team of musicians trying to be sensitive to what God is saying and doing, and to try and lead our congregation into encounters with Him. Every week is a little different, and we sincerely hope that across the year many of you reading will have found yourself drawn to meet with Jesus, and that the songs we have led have resonated with what you've felt you needed to sing, and say, as Jesus draws us all close to Himself.

We are also continuing to learn about the times where we need to stop singing, to wait, and to listen, or perhaps just play gently for a moment. The quote from 2 Kings is Elisha speaking; the prophet is requested by three kings: Jehoshaphat of Judah, who Elisha respects, and the kings of Israel and Edom, who Elisha would otherwise have “paid no attention to”. Something of a tense encounter. Elisha calls for a harpist, and I'd love to have heard what the harpist played, contributing to Elisha hearing from the Lord and speaking.

As a team, we want to be like that harpist – to help create an environment where others might hear the Lord speaking. We've had some moments in the last year where that has already happened, and we'd love more.

A couple of our teenagers have moved on to university or to world mission, and we're glad to have them back to visit once in a while. We're continuing to add new members too, and would love to do so more. Here are a couple of comments from the team about how they've felt this year.

*To be able to share worship with our band members and reach out to our church family is something very special and for me faith affirming.*

*Having joined the lovely band members a year ago, we continue to appreciate and be encouraged by their godly dedication and willingness to serve The Lord and His Church. We are very much looking forward to what God has for us all, and praise Him for the unity of the worship team.*

## **Worship - Adoring God: Sunday serving teams - Becky Addis**

Each Sunday at the 10:45 service, depending on whether it's a Worship for Everyone or a Holy Communion week, a large team of between 15 and 25 people work together to ensure that our services run smoothly. People serve in a variety of ways, for example by welcoming people into the church, being a sidesperson, working the sound desk, leading the prayers, reading, being on prayer ministry or working with our young people in their groups. Sunday morning services are a beautiful example of 1 Corinthians 12 when Paul speaks about the church being one body with many parts – all the people involved on Sunday mornings bring their own gifts, all different, but all needed to make up the body of Christ.

Being part of the team is a brilliant way to become involved in church life, especially for someone new to the church. It's a real joy to see someone getting stuck in, and even more joyful for me when someone comes and asks to serve! Please always feel very free to come and chat to me if you feel God nudging you to serve in some way.

A big thank you from me to everyone who serves, you are a blessing to the whole church. Please pray for our teams to grow, especially our sound desk team who would benefit from a few people stepping up. It would be wonderful to see more and more people using their gifts and talents on a Sunday morning, always with the intention of bringing glory to God.

## **Worship - Adoring God: 10am Zoom Prayers - Revd Stephen Hardy**

Prayer is an essential part of church life, and the Zoom prayer meeting which first began during lock down still continues, even though the number of people available to either lead or participate is not so large now that life has returned to normal. Currently we meet on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings at 10.00 am. We include a small amount of liturgical prayer, and one of the Lectionary readings for the day, but the main part is to be praying for our church, our community, and any people whom we are aware of for whom prayer support will be a blessing.

Morning Prayer also provides an opportunity for fellowship for a few who are unable to attend church services for various reasons. Prayer is not only about asking for things, and we often find time to give thanks for God's many blessings, and there have also been occasions during the year when we have been praising God for prayers that we have seen clearly answered.

We are glad to receive any specific prayer requests, which can be sent via the church office, and also are happy to welcome any occasional visitors to the morning meetings – which can be accessed through the home page on the church web site.

Jesus taught us that *'where two or three are gathered together, there I am in the midst'*. We assume that meeting via social media is just as valid as when we meet in person, and sometimes we have a very real sense of His presence as we pray.

## **Worship - Adoring God: Prayer Ministry - Revd Lesley Hardy**

Prayer has to be the heart of any church, and we are so blessed to have a team both offering prayer ministry, and also meeting together to pray before the 10:45 service. Holding the service before God in prayer, and listening for anything he might want to share with us, is a vital part of our ministry.

The team meets together once a term, to prayerfully discern how things are going, and where God might be leading us. As a result of some of those meetings, we decided to offer prayer ministry at the back of the church while communion is being administered, in addition to that offered in the Bedgebury Chapel after the service. This enables people to come for prayer in response to anything that has touched them in the talk, without having to wait till the end of the service.

Over this last year we have seen an increase in the number of people coming forward for prayer, and also seen encouraging ways that God is at work in people's lives. It's been good to have people coming to give thanks for answered prayer, too!

Last June, some of the team attended a day of training at The Living Well, and we all found that inspiring and encouraging. Training is important to us, as we see the ministry as an awesome privilege, and we continue to look for opportunities to attend any appropriate training sessions.

We are so grateful to God for his leading, guidance and faithfulness.

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### **Discipleship: Revd Rachel**

Jesus calls us to more than believe in him (John 14:1) but to follow him (Matthew 28:19-20). This is a key way in which our roots will be established, and in times of testing we will remain firm. One example this year of opportunities to do this were the Saturday Live sessions led by Barney and Henrietta Mayhew. Thank you to them for their leadership and skill in this area and for those who dedicated time to grow in this area.

### **Discipleship: Preaching - Revd Rachel**

I hope that you'll agree that we have had preaching that has been bible based, engaging and with an emphasis on application. This last year I've been encouraged when a home group might use a sermon to reflect more deeply together, and when people have said a sermon has spoken to them, or when they have listened to it more than once!

This next year I'd like to encourage us to dig in a bit further: to bring our bibles to church, take notes, and if we miss a Sunday - catch up with the sermon again.

Thank you to those who have preached this year: Revd. Stephen Hardy, Revd. Lesley Hardy, Revd. Tracey Bateson, Simon Taurins, Sam Davis, Revd. Neville Gallagher, Mark Parsley, Gill Wallis-Hosken, Kat Ogden, Olly Gillett, Joe Champneys, Ben Ratchford on behalf of CAP, Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop Hugh Nelson.

In general we have followed the lectionary for our choice of bible readings. One of the ways we express our unity as a church is that the same readings are used across all four congregations and the same person preaches at all three Sunday morning services.

## **Discipleship: Youth & Children - Sunday Groups - Kat Ogden**

Sunday Groups are an important part of our families ministry at GK Church. We feel it is important that young people and group leaders have regular times to worship in church and so the groups are run fortnightly, to give regular opportunities for both the fellowship and learning that takes place in groups and to worship as a whole church family. We have six groups catering for babies up to school leaders (Scramblers; 0-preschool, Climbers; Yrs R - 2, Pathfinders; Yrs 3 - 6, Pioneers; Yrs 7-8, Explorers; Yrs 9-11 and Ignite Yrs 12 - 13).

The differing age groups clearly have differing needs and aims, although in all of them we aim to have fun whilst spending time with our friends and God. In the younger groups we try to help the children have a familiarity with Bible stories and encourage them to know the Bible better through memory verses, we often follow the sermon pattern so that the children are in step with what is being preached at church. In the older groups we are keen for the young people to develop their own faith and relationship with God. We do this by starting to have a deeper engagement with the Bible, encouraging the young people to read it at home, and encouraging prayer in our sessions. We recognise how important it is for young people to have friends who are Christians and try to encourage fellowship with socials held beyond our Sunday mornings.

We are extremely blessed with the team of talented and committed volunteers who prepare for and lead the groups. It is wonderful to see how different people are drawn to lead in the various age groups according to their differing skill sets and we find it a privilege to spend time with our wonderful young people as they find out more about our great God and discover and deepen their relationship with him.

Over 80 children have attended our groups over the last year which is wonderful and a real encouragement for our ministry, however attendance can be patchy which makes planning for the groups hard. For example since January we have had around 70 attendees but the majority of these have been to fewer than half of the sessions.

It would be great if we had more of the right people to join our Sunday Groups teams as we do not always have sufficient numbers of leaders to run all of the groups and we are reliant on a lot of the same people a lot of the time. Encouragingly we have had some new and returning leaders joining our teenage groups, but we could do with a greater depth of team for all age groups.

Due to the fluctuating numbers of young people, as well as availability of leaders we have been running the Pioneers and Explorers groups together but have not formally merged them so that socials can be run for the relevant age ranges and so that it will be easy to run them separately in the future should the need arise. On occasion we have also had to merge the Climbers group with either Pathfinders or Scramblers for the same reasons.

High points in the groups include:

- Watching our teenagers growing in confidence in praying aloud,
- Teenagers choosing to bring friends along, some of whom have become regulars,
- Putting obstacle courses together and watching young people from 7 to 16 years all giving it a go,
- Seeing friendships grow and develop between the young people in their groups,
- Observing leaders gain confidence in leading the groups both in terms of preparation and interaction with the children and young people,
- The absolute commitment and generosity of spirit that our leaders show for their groups and the willingness to be flexible and move around groups when needed.

We feel that there is a real willingness and enthusiasm for the groups from our young people but various factors mean that they don't attend regularly. Please pray for the children and their families and for obstacles to attending the groups fall away.

Please pray that our sessions continue to help the children and young people to get to know God better and that they discover and build their own relationship with God that they can rely on throughout their lives.

Please pray for our young people who may be questioning their faith or struggling with belief, whether they are still attending church and groups, or if they have stopped coming. We pray that throughout any faith struggles that they still feel safe and welcomed at our church and that they will come to know and recognise their Saviour in good time.

### **Discipleship: Youth & Children - other - Revd Rachel**

We know that as well as enjoying fellowship, bible study and prayer on Sunday, our young people love seeing each other on other occasions. A youth trip to FUSE in Rainham resulted in some of our young people becoming firmer friends in their day to day social lives. An Ignite bowling social drew in much loved youngsters who hadn't been coming on Sunday. Several of our young people were able to go on camps and Christian events with others. From events that take huge planning (gingerbread house making taking over your house) to being invited to watch a film together, these moments help our young people establish friendships with other Christians which can encourage them in their faith, and encourage them to come on Sundays.

### **Discipleship: Small groups - Martin Loy & Becky Addis**

It has been fantastic to welcome Becky, in a voluntary capacity, to help with coordinating Small Groups. As we have worked together, and reflected on the past year, it has been hugely encouraging to see what is being done through Small Groups.

Small Groups continue to be a fantastic opportunity for members of GK Church to develop closer and stronger bonds with a small number of people from within the larger church. There remains a strong core of group leaders, with several others potentially keen to consider stepping up and take on groups.

SGs continue to meet in a variety of settings: to enjoy fellowship, learn from the Bible and each other, and support one another practically and in prayer. We have built on the solid foundations of previous years in order to rationalise the groups we have at the moment: some groups have come to a natural end, whilst we have also set up new groups. There remain plans to introduce further groups to cope with increasing demand.

This continues to be an exciting time of growth and an opportunity to enable this key area of church life to thrive even more. Some groups have been really stuck into the Bible, covering some challenging parts of the Bible through themes, or tackling particular books of the Bible. Other groups have been blessed and encouraged by having a mid-week opportunity to going into more depth from the sermon the previous Sunday.

We remain determined that each SG can be a vibrant expression of fellowship, discipleship and spiritual growth that can make a direct impact in the lives of each person associated with a SG. Please continue to pray for wisdom as groups are enlarged with new members, and for leaders to emerge when more new groups need to be formed. Please pray that, in a year's time, we can report that new groups have emerged, and more people have joined groups as we seek to ensure that everyone in the church community has an opportunity to benefit from being part of SG. Above all please pray for wise decisions to be made when seeking to create the best blend of people in each SG. Praise God for all He is doing in the groups and in individuals from the groups!

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### **Pastoral: Pastoral Care - Revd Rachel**

Pastoral care covers services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals, and the related care around them. Answering the phone in the office can be to a newly bereaved widow, an excited newly engaged couple or someone needing access to the fuse box. I am grateful to Becky and her high level of support & care in the area of pastoral care from first phone call to anniversary cards sent a year after a death or marriage.

As well as the ministries listed in this section, planned pastoral care includes ensuring the house bound receive the offer of home communion, offering hospital visits and being Christ's presence at gatherings such as Café Toddlers to be alert to loneliness and depression. I am grateful to Rosemary Southon and Sonja Drew who are trained to offer home communion using elements that have already been sanctified.

Pastoral care also happens on-the-hoof, such as when someone feels a nudge from God to phone someone and discovers this was a much needed call, or taking the time to talk on the street or in the village shops.

During this time period at St Mary's we held services and offered pastoral care around:

- 12 baptisms - a mixture of infants, children and adults, full immersion and using the font, during the 10.45 and in Sunday afternoon services.
- 1 thanksgiving for the birth of a child
- 7 weddings
- 1 wedding blessing
- 13 funerals or memorial services (thanks also to Revd Neville and Revd Stephen)
- 7 burials of ashes

Pastoral care can be the classic cup of tea with the Vicar, but acts of pastoral care are undertaken by us all as we love each other in Jesus' name. If you have visited someone in need, you also represent the church as you go - this is very much a team effort as God uses all of our connections to help reach out to those He loves.

Within the church family, the network of small groups is partly established to offer mutual support and care to one another - to meet each others' needs as the first port of call after (or instead of) family.

### **Pastoral: Connect - Meal Train - Ali Williams**

During the past year GK Church has provided 103 meals to help support people in a variety of circumstances which includes convalescing from a hospital stay, illness, a new baby and a house move. You also cooked 130 meals and baked cakes for the Alpha participants over the 11 week course that took place last summer – on behalf of all the recipients - thank you. There is always more we could do to love each other and our neighbours, and it would be great to have the resources to be able to offer more. A delicious home cooked meal delivered to the door by one of our church family can be the most wonderful gift, especially when things are tough, and if you would like to be part of this team please let me know. The beauty of the meal train is you only need to sign up to cook when you are able to, there doesn't have to be a regular commitment. Also, if you would like to cook for the meal train but circumstances mean you may not be able to deliver, we would love more meals for the church freezer too, which we can use for similar circumstances and as a back up to the meal train. If you would like to know more about the meal train or cook for the church freezer, please do let me know. I say this in every Connect report I write, that 'Connect' as a ministry is really the whole church, learning how to respond to God's love for us by loving others in this way.

### **Pastoral: Anna Chaplaincy - Sonja Drew (Licensed Lay Minister (Reader))**

*What is Anna Chaplaincy?*

Anna Chaplaincy seeks to accompany older people at this age and stage of their lives. It is an ecumenical, community-based, chaplaincy promoting the spiritual welfare of older

people. Anna Chaplaincy is a person-centred and non-judgemental ministry for people of strong, little or no faith at all. Anna Chaplains are named after the widow, Anna, who appears with Simeon in Luke's gospel; both are good role models of faithful older people.

It involves visiting older people wherever they may be living, whether in residential and nursing homes, sheltered housing, retirement complexes or in their own homes. The emphasis is on spiritual support but, clearly, people's practical struggles will also play a part in their overall well-being.

The chaplaincy is intended to complement and run alongside, rather than replicating or replacing, ministry already being done by the church.

Anna Chaplaincy in the Dioceses of Canterbury was introduced in 2019 and is affiliated to The Bible Reading Fellowship.

### *Why Anna Chaplaincy?*

It wasn't until I retired two years ago that God started to nudge me in taking on more church-based activities, for example taking Home Communion, supporting the Meal Train ministry, and joining the Community Cupboard Team. Opportunities to spend time chatting with, and offering prayer to older people of strong, little or no faith around the village seemed to resonate more with me as an important ministry to a group of people in the third and fourth ages of life. Showing them that they are deeply loved for their experience, knowledge, and wisdom and valued as a member of the local community.

I had I started to feel this calling to the ministry of being an Anna Chaplain over a year ago. I had encouraging conversations with Rev Rachel and the Warden of Readers last year. I also spent time discussing the role with one of the Diocesan Anna Chaplain leads. Following my Reader Annual Review with Rev Rachel this year, the call to this ministry was still as strong. The words from Isaiah 46 v 4 'Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you' have been a constant source encouragement whilst I have been discerning Anna Chaplaincy.

### *What Next?*

The PCC have very kindly agreed to support me in this emerging ministry. There is a Diocesan application process to follow; the closing date is 19 May and with a selection interview for acceptance onto the course towards the end of May. I would ask for your prayers at this time as the Diocese discerns my suitability for this ministry and subsequent training. I hope and pray that God will show us where we need to improve, change, and grow in our ministry to older people. Such exciting times ahead!

## **Pastoral: GK Emergency Prayer Chain and the prayer box - Kat Ogden**

The Emergency Prayer chain operates through a Whatsapp group which has 61 members. Anyone can ask Ali Williams, Becky Addis, Revd. Rachel, Kat Ogden or Sam Davis for a prayer request to be added to the group.

We regularly have prayer requests for people within our church family and their wider friends and family as well as prayer requests for local and wider situations. Some of the prayers are for short term issues but in many cases we pray for people over a long period of time. It is a great comfort for those on the receiving end of prayer to know that they are held so closely by those praying.

There is a prayer box in church which tends to be used more by people who are not part of the church family, although most notes are anonymous.

Those leading Zoom prayers will be aware of prayer requests from both the Whatsapp Groups and the prayer box and can include them in the intercessions. I find it really encouraging and comforting to know that we have a committed group of people who pray regularly for those in need and that this prayer takes place both individually and in groups.

We know that God listens to our prayers and we have seen lots of answer to prayer - it is always wonderful when we receive updates on the Prayer Chain Whatsapp where people have recognised that the prayer is being or has been answered. Without giving details on the specific prayer requests for privacy reasons, here are just some of the messages we have received:

“Tremendous answer to prayer to add to the prayer chain for praise... I can't say how relieved we are filled with thankfulness and praise. Hallelujah!”

“Thank you to everyone for once again praying in faith and expectation. We have a great and loving God.”

“Oh my goodness! What an answer to prayer! A huge thank you for everyone's prayers.... All glory to God!”

## **Pastoral: Home Communion**

Holy Communion can be carried out by a priest in settings outside of church - for example when someone is too ill to come to church, and sanctified bread and wine can be taken by an authorised person to administer communion with a slightly different form of service also. We have two people authorised to do this - Rosemary Southon and Sonja Drew, and I am grateful to both for helping to ensure that those who wish to receive holy communion can do so.

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## **Gospel - also known as mission: Revd Rachel**

The Anglican communion recognises Five Marks of Mission:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

We are trying to join in with Christ's mission to the world. There are areas which are defined as mission which are reported on below. There are other ways of engaging which constitute mission (e.g. celebrating the Platinum Jubilee, Goudhurst Open Day, Village Fête, Coronation celebrations, Wreath making, Christmas Fayre), and there are ways in which the good news is passed on in ways which don't have a title and where you are the ministry lead!

## **Gospel - also known as mission: The Weald Family Hub - Louise Vickerman**

The Weald Family Hub was established nearly five years ago to ensure that mental health support for children, young people and their families is accessible, affordable, and readily available in the village communities of the Weald.

Since it began operations it has provided subsidised professional mental health counselling places to over 200 primary school aged children. The Hub also provides mentoring support for local secondary school pupils offered by a team of trained volunteer mentors and has supported 25 students to date.

At present we offer local primary schools between 18 and 36 weeks of subsidised professional mental health counselling dependent on their needs. Schools pay 50% of the costs, the Weald Family Hub the other 50%. Schools are offered counselling places for a minimum of three children with many accessing support for six or more children each year. We are also able to offer emergency support to schools for children needing immediate help. We are currently working with 11 partnership schools.

Mentoring support, run by our co-ordinator Bridget Stewart, has successfully been set up this year at Cranbrook Grammar school upon the closure of the High Weald Academy where the initiative originally started. We are currently considering extending the provision of mentoring to Mascalls Academy.

We are also set to run a pilot with Old Parsonage Surgery, Goudhurst to offer funded mental health counselling places for secondary aged students in the area. We hope to

offer sessions online in the first instance to test the model at which point we hope to offer face-to-face sessions.

Children and young people have faced major challenges following the Covid pandemic and this is now compounded by the cost-of-living crisis. There is a continuing trend that puts a spotlight on the decline in children's mental health and looking to the future, experts agree that underlying mental health problems will remain significantly higher because of this. Campaigns continue also to highlight the need for reforms in NHS children's mental health services where many children wait for support for up to 2 years as waiting lists spiral out of control.

For the coming year and beyond, the work of The Hub will continue to be critical so that together we can help build mental health resilience and hope in our village communities and we are very thankful for our strong, continued partnership with Fegans in making this happen.

Please keep in your thoughts all those who are suffering with issues of mental health and that our work can continue to support as many of them as possible at a time when they need it most, in particular the children, young people and families in our communities; please also give thanks for the expertise, skills and time given by so many people in support of our work, the team at Fegans, our volunteers and volunteer co-ordinators and to those who have financially supported our work ensuring we realise our vision to transform the lives of children, young people and families in the Weald.

### **Gospel - also known as mission: Community Cupboard - Ali Williams**

Not surprisingly demand for help from the Community Cupboard began to rise again last autumn, peaking at some 26 households we were supporting over the winter months. Demand has dropped slightly, and at the moment we are in contact with 20 households, the majority of which we support on a fairly regular basis.

We had bumper Christmas deliveries this year, enhanced by the magnificent donation from Ladysden of wonderful fresh fruit and veg and other goodies. We also had some other large donations of biscuits and Christmas puddings, and plenty of money, which along with other individual food donations, enabled us to provide a wonderful Christmas hamper for 26 households which the team prepared and delivered the week before Christmas.

As we have done in previous years, the Reverse Advent project provided sacks full of gifts for 18 children, and 34 adults living in the villages of Goudhurst and Kilndown – thank you so much for your generosity, it is always such a privilege to be on the front line and to see love in action like this. We saw some beautiful ways God was moving in this ministry. With your donations, there were enough gifts to go round, to the point where there was nothing left, but everyone had plenty, nothing was wasted.

We heard some wonderful stories of how delighted our clients were with their gifts. This included a pair of binoculars given to someone who found great pleasure in watching the wildlife in his garden with them, a child thrilled with a book they received and a cross and chain cherished by a teenager. This ministry is totally reliant on your generous donations and the dedicated team who work tirelessly to support those finding life difficult in our community, thank you.

### **Gospel - also known as mission: Community Lunches - Ali Williams**

Community Lunch started in September 2022, and is a weekly lunch held on a Tuesday in St Mary's where we gather to eat delicious soup, bread and the chance to sample some amazing cakes too! We have a dedicated core team who turn out weekly and a very much valued wider team who regularly make soup and cake and help on the day too.

Community Lunch is a marvellous example of church in action, and we have seen some quite beautiful ways we have witnessed God moving among us - like the day someone new to Community Lunch just happened to sit beside one of our church family who they quickly discovered was able to speak fluently in their first language which wasn't English, and a valuable conversation ensued: what a gift. Or the occasions one-off visitors to the church have come just at the right time and shared in our hospitality. And of course the uplifting stories of people leaving feeling better than when they arrived!

Jesus taught us so much by sharing many meals not just with his friends, but with people from all walks of life, sometimes seeming to raise a few eyebrows in the process. Community Lunch gives us all the opportunity to learn to be more like Jesus by being part of a space that welcomes everyone as equal, sharing in God's provision and a starting point to talk about God's story of love and salvation for anyone who wants to hear.

### **Gospel - also known as mission: fairwear - Karen Gillett**

"fairwear" is the updated name of the ministry previously known as "Connect Clothing." The name change reflects the desire to engage in the subject of clothing conservation on a global level, making clothing fair for workers, fair for the environment and fair for our parish.

On a local level, parishioners can buy clothes at a very fair price. Additionally, they can donate 'gently worn' clothing to re-sell in order to keep clothing in circulation for as long as possible. To engage in the conversation of 'fashion' on a global level sets our focus on the importance of caring for God's creation and God's family. Something which ties in beautifully with Eco-Church.

In February we had our first children's clothing sale held over two days and plan to have another this term. We will also have a large presence at the Summer Fête on the 10<sup>th</sup> June.

I am really excited to be embarking on this ministry and making wear fair for all. If you want to be part of the extended "team" or just involved with some of our events, please reach out directly to me.

### **Gospel - also known as mission: Care Fund - Dave Lodge**

*If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3 v17-18*

In late 2022, we were amazingly blessed with 2 significant donations given to us to use in supporting our local communities, totalling £60,000. Working with the donors, we agreed to split this 50:50, half being added to the great work of the Weald Family Hub, and the remaining £30,000 set up as a Community Care Fund, which can provide financial assistance to individuals, couples or families through a grant system for times of crisis or emergency need.

We researched and based the Care Fund on successful schemes in other churches, adapting it specifically to our locality. This builds on the success of the Community Cupboard, Connect Clothing and Community Lunches, and other links we have, which already have a reach into many local families. We will work through our own contacts, together with the local school, pre-school and doctors surgery to help identify needs.

Grants of up to £300 can be made to assist with costs or everyday items, white goods etc, to help when things get tough, or to manage better day-to-day. The £300 may be made for one item, or spread over several smaller amounts.

To date, we have paid out 8 grants for a wide variety of needs. We aim to make the scheme more widely known, now that we have proved the way that it works with these initial grants.

This is an amazing opportunity to support those around us and show love and concern. If you know of anyone who needs support, or if you yourself could benefit from the Care Fund, please talk with either Rev Rachel, Ali Williams or myself.

## **Gospel - also known as mission: Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Life Skills Courses - Ali Williams**

After some intense training in the autumn of 2022, Gill, Karen and I became official Christians Against Poverty Life Skills coaches and GK Church was named as a CAP Life Skills Centre for the Weald, which means we are able to offer the Life Skills course for anyone in the Weald and Tunbridge Wells area who would like to participate in a course.

We are on the radar of social prescribers, surgeries and agencies who can signpost folk to our course who may like to share and gain practical tips and skills alongside us, so we can help each other live well in challenging circumstances. After our preparation we were full of expectation and excitement and ready to run our first course by the middle of February, but unfortunately there were no referrals or sign ups at that time to enable us to run a course. This was disappointing, but not to be deterred we met as a team and prayed for where God may be calling us to share the Life Skills course. During that prayer meeting, for two different reasons, East Sutton Prison surfaced, and we felt led to explore this as a possible link for our Life Skills courses. As I write we are pursuing this with the help of one of our church family, as well as continuing to discern where else God is at work and calling us to share this course and His story.

## **Gospel - also known as mission: Lend With Care - Rosemary Southon**

I continue to manage our small fund with Lend With Care. As there have been no new contributions to the fund this year, I have been reinvesting money that is being paid back by the Entrepreneurs. These may come from South Africa, South America, Pakistan, Polynesia, Vietnam etc. It is very interesting to read the various applications. On the whole the choice is between those who are supporting farming, families (and education) and those who are proposing to support others. Lend With Care has also recently set up a Link with Malawi.

## **Gospel - also known as mission: Alpha**

Ali Williams co-ordinated three different Alpha groups which ran from May to July on Monday mornings, Monday evenings and Tuesday afternoons. The leaders and helpers were Gill Wallis-Hosken, Fiona Pryde, Sherry March, Josie Parsley, Mark Taylor, Joe Champneys, Dorothy Ross, Tracey Smith, Andy Freeman, Liz Tapper. and for the Holy Spirit Day, Simon & Katie Taurins and Wes Hinsley - thank you all!

The focus of Alpha, the high quality material produced by Alpha International, and the success for God's Kingdom when Alpha courses are available mean that running Alpha remains a priority for us. However, to run Alpha again we need to train one or two people to be the Alpha co-ordinator role that Ali has fulfilled this season - thank you Ali for fulfilling this role.

## **Gospel - also known as mission: Café Toddlers - Val Lodge**

Café Toddlers continue to be a busy Friday morning and we have been blessed with a number of new mums and toddlers over recent months, many of whom have been invited by other mums – we certainly don't need to advertise! There are often 30+ mums and at least as many babies and toddlers. We have a lovely, very dedicated team of helpers who provide cakes and craft activities, as well as creating a very friendly welcoming atmosphere. Snacks are available for the children and coffee, tea and a selection of beautiful cakes for the parents and carers. This is the only church connection for almost all the mums, grandparents and children that we see.

In December we also ran a wreath-making evening, attended by 35+ ladies. It was a fun event and a great range of Christmas wreaths were made – something for all tastes! Sonja did a short talk about the true Christmas message, being welcome for all.

Many thanks to the team – for all you do in this fantastic service to the community.

## **Gospel - also known as mission: Collective Worship at Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School - Kat Ogden**

Rachel and I lead Collective Worship at Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School on Wednesday mornings and it is such a privilege and a highlight of our week for both of us.

We tend to keep our Collective Worship Bible based, using a specific verse or story from the Bible to engage with the children in an interactive manner, encouraging them to think about how it relates to them now, followed by signing a hymn together and a time for prayer or reflection.

Some of the themes we have covered this academic year include:

- The Road to Emmaus - piecing the jigsaw together.
- Mary and Mary at the Tomb - what if they hadn't been so brave?
- Zacchaeus - new beginnings
- The generosity of God
- Christ the King - how does Jesus differ from earthly monarchs?
- The arrival of the wise men - Jesus is for everyone
- Salt and Light - what does it mean to be salty? How we can use our gifts.
- Ash Wednesday - explaining the symbolism and offering an ash cross to pupils and teachers.

It is amazing to see how engaged the children are each week and how keen they are to share their experiences and knowledge with us. There are always numerous children happy to volunteer to answer questions or to help us to act out various parts. It is clear from the way that they retain information and make links that many of the children have a good understanding of God and that they want to know him. As with last year, the majority of children chose to receive an ash cross either on their forehead or hand with a blessing on Ash Wednesday and I could clearly feel the Holy Spirit among us as we were blessing the children.

We have had encouraging feedback from both parents and teachers on the Collective Worship with some of the tools and aids we have used being recreated at home or in the classroom. We feel very well supported by the school and ask for you to pray for its staff and pupils - for protection over them and that the school remains a safe and loving place where they encounter Jesus through learning and the actions of those around them.

Please also pray for the children at this school who would love to come to church and try Sunday Groups, for any barriers to this falling away and for encouragement for their families to support their children in this way.

### **Gospel - also known as mission: Blend - Andrea Kirkby - Blend Team**

Blend is led by Tracey Smith and is going well. In an attempt to increase the numbers we invited the Year 6 Children to Blend too. Unfortunately, due to Covid and the stop/start that happened once we were out of lockdown we missed a year of children who would have attended. We now have over 50 children each week. This has changed the dynamic and the original thinking behind Blend (to reconnect those children who have left Primary school to attend the many Secondary schools) has somewhat been lost. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help on an occasional basis. Ideally we need 8 volunteers to run each session, we have a core group of 6 volunteers who help each week but if one of us is unable to attend it is sometimes difficult to get a replacement. We are always looking for new helpers and people to bake as feeding 50 children means a lot of cake is eaten! Amanda Hall and myself have completed the Food Hygiene training.

### **Gospel - also known as mission: Crafty Mondays - Val Lodge**

A new venture this year. We meet just once a month and have enjoyed a wide range of crafting – knitting, crochet, paper flower making, stone painting, traditional Christmas pies, painting and calligraphy amongst others. We share skills, ideas, inspiration, patterns and completed projects, as well as sometimes having guest demonstrators. There is always tea, coffee and cake to share and many chats about, well just about anything – sometimes to do with crafting, sometimes about faith, the weather, news, family etc. It's great to see the group sharing answers to questions about the church and our faith.

More recently we have been joined by new ladies (yes, it is predominantly, but not exclusively female!) from outside church circles or contacts made through the Community Cupboard.

We welcome anyone who wants to share skills or learn new ones.

**Infrastructure: Revd Rachel**

Not such a catchy title, but a vital interwoven structure that holds everything in place.

**Infrastructure: Safeguarding - Andrea Kirkby**

The annual Safeguarding Conference was held in January, again via Zoom as this format works well. There was a LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) who manages and gives advice on any allegations made with anyone works within the children's workforce i.e. hospitals, schools, or organisations similar to ours who gave the first talk. It is good to know there is a lot of expert advice we can call upon. We then had a talk from a Professor in Trauma on how the brain copes with abuse. He had worked with the Greenfell Support Team and Social workers preparing Ukrainian Refugee hosts. It was incredibly insightful and very interesting. Everyone seemed to have the same complaint that it is difficult to get people to do the training! There is now a Modern Slavery training course I need to complete.

I ran a Basic Safeguarding Training course in Church which worked out very well as it gave the participants an opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the training. I plan to run another course later this year and a Domestic Abuse Training course as well.

Some of my DBS checks are still being queried but we always use the Safer Recruitment Policy set out by the Diocese so we are following the correct procedures.

The spreadsheet containing information on anyone involved in Ministry in Church is now completed. This holds information as to who has completed what training and DBS check details and can be accessed by those who need that information.

We are required by the rules to include this statement: The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

**Infrastructure: PCC - Barney Mayhew**

The PCC is, more or less, the governing body of the church. It contains the Vicar, the church wardens, and about 14 others who are elected by the church family.

We meet, we pray, and we discuss and decide on anything major that needs a decision. The whole idea is to seek God's will, and to try to translate that into what the church does.

That covers a wide range of topics, starting with the church's vision, and how to encourage and enable every aspect of its mission and ministry from services, to young people's groups, to the community cupboard, to the CAP life skills work and dozens of other

initiatives. It also includes the church's income and spending, buildings, safeguarding, training, relationship with the deanery, community events, and future plans.

For the past year I think we have felt united, encouraged, and fired up with love and hope for our church family and the wider communities. We are thankful for all that God has done, is doing and will do in the coming year.

### **Infrastructure: Leadership Team - Revd Rachel**

We are blessed with a fantastic PCC, thank you all! Amongst their number is a sub group who offer support, wisdom and prayer for matters arising in between PCC meetings. This group is officially a standing committee and has delegated authority from the PCC to act in this way, and they are: Dave Lodge, Barney Mayhew, Wes Hinsley, Sam Davis and Jo Alsop. In addition these and Kat Ogden and Becky Addis form a Leadership Team - wise counsellors, prayer warriors and those who share the workload of leading the church. Thank you to this amazing team on my behalf and on behalf of our church.

### **Infrastructure: Church Office - Becky Addis**

Life in the Church Office continues to be joyful as Kat and I continue to serve God in a variety of ways. For me this involves, amongst other things, keeping on top of communication, whether through the GK Church weekly news or social media, organizing rotas, dealing with pastoral services such as weddings, funerals and baptisms, or ordering in the various supplies needed for church life – no two days are the same.

It continues to be a real privilege to serve God through my work, and I feel so blessed to be part of the Staff and Leadership Team here at GK Church. It's always so encouraging when rotas come together with the brilliant church family stepping up to serve, when requests go out for people to bake or cook for a church event and people simply put their hands up – and the recent response to furnish the new home of one of our Ukrainian families, well that was amazing! All these administrative requests sent out by me being fulfilled by kind, generous people who love God and wish to serve him.

Please keep praying for the work that goes on within the four walls of the Church Office. We laugh a lot as we work together and enjoy working as a team and seeing where God is moving. And if you want to pray about something really big – how about a new Church Office in the Church or maybe in the village somewhere!

*Rachel notes:* Becky works part time Monday - Thursday, and gives time as a volunteer in addition, serving with Martin Loy as our Small Groups co-ordinator, serving on Sunday teams such as refreshments, and with children's groups, and leading a small group. On top of this she is a joy to work with - thank you Becky!

## **Infrastructure: Ordinand - Kat Ogden**

In September of last year my role changed from being Children's and Youth Pastor to Ordinand (or trainee-vicar as I like to explain it). My Ordinand training involves a context-based three year degree in 'Theology Ministry and Mission' and I now spend one day a week at St Mellitus College in London, two days plus Sundays in my church placement here at GK Church and two days studying at home.

As an Ordinand at GK Church I get to gain experience across a wide area of ministry. I have kept on some of the youth children's work such as leading Collective Worship and School services in church and leading in Sunday Groups which continues to be very rewarding. It is a joy to attend Connect lunches on Tuesday - both for the food and the company! And I am learning lots about church leadership and what goes on 'behind the scenes' in day to day ministry through being part of the Staff and Leadership team and from Revd. Rachel's wisdom. I have also enjoyed stretching my worship muscles by becoming a regular at the 8 o'clock service and falling into the rhythm of the familiar yet somewhat foreign liturgy.

Something which has struck me since spending time with lots of other Ordinands, many of whom are at much bigger and highly resourced churches, is just how much we manage to do at GK Church with a very small staff team. You may notice this when you see Becky's rotas sent out each week and that just covers the 10:45 service. Day in, day out, there are many people forming part of our GK Church family who are serving and ministering in some way and it is here that I really see the Holy Spirit at work. That people have such love for Jesus and God's people that they consistently give up their own time and resources to serve in such a variety of ways is inspiring and humbling. I feel that people have a real willingness to try and see where God is at work so that we can catch up with him and serve where he wants us.

I also see God at work here in GK Church when people show what is known at theological college as 'generous orthodoxy'. That is, an acceptance of, and willingness to hold together different styles and traditions of worship. Revd. Rachel demonstrates this through the way she genuinely values and appreciates presiding over all of our services from the 8 O Clock, Thursday Holy Communion and the 10:45 at St Mary's to the 9:15 at Christ Church. However I regularly see it in members of our congregations too and it makes me think of St Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 12 where we are reminded that all of the different parts of the body have roles to play but it is by working together that we form the body of Christ.

I am incredibly blessed to be working alongside Revd. Rachel and Becky and to be supported by our wonderful church wardens and leadership team. I still have such a huge amount to learn and would ask for you to pray for me as I attempt to grow my theoretical and practical knowledge and experience of ministry. Please pray that I see where and how God is at work around us. And please pray for Tom, Kitty, Posey and Seraphina who have been so supportive of me as I head off to college each week and regularly leave them for weekends to go off for more study.

*Rachel notes:* I was delighted to recruit Kat as Children and Youth Minister, and then privileged (& delighted) to observe and be a part of her discernment to the priesthood which started years ago and reached a point of affirmation when she was approved by the national Church of England to undertake training for the priesthood. We are very blessed to have her reflective mind and many gifts based here during her initial training period.

## **Infrastructure: Buildings - Eco church - Sam Davis**

Since its inception, our EcoChurch work has involved:

- Initial explanation of the EcoChurch programme, preaching on creation care and recognition in prayer and worship
- Installing swift boxes in the church tower to encourage swifts to nest/give this endangered species a chance to re-establish
- Providing a collection point for crisp packets, batteries and printer cartridges which are then taken to established recycling points so they don't go to landfill or incineration
- Switching the church's electricity to a renewable tariff (includes some nuclear), installing LED lights as others expire and investigating options for replacement of the existing oil fired boiler
- Twinning our loos to provide funding for education on hygiene/installation of loos in less developed countries

*Where has God been moving/at work?*

The programme's progress has plateaued since the pandemic due to lack of capacity but God has still been at work in this area. With many thanks to them, our churchyard is maintained by the Goudhurst Parish Council (GPC) and we have recently seen increased interest from GPC in management of the space in a way which finds a balance between being conducive to encouraging biodiversity replenishment while respectful to those visiting the graves of loved ones.

*What do we need prayer for?*

We see in Genesis 1 that God cares deeply about his creation and we firmly believe He will continue to move in this space whatever we do. That said, God's work and this programme would benefit from new ownership and energy by someone with both capacity and a real heart for creation care. Please pray for such an individual to step forward. Please also pray for GPC as they work to find the right balance for managing the churchyard.

## **Infrastructure: Buildings - Church Rooms - James Wickham**

The Church Rooms has had another year exciting year, supporting St. Marys Church and the village. Goudhurst Village Pre-School has been full all year, unfortunately turning new applicants away and is nearly fully booked for the new school year in September.

Congratulations must go to Jo Galloway and her team for recently gaining an Outstanding Ofsted rating- a huge achievement.

In addition to the Pre-School use, a number of other organisations continue to regularly rent the premises, as well as one-off rentals for parties and other gatherings. (Contact Jo Galloway [joanegvp@gmail.com](mailto:joanegvp@gmail.com) if you are interested in renting the premises).

As always building maintenance is essential and ongoing, and half of the roof was re-tiled and ongoing repairs to the decking were made amongst other things.

Mainly due to the heavy expenditure of £7,500 on the roof and the decking repairs, overall we spent £3,642 more than we received in rental income for the year. However, the roof repair costs were significantly less than we had previously estimated. The fund, built up over many years, will allow us to undertake further maintenance including potentially a new more environmental friendly heating system.

A final thank you to everyone involved in working to maintain a thriving Church rooms for the benefit of the village.

## **Infrastructure: Buildings - St Mary's Church - Jo Alsop and Sam Davis**

### *Summary of role*

The churchwardens are responsible for ensuring the church buildings are maintained. In this we are ably supported by many including the PCC, Becky and especially James Wickham who takes on much of the actual maintenance work and its management. We are extremely grateful for this support.

### *Where have we seen God at work?*

Following the long period under scaffolding in 2020-2021 when the last quinquennial works were carried out, it was a blessing for the church to be scaffold-free and restored to its position as a beautiful and welcoming beacon at the centre of the village. Thanks to all who were involved in organising, funding and carrying out the high quality restoration work, especially Ali and the Friends of St Mary's.

It is a further blessing that Jo, with the help of newly appointed architects has made good progress towards having the churchyard wall repaired. The repair will involve a new design incorporating a lowered wall section which hopefully will prevent recurrence of the damage caused by passing HGVs. As you can imagine, there are multiple interested parties in relation to this project so we are particularly thankful that there is consensus around the new wall design.

Last but not least, we thank God for the good progress made on replacing the window above the Culpepper effigies. Glass has been secured that will protect these important historical artefacts from light pollution. An added bonus is that the window will now not just be plain glass but will include a coloured glass design focused on commemorating the late Queen. This project has been led the Friends of St Mary's who have raised the necessary funding and had a substantial input into the window composition and design.

*What do we need prayer for?*

The next quinquennial review is due this year so please pray for the architects for skill, diligence and wisdom as they carry out this work and that any remedial works required are manageable.

Please pray for the wall repair project, for Jo, the architects and all those involved in its organisation. Please pray that the funds available are sufficient for the works to be carried out and that the works are carried out smoothly and well, with minimum disruption to our village neighbours.

Please continue to pray for the replacement of the window above the Culpepper effigies, for Ali, the FOSM and all the artisans involved for skill and wisdom and for any fundraising needed to be generously supported.

St Mary's is an historic and complex building; minor issues occur frequently and sometimes unexpectedly- please pray for us, James, Becky and all others involved for the capacity to deal with these as they present themselves.

### **Infrastructure: Stewardship (Finance) - Dave Lodge**

After the heavy expenditure in 2021 on the last Quinquennial Report stonework projects, we had much more of a 'normal' year in 2022. The PCC set a target to rebuild our reserves over the next three years at £25,000 each year, so that we are able to meet the next Report requirements (the inspection is due later in 2023!). In fact, on the General Fund we have been blessed with an increase in regular giving by around 13%, helped by a couple of significant donations, and after all expenditure, our reserves increased by £23,575, just short of the first third of £75k target. The Charity Ball held in November 2022 was a great

success with the profits of over £8,000 being split 50:50 between the Weald Family Hub and general church funds.

In addition, we were given two very large donations totalling £60,000 for use in the community; we split this 50:50, half going to the work of the Weald Family Hub and half being used to set up a new Care Fund. This Fund, based on similar successful schemes at other churches, was launched in early 2023 and provides financial assistance to individuals, couples or families in our local villages through a grant system for times of crisis or emergency need. So far, we have paid out 8 grants for a wide variety of needs.

The Weald Family Hub (WFH) continues to be well supported by regular donations as well as sterling work by Louise Vickerman in attracting grants from local charities and supporters. Along with the £30,000 noted above, the WFH has been able to increase the level of support provided to mental health counselling at local schools.

During 2022 we carried out some 'tidying-up' and paid out monies to Christians Against Poverty, Sri Lank Theological College and The Disasters Emergency Committee from funds that we had built up over a number of years.

We continue to benefit from the recover of Income Tax through the Gift Aid arrangements; we received over £26,000 in 2022. The method of collection of Gift Aid is changing in 2023 as the Canterbury Diocese will no longer be providing support for this. At this time of change, John McCaig has decided it is time for him to hang up his boots and hand over the administration after many years of service. I would like to thank John for his dedication and massive support over his tenure. We will be providing an alternative method of donations for Gift Aid purposes, although existing givers will not see any change at least for the time being.

Many thanks to all who give to the church – the increases in 2022 have been a blessing and enabled us to further develop the sharing of God's love both within the church and our wider community. If you would like to talk through anything relating to the accounts or regular giving please just let me know.

### **Infrastructure: Fabric - altar linens, verging - Rosemary Southon**

I'm often to be found popping in to the Church. One role is to change the Altar linen and frontals, according to the Churches year - purple, green, white, red. Some items are light and some are awkward to handle and have different fixing methods. It's a good time to have a quiet moment for reflection, even if I'm trying not to trip over steps or obstacles. Connected to this is the laundry of the linen etc and remembering which way to iron certain items.

On certain days I unlock the church - this is a really good time to be in the church with the sun just rising through the East windows. It makes me think of all those who have previously worshipped here.

I still welcome visiting ringers and until fairly recently Verged for funerals and some Baptisms (in abeyance due to foot injury).

### **Infrastructure: Flowers - Revd Rachel**

With huge thanks to Marian Sergeant who has led a small team to create beautiful displays for church on a weekly basis and for special occasions including the main festivals of the year and the Platinum Jubilee.

This main lead and co-ordinator role is now vacant. If you have skills to add to this area, please contact Becky Addis.

### **Infrastructure: Care of furniture - Revd Rachel**

We have a small and dedicated team who regularly fix things or help me to retire items. Someone to oversee this area of care would be wonderful - someone who would oversee things like the removal of Covid seating stickers from the pews without damaging them, know the history of whether a chair is ancient and precious, or a kitchen chair that can be removed without concern, make decisions on whether to fix the wheels on the chair racks or buy new racks. If you can serve in this way, please contact Becky Addis.

### **Infrastructure: Sacristan - Revd Rachel**

We have a small number of those who carefully set up for Communion, clean and care for altar linens and notice when we need to buy more supplies - thank you. It would be amazing if there was one main person who took on this oversight so that we ensure things are kept in good order. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this role in more detail.

## Infrastructure: Administrative information

Bankers	CAF Bank 15 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ  Nat West Bank High Street Cranbrook Kent TN17 3EA
Independent Examiner	Mr J A Tapper FCA Mill Cottage Mill Lane Sissinghurst Kent TN17 2HX
Architects	Clague 62 Burgate Canterbury Kent, CT1 2BH

## **Partnerships: Revd Rachel**

The following reports have been kindly provided by those we work in partnership with. We value all these partnerships highly, and are also grateful for relationships with others including:

- Lunch Club
- Weald Deanery churches and their Vicars
- Goudhurst Parish Council
- Goudhurst pre school
- Sacred Heart church

Please ask me for more information on our relationships with these organisations.

## **Partnerships: Friends of St. Mary's - Pam Stubbs**

The focus for the last year has been the issue of the bay window and the Culpeper effigies which lie within its recess. A faculty was granted for the conservation of the figures providing the problems of damaging light could be solved.

Leonie Seliger of the Cathedral Studios Canterbury has been our expert advising us and recommended a specialised, hand-blown German glass which would filter out all the harmful UV light. She also alerted us to the fact that the glass would be going up in price and urged us to purchase what we required. The glass was duly acquired and Canterbury are storing it for us pro tem.

Leonie then suggested that following the death of Queen Elizabeth we might take the opportunity to install a memorial window. Four designs were put forward by her and the Friends and the PCC agreed a design. There are several advantages to this proposal. The outstanding problems of IR and visible light would be solved, meaning that the figures would be completely shielded; funding for the window COULD be more forthcoming; a clear idea of future planning for the figures could be made.

We are waiting to be advised as to whether we can proceed with an alteration to the existing faculty or if a new faculty should be sought.

## **Partnerships: Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School - Lindsay Roberts, Executive Headteacher**

### *What has gone well and Where is God Moving?*

We began the academic year 2022-2023 with a full complement of staff and excited about the year ahead. Indeed, staffing continues to be very stable and we are fortunate to have an experienced and committed teaching staff who work incredibly hard every day to ensure that the children in our school and across the Federation receive the very best Education possible.

We have been working collaboratively with Benenden CEP School since April 2019, we federated in April 2020 and I am very proud to say that our Federation has gone from strength to strength. Our shared Vision, Mission and Values- Curiosity, Compassion, Courage and Commitment as told in the parable of the The Good Samaritan coupled with our motto for the schools, 'Adventurous Together' and the Federation, 'Life in all its fullness,' are now completely embedded and woven into everything we do.

This year one of our school improvement priorities is to enhance our whole school approach to supporting good mental health for learning in our staff and our children, maximising happiness in the whole school community. I would like to thank the Kilndown Educational Trust who awarded us a grant towards this initiative enabling us to redevelop and redesign our Nurture Room. We also continue to work with the Weald Family Hub to provide counselling for some children and family support, where necessary. We are grateful for their amazing work in local schools and the wider community.

Despite the pandemic, academic standards continue to remain high and in addition to the statutory curriculum, we try to provide our children with a wide range of extra-curricular experiences to help enrich their learning. We offer a wide range of clubs to all our children including an annual Arts Festival.

At the end of the summer term last year, the children and staff in KS2 put on a wonderful performance of 'The Jungle Book.' Year 5 completed their two night residential trip to Bewl Water during the middle of September and once again Year 6 enjoyed their final residential trip to Bowles Outdoor Learning Centre in Tunbridge Wells. Year R, 1 and 2 have received weekly whole class djembe drumming lessons and Year 5 are enjoying learning how to play the trumpet. In addition, some children are learning to play the guitar, piano, recorder, and some are having singing lessons. Year 5 also took part in a magnificent production of Romeo and Juliet at Benenden Girls School. Fiona Lenon –Director of Drama at Benenden School said, "Your ability to connect with the language of Shakespeare and make it conversational was excellent. I thought the energy required to keep the rivalry between the houses of Montague and Capulet was sustained all the way through the performance. I loved the contemporary comments of the narrators and their wonderful use of vocal expression and how they spoke to each other across the stage."

All the children spoke confidently and clearly, their vocal energy and their timing was excellent. I was a very proud Headteacher.

In recognition of our commitment to providing high quality Music and Performing Arts Education, we have been awarded a Music Mark and Artsmark Gold. Indeed, we are an accredited Arts Award Centre.

We continue to be committed to delivering Forest School and Outdoor Learning. Our Forest School sessions now take place in 'Broadoak Woods' - a beautiful private woodland surrounded by farmland. It is a short minibus journey from the school and we are extremely grateful to William & Penny Thompson (whose sons both attended our school) for allowing us to use their woods to run our sessions.

Every year KS1 perform a wonderful Nativity Play and this year was no exception. 'The King is Born' was very well attended by parents, and the retiring collection went towards supporting our two charities, the Weald Family Hub and Young Minds. Indeed every year the children contribute either by their actions or by raising money for worthy causes.

It has been another year of great sporting success leading us once again to achieve our School Games Sports Gold Award. Events entered included the Rawlinson Run, the Orchard Run, Digital Literacy, Hockey, Netball, Football, Swimming Gala, the Colour Run, Tennis, Cheerleading and The Kent Junior Schools Cross Country Championships where we competed against hundreds of children taking part from all over Kent. Our daily 'mile run' continues to be ever popular and we certainly believe that this daily exercise is having a positive impact on the children's fitness and concentration skills.

The PTFA continue to work extremely hard to organise and run a wide range of events and services. The school is very lucky to have such a dedicated team of parents who 'get things done'. Since September, they have championed a number of major projects and helped us purchase a multitude of resources for the children – Thank you.

We recognise the importance and value of our strong links with St. Mary's Church. We are grateful for weekly Collective Worship led by Reverend Rachel and Kat Ogden which always leave us filled with encouragement, wisdom, hope and love for the future. We have also enjoyed services for Harvest, Christmas, Christingle, Ash Wednesday, Easter and last year for the first time, we were delighted to participate in a pilgrimage from Christ Church Kilndown back to school. Moments such as these really help to deepen the children's spiritual development and offer us real opportunities for prayer and reflection.

Please visit our school website to keep up to date with all the latest school news and events: [www.goudhurst-kilndown.kent.sch.uk](http://www.goudhurst-kilndown.kent.sch.uk)

Additionally, you can follow us on Twitter @GandKPrimary

### **James Watkins, Governor and church member adds:**

The role of a governor is very much to be a critical friend to the school, offering some degree of challenge to everything that they do and being prepared to hold them to account

for the decisions they make. As one of the governors involved with monitoring Quality of Education, as well as sitting on the VES committee, I feel a responsibility for ensuring that the school does “everything it says on the tin”, holding up the school’s Christian ethos as one of the key measuring sticks in this process.

### **Partnerships: Goudhurst, Kilndown & Lamberhurst belfry report - Catherine Heathcote**

After several years of disruption resulting from repeated lockdowns and the need to socially distance during the COVID pandemic, we began 2022 having returned to regular ringing at the end of May 2021. The local bands were much depleted following the pandemic, making it difficult or even impossible for individual bands to operate. As a result, we decided to form a joint band consisting of Goudhurst, Kilndown and Lamberhurst ringers. Not only had our numbers decreased but we also found that many skills of our ringing skills had deteriorated after such a long time away from ringing, there was ground to make up.

It was agreed that this joint band would meet regularly at Lamberhurst to practise, but ring as required at all three churches. Although we were able to meet together on practice nights there was still no regular Sunday Service bands. The band was made up of seven Lamberhurst ringers, one Kilndown ringer and two ringers from Goudhurst..

Following the long absence, it was possible to resume ringing at Lamberhurst and Goudhurst relatively easily, however after nearly 3 years of silence, Kilndown bells were not readily able to be rung. Bellhangers, Nicholsons Engineering Ltd, came to inspect the tower and made a series of recommendations. The ropes were found to be in need of replacement and the tower was infested with pigeons and filled with pigeon detritus, a danger to human health. A team of volunteers from the village undertook to clean the belfry to allow ringing to take place for a number of important events during 2022 however work to block the entry of birds and replacement ropes was still required before regular ringing could resume at Kilndown.

The Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II was marked on the weekend of 4th and 5th June 2022. The band was delighted to join ringers from all over the country to mark this occasion by ringing at all three towers, Lamberhurst, Kilndown and Goudhurst on Saturday 4th June.

On Saturday June 18th Goudhurst hosted the Kent County Association 8 Bell Striking Competition and Ringing Festival. Four teams from Kent competed by ringing a set piece of Stedman Triples on the 8 bells at Goudhurst, with the winning team coming from Canterbury. Many local towers were also open for ringing: Brenchley, Cranbrook, Horsmonden, Frittenden, Staplehurst, Hawkhurst and Lamberhurst and ringers gathered for real ale, a barbecue and ringing on the Charmborough mini ring at nearby Taywell Farm Shop.

Following the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations it was, with great sadness, that the ringers

learnt of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8th September 2022. Following the agreed protocol a single bell was tolled at 12 o'clock midday at Lamberhurst on each of the 10 days of public mourning to mark the death of HM the Queen. A single bell was also tolled at Christ Church, Kilndown and St Mary's, Goudhurst to mark the passing. All the bells were also rung at Lamberhurst and Goudhurst fully muffled, with the tenor open at backstroke, traditional on the death of a monarch. A single bell was tolled for an hour before the state funeral of HM Queen at all three churches from 10am until 11am on the morning of Monday 19th September 2022.

In addition to the formal ringing that took place during 2022, the band rang for many weddings at all three churches and welcomed a number visiting bands to ring at each tower.

Over the year the band has also been joined by five new prospective ringers, three from Goudhurst, one from Lamberhurst and one from Horsmonden. All these new ringers have made good progress and will be ringing as part of the main band in the very near future.

The fixtures and fittings at Lamberhurst and Goudhurst remain in good order and are regularly inspected by the Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper. The 4th bell at Goudhurst continues to prove tricky for some ringers, repeated detailed inspections have not yielded any satisfactory answers. At the time of writing, and in preparation for ringing for the Coronation of HM King Charles III on Saturday 6th May, gaps and holes in the spire and around the louvres at Christ Church, Kilndown have been made good and preparations for the ordering of new ropes has commenced.

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## Mind the Gap

We think we have gaps in the following areas. You may be called to help in this area, or may discern another area of calling. Please explore this in prayer, in guidance from scripture, and in conversation with other Christians (ask them: where would I be suited, where would I need others to complement what I can offer?) and with myself.

- Head of Sound Desk
  - Sunday tech team
  - Mid week tech team (for funerals and weddings)
  - Sacristan
  - Care of furniture lead
  - Blend Team members
  - Head of those who read the Word (organising the rota and encouraging clear delivery of bible readings)
  - Zoom prayer leads
  - Alpha co-ordinator
  - Eco-church team
  - Head of flower team and team members
-

**THANK YOU to all those involved in the ministries described. This is not an exhaustive list, but thanks also for**

Welcoming those from Ukraine and praying for and with those affected by the war + Organising the St Leonard's beach trip + Serving refreshments at a school service in church + Leading on Platinum Jubilee celebrations & serving on teams + Giving lifts to or washing up at Lunch Club + Clearing up popcorn after Film Club + Taking someone to the doctors or hospital + Serving during our Summer Fun and at Blend on Tour sessions + Prayer-walking + Delivering Christmas cards + Packing Christmas hampers + Baking for an event + Setting up chairs + Setting up for Communion + Setting up for band + Tidying away + Decorating the church + Dismantling things (Christmas trees, old equipment) + Hosting the Holy Spirit Alpha day + Inviting youth to BREAD + Driving youth to Fuse + Helping at a bowling event + Running a gingerbread making session + Taking excellent photographs + Organising rounders + Helping with a bring & share lunch, a welcome lunch or a Vicarage tea + Leading a John's gospel evening + Clearing a gully + Checking something electrical + Sweeping the path of snow + Weeding the church path + Fixing curtains + Chasing deliveries + Moving someone into a new home + Caring for children + Gathering foliage for the wreath making event + Organising the Charity ball + Being a door keeper (opening and shutting the church) + Helping with the flood lighting + Undertaking flag duties + Printing posters and service books + Writing for and delivering the Village Magazine + Cleaning the church + Tending the grounds including the flower beds + Providing and making the Christmas pud for Stir up Sunday + Fixing things including a sundial, the altar table, and switches on the sound desk + Posting on the prayer chain + Checking the prayer box + Ringing the bells + Donating funds + Generously giving on a weekly or monthly basis + Taking part in a sponsored events + Providing space for funeral hearses and wedding cars (Star & Eagle) + Hosting the Minister for Refugees, Lord Harrington + Hosting Bishop Keethri + Completing health & safety or safeguarding training + Passing on encouragement + Speaking up + Achieving a 5\* rating for hygiene + Covering for the absence of another + Making soup + Providing parking on Sundays (G&K School) + Buying bread + Arranging the Community Cupboard + Sourcing and running a craft activity for toddlers and young people + Packing and sorting activity bags for Sundays + Writing *A Brief Bible Guidebook* and gifting us with copies + Not minding that your contribution was overlooked even on a long list like this + Helping with Crafty Mondays / Community Lunches / Blend / Thursday Communion / Café Toddlers / Sunday groups / Zoom prayer + Caring for someone frailer than you + Praying + Cashing money at the bank + Providing flowers for Mothering Sunday + Establishing a fire plan + Painting + Leading carols for Blend + Knitting a nativity set and making its stable + Leading a Week of Accompanied prayer + Being Rosebud, the best behaved pony at Christmas and Easter + Shifting kit + Doing a tip trip + Rehousing masonry + Cleaning a loo + Hoovering confetti + Helping at Mamma Mia + Donating a church freezer + Decorating 400 sticks of sweets for the Christingle and not eating too many of them + Singing or playing an instrument from the front + Purchasing supplies for Sunday group snacks + Counting money + Buying & sending cards or gifts on behalf of the church + Sorting clothes + Taking someone to the hairdressers + Putting out the recycling and the bins + Ironing wax out of the carpet.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Goudhurst

Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2022

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2022

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		2022	2021
GENERAL FUND Receipts and Payments Account	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Incoming Resources From Donors			
Planned Giving		101,338	94,848
Collections and other giving		10,264	3,456
Call Flow - Masts on St Mary's Tower	1	-	3,596
Card Machine - General Donations		329	216
Card Machine - Building Donations		527	254
Income Tax recovered	2	<u>26,737</u>	<u>18,469</u>
		139,194	120,840
Other Voluntary Income			
Restricted Donations & Legacies	3	1,747	1,200
Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	4	<u>17,039</u>	<u>10,160</u>
		18,785	11,360
Income From Investments			
Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	5	<u>954</u>	<u>251</u>
		954	251
Income from Operating Activities			
Sales of Parish Magazine		1,890	2,049
Magazine Advertisement Fees		3,871	4,066
Café Toddlers - donations / tea money etc.		493	208
Fees from Weddings and Funerals etc.		8,524	5,944
Connect Clothing		625	439
Connect Other		36	-
Fund Raising		<u>6,964</u>	<u>-</u>
		22,404	12,706
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b><u>181,338</u></b>	<b><u>145,156</u></b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Grants & Donations			
Contribution to Weald Family Hub		6,000	6,000
Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	6	<u>8,816</u>	<u>6,037</u>
		14,816	12,037
Activities relating to the Work of the Church			
Diocesan and Deanery Parish Share		74,875	73,301
Organ, Organist and Choir		1,954	1,549
Service Consumables		2,527	994
Weddings & Funerals (including Diocesan share)		5,776	4,193
Clergy Expenses		1,064	(31)
Alpha, Small Groups etc		1,125	309
Sunday Clubs and Childrens/Youth work		957	547
Magazine Printing		<u>3,338</u>	<u>3,338</u>
		91,617	84,200
Church Running and Fabric Expenses			
Heating & Utilities		4,123	4,393
Insurance		8,530	8,192
Church Cleaning & Supplies		6,187	4,420
Repairs and Maintenance	8	2,971	3,104
QI Works to Tower and Stonework	9	3,213	59,670
Enhancements	10	<u>1,013</u>	<u>2,717</u>
		26,037	82,496
Church Management and Administration			
Church Office, Printing Stationery, Telephone etc.		23,870	24,242
IT and Social Media costs		<u>1,087</u>	<u>1,685</u>
		24,956	25,927
Costs of Operating Voluntary Income			
Fund Raising Events		<u>336</u>	<u>-</u>
		336	-
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>157,763</u></b>	<b><u>204,660</u></b>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>23,575</u></b>	<b><u>(59,504)</u></b>
General Fund Balance at 1st January		(4,612)	54,892
<b>General Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>18,963</u></b>	<b><u>(4,612)</u></b>

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>COMMUNITY CUPBOARD</b>			
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Donations received		9,342	6,549
Transfer from Local Community Fund		-	2,019
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b><u>9,342</u></b>	<b><u>8,568</u></b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Cost of produce purchased		6,275	7,617
Purchase of storage cupboards		-	1,118
Support payments to Community		<u>40</u>	<u>1,633</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>6,315</u></b>	<b><u>10,368</u></b>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>3,027</b>	<b>(1,801)</b>
Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>1,556</u>	<u>3,357</u>
<b>Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>4,584</u></b>	<b><u>1,556</u></b>

This fund is being ring-fenced for the Community Cupboard - there are a number of regular and one-off donors

This fund continues to support a number of local families with provision of basic food and household items. A loyal group of helpers collect, purchase and deliver on a weekly basis, together with some additional support for a number of these clients.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
BEACON FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Lay Family Worker Donations	12,952	13,952
	<u>12,952</u>	<u>13,952</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><b>12,952</b></u>	<u><b>13,952</b></u>
PAYMENTS		
Lay Minister Costs (including expenses)	14,973	5,606
Other Costs	-	95
	<u>14,973</u>	<u>5,701</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><b>14,973</b></u>	<u><b>5,701</b></u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(2,021)</b>	<b>8,251</b>
Beacon Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>28,313</u>	<u>20,063</u>
<b>Beacon Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u><b>26,292</b></u>	<u><b>28,313</b></u>

The Beacon Fund is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2017 to fund and support the appointment of a Lay Minister to develop work with local children and young people.

We employed Kat Ogden as Youth and Childrens Pastor in 2022 before she started Ordinand training. We are considering how best to fulfill this role in 2023

	2022	2021
WEALD FAMILY HUB	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Donations received	62,985	40,954
Fund Raising - 50% St Mary's Charity Ball	4,235	-
St Mary's Goudhurst Contribution	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
	73,220	46,954
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><b>73,220</b></u>	<u><b>46,954</b></u>
PAYMENTS		
Fegans Costs	24,963	39,588
Coordinator Salary and Expenses	10,646	10,658
Other Expenses	<u>24</u>	<u>-</u>
	35,634	50,245
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><b>35,634</b></u>	<u><b>50,245</b></u>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>37,586</b>	<b>(3,291)</b>
Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>28,679</u>	<u>31,970</u>
<b>Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u><b>66,265</b></u>	<u><b>28,679</b></u>

The Weald Family Hub was set up in 2018 to provide funding for Mental Health counselling in local schools and parent support, working through the Fegans charitable organisation. St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and a number of local schools

	2022	2021
PROJECTS FUND	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Christians Against Poverty Donations received	-	4,600
Church Wall Insurance Claim	-	-
Donation for Interns	-	13,000
FOSM Contribution to Tower Works	-	-
Community Care Fund - donations received	30,000	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>30,000</u>	<u>17,600</u>
PAYMENTS		
FOSM Contribution to Tower Works held from prior year	-	15,000
Released to Canterbury for Ordinand training	8,000	-
Costs re Wall Repairs Project	656	2,364
Paid to Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	4,608	2,500
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>13,264</u>	<u>19,864</u>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>16,736</b>	<b>(2,264)</b>
Projects Fund Balance at 1st January	45,244	47,508
<b>Projects Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>61,980</u></b>	<b><u>45,244</u></b>

In 2019 donations were made at the service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury amounting to £2,508 for Christians Against Poverty. Dialogue commenced with CAP regarding the possibility of using the donation to go toward funding a local CAP Debt Manager where currently there is no local provision. CAP were in favour of this and further donations towards the cost of running this were received in 2021. In 2022 all funds were paid to CAP for their existing facilities, as we were unable to meet the criteria for a local team. We are continuing to work with CAP with their Life Skills programme starting in 2023

In 2020 a settlement claim of £30,000 was reached regarding the repeated damage to the church wall. Work is ongoing to establish the most appropriate action to avoid further damage, for which this fund will be used. Architect costs have been paid in both 2022 and 2021 in respect of this project.

In 2020 a donation of £15,000 was received from the Friends of St Mary's as part of the Tower repair works - this was carried forward against invoices paid in early 2021.

In 2022 we received two significant donations totalling £60,000 for use within the local community. Working with the donors, we agreed to use half of this for Weald Family Hub support and the remaining £30,000 to set up a Care Fund for the local community, providing crisis and emergency support. This has been launched in early 2023

	2022	2,021
Balance of funds at 31st December		
Wall Repairs Project	26,980	27,636
Community Care Fund	30,000	
FOSM Contribution to Tower Works	-	-
One-Off Donation (not Restricted)	5,000	13,000
CAP Balance	-	4,608
	<u>61,980</u>	<u>45,244</u>



		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
SRI LANKA FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
GK Church donations		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Payments out	11	<u>7,933</u>	<u>-</u>
		7,933	-
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<u>7,933</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>SHORTFALL OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>(7,933)</b>	-
Sri Lanka Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>7,933</u>	<u>7,933</u>
<b>Sri Lanka Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>7,933</u>

The Sri Lanka Fund was a Restricted Fund, held to provide support for students of the Sri Lank Theological College whilst they are on placement in the UK, plus other specific needs, as decided and agreed with the College staff

It was repaid in full to the College in 2023

		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
MUSTARD SEED PROJECT FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Donations received		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Paid to the DEC for their work with Ukraine refugees	12	2,437	-
Other Costs		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		2,437	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>2,437</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>(2,437)</b>	-
Mustard Seed Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>2,437</u>	<u>2,437</u>
<b>Mustard Seed Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>2,437</u>

The Mustard Seed Project is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2016 to fund and support projects relating to local asylum seeking teenagers and young people.

In 2022 we paid the balance of this fund to the DEC appeal in support of the situation with refugees fleeing from Ukraine. The DEC work through a number of major charities.

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>			
General Fund		23,575	(59,504)
Community Cupboard		3,027	(1,801)
Beacon Fund		(2,021)	8,251
Weald Family Hub	13	37,586	(3,291)
Projects Fund		16,736	(2,264)
Church Room Fund		(3,642)	1,771
Local Community Fund		-	(2,019)
Mustard Seed Project Fund	12	(2,437)	-
		<u>64,890</u>	<u>(58,856)</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARY OF BALANCES</b>			
General Fund		18,963	(4,612)
Church Room Fund (Designated)		38,206	41,848
Projects Fund (Designated)		61,980	45,244
Community Cupboard (Restricted)		4,584	1,556
Beacon Fund (Restricted)		26,292	28,313
Weald Family Hub (Restricted)	13	66,265	28,679
Sri Lanka Fund (Restricted)	11	-	7,933
Mustard Seed Project Fund (Restricted)	12	-	2,437
		<u>216,289</u>	<u>151,399</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Bank Balances - NatWest		50,721	28,352
Bank Balances - CAF Bank		93,292	51,684
Bank Balances - CAF Bank Deposit Account		10,294	10,242
CCLA Deposit Account		60,464	59,679
CCLA Investment Account - cost	14	1,518	1,442
		<u>216,289</u>	<u>151,399</u>

The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis - no provision is made for items that do not fall within the year. There are no significant items that were outstanding at 31st December 2022 nor 2021

Note

1	CallFlow	Charges were made to Callflow for the Licence Agreement relating to equipment on the Church Tower. The agreement was terminated by Callflow in 2021		
2	Income Tax recovered	Income Tax is recovered on a monthly basis, through the Diocese. This will change in 2023 when the Diocese transfer the scheme to a third party together with direct claims made to HMRC		
3	Restricted Donations & Legacies	These were mainly specific donations to be paid onto third party charities - see Note 6 below		
4	Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	Three donations of over £1,000 were received during the year; none of these contained any restrictions on use		
5	Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	Income represents deposit account interest and dividend income received during the year, It is allocated between the funds on the basis of the balances at 1st January		
6	Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	The list of charities supported during the year is as follows:		
			<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
		Lisell Mukola Community School - Rose's Project	1,200	1,200
		Porchlight	1,200	-
		Goudhurst Scouts	1,200	600
		Lend With Care	1,200	600
		Maidstone Samaritans	1,200	600
		TearFund	1,200	600
		Bibles for GK Primary School & Preschool leavers	516	499
		Lunch Club - Hire of Parish Hall	895	-
		TearFund - Harvest Offerings	-	443
		Christian Aid	-	290
		Christians Against Poverty	-	600
		Fegans	-	600
		Other	5	5
		Total Payments	<u>8,616</u>	<u>6,037</u>
8	Repairs and Maintenance	Heating System Repairs & Servicing	557	699
		Electrical Maintenance and Repairs	775	-
		Fire Safety Maintenance	546	-
		Roof Repairs	300	-
		Bat assessment in Tower	-	334
		Piano & Organ Tuning	-	712
		Other	793	1,359
			<u>2,971</u>	<u>3,104</u>
9	Quinquennial Report	The regular inspection was carried out in November 2017 and the report issued in January 2018. The retention on the tower stone works were paid in early 2022		
		Traditional Stone - Tower and other stone work	3,213	125,312
		Architects Fees	-	4,583
		Other Costs	-	1,248
		Less: VAT reclaims under Government Scheme	-	(22,216)
		Less: Support from the Friends of St Marys	-	(49,257)
			<u>3,213</u>	<u>59,670</u>
10	Enhancements	Updates to sound and video system (including on-line service provision)	-	-
		CCTV installation	90	1,131
		TV Monitors	923	-
		Upgrade to WiFi	-	1,079
		Card Payments system	-	507
			<u>1,013</u>	<u>122,057</u>

A payment of £5,592 was also made during the year to forward purchase glass for the restoration of the window above the Cuplepper Tomb. This was reimbursed by the Friends of St Mary's as they will be funding the works. This was made to fix the cost of the glass which was expected to increase significantly.

- 11 Sri Lanka Fund                      The Sri Lanka Link charity was closed in 2016. The balance of funds was transferred to St Mary's to be used for future funding of students from the college to the UK and for fieldwork training. Contact was re-established in 2022 and the funds were paid in full to the College.
- 12 Mustard Seed Project Fund        Donations from the Kings Singers concert in 2015, together with other donations are held in 'The Mustard Seed Fund' - this is used to fund and support projects to local asylum seeking teenagers and young people. The fund was closed in 2022 when the remaining balance was paid to the DEC Disasters Emergency Committee.
- 13 Weald Family Hub Fund            The Weald Family Hub (WFH) was set up in 2018 to provide support for young people and their families who are struggling with issues of mental health across the Wealden villages, working with the Fegans charitable organisation. St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and local Primary schools. There are a number of regular donors to the Fund, together with donations from local fund raising events and charitable trusts.  
St Mary's has committed to continue financial support for this project
- 14 CCLA Investment Account        The market value of the CBF Investment Fund was as follows:
- |                         | 31-Dec<br><u>2022</u> | 31-Dec<br><u>2021</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Number of shares held   | 126.12                | 122.59                |
| Value per share (pence) | 2,106.60              | 2,338.76              |
| Market Value            | £2,656.84             | £2,867.09             |
- 15 Physical Assets                      The PCC is responsible for certain physical assets in St Mary's Church both fixed and movable which are not detailed in the financial statements, but are covered by insurance

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Goudhurst**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 11

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner**

The members of the PCC 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:

- a. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- b. Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- c. State whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records, It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- a. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - i) to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - ii) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- b. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

**Signed:**



**Dated:** 29 April 2023

Mr J A Tapper FCA  
Chartered Accountant  
Mill Cottage  
Mill Lane  
Sissinghurst  
Kent TN17 2HX

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		2022	2021
GENERAL FUND Receipts and Payments Account			
	<u>Notes</u>		
RECEIPTS			
Incoming Resources From Donors			
Planned Giving		101,338	94,848
Collections and other giving		10,264	3,456
Call Flow - Masts on St Mary's Tower	1	-	3,596
Card Machine - General Donations		329	216
Card Machine - Building Donations		527	254
Income Tax recovered	2	<u>26,737</u>	<u>18,469</u>
		139,194	120,840
Other Voluntary Income			
Restricted Donations & Legacies	3	1,747	1,200
Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	4	<u>17,039</u>	<u>10,160</u>
		18,785	11,360
Income From Investments			
Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	5	<u>954</u>	<u>251</u>
		954	251
Income from Operating Activities			
Sales of Parish Magazine		1,890	2,049
Magazine Advertisement Fees		3,871	4,066
Café Toddlers - donations / tea money etc.		493	208
Fees from Weddings and Funerals etc.		8,524	5,944
Connect Clothing		625	439
Connect Other		36	-
Fund Raising		<u>6,964</u>	<u>-</u>
		22,404	12,706
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b><u>181,338</u></b>	<b><u>145,156</u></b>
PAYMENTS			
Grants & Donations			
Contribution to Weald Family Hub		6,000	6,000
Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	6	<u>8,816</u>	<u>6,037</u>
		14,816	12,037
Activities relating to the Work of the Church			
Diocesan and Deanery Parish Share		74,875	73,301
Organ, Organist and Choir		1,954	1,549
Service Consumables		2,527	994
Weddings & Funerals (including Diocesan share)		5,776	4,193
Clergy Expenses		1,064	(31)
Alpha, Small Groups etc		1,125	309
Sunday Clubs and Childrens/Youth work		957	547
Magazine Printing		<u>3,338</u>	<u>3,338</u>
		91,617	84,200
Church Running and Fabric Expenses			
Heating & Utilities		4,123	4,393
Insurance		8,530	8,192
Church Cleaning & Supplies		6,187	4,420
Repairs and Maintenance	8	2,971	3,104
QI Works to Tower and Stonework	9	3,213	59,670
Enhancements	10	<u>1,013</u>	<u>2,717</u>
		26,037	82,496
Church Management and Administration			
Church Office, Printing Stationery, Telephone etc.		23,870	24,242
IT and Social Media costs		<u>1,087</u>	<u>1,685</u>
		24,956	25,927
Costs of Operating Voluntary Income			
Fund Raising Events		<u>336</u>	<u>-</u>
		336	-
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>157,763</u></b>	<b><u>204,660</u></b>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>23,575</u></b>	<b><u>(59,504)</u></b>
General Fund Balance at 1st January		(4,612)	54,892
<b>General Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>18,963</u></b>	<b><u>(4,612)</u></b>

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
COMMUNITY CUPBOARD		
	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Donations received	9,342	6,549
Transfer from Local Community Fund	-	2,019
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>9,342</u>	<u>8,568</u>
PAYMENTS		
Cost of produce purchased	6,275	7,617
Purchase of storage cupboards	-	1,118
Support payments to Community	40	1,633
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>6,315</u>	<u>10,368</u>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>3,027</b>	<b>(1,801)</b>
Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>1,556</u>	<u>3,357</u>
<b>Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>4,584</u></b>	<b><u>1,556</u></b>

This fund is being ring-fenced for the Community Cupboard - there are a number of regular and one-off donors

This fund continues to support a number of local families with provision of basic food and household items. A loyal group of helpers collect, purchase and deliver on a weekly basis, together with some additional support for a number of these clients.

BEACON FUND (Restricted Fund)	Notes	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
RECEIPTS			
Lay Family Worker Donations		12,952	13,952
		<u>12,952</u>	<u>13,952</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u><b>12,952</b></u>	<u><b>13,952</b></u>
PAYMENTS			
Lay Minister Costs (including expenses)		14,973	5,606
Other Costs		-	95
		<u>14,973</u>	<u>5,701</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u><b>14,973</b></u>	<u><b>5,701</b></u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>(2,021)</b>	<b>8,251</b>
Beacon Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>28,313</u>	<u>20,063</u>
<b>Beacon Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<u><b>26,292</b></u>	<u><b>28,313</b></u>

The Beacon Fund is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2017 to fund and support the appointment of a Lay Minister to develop work with local children and young people.

We employed Kat Ogden as Youth and Childrens Pastor in 2022 before she started Ordinand training. We are considering how best to fulfill this role in 2023

	2022	2021
WEALD FAMILY HUB	Notes	
RECEIPTS		
Donations received	62,985	40,954
Fund Raising - 50% St Mary's Charity Ball	4,235	-
St Mary's Goudhurst Contribution	6,000	6,000
	73,220	46,954
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<b>73,220</b>	<b>46,954</b>
PAYMENTS		
Fegans Costs	24,963	39,588
Coordinator Salary and Expenses	10,646	10,658
Other Expenses	24	-
	35,634	50,245
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<b>35,634</b>	<b>50,245</b>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>37,586</b>	<b>(3,291)</b>
Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 1st January	28,679	31,970
<b>Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b>66,265</b>	<b>28,679</b>

The Weald Family Hub was set up in 2018 to provide funding for Mental Health counselling in local schools and parent support, working through the Fegans charitable organisation. St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and a number of local schools

	2022	2021
PROJECTS FUND		
Notes		
RECEIPTS		
Christians Against Poverty Donations received	-	4,600
Church Wall Insurance Claim	-	-
Donation for Interns	-	13,000
FOSM Contribution to Tower Works	-	-
Community Care Fund - donations received	30,000	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<b>30,000</b>	<b>17,600</b>
PAYMENTS		
FOSM Contribution to Tower Works held from prior year	-	15,000
Released to Canterbury for Ordinand training	8,000	-
Costs re Wall Repairs Project	656	2,364
Paid to Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	4,608	2,500
	13,264	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<b>13,264</b>	<b>19,864</b>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>16,736</b>	<b>(2,264)</b>
Projects Fund Balance at 1st January	45,244	47,508
<b>Projects Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b>61,980</b>	<b>45,244</b>

In 2019 donations were made at the service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury amounting to £2,508 for Christians Against Poverty. Dialogue commenced with CAP regarding the possibility of using the donation to go toward funding a local CAP Debt Manager where currently there is no local provision. CAP were in favour of this and further donations towards the cost of running this were received in 2021. In 2022 all funds were paid to CAP for their existing facilities, as we were unable to meet the criteria for a local team. We are continuing to work with CAP with their Life Skills programme starting in 2023

In 2020 a settlement claim of £30,000 was reached regarding the repeated damage to the church wall. Work is ongoing to establish the most appropriate action to avoid further damage, for which this fund will be used. Architect costs have been paid in both 2022 and 2021 in respect of this project.

In 2020 a donation of £15,000 was received from the Friends of St Mary's as part of the Tower repair works - this was carried forward against invoices paid in early 2021.

In 2022 we received two significant donations totalling £60,000 for use within the local community. Working with the donors, we agreed to use half of this for Weald Family Hub support and the remaining £30,000 to set up a Care Fund for the local community, providing crisis and emergency support. This has been launched in early 2023

	2022	2,021
Balance of funds at 31st December		
Wall Repairs Project	26,980	27,636
Community Care Fund	30,000	-
FOSM Contribution to Tower Works	-	-
One-Off Donation (not Restricted)	5,000	13,000
CAP Balance	-	4,608
	<b>61,980</b>	<b>45,244</b>

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
CHURCH AWAYDAY FUND		
	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Donations received	-	-
Ticket Sales	-	-
Recovery of deposit from 2016	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
PAYMENTS		
Venue Hire	-	-
Speaker & Activity Costs	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-
Balance transferred to General Fund	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Church AwayDayFund Balance at 1st January	-	-
<b>Church AwayDay Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

The Church AwayDay Fund was held to account for the Church Away Day in January 2018, the costs and income being transacted in both 2017 and 2018



	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (Designated Fund)		
RECEIPTS		
Restricted Donations	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
PAYMENTS		
Discretionary Support	-	-
Transfer to Community Cupboard Fund	-	2,019
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>-</u>	<u><b>2,019</b></u>
<b>SHORTFALL OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,019)</b>
Local Community Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>-</u>	<u>2,019</u>
<b>Local Community Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>

This fund was amalgamated with the Community Cupboard Fund in 2021

		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
SRI LANKA FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
RECEIPTS			
GK Church donations		-	-
		-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS		-	-
PAYMENTS			
Payments out	11	<u>7,933</u>	-
		7,933	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>7,933</u>	-
<b>SHORTFALL OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>(7,933)</b>	-
Sri Lanka Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>7,933</u>	<u>7,933</u>
<b>Sri Lanka Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>7,933</u>

The Sri Lanka Fund was a Restricted Fund, held to provide support for students of the Sri Lank Theological College whilst they are on placement in the UK, plus other specific needs, as decided and agreed with the College staff

It was repaid in full to the College in 2023

		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
MUSTARD SEED PROJECT FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
RECEIPTS			
Donations received		-	-
		-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
PAYMENTS			
Paid to the DEC for their work with Ukraine refugees	12	2,437	-
Other Costs		-	-
		<u>2,437</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u><b>2,437</b></u>	<u>-</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>(2,437)</b>	-
Mustard Seed Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>2,437</u>	<u>2,437</u>
<b>Mustard Seed Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>2,437</b></u>

The Mustard Seed Project is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2016 to fund and support projects relating to local asylum seeking teenagers and young people.

In 2022 we paid the balance of this fund to the DEC appeal in support of the situation with refugees fleeing from Ukraine. The DEC work through a number of major charities.

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2022

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>			
General Fund		23,575	(59,504)
Community Cupboard		3,027	(1,801)
Beacon Fund		(2,021)	8,251
Weald Family Hub	13	37,586	(3,291)
Projects Fund		16,736	(2,264)
Church Room Fund		(3,642)	1,771
Local Community Fund		-	(2,019)
Mustard Seed Project Fund	12	(2,437)	-
		<u>64,890</u>	<u>(58,856)</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARY OF BALANCES</b>			
General Fund		18,963	(4,612)
Church Room Fund (Designated)		38,206	41,848
Projects Fund (Designated)		61,980	45,244
Community Cupboard (Restricted)		4,584	1,556
Beacon Fund (Restricted)		26,292	28,313
Weald Family Hub (Restricted)	13	66,265	28,679
Sri Lanka Fund (Restricted)	11	-	7,933
Mustard Seed Project Fund (Restricted)	12	-	2,437
		<u>216,289</u>	<u>151,399</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Bank Balances - NatWest		50,721	28,352
Bank Balances - CAF Bank		93,292	51,684
Bank Balances - CAF Bank Deposit Account		10,294	10,242
CCLA Deposit Account		60,464	59,679
CCLA Investment Account - cost	14	1,518	1,442
		<u>216,289</u>	<u>151,399</u>

The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis - no provision is made for items that do not fall within the year. There are no significant items that were outstanding at 31st December 2022 nor 2021

Note

1	CallFlow	Charges were made to Callflow for the Licence Agreement relating to equipment on the Church Tower. The agreement was terminated by Callflow in 2021		
2	Income Tax recovered	Income Tax is recovered on a monthly basis, through the Diocese. This will change in 2023 when the Diocese transfer the scheme to a third party together with direct claims made to HMRC		
3	Restricted Donations & Legacies	These were mainly specific donations to be paid onto third party charities - see Note 6 below		
4	Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	Three donations of over £1,000 were received during the year; none of these contained any restrictions on use		
5	Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	Income represents deposit account interest and dividend income received during the year, It is allocated between the funds on the basis of the balances at 1st January		
6	Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	The list of charities supported during the year is as follows:		
			2022	2021
		Lisell Mukola Community School - Rose's Project	1,200	1,200
		Porchlight	1,200	-
		Goudhurst Scouts	1,200	600
		Lend With Care	1,200	600
		Maidstone Samaritans	1,200	600
		TearFund	1,200	600
		Bibles for GK Primary School & Preschool leavers	516	499
		Lunch Club - Hire of Parish Hall	895	-
		TearFund - Harvest Offerings	-	443
		Christian Aid	-	290
		Christians Against Poverty	-	600
		Fegans	-	600
		Other	5	5
		<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>8,616</b>	<b>6,037</b>
8	Repairs and Maintenance			
		Heating System Repairs & Servicing	557	699
		Electrical Maintenance and Repairs	775	-
		Fire Safety Maintenance	546	-
		Roof Repairs	300	-
		Bat assessment in Tower	-	334
		Piano & Organ Tuning	-	712
		Other	793	1,359
			<b>2,971</b>	<b>3,104</b>
9	Quinquennial Report	The regular inspection was carried out in November 2017 and the report issued in January 2018. The retention on the tower stone works were paid in early 2022		
			3,213	125,312
		Traditional Stone - Tower and other stone work	3,213	125,312
		Architects Fees	-	4,583
		Other Costs	-	1,248
		Less: VAT reclaims under Government Scheme	-	(22,216)
		Less: Support from the Friends of St Marys	-	(49,257)
			<b>3,213</b>	<b>59,670</b>
10	Enhancements			
		Updates to sound and video system (including on-line service provisi	-	-
		CCTV installation	90	1,131
		TV Monitors	923	-
		Upgrade to WiFi	-	1,079
		Card Payments system	-	507
			<b>1,013</b>	<b>122,057</b>

A payment of £5,592 was also made during the year to forward purchase glass for the restoration of the window above the Cuplepper Tomb. This was reimbursed by the Friends of St Mary's as they will be funding the works. This was made to fix the cost of the glass which was expected to increase significantly.

- 11 Sri Lanka Fund  
 The Sri Lanka Link charity was closed in 2016. The balance of funds was transferred to St Mary's to be used for future funding of students from the college to the UK and for fieldwork training. Contact was re-established in 2022 and the funds were paid in full to the College.
- 12 Mustard Seed Project Fund  
 Donations from the Kings Singers concert in 2015, together with other donations are held in 'The Mustard Seed Fund' - this is used to fund and support projects to local asylum seeking teenagers and young people. The fund was closed in 2022 when the remaining balance was paid to the DEC Disasters Emergency Committee.
- 13 Weald Family Hub Fund  
 The Weald Family Hub (WFH) was set up in 2018 to provide support for young people and their families who are struggling with issues of mental health across the Wealden villages, working with the Fegans charitable organisation. St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and local Primary schools. There are a number of regular donors to the Fund, together with donations from local fund raising events and charitable trusts. St Mary's has committed to continue financial support for this project
- 14 CCLA Investment Account  
 The market value of the CBF Investment Fund was as follows:
- |                         | Dec 31<br><u>2022</u> | Dec 31<br><u>2021</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Number of shares held   | 126.12                | 122.59                |
| Value per share (pence) | 2,106.60              | 2,338.76              |
| Market Value            | £2,656.84             | £2,867.09             |
- 15 Physical Assets  
 The PCC is responsible for certain physical assets in St Mary's Church both fixed and movable which are not detailed in the financial statements, but are covered by insurance

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Goudhurst**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 11

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner**

The members of the PCC 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:

- a. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- b. Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- c. State whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records, It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- a. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - i) to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - ii) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- b. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

**Signed:**



**Dated: 29 April 2023**

Mr J A Tapper FCA  
Chartered Accountant  
Mill Cottage  
Mill Lane  
Sissinghurst  
Kent TN17 2HX

**Return of Parish Finance  
January to December 2022**

Parish Name:  
**St Mary's Goudhurst**

If the form is NOT completed for the entire parish, please list below the churches included:

Parish Code (6 digits):  
**WD03**  
Deanery:  
**Weald**  
Diocese:  
**Canterbury**

RECEIPTS/INCOME		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)	PAYMENTS/EXPENDITURE		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)
<b>Voluntary giving</b>				<b>Costs of generating funds</b>			
1	Tax efficient planned giving	£ 101,338	£ 12,952	17	Costs of fundraising activities	£ 336	£ -
2	Other planned giving	£ -	£ -	<b>Church activities</b>			
3	Collections at services	£ 12,010	£ -	18	Mission giving and donations	£ 19,424	£ 16,685
4	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including special appeals (recurring and one-off)	£ 47,039	£ 82,562	19	Diocesan parish share contribution	£ 74,875	£ -
6	Gift Aid recovered	£ 26,737	£ -	20	Salaries, wages and honoraria	£ 19,132	£ 25,620
7	Legacies received (capital value)	£ -	£ -	21	Clergy and staff expenses	£ 1,064	£ -
8	Grants (include recurring and one-off)	£ -	£ -	<b>Church expenses</b>			
	<b>Total voluntary giving</b>	£ 187,124	£ 95,514	22	Mission and evangelism costs	£ 2,082	£ 24,987
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>				23	Church running expenses (including governance)	£ 20,425	£ -
9	Fundraising activities (gross proceeds)	£ 6,964	£ -	24	Church utility bills	£ 7,224	£ -
<b>Income from investments</b>				25	Costs of trading	£ 3,338	£ -
10	Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	£ 954	£ -	<b>Major capital expenditure</b>			
<b>Church activities</b>				27	Major repairs to the church building	£ 13,028	£ -
11	Fees retained by PCC (weddings, funerals etc.)	£ 2,748	£ -	28	Major repairs to church hall/other PCC property including redecoration	£ 9,116	£ -
12	Trading activities (gross proceeds), NOT fundraising	£ 15,575	£ -	29	New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property.	£ -	£ -
<b>Other incoming resources</b>				<b>Other expenditure</b>			
13	Other receipts/income not already listed	£ 1,349	£ -	99	Other payments/expenditure not already listed	£ 8,000	£ -
<b>Totals (from Financial Statements)</b>		<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Totals (from Financial Statements)</b>		<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>
A	RECEIPTS/INCOME	£ 214,713	£ 95,514	C	PAYMENTS/EXPENDITURE	£ 178,045	£ 67,292
B	<b>COMBINED TOTAL</b>	£ 310,227		D	<b>COMBINED TOTAL</b>	£ 245,337	
<b>PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES</b>				<b>CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES</b>		<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>RESTRICTED</b>
14	Number of tax efficient planned givers	86		31	Cash and deposit balances as at 31/12/22	£ 117,630	£ 97,141
15	Number of other planned givers	6		32	Investments as at 31/12/22	£ 1,518	
16	Number of new legacies received in year	0					

Please refer to the accompanying notes to help clarify what is included in each section. The item numbers refer to RPF notes, consistent with the guidance provided in <i>PCC Accountability</i> , 5th edn..	<b>Name</b>	David Lodge	<b>Date</b>	25 May 2023
	<b>Position</b>	Treasurer		
	<b>Email or telephone</b>	07789 942 398 dave.lodge@gkchurch.org		

**Looking back across 2022, were there any exceptional circumstances or significant changes that may have led to unusual figures? Please provide details in this box.**

E #99 £8,000 = support of Ordinand training paid to Diocese

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
PLAYGROUND FUND Receipts and Payments Account	<u>Notes</u>	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Parish Council Grant	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Playground safety inspection		
Repairs	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Playground Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Playground Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>CHURCH FABRIC FUND Receipts and Payments Account</b>			
<b>(including Tower) - RESTRICTED FUND</b>			
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Restricted Donations	9	-	
Tower Opening	10	-	
		-	-
Transfers from Other Funds			
From General Fund (to offset expenditure)		-	-
		-	-
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
General Maintenance and Repairs			
		-	-
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Bank Balances at 1st January		-	-
<b>Bank Balances at 31st December</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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# Accounts

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## St Mary's Goudhurst Book of Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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## **Introduction - Revd Rachel Robertson**

We are the Body of Christ, and each one of us is a part of it  
1 Corinthians 12:27

There are many ways in which we participate in being part of the Body - ways which give glory to God and help to build each other up as we follow Christ together. Not all of those ways are noted in a document! However, each year, we try and capture areas of our church life in the Book of Reports. This is a key part of what is reported at our APCM. Each report will:

- summarise what this area of church life is about, its purpose;

- review the May 2021-April 2022 period, highlighting what has gone well, what has been learnt, and crucially, learning to notice where God has been at work;
- give prayer pointers so that we as a church family can be praying for this area.

### **Vicar's report May 2021-April 2022 – Revd Rachel**

It's been a joy and a privilege to serve you as Vicar of St Mary's, Goudhurst with Christ Church, Kilndown and lead this time of reflection as we look back on the year just passed.

When we spend time reflecting, we allow God to reveal more of where He's been at work. That prompts us to praise God for who He is including His faithfulness and provision. It's also a chance to express thanks to one another, and spot areas to pray into.

Our overall vision and purpose is based on Jesus' response to the question, what is the greatest commandment?

“ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22: 37-40)

This will always be our vision, that we go back to again and again to remind ourselves of who we are, and why we do the things that we do. Alongside the **five characteristics of our church life** that I have previously shared with you I wanted to note an example of where this has happened over the last year. These examples are not the only ones, but I share them to assist us in spotting where these characteristics exist or are emerging in our church life, to nurture them, to speak about them.

***Who is our God?*** - *That we would develop in our understanding of who God is, and be able to confidently articulate this.*

Our preachers this year have helped us dig into scripture to see the character of God and to apply what we learn of who God is into our lives. This next year I hope to encourage more times of testimony so that we become even more confident in our own ability to articulate who God is in our day to day. I would love to start a book to be displayed in church noting what we have learnt about the characteristics of our God, with our testimonies recorded alongside.

*That we are called to **go deeper with God**, establishing really deep foundations.*

Evidence of going deeper with God included fasting for the health of Ariana, the growth around small groups (numbers meeting, content), and the heart for worship that adapted to the restrictions of Covid without losing the connection to worshipping God as His people. Amazing.

This next year I will be encouraging us to pray the ancient prayer 'Come Holy Spirit' to strengthen and empower us with the Holy Spirit as we go deeper with God. I would like small groups to continue to develop, and for God's equipping through them. Someone to help co-ordinate this ministry alongside the tremendous work being done by Martin Loy would help this. Daily prayer continues to be vital and those who can encourage that will help us go deeper with God. Creating opportunities for each young person to establish their own deep foundation with God, and to be open to how God speaks through our young people, remains a priority.

*That church has the element of **campfire** about it: welcoming, with space to share stories, a place for all to gather, visible to those from afar who may be drawn to the edge of the campfire - and open to the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Alpha, Café Toddlers, Crafty Mondays, Blend, church on Sunday, youth gatherings are a few of the examples where God-stories are shared and others can look in at what authentic Holy Spirit-filled faith looks like. This next year I will be encouraging these and further opportunities where we live out our faith with a sense of an open edge - being easy to join in with.

*That as GK Church, we are to be **beacons of Christ's light**, one of many beacons in the area, as Christ's power transforms the nation and the world.*

When we are faithful worshipers it helps us to shine as Christ's light into the world. This coming year we will continue to enable worship which is one of our core areas (obvious, but worth saying). Each gathering closes with that clarity that we are sent out into the world again. This year we will look for more ways to encourage prayer to join in with Christ's mission to transform the nation and the world.

*That one by one, we would see people come to know God and his love, and be able to confidently declare, '**I am the Lord's.**'*

Every time I see a leap or a move forward in faith from someone I am deeply encouraged. Amy being baptised was one of the times many of us will have witnessed someone declare 'I am the Lord's.' We see it each time a young person chooses to come to church rather than any number of other options they have. This next year I am expectant of more of these times when as a church we will be like

those who cheer people on in a marathon - when someone says 'I am the Lord's' we all rejoice! This is God's work, and we are invited to join in through praying this in.

## **Thank you**

Thank you for your support which helps me in my role including holding me in your prayers. My family are amazing, and without their generous love I would not be able to undertake this role, thank you to them. Ali and Simon (and supporting them, Chris and Katie) have been the most tremendous blessing to me as Churchwardens - the list of what they do is endless, but sharing who they are, their faith and the outworking of that has been the biggest support. Becky, Louise, Kat: you shine in your roles and I love working with you.

When I was being interviewed for this role I expressed how much I loved working as a team. I truly feel I am part of many teams within our church family life, and I am grateful to all of them, but I do especially want to thank our PCC and within that our leadership team for their role in listening for God's wisdom in the oversight of church life.

I hope what comes over throughout this report is the one big team that I am privileged to be a part of - our church family. You are much loved and valued for being you, and contributing into the mix the way God has shaped you to be able to.

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

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## **Letter from our Churchwardens – Ali Williams and Simon Taurins**

Our last APCM was held via Zoom and we were unable to meet in church without masks. We were unable to sing within our building and many were fearful of human contact.

What a transformation, one year on, and what a transition we were able to enjoy last springtime, with the outdoor services and live music, despite the weather throwing what it could at us.

We are part of a family that is headed by a faithful God and Father. It never ceases to amaze us at how each time that we lean forward a little, He is able to stretch our stride, and we see efforts multiplied:

- The faithfulness of Wes and the band over the last two years has been rewarded with more singers and players [and maybe a few dancers in the aisles] of every age.
- The commitment of those that serve as part of the Community Cupboard team has seen more need but greater provision and real friendships and faith emerge.
- The discrete resilience of those who pray, in all forms, and the wonderful answers we have seen – healing, comfort, physical provision, timely contacts, hope.
- The expansion of our own understanding and knowledge through the teaching from the lectern and from home group leaders, including Alpha.
- The increased depth of relationships that we enjoy as we have had the chance to be with each other, to be honest with each other, and to travel this road of life together.

It is so good to see our church full again – to see many having returned – and to welcome so many new to our community. There is a freedom that comes with giving one's life to Christ and each Sunday our prayer is that each one would find sanctuary in this Holy place and grab hold of the salvation that Jesus offers.

We are blessed to have Rachel leading us as Priest, with such a heart for people and a drive to share God's own heart, his Word and his Spirit. There is an intimacy with the Lord that she is encouraging us to seek – walking more closely in step with Him will change our lives.

On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022, the two of us will stand down as your Church Wardens, having reached the statutory maximum six years of service. As we look back, more than anything, we are conscious of the privilege it has been to be part of the leadership team of the Benefice.

There is a new chapter starting, and there is a fitting Collect for our final Sunday, which reflects in many ways the joy that we share; very different from the courage that we felt a call to when we started.

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
Open the doors of our hearts,  
That we may seek the good of others  
And walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace  
To the praise of God the Father.

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## **Safeguarding – Andrea Kirkby**

I attended the Safeguarding Conference held by the Diocese of Canterbury and Rochester in January via Zoom. There are quite a few changes, the main being that the Diocese have changed their policy for re-checks, which were every five years to every three years. However, we had already changed our policy to this anyway so nothing changes for us. Parishes now have until the end of 2023 to catch up with all the retrospective re-checks that need to be done. The Diocese have just had a Safeguarding inspection holding them accountable (similar to an Ofsted inspection for schools). All past cases were reviewed but no cases in our Diocese were considered at risk and needing further investigation.

A few of my recent DBS checks have been queried by the DBS authority, as apparently not all the roles in Church require a DBS check. It is often quite difficult to define a Church role as it is not a “normal” job that would require a DBS ie a Doctor, Teacher or similar. Only those who are carrying out a regulated activity require a DBS (similar to running a Sunday Group, Blend or an organised activity, where the parents are not present). There is more emphasis on getting references and carrying out the Safeguarding training. Our policy has always been to obtain two references and get the Safeguarding training done prior to an applicant starting their role. So in future only roles that are carrying out a regulated activity will be DBS checked, if I am unsure I will check it out with my contact at the Diocese.

The Diocese are in the process of updating their Domestic Abuse training which is now available online. Myself and Caroline Davis (our Domestic Abuse Listener) have both completed this course and I have made suggestions to particular ministry areas in the church that they also do this training. Members of the PCC are also required to do this training, which I am in the process of organising.

I have just updated and sent out the Guidance notes for both Sunday and Youth Groups and the Connect Food Cupboard team. These are general good practice and what procedure to follow should a disclosure be made. The Connect Food Cupboard delivery team are also being asked to sign a Confidentiality Agreement.

At our last Safeguarding meeting it was agreed that photographs should only be taken using a dedicated mobile phone to prevent photographs being stored on personal mobile phones. This mobile phone is available for the Sunday Groups and anyone else wishing to take photographs, particularly if children are in them. If you wish to use the mobile phone please contact Kat.

Individual folders for each of the groups have been set up, instead of having them in the same folder. This includes all information that we have for each person who is involved in the Ministry of the Church. I am producing a spread sheet to include who has a DBS check, the date, references, training and various other information, which will be made available for those who need to know.

We are required by the rules to include this statement: The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

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### **Worship – Revd Rachel**

1 Corinthians 10:31... 'whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.' Our daily lives can be a continual act of worship to our God. We also have the privilege (noting after Covid what a privilege it is!) to hold gathered worship.

Our utmost priority with our worship is to give God glory for who He is. So the aim of those involved in leading worship is to give opportunity to bless God for who He is, and to enable encounters with God. Those encounters may be in quiet and contemplation, in receiving his blessing, in sung worship with full band or just our voices, in accepting Jesus' invitation to his table, outside, inside, in our preferred style, or deferring to the preferred style of others.

At GK Church we have four regular congregations, the 9.15am Sunday worship congregation at Christ Church, and the three congregations at St Mary's, noted below. At these regular weekly times, and in 'one off' services (such as in Holy Week) I have again sensed a faithfulness amongst the church which has overcome difficulties and frustrations in not being able to meet together, and concerns about Covid when we have.

There has been a focus all year of re-gathering, and re-building, and in that there has been some mourning as some of our church family have not yet returned to the regular gatherings. Yet there has also been the great excitement of times when each known church family member has come back to weekly worship, and in the enormous blessing it has been to grow in new members.

In the Thursday and 8am congregations there has been a steadiness which I have appreciated in terms of pattern, numbers and liturgy. At the 10.45 we have been experimenting, first by meeting outside so that we could sing together when there were restrictions on singing inside, and then in terms of pattern. We have settled for now into an alternating Holy Communion with groups for young people one week, and a Worship for Everyone on the other week. A group meets weekly to review our

10.45 worship, to plan ahead, and to ask the questions *what went well? What learning do we need to capture? Where did we sense God's Spirit at work?* Feedback on all services is always welcome.

There has been a real sense of continual worship, with daily prayer a strong part of that, which I feel has deepened our sense of worshipping God for who He is in all circumstances.

Unity amongst all our congregations is also a worship offering (see Psalm 133). Two examples of ways we demonstrate this is that firstly the same preacher comes to all three Sunday services (one of which is recorded) and thus each week the whole church has opportunity to hear the same message. Secondly, when there is cross over (even occasionally!) between congregations it generates further warmth of fellowship and enables us to worship God even if the style of service is different.

### **Congregation – Thursday 10am – Marion Vellino**

A Parish Church should provide a Communion Service during the week as an alternative for worshippers who are unable to attend on a Sunday.

There are currently 10 regular worshippers, some of whom are not always able to attend Sunday Services, so the Thursday Services are very important to them. These worshippers prefer the old liturgy and the utter peacefulness and reverence of this Communion Service which, for many of us, is a stable reminder of our upbringing. We have developed a fellowship so special it enables us to support each other in times of crisis both practical and spiritual. Over the last 2 years, this was borne out particularly by our constant contact during the isolation caused by the Covid pandemic and Lockdowns. Some additional people also attend on periodic occasions for their own private and personal reasons. Rev Rachel has introduced a short talk into the Service which we find meaningful and helpful, plus an informal Carol Service before Christmas which was well attended and enthusiastically received. Our members set up before and tidy away after the Service so there is no extra work for the incumbent.

### **Congregation – 8am – Anthony Farnfield**

The 8 am service at St Mary's takes place every Sunday morning. We sit in the choir stalls or the main body of the church. This is a quiet, reflective communion service lasting some 40 minutes using traditional language holy communion, together with a short homily from the Minister. If you would like to join us you would be one of

about 15 to 20 worshippers on average and you will receive a gentle but warm welcome.

### **Congregation – 10:45am – Wes Hinsley / The Loys / Becky Addis**

This time last a year, the 10:45 congregation met each week using zoom, as the best compromise we could make to see and hear each other “live”, while still from our homes. We celebrated Easter Sunday, usually one of our loudest and busiest services, with a socially distant band broadcast in Wes’s garden, as an innovative attempt to praise the Risen Jesus in as lively and passionate a way as we could.

A few weeks later, as conditions allowed, we met together for some weeks in the church grounds. A great blessing to be reunited, to see each other, to pray, to praise with a similarly reunited band. We were little less blessed by the weather of the early English Summer at times, but we met and praised with umbrellas, warm clothing, and gazebos (well fastened down...)

By September, we could meet inside the church again, and the gradual resurrection has continued with being able to share communion together, and the groups for our children and teens restarting. It’s great to be able to do those things again – but also to keep some of the things we learned to value more during lockdowns, particularly having time worshipping altogether as one crowd.

We continue to enjoy welcoming familiar faces back to church, and also are thrilled that many new friends have joined us, finding the 10:45 service a place where they sense the presence of God and can feel at home. We also continue to hear different voices leading services and speaking as part of the broader team lead by Rev. Rachel.

Each Monday, a small group meets to talk about the previous 10:45 service has been; what went well, what we can learn, and where we feel God was moving. Please pray with us, that we will hear the Holy Spirit’s leading and that God will continue to shape and grow us in our thinking, planning and serving. Pray that our services will continue to be fresh, vibrant encounters with a God who loves us, and that our congregation will be happy, healthy and blessed, growing deep roots in God, and making strong friendships together. Pray for our young people that their time in groups will build strong foundations for their lives, and that they too will have significant encounters with God as we meet together.

### **Sung worship 10:45 – Wes Hinsley**

So much has changed in the past year for our musicians, with prayers we have prayed for some time being answered at what might be considered a surprising time. Little over a year ago, we were recording and mixing videos, playing instruments and singing from different places, to be used in online services of various kinds. Over the lockdown period, we recorded around 80 songs – a phenomenal effort from all the team, and watching them over time shows how we grew continually through that time.

Yet nothing really beats playing, singing and worshipping together at the same time and place, and even more so, with a crowd. Being back together over Summer (even with the challenges of playing outside, and quite often in the rain!) was a joy.

A greater joy still, has been the growth of our team. Building on a strong core, we have new voices, violinists and pianists joining us, with different ages and experiences, but all with a passion to worship God, make beautiful sounds to Him, and spend time in His presence – and to help the congregation to draw close and to do the same.

We continue to use all sorts of songs; the older classical and the modern contemporary, and occasionally songs written for where we are now with God. We want what we sing to flow with the passages and themes of each service, and for our congregation to find themselves singing praise through the week.

Please join us in praising and thanking God for our growing team, and all of the wonderful times we have had singing together and meeting God as a congregation. Pray for us to keep growing, to keep learning, to keep hearing God, and finding new and creative ways to lead. Especially pray for the teenagers in our team, as they grow in skill, in taking more responsibility in leading us, and for some as they finish school this Summer.

### **Preaching – Revd Rachel**

We are a church family who love the bible and we have more to learn as we delve into it together. It is where we learn who God is and then become more confident in articulating that in our every day lives. We have been blessed to have a range of preachers sharing their insights on scripture and how it might be applied. I am especially thankful for those who have preached and been willing to do so at all three of our Sunday services. It's a responsibility and honour to preach. Please know I am always open to feedback. Thank you too to those who record and livestream our 10.45 service so that there is always an opportunity to listen to the preaching during the week.

## **Sunday Groups – Kat Ogden: Youth & Children’s Pastor**

Every fortnight we run six different Sunday Groups for all children from babies to sixth formers; Scramblers (babies and pre-schoolers), Climbers (Reception to Year 2), Pathfinders (Years 3-6), Pioneers (Years 7-8), Explorers (Years 9-11), Ignite (Years 12-13 - see additional report by Barney Mayhew, below).

Since re-opening after Covid we have changed some of the venues so that three of the groups now meet in the primary school. Having the use of this space has been a huge blessing and is really working well.

We have changed the pattern of Sunday Groups from running on the second and fourth Sundays to a fortnightly pattern so that when fifth Sundays and other key events in the church calendar fall, we don’t end up with a number of weeks running without Groups. We feel that this is working well and plan to continue with this pattern for now.

We have learned that the success of our Sunday Groups is not about recreating exactly what we had before the pandemic but instead in taking delight at welcoming new people into our groups (leaders and children) and watching how faith is growing and blessings are appearing as we minister to our children and young people.

The children continue to surprise us with their depth of understanding of Jesus’ message and to delight us with their gems of wisdom. We have seen a particular rebuilding of our Explorers group and pray that this continues well into the future in this and all of the other groups. We hope that in all that we do we are giving the children both head and heart knowledge of the Bible and the depth of God’s love for them so that they are deeply rooted in their relationship with God.

The current team of volunteers are amazing at what they do and we are so grateful for their time and input into this important area of ministry, but we would welcome more volunteers to become part of our Sunday Groups team as there are many weeks when organising the rota to ensure our groups are properly staffed can be a challenge.

As we enter into the summer months we are looking forward to organising some social outdoor events with our Sunday Groups and their parents as we recognise how important relationship building amongst Christian peers is.

Please pray for all of the children who are part of our Sunday Groups – that their love for Jesus grows and becomes a real and lived out faith in their everyday lives and that they grow up looking forward to coming to church and developing their own spirituality. We pray that the ministry that takes place on Sundays is continued by parents at home to help deeply root the whole family’s faith.

### **Older teenagers group – Ignite – Barney Mayhew**

A small but faithful group of sixth formers has met fortnightly on Sunday mornings during term time, and a slightly larger group has met on about ten Friday or Saturday evenings. We aim to build them up in faith, hope and love. Lots of discussion, ranging from capitalism to marriage, prayer, identity, how to find a church when you leave home, resilience, relationships, discovering and using one's gifts, and the relationship between science and faith (when the group was joined by five professional scientists).

We pray for those who've recently left home and those just about to; for the new cohort of sixth-formers; and for new ways of reaching out to and welcoming everyone of that age group who lives in the area of our two villages.

### **Churches Together – Revd Rachel**

As referenced earlier, unity as brothers and sisters in Christ is one of our worship offerings (Psalm 133). One expression of that unity is the mutual desire expressed within GK Church and Sacred Heart, Goudhurst with St Barnabas, Hawkhurst to share together in worship and fellowship at several points through the year. Sacred Heart and GK Church have both had new priests since January 2021 and Father Patrice and I were both very happy to lead our congregations to worship together on our *Walking the Way of the Cross* on Good Friday and look for continued opportunities to nurture our fellowship moving forwards.

### **Flower arranging – Marian Sargeant**

I have been on the Church flower rota for some years now. Then along came the Pandemic and as many others found, "tasks" came to a standstill. St Mary's was flowerless. I was invited to take up the "flower power", which at times is very challenging, but with a "flower gang" who are wonderful at being called on, I took up the baton. Time consuming, but so rewarding. I've had to ask when, what and why and made an Advent blunder! Looking forward with the "team" to making St Mary's sing with flowers for Easter.

## **Bell ringing – Rosemary Southon**

At present there are few practice nights at St Mary's and no ringing on Sundays. There are currently insufficient ringers for a band here so there is now a link with Lamberhurst. I also decided to stop ringing last year due to health problems. The bells will continue to be rung but with a lot of help from people outside the village. This seems to be a trend in this part of the Tonbridge District.

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## **10am Zoom prayers – Revd Stephen Hardy**

The 10.00 Prayers on Zoom began as soon as the Covid-19 lockdown began and have now been running six days per week for over two years.

Practically it was a good way of keeping in contact with a good number of church members during a time when other means of contact were not possible. And spiritually, we were aware of the importance of prayer, and the great value in praying together every day.

The normal format is an opening piece of liturgy, a Bible reading, and then the prayers to which many contribute using the 'Chat' facility within Zoom. For many months we also had a short Bible Study as well.

We have been blessed to see some prayers answered very clearly, and we have learnt much about praying consistently for various people and situations. We try to be like the church at Philippi, to whom Paul said: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*"

In the early days there were up to 30 windows on our computer screens which included perhaps 45 people in total. More recently, through 2021, as people have been able to return to work and other occupations, the number of participants has settled down to a figure of between nine and twelve each day. Some of these are not able to attend church for various reasons, so for them the daily prayer time is effectively their church.

## **Prayer Ministry – Simon and Katie Taurins**

Prayer and prayer ministry is not something just for Sunday.

The prayer chain / prayer WhatsApp that started in lockdown currently has 50 warriors on it. You can be sure that, if there is a need, prayer will happen and it will make a difference. We know it makes a difference because we hear back from those we pray for - and that's a tremendous encouragement. Allowing yourself to be prayed for does require some vulnerability, and a willingness to be honest about life's challenges, but pride should never stand in the way. We do pray for people by initial or just for a situation, so we can protect identities if that is important. We don't have to have the detail, our God knows that, but if we don't have the request we can't help.

If you would like to talk with someone confidentially and be prayed for and with, then do join us in the Bedgebury Chapel after the 10:45 service. There will always be two people on hand to sit with you. Everyone is DBS checked and will adhere to appropriate safeguarding practises. It's a chance to talk and, we hope, find some peace. Sometimes, as we pray, we may get a sense for God's heart in a situation, and may share that; so come expectant.

For thanks:

- Since September the prayer ministry team has grown with new members, several have moved from nearby churches and a few are new to the area. All have had previous prayer ministry experience and have a heart for prayer.
- Consequently our Sunday team is well manned and the responsibility for being able to offer prayer after the service is shared by many.
- We are so grateful for those that pray before each service on a Sunday and for the prophetic words that they hear.

For prayer:

- At the moment the uptake for those wishing to receive prayer in person is still low, we would love to see those attending the services growing in confidence and ease, to then come forward.
- We have advertised a training day on 11th June 'Growing a Healing Ministry 'run by The Living Well - many of the team have signed up to join and it will be good to be together.
- We would like to aim for a regular prayer ministry team meeting, maybe termly, to commence. It's really important for us that the team grows in faith, in discernment, and with real ears to hear.
- We hope that God will show us where we need to improve, change and grow.

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**Small Groups – Martin Loy (Small Groups Co-ordinator)**

The past twelve months has been a hugely encouraging time to be Small Groups Co-ordinator. Small Groups continue to be a wonderful opportunity for members of GK Church to develop closer and stronger bonds with a small number of people from within the larger church. SGs meet in a variety of settings: to enjoy fellowship, learn from the Bible and each other, and support one another practically and in prayer. Many people have become involved in SGs this year. We have had to establish an entirely new group to meet demand and there are advanced plans to introduce a further daytime group to cope with demand here too.

There is a real richness and diversity in the existing groups and an appetite from many others in the church to be involved in a SG. There remains a strong core of current leaders, with many others keen to step up and take on groups. It is especially encouraging to see some members of SGs stepping up to take the lead of a session, with some potentially keen to become leaders themselves in due course.

The benefit of being part of a SG has been highlighted in recent months and there is a great deal of pastoral work going on within groups, as well as some other practical outworkings with groups taking on physical work to help those requiring specific support.

This continues to be an exciting time of growth and an opportunity to enable this key area of church life to thrive even more. Some groups have been really stuck into the Bible, covering some challenging parts of the Bible, and others have been particularly blessed and encouraged by having a mid-week opportunity to go into more depth from the sermon the previous Sunday.

Please pray for continuing wisdom as groups are enlarged with new members, for leaders to emerge when more new groups need to be formed, and for good decisions to be made when seeking to create the best blend of people in each SG. We remain determined that each SG can be a vibrant expression of fellowship, discipleship and spiritual growth that can make a direct impact in the lives of each person associated with a SG. Praise God for all He is doing in the groups and in individuals from the groups.

[martin.loy@gkchurch.org](mailto:martin.loy@gkchurch.org)

### **Alpha – Katie Taurins**

Tuesday group:

A small, varied group of men and women from mostly non- churched backgrounds met for this course, held in the children's chapel on Tuesday mornings 9-10.30am.

We give thanks for the:

- deep encouragement and support that those attending have been to one another;
- privilege and honour, that those of us involved in helping have received;
- growth small and great in the faith of those attending the Alpha;
- desire for the group to keep meeting, to study the Word of God.

Prayer for:

- Continued growth in their personal relationship with God;
  - Love and respect for one another;
  - Confidence and a desire to attend a church service and feel at home in the Body.
  - Our church members to welcome and wholeheartedly embrace these new members with sensitivity.
  - Our three new Alpha courses starting on Monday 9 May 9.30-11.30am, 7.30-9.30pm and on Tuesdays starting 10 May 1.30-3.30pm.
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### **Youth & Children – Kat Ogden: Youth & Children’s Pastor**

We are so blessed to have a wonderful team of volunteers leading our youth and children’s ministry which covers a breadth of missional areas - Café Toddlers, Collective Worship and Church Services with Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School, Blend and our Sunday Groups with their associated evening and other weekend gatherings - more detail on each of these are given in the below reports.

It is clear that the Holy Spirit is at work in our community and in our work with young people. Although we are in a period of re-building, we are seeing great blessings all of the time, whether it is through new people coming forward to work with our young people for the first time or when we see the relationships between our young people growing in depth between each other and with Jesus.

Please pray for those volunteering in our youth ministry – to give thanks for them and all that they do and that they remain encouraged and energised by their work in this area. I pray that we remain open to where the Holy Spirit is leading us in all of the different work we do with children and that each and every child grows a deepening sense of their own identity in Christ which will strengthen them in all areas of their lives.

[kat.ogden@gkchurch.org](mailto:kat.ogden@gkchurch.org)

## **Café Toddlers – Kat Ogden: Youth & Children’s Pastor**

Café Toddlers is a wonderful group for pre-schoolers and their parents to meet with others and enjoy drinks, snacks and fabulous cakes every Friday morning during term-time.

The group re-opened after Covid in May last year with a number of restrictions such as the wearing of masks, social distancing of play stations, needing to book places in advance and having individual craft and snack packs. The group quickly became a life-line for many parents and their children and we were often fully booked with a waiting list whilst legal limits on numbers were in place. Gradually the restrictions have lifted and we are now back to a group that resembles life pre-pandemic.

Café Toddlers is an incredibly warm and welcoming place to be. Although we have many regulars, we continue to welcome new people through our doors on a regular basis, some of whom travel a fair distance to us as the reputation of Café Toddlers stretches far and wide.

In our team of volunteers, we have had an amazing group of people using different gifts, some of whom are key members of our church family, other occasional church goers and some who wouldn’t class themselves as Christians at all. We also have a team of people regularly baking for us which includes two school-children who do this as part of their service for the Duke of Edinburgh award.

We have learned that Café Toddlers is just as much for the parents and carers as for the children themselves and it really is a place of welcome and support for one another.

Please pray for Café Toddlers to continue to be a beacon of light in our community amongst parents and carers of young children. We give thanks that Café Toddlers gives us an opportunity to display God’s love in action and pray that it is also a place where people think about exploring their own faith in conversations that occur about church, Alpha and baptisms.

## **Goudhurst Primary School – Lindsay Roberts**

*What has gone well?*

Boris Johnson confirmed that the easing of England's lockdown would progress to stage three of the roadmap, on Monday 17th May 2021. In reality there were no changes for Primary Schools to implement; it was business as usual for us. That said, we were delighted that schools were allowed to resume Educational day and Residential trips and excitedly some of the teaching staff planned their first trips of the year for the summer term. Furthermore, with the arrival of drier and warmer

weather, we decided to introduce whole school face to face Worship again outside in the playground. This was a wonderful opportunity for us all to forget 'bubbles' and be able to gather together as a school community. We were particularly grateful to Reverend Rachel and her team who visited the school weekly to lead Worship in person.

In addition, trumpet and Djembe drumming lessons resumed, along with Forest School, and all the children were even able to enjoy a 'tennis' taster day. Indeed, we were feeling very optimistic for the return of all normal school activities by the 21st June 2021, whilst remaining sensibly cautious.

Due to the pandemic, it had been a tough year for all, and local charities had suffered greatly without their regular fundraising events. Therefore, I decided to set myself a challenge whilst raising money for The Weald Family Hub, Benenden and Goudhurst and Kilndown Church of England Primary Schools, PTFAs. On the 31<sup>st</sup> May I proudly completed a Skydive, no mean feat for someone scared of heights! £1980 was shared equally with our three charities.

Unfortunately, we were then disappointed to hear from the Prime Minister that the easing of the coronavirus restrictions in England would now not be lifted on 21 June 2021 but instead would be delayed until 19 July 2021. However, despite this set back, we were determined that the children would be able to enjoy all the normal end of term activities. Indeed, over the last few weeks of the summer term, we were able to hold class 'bubble' sports days, and an amazing end of year production of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. We were also pleased to be able to hold our traditional Year 6 Leaver's Service with parents by using St. Mary's Church rather than the school hall.

### *Where is God Moving?*

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September we were delighted to be able to welcome all our pupils back and once again be reunited as a School Community and we were excited about the year ahead. Most national coronavirus restrictions had been lifted; no class bubbles, no staggered drop off and pick-ups, external sporting events could now take place, after school clubs, whole school worship could resume inside, children were allowed to sing and parents were once again allowed onto the school playground.

Our Harvest Festival took on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October in St. Mary's Church; the children performed beautifully and filled the church with their music, poems and prayers. It was a delight to be able to once again welcome parents to the service. The school laid a wreath as usual on Remembrance Day as part of the Sunday Service and our Head Boy and Girl read at the service confidently and capably.

Sadly, as the term progressed, rising levels of coronavirus infections in school and the wider community, including the arrival of the new Omicron variant, brought about another surge of national restrictions. However, we took comfort in the knowledge that God would support and guide us once again through these uncharted waters, and this gave us the strength not to panic but to 'keep calm and carry on.'

At the end of November 2021, our choir were able to sing at St. Mary's Church as part of the village Christmas late night shopping and our PTFA were able to host our first ever, outside Christmas Market which was simply magical. Christmas festivities including wearing your Christmas jumper, Christmas lunch, Christmas parties with a visit from a socially distanced Father Christmas and even a trip to the pantomime were all able to go ahead.

KS1 were able to perform a their 'The Big Little Nativity' much to the delight of their parents and donations of £244.94 were shared equally between our school charities- Starfish Malawi, Weald Family Hub and the NSPCC. We were also pleased that we were able to end the term by visiting St. Mary's Church for a special Christmas service - thank you Reverend Rachel and your team for all your support and for filling us with encouragement, hope and love for the new year ahead.

At the end of the Autumn Term we said a fond farewell to our fabulous Mrs Donoghue. She had been part of the staff at Goudhurst & Kilndown for 13 years, she had taught in nearly every year group, had been our amazing SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) since September 2013, was appointed as Assistant Headteacher in 2015, became a Specialist Leader of Education in 2018 and had been the Head of Personal Development and Wellbeing across the Federation since April 2020. Moreover, we were delighted to hear that Mrs Donoghue had successfully lead the school to achieve the 'Optimus Education Wellbeing Award.' This was an amazing legacy to leave behind! I think it is fair to say that during her time at the school and Federation, Mrs Donoghue made an outstanding contribution to our whole school community for which we were hugely grateful.

Despite the significant surge in the number of Omicron COVID-19 cases across the country over the festive period, the Government resisted the need to introduce further restrictions and particularly recognised the importance of keeping schools open at the start of 2022. All existing COVID-19 safety protocols remained in place and with the reduction in the number of days anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 needed to self-isolate, we were once again optimistic and excited about the term ahead.

Indeed, in January 2022 we welcomed Miss Day, an experienced Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Leader to our Federation, we saw the introduction of our first Federation residential trip to Bowles Outdoor Learning Centre in Tunbridge

Wells and we saw the reinstating of our regular services at St. Mary's Church with parents! We were extremely grateful to Reverend Rachel, Kat and the rest of the team for continuing to lead us in Worship every week and for our Christingle service held at the beginning of February. When the candles were lit and the lights turned out, silence filled the church and there was a sense of awe and wonder in the air.

This year our Ash Wednesday service was held with the whole school, and then just before we broke up for Easter we were delighted to mark the end of yet another busy term with a beautiful service in St. Mary's Church; the church was full and it was a very uplifting occasion. Moments such as these really help to deepen the children's spiritual development.

*What have we learnt?*

Once again, I am proud to say that despite all the challenges this year yet again has presented, the staff, governors, children and parents have continued to adapt to the changing restrictions, they have demonstrated enormous perseverance, inspiration and amazing strength, and as a community, I believe we continue to grow 'stronger together.'

Finally, we are very proud to announce that we have launched a new website. Please do take a look and get a flavour of everything that we are doing:

[www.goudhurst-kilndown.kent.sch.uk](http://www.goudhurst-kilndown.kent.sch.uk)

Additionally, you can follow us on Twitter @GandKPrimary

## **Blend – Tracey Smith**

*Summary of who we are:*

Blend is a café for Children in School Years 7 to 10. It was set up in enable the children of Goudhurst and Kilndown school to keep in touch when they went on to their secondary schools.

We offer a safe place for them to meet on a Wednesday at church during school terms, with games, activities, quiet space for homework (not used that often) and their favourite part Milkshake and cakes.

*What has gone well?*

We have like everyone suffered over the last 2 years from covid but we have remained their for the children whether on-line or in person.

The team are great and have adapted to all the rules and regulation changes.

July 2021 we had a large group of year 7's sign up but once they started their new schools it was harder for them to get to us than first imagined.

We have a group of boys that are regulars and put smiles on our faces every week. They also challenge our thinking as what we need to put in place for them.

Great Young Leader/DOE helpers who have made a real effort to join in and come up with activities and bake for the children.

#### *What has been learnt?*

We have learned that trying to keep the children at a safe distance from each other during covid did not work. I can a chat with one young person who said "because they arrive at different times they were kept away from friends and that was why they came, to be with them." This is one reason a big group of them stopped coming and now school work has taken over their time (as seen in previous years our children stop coming during Y9).

We need organised activities along side the games to manage their exuberance.

#### *God's work*

We see God's work every week. He keeps the team enthusiastic and willing.

The children turn up on the wettest and coldest of evenings.

We have been praying for more girls and on the last week before Easter we had 4 (some weeks there is 0 or 1).

God saw us through Blend On-Line with children making time to join us.

God has shown the children we are safe adults when they have needed someone to talk to.

#### *Prayer pointers for future*

Bring more children to us from all corners of the village.

We are looking for people with different experiences of life to come and talk to the children, so pray for those right people to come forward.

And most of all prayers for the team, all volunteers, for God to watch over us and protect us so we can continue to serve in this way.

## **Weald Family Hub – Louise Vickerman**

The Weald Family Hub was established to ensure that mental health support for children, young people and their families is accessible, affordable, and readily available in the village communities of the Weald.

Founded by St Mary's Church in 2018, the Weald Churches have come together to provide subsidised professional mental health counselling for primary school children and family support for those who are struggling in partnership with local children's charity Fegans. The Hub also provides mentoring support for local primary and secondary school pupils.

At present we offer local primary schools between 18 and 36 weeks of subsidised professional mental health counselling dependent on their needs. Schools are offered counselling places for a minimum of three children with many accessing support for six or more children each year. We are also able to offer emergency support to schools for children needing immediate support.

Work has continued supporting a number of families from across our partnership schools with our Parents Supporting Parents program. It was with sadness that our Parents Supporting Parents Co-ordinator, Katie Davis-Clifford, announced she would be leaving The Hub in the autumn last year, but and we are extremely grateful for all the hard work and expertise she brought to the role.

Mentoring support, run by our Co-ordinator Bridget Stewart, resumed at the High Weald Academy and embedded really well into the school with many of the mentors offering additional support for students beyond mentoring alone.

Now in its fourth year of operation, the Weald Family Hub has supported nearly one hundred and fifty children with professional mental health counselling in twelve local primary schools. It has supported twenty-five families through its Parents Supporting Parents program and eighteen students through its mentoring scheme.

Looking to the future, experts agree that underlying mental health problems will remain significantly higher because of the pandemic and the need is, and will continue to be, greater than we have ever seen before. It is also documented that children's mental health services in England are still unable to meet demand with capacity far less than is needed to cope. For the coming year and beyond, the work of The Hub will continue to be critical so that together we can help build mental health resilience and hope in our village communities and we are very thankful for our strong, continued partnership with Fegans in making this happen.

Please keep in your thoughts all those who are suffering with issues of mental health and that our work can continue to support as many of them as possible at a time when they need it most, in particular the children, young people and families in our communities; please also give thanks for the expertise, skills and time given by so many people in support of our work, the team at Fegans, our volunteers and

volunteer co-ordinators and to those who have financially supported our work ensuring we realise our vision to transform the lives of children, young people and families in the Weald.

wealdfamilyhub@gmail.com

### **Community Cupboard – Ali Williams**

The Community Cupboard continued to support many households in our community through 2021. After the Covid peak of serving 24 plus households at one time, for the moment we have settled on an average of 16 households we help look after on a regular basis. Helped by your generosity, we were able to deliver 17 Christmas food hampers, and with your donations to the Reverse Advent project we provided sacks full of gifts for 18 children, a small gift for another 17 adults and a card and chocolates or biscuits to a further 10 households – thank you so much for your generosity and for helping to make Christmas a little easier for some by donating children's presents, and for other contributions too, which enabled us to give gifts to many others, some of who were facing a rather bleak Christmas.

The Community Cupboard has now established itself as an important ministry and valuable service to our community. We see God at work here every week as we support those we care for in many ways, not just by providing food. Ali Mackey, who did an absolutely brilliant job of overseeing the Community Cupboard for over a year until circumstances meant she had to take a break last autumn, will now be standing down permanently due to a new full time role. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ali Mackey for her incredible contribution to this ministry and wish her every success in her new role. I would also like to thank the fabulous Community Cupboard team, which now numbers 12, for their dedication to this ministry, and the love and care they have for those we look after.

### **Connect – Ali Williams**

The Meal Train continues to be well supported by generous people happy to cook and deliver to individuals or families who are going through a difficult patch, recovering from or suffering with illness or disability, or dealing with bereavement for instance. We always get wonderful feedback from the recipients of the meals, not only for the tasty meals themselves, but also the opportunity to see a friendly face and have a chat, and the comfort of having someone check you are ok. We welcome new volunteers to this ministry, there is no prescribed commitment, just sign up to provide a meal when you are able to. If you would like to know more about the Meal

Train, or be part of it please do let me know. God is always moving in this ministry born out by the generosity and love of those who are part of it.

The church freezer has been topped up with home cooked frozen meals by one or two people fairly regularly. We use this alongside the Meal Train and as extra support on an occasional basis for some of our Community Cupboard clients who would welcome a home cooked meal.

Our Connect lunches which we so loved providing pre covid have not started again, mainly due to the fluctuating rules around large groups being indoors and the safety of our guests in this type of situation. However as everything begins to open up, and many of us are now more comfortable in those social indoor situations I'm confident we will be able to get going again.

I say this in every Connect report I write, I see the church as a whole as the 'Connect' team, looking out for each other and those outside the church family, serving in practical ways and demonstrating God's love through our actions, and always being ready to share the good news we have in Jesus: thank you to everyone who is part of it.

[ali.williams@gkchurch.org](mailto:ali.williams@gkchurch.org)

### **Crafty Mondays – Dave and Val Lodge**

Amongst the first gifts given to us by a generous God, were craftsmanship and artistry. Exodus 31:1-5 describes how God chose Bezalel and "Filled him with His spirit, with wisdom and understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills.... to engage in all kinds of crafts," in order to build and decorate the Tent of Meeting where God was going to engage with His people. Craftsmanship was pivotal, so very early on, in forwarding God's Kingdom on earth. We are made in the image of a creator God and so it naturally follows that creativity is intrinsic to us; we reflect who He is and in doing so, bring joy to our own souls and find peace.

The intention and ethos of Crafty Mondays is to provide a warm welcome to anyone who wants to meet other friendly crafters, share ideas and maybe learn something new. It is open to absolutely everyone, Church-goer or not, and no previous experience is needed. We meet on the first Monday of each month at our home and usually see around 12 lovely people, including two brave chaps, who are keen to chat, drink plenty of tea & coffee and tuck into homemade bakes. We set up an activity for guests to try, or they bring their own projects to continue working on. It's very free and easy – we listen, and we share our lives, as well as our skills, learning from each other.

Sonja Drew, Sue Donkin, Rosemary Southon & Norma Draper are the backbone of the team that prays for and inspires our group. To them and all those who come, a huge 'thank you' for making it such a blessing.

We would love the prayers of the Church as we reach out to our neighbours in the hope that, through the joy of crafting, they might begin their own faith journey.

For those of you who may feel encouraged to join us you can always get more details from the weekly Church email, or speak to either of us.

### **Lend with Care – Rosemary Southon**

Lend with Care is part of Care International U.K. It allows individuals and groups to make small loans to entrepreneurs in developing countries. This is how our Church is involved.

Over the past year new loans have been arranged covering Zambia, Rwanda, Peru, Ecuador Pakistan and Malawi and totalling approx. £3,500. I try to find individuals or groups with connections to education, farming, “country type” activities, or aiming to employ other people. Due to Covid some repayments have been erratic and one group has defaulted, but we still have 10 entrepreneurs repaying loans. Three others have completed in the past year. (The GK Church monies and funds are held and administered by Lend with Care).

It is certainly worthwhile supporting people in their own countries and knowing that for some it is a lifeline to get their business going and to support their families. Another thought is how Covid has affected people around the world (hence non payment for some), and some African countries have been experiencing economical and political difficulties. All require our thoughts and prayers.

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### **Buildings**

#### **Eco Church – Sam Davis**

EcoChurch is an environmental improvement programme designed by A Rocha, a leading Christian environmental protection agency. It provides a survey against which churches can benchmark themselves in four key areas - Teaching and Worship, Land and Buildings, Community and Global, and Lifestyle. The programme has bronze, silver and gold award levels. While EcoChurch is a highly useful tool, we see it less as a mechanical improvement exercise but more as a platform for encouraging a better stewardship culture within the church.

St Mary's received a bronze award early in 2020, then the COVID pandemic struck resulting in other priorities and delayed progress towards our next goal of silver. That said, we have continued to provide a collection point in the church lobby for crisp packets, batteries and printer cartridges, all of which the church and local community continue to use. We are also approaching our second swift nesting season since our nesting boxes were installed last year and are hopeful that these well-constructed homes, high up and away from human activity, together with the attraction call system we have installed, will help numbers of these endangered birds to recover.

Having switched to an all-renewable electricity tariff in 2020/2021, the single most significant action the church could take to cut its emissions would be to change our heating from the old and very inefficient oil-fired boiler system we currently use to an all-electric system. A small team has continued to look at the options available to us and, despite going up a few blind and time-consuming alleys, we believe we are making progress towards a short-list of potential choices.

At a macro level, let's all be praying that God provides the wisdom, righteousness, political and personal will and technological solutions necessary to reverse the damage that has been done to His creation. Locally, let's continue to pray for church members committed to creation care to step forward to offer time, talents and innovative ideas both at St Mary's and Christ Church – we are blessed with a variety of assets and resources and there is much that could be achieved by the right team. Specifically, please pray for the small team working on the heating system, for wisdom and determination to get to the right answer and for the resources to implement that solution.

### **Church Rooms – James Wickham**

Over the last twelve months bookings have returned back to near normal, with the Pre-School being fully active during term time.

The Church Rooms has a kitchen, is fully heated and is ideal for birthdays and other uses. After many years of managing the Rooms bookings Rosemary Southon has stepped down and handed the batten to Jo Galloway. We thank Rosemary for her service.

If you are interested in booking the Rooms please call Jo on 07483 262753

or email her at [joannegvp@gmail.com](mailto:joannegvp@gmail.com)

Looking forward there are plans to make the roof fully rainproof and looking after the Rooms to ensure we have this facility for many years into the future.

### **St. Mary's – Ali Williams**

St Mary's was shrouded in scaffolding for many months while the quinquennial works were undertaken in 2020/2021. We thank the Friends of St Mary's for their contribution of £50,000 which formed part of the total expenditure of £120,000, without their contribution we would not have been able to complete the works. The great reveal occurred in early August when the extent of the replaced stones and repaired mortar and clock refurbishment could be seen, very satisfying for all after such a long drawn out process. Only time for a short breather, the next QI inspection is due in 2023!

Progress on the churchyard wall ground to a halt while we concentrated on the QI. It has been picked up again now, but progress is painfully slow. We hope the outcome will be a lowered design of wall that the lorries miss as they round the corner.

The Friends of St Mary's are pursuing a conservation project concerning the Culpeper wooden effigies that reside beneath the bay window in St Mary's. Jo Alsop did a great job of obtaining a grant towards the cost of an environmental report which amongst other things flagged up the need for Ultra Violet and Infrared light protection to prevent further deterioration once the conservation work has taken place, we are waiting for a quote on some specialist glass which would address this issue. Once received we can move forward to seek approval for the works to go ahead, which will take time.

I'm also delighted to report that James Wickham, who is a member of the PCC, has agreed to take on the oversight of the property and fabric of St Mary's and the Church Rooms. James has already attended to and resolved many issues. We are so grateful to him for taking on this responsibility and for doing such a fabulous job.

### **Friends of St. Mary's – Pam Stubbs**

Due to Covid restrictions meetings in February and March were held by Zoom as was our AGM. We were first able to meet face to face in April when restrictions were eased.

The main issue for consideration was the request from St. Mary's PCC to match their contribution of £30,000 to facilitate the uninterrupted completion of the stonework identified by the QI. The committee agreed to do so but stipulated that £5,500 of the £30,000 should be spent repairing the housing and re-gilding of the clock. We also

paid a further £1,600 in September towards additional unforeseen stonework. This expenditure was in addition to repairs.

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### **Stewardship – Revd Rachel**

*We trust in God* who is provider. In turn, *God trusts us* to care well for our areas of responsibility, to share wealth, to grow as his children into his likeness: to be generous, to be hospitable, to steward resources of time, energy, money, gifts - well - for his glory.

In terms of where stewardship means stewarding financial gifts we start by recognising that all that we have comes from God: 'For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.' (1 Chronicles 29:14).

I believe God calls us to honour him with our first fruits, in other words experiencing freedom to spend most of my money on personal needs having honoured God by apportioning the first amount of it to Him. Linked to that, for me the concept of giving a tithe is helpful. Regular giving to the church, straight from my bank account means it's done and dealt with. The process of claiming Gift Aid is much simpler and traceable through direct bank giving, and is our preference.

There are also times when we are called to honour God with a freewill offering in addition to regular giving. For each of us, what God may nudge us to give regularly and in addition to that is between us and God. The amounts will vary between us, and potentially the percentage of our income given will vary at different times in our lives.

Jesus' teaching on the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4) highlights how God looks at the heart when it comes to financial giving. God asks us to give out of love to Him whatever the amount we are able to give.

As Vicar I very much choose *not* to know who has given what financially. The people who know these amounts are the Treasurers, the Gift Aid Officers and the Administrator.

### **Finance – Dave Lodge: Treasurer**

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21)*

The 2021 church accounts are now available for release, having been independently reviewed. They have been prepared on a consistent basis with previous years.

We feel very blessed with having regular income to enable the activities that you will read about elsewhere in these APCM Reports. Please prayerfully consider your responses to the accounts and the following details, as we seek to use our limited resources wisely:

There are a number of funds, including some 'restricted funds' which can only be used for specific purposes, depending on the restrictions imposed by the donors.

The main 'General Fund' (Page 1 of the accounts) includes all of the regular giving and expenditure which supports the life of the church. This Fund is largely the subject of this report.

Giving from the regular congregations increased over the previous year by 3.5% to £94,848, mainly as a result of new donors and the reopening of regular services. Gift Aid added a further £18,469 which was slightly down from 2020 due to a catch-up in 2020 from previous years. There were also a couple of one-off donations and legacies received.

Total receipts for the year amounted to £145,156.

Expenditure for the year was largely in line with expectations. We paid our Parish Share to Canterbury of £73,301 as agreed.

The Tower and other stone works as required by the last Quinquennial inspection, were completed during the year, which, together with architects and other costs, amounted to £131,143. The Friends of St Mary's donated a fantastic £49,257 towards these costs and we were able to reclaim VAT under the Government scheme of £22,216. This gives the net cost of £59,670 during the year. There is a small retention payable in 2022 which will complete the project spend.

In total, General Fund expenditure for the year amounted to £204,660.

Therefore, we had a net outflow of funds for 2021 of £59,504, which largely reflects the Quinquennial works. This was as expected, when we agreed to complete the fabric repairs in one phase, this being the most cost-efficient option.

However, this means that the General Fund was in deficit at the end of 2021 by £4,612. It is our intention that we rebuild our reserves over the next three years to recover the situation (see below for more details)

The Beacon Fund (Page 3) has successfully funded the role that Caroline Turvey held for the past three years. Following Caroline's appointment as Curate for the Doddington & Wychling Villages in mid-2021, we prayed and sought God's direction.

A revised job role was advertised and the recruitment process resulted in Kat Ogden being successfully appointed as our Youth and Children's Pastor. The Beacon Fund has sufficient funds to support this role for 2022, and there are several regular donors who continue to pay into this fund. As from 2023 we will need to fully support this role financially through the General Fund.

The Community Cupboard (Page 2 of the Accounts) continued to support local families mainly with groceries and a few small household expenditure needs. There is a regular team who collect food and deliver each week, including a time to chat and share with the families. There are a number of donors who regularly contribute funds to this work, together with food items that are gifted. We are also supported by the Cranbrook Bakery who supply free bread each week. In total, we paid out £10,368 during the year, not including the gifted items. There was £1,556 in the Fund at the end of the year.

The Weald Family Hub – WFH (Page 3 of the Accounts) continues to support counselling in 13 of the local Primary Schools, working through Fegans, a local charity. We gained support from a number of local Charitable Trusts together with regular individual donors. St Mary's contributed £6,000, as in recent years. The schools contribute around 50% of the full cost of the counselling, with the balance funded through the WFH.

The Projects Funds (Page 5) includes receipts and expenditure on projects that span more than one year. In 2021 we had a specific donation of £4,600 to support the setup of a local Christians Against Poverty (CAP) team and £13,000 for the potential to employ interns. These funds were held at the end of the year, together with £27,636 balance of insurance proceeds from the Church Wall claim; the repair/replacement of the wall continues to be worked through with the Diocese and other interested parties.

### *Outlook 2022*

This year is expected to be similar to 2021, but with more of the regular activities being open for the whole year and therefore a slight increase in some costs.

With the spending in excess of the General Fund reserves in 2021 and an overall deficit as we come into 2022, there are no major projects planned for this year until we can start to recover the reserves position. Longer term, we will need to replace the old oil-fired heating system to be more efficient and to meet the Church of England target of 'net zero carbon' by 2030. We will get no financial support from the CofE and are investigating grants and other support to help meet the (very large!) costs that we will need to spend. There is a team actively working on options. There are also other projects and initiatives that we would love to start if money were no object!

A big 'Thank You 'for the regular giving and donations received through weekly offerings, bank transfers and the recently installed debit/credit card reader, as well as those who give one-off donations. If you would like to talk further about increasing your contributions, starting regular support, or anything regarding our church finances, then please contact me the treasurer, Dave Lodge. If you pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, then we can reclaim 25p for every £1 given from HMIT with no cost to the giver; we can supply a Gift Aid form to get this started – again, please just ask.

To put the current General Fund deficit into perspective, we currently have around 130 regular givers (or families of givers). If each of these were to increase giving, on average, by £4 per week, then we would increase our income by £27,000 per year. This would give us the opportunity to recover our reserves over the next three years and provide extra for increasing the wide-range of activities and support to our community. Regular income enables us to plan what we can afford to do.

I am grateful to the team who support the back-office accounts work; to those who collect and count the weekly offerings, to John McCaig who operates our Gift Aid claims, and to Becky in the Church Office. Thank You!

dave.lodge@gkchurch.org

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## **Organisational structure:**

### **Weald Deanery – Kat Ogden and Sue Donkin**

The parishes within the Diocese are grouped into small geographical divisions known as Deaneries, each under the care of an Area Dean and governed by a Deanery Synod. Revd. Rodney Dreyer (Hawkhurst) is the Area Dean of the Weald Deanery and Kat Ogden and Sue Donkin are the representatives from St Mary's Church on the Deanery Synod.

Last year the Deanery completed a Deanery Plan that was approved by Bishop Rose, although this should be seen as a living document which is regularly reviewed.

The finances across both the Diocese and the Deanery are not in a strong position. Some of the information supplied to us by the Diocese paints a fairly bleak picture:

- Despite best efforts, attendance has continued to fall

- The Canterbury Diocese has struggled to meet our costs through Parish Share alongside parish commitments
- The pandemic has made financial matters worse
- The Diocese has made a commitment to reduce “central” costs and total Parish Share ask by 10%
- The Diocese asks for a commitment by parishes to pay the full Parish Share
- Generosity encouraged between churches to support less well-off parishes
- Deaneries should be looking at the right level of ministry and buildings
- Last year the Diocese has needed to take on a COVID loan, sale of excess assets and a sustainability grant to manage the shortfall
- Growth is needed in the medium to long term.

The Weald Deanery will therefore be reviewing and revising the Deanery Plan specifically to look at meeting the financial and organisational needs in the future, and this is likely to involve looking at future ministerial provision and deployment.

Please pray for strong leadership and vision for the Mission and Ministry Committee who will be working on the plan. Please pray that the Lord’s vision for the future Church becomes clear to us and that the Holy Spirit guides us in how to build a flourishing and sustainable model for the future.

### **Proceedings of the PCC – Barney Mayhew, Chair of the PCC**

The PCC has met on average once a month, and seeks to be prayerful, loving and visionary. We have discussed and decided on just about any significant aspect of the church’s life: vision, mission and outreach, all areas of ministry, safeguarding, finance, work with young people, home groups, the church buildings, employment, eco-responsibility, prayer, the Deanery, worship, staff appointments, and so on.

We ask your prayers for good leadership and accountability, and for the PCC to enable all parts of the church family to worship and flourish fully.

### **Leadership structure – Revd Rachel**

In addition to the PCC there is a Leadership Team (also referred to as the Standing Committee of the PCC). This is: Revd Rachel, Simon Taurins, Ali Williams, Becky Addis, Wes Hinsley, Dave Lodge, Kat Ogden, Barney Mayhew. We meet most weeks to pray and discuss issues. This grouping will change as Ali and Simon step down and are replaced with two new churchwardens.

Please pray for refreshment and wisdom as we work together.

### **Church Office – Becky Addis**

The last year has again been full of challenges as we continued to navigate Covid as a church community, often having to change plans at the last minute, but with everyone working together to make our worship safe. I moved back into the Church Office and was very happy to welcome a new roommate at the start of this year with the arrival of Kat. Staff meetings started to be held in person again, and that felt so good – to meet with Rachel, Ali and Kat face to face, pray, drink tea, sometimes eat cake, and chat, about work obviously!

It has been wonderful to start organising baptisms again, lots of them, and to make arrangements with bridal couples about their weddings which actually felt like they might happen – we have couples marrying this year who have been waiting for two years so it will be especially joyous to see them marrying at last.

My role continues to be as varied as ever but with communication with the church family a big part of the job. I enjoy writing the weekly GK Church news which is now sent to nearly 600 people, and Sam Mayhew has worked hard at trying to get me more competent with updating the website.

When the village experienced the recent power cut, Kat and I sat in the Children's Room to welcome people into the church who needed to charge their phones, use the Wi-Fi and find some warmth. It was really good to be able to offer that and so we may well start working in the church a couple of mornings a week – but otherwise, do come and find us at The Vicarage – the lovely yellow door is to the right of the garage – we're there Monday to Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00.

## Administrative information

Bankers	CAF Bank 15 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ  Nat West Bank High Street Cranbrook Kent TN17 3EA
Independent Examiner	Mr J A Tapper FCA Mill Cottage Mill Lane Sissinghurst Kent TN17 2HX
Architects	Purcell 15 Bermondsey Square London SE1 3UN

## Thank yous

A huge thank-you to everyone for being part of the church family or has supported in any way. As part of this, thank you to everyone who has:

Prayed on the emergency prayer chain	Applied for a faculty
Cooked a meal via the Meal Train	Helped with any Children and Young people's ministry
Was a verger at a weddings or funeral	Led Collective Worship in G&K Primary
Cleaned the glass doors	Delivered the parish magazine
Opened or locked the church	Tidied up in the church building or graveyard when they saw something needed doing
Delivered a Christmas card or parish magazine	Been part of the Café Toddlers team
Helped with the sound desk	Was part of the Alpha team
Hosted, read or prayed at 10:00 Zoom prayers	Printed our posters, flyers – all our printing!
Looked after the GK Church social media feed	Looked after the safeguarding of our church
Led a small group	Reached out to someone who was grieving
Helped with the Community Cupboard	Helped with our Mothering Sunday daffodils
Gave to the Community Cupboard	Prayed for our world, our country, our community and our church family
Was part of the Blend Team	Ran Lend with Care
Made activity bags for Sunday worship	Looked after our Connect Clothing
Led our services, both in church and whilst we were still on Zoom	Did something kind for someone in the church community without anyone knowing

Gave someone a lift	Cooked for the church freezer
Led us in singing	Cleaned the church
Were part of the PCC, especially those who stepped up for the first time to serve in this way	Set up and helped at Crafty Mondays
Preached, read, led intercessions at one of our in person or online Sunday services	Mentored at the High Weald
Updated the website	Looked after our beautiful church building by fixing something or making something
Baked for the Community Cupboard	Cooked and served at a Welcome lunch and other events
Looked after the church finances	Took Holy Communion to someone at home
Collected and banked donations and sorted out Gift Aid	Arranged flowers and made the church look beautiful
Recycled the crisp packets and batteries	Looked after the flower beds and the churchyard
Went prayer walking around Goudhurst	Looked after the Church Rooms
Put together a beautiful window as part of our Advent Windows	Went for a walk with someone who really needed someone to talk to
Kept the conversation going about what it means to be an Eco Church	Shared their faith with someone, maybe for the first time
Cleaned the brass	Looked after the linen and changed the altar frontals
Set up the church for Holy Communion	Hoisted a flag
Spotlighted someone	Prayed and cared for your family
Visited someone	Cleared up after an event
Rang the bells	Said 'yes' to helping out at the last minute

St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Goudhurst

Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2021

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		2021	2020
GENERAL FUND Receipts and Payments Account	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Incoming Resources From Donors			
Planned Giving		94,848	91,631
Collections and other giving		3,926	3,875
Call Flow - Masts on St Mary's Tower	1	3,596	2,044
Income Tax recovered	2	<u>18,469</u>	<u>20,282</u>
		120,840	117,832
Other Voluntary Income			
Restricted Donations & Legacies	3	1,200	3,710
Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	4	<u>10,160</u>	<u>2,500</u>
		11,360	6,210
Income From Investments			
Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	5	<u>251</u>	<u>315</u>
		251	315
Income from Operating Activities			
Sales of Parish Magazine		2,049	2,649
Magazine Advertisement Fees		4,066	4,278
Café Toddlers - donations / tea money etc.		208	-
Fees from Weddings and Funerals etc.		5,944	3,619
Connect Clothing		439	932
Fund Raising		<u>-</u>	<u>772</u>
		12,706	12,250
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b><u>145,156</u></b>	<b><u>136,606</u></b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Grants & Donations			
Contribution to Weald Family Hub		6,000	6,000
Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	6	<u>6,037</u>	<u>5,872</u>
		12,037	11,872
Activities relating to the Work of the Church			
Diocesan and Deanery Parish Share		73,301	72,918
Organ, Organist and Choir		1,549	3,120
Service Consumables		994	949
Weddings & Funerals (including Diocesan share)		4,193	2,566
Clergy Expenses		(31)	2,268
Alpha, Small Groups etc		309	2,306
Sunday Clubs and Childrens/Youth work		547	2,053
Magazine Printing		<u>3,338</u>	<u>2,134</u>
		84,200	88,315
Church Running and Fabric Expenses			
Heating & Utilities		4,393	5,287
Insurance		8,192	7,703
Church Cleaning & Supplies		4,420	4,662
Covid related costs	7	-	466
Repairs and Maintenance	8	3,104	1,802
QI Works to Tower and Stonework (including FOSM support of £49,257)	9	59,670	4,089
Enhancements	10	<u>2,717</u>	<u>5,767</u>
		82,496	29,776
Church Management and Administration			
Church Office, Printing Stationery, Telephone etc.		24,242	24,208
IT and Social Media costs		<u>1,685</u>	<u>642</u>
		25,927	24,850
Costs of Operating Voluntary Income			
Fund Raising Events		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>204,660</u></b>	<b><u>154,814</u></b>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>(59,504)</u></b>	<b><u>(18,208)</u></b>
General Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>54,892</u>	<u>73,099</u>
<b>General Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>(4,612)</u></b>	<b><u>54,892</u></b>

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
COMMUNITY CUPBOARD	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Donations received	6,549	8,586
Transfer from Local Community Fund	2,019	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>8,568</u>	<u>8,586</u>
PAYMENTS		
Cost of produce purchased	7,617	5,229
Purchase of storage cupboards	1,118	-
Support payments to Community	<u>1,633</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>10,368</u>	<u>5,229</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(1,801)</b>	<b>3,357</b>
Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>3,357</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Community Cupboard Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>1,556</u></b>	<b><u>3,357</u></b>

This fund is being ring-fenced for the Community Cupboard - there are a number of regular and one-off donors

In 2020, as part of the church's response to the Corona virus pandemic, the Community Cupboard was rapidly expanded and deployed to help a number of local families with provision of basic food items. This has continued into 2021. A loyal group of helpers collect, purchase and deliver food on a weekly basis, together with some additional support for a number of these clients.

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
BEACON FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Lay Family Worker Donations	13,952	3,079
Blend Donations received	<u>-</u>	<u>135</u>
	13,952	3,214
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><b>13,952</b></u>	<u><b>3,214</b></u>
PAYMENTS		
Lay Minister Costs (including expenses)	5,606	16,665
Less: Job Retention Scheme receipts	-	(4,116)
Other Costs	<u>95</u>	<u>-</u>
	5,701	12,549
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><b>5,701</b></u>	<u><b>12,549</b></u>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>8,251</b>	<b>(9,335)</b>
Beacon Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>20,063</u>	<u>29,397</u>
<b>Beacon Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u><b>28,313</b></u>	<u><b>20,063</b></u>

The Beacon Fund is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2017 to fund and support the appointment of a Lay Minister to develop work with local children and young people.

In 2019 further contributions were invited to fund an additional Lay Family Worker. This fund will now be used to support the Youth and Childrens Pastor role which has started at the beginning of 2022.

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
WEALD FAMILY HUB	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Donations received	40,954	17,584
St Mary's Goudhurst Contribution	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
	46,954	23,584
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><b>46,954</b></u>	<u><b>23,584</b></u>
PAYMENTS		
Fegans Costs	39,588	31,060
Coordinator Salary and Expenses	10,658	10,557
Less: Job Retention Scheme receipts	-	(2,646)
Counselling & Mentoring Course Costs	-	116
Other Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>
	50,245	39,091
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><b>50,245</b></u>	<u><b>39,091</b></u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(3,291)</b>	<b>(15,506)</b>
Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>31,970</u>	<u>47,476</u>
<b>Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u><b>28,679</b></u>	<u><b>31,970</b></u>

The Weald Family Hub was set up in 2018 to provide funding for Mental Health counselling in local schools and parent support, working through the Fegans charitable organisation. St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and a number of local schools

PROJECTS FUND	Notes	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Christians Against Poverty Donations received		4,600	-
Church Wall Insurance Claim		-	30,000
Donation for Interns		13,000	-
FOSM Contribution to Tower Works		-	15,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b><u>17,600</u></b>	<b><u>45,000</u></b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Released to General Account		15,000	-
Costs re Wall Repairs Project		2,364	-
Paid to Christians Against Poverty (CAP)		2,500	-
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>19,864</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>(2,264)</u></b>	<b><u>45,000</u></b>
Projects Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>47,508</u>	<u>2,508</u>
<b>Projects Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>45,244</u></b>	<b><u>47,508</u></b>

In 2019 donations were made at the service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury amounting to £2,508 for Christians Against Poverty. Dialogue commenced with CAP regarding the possibility of using the donation to go toward funding a local CAP Debt Manager where currently there is no local provision. CAP were in favour of this and further donations towards the cost of running this were received in 2021. The original £2,500 was paid to CAP which they are holding for a local scheme if we are able to recruit a volunteer.

In 2020 a settlement claim of £30,000 was reached regarding the repeated damage to the church wall. Work is ongoing to establish the most appropriate action to avoid further damage, for which this fund will be used. Architect costs were paid in 2021 in respect of this project.

In 2020 a donation of £15,000 was received from the Friends of St Mary's as part of the Tower repair works - this was carried forward against invoices paid in early 2021.

<b>Balance of funds at 31st December</b>			
Wall Repairs Project		27,636	30,000
FOSM Contribution to Tower Works		-	15,000
Donation re Interns (not Restricted)		13,000	-
CAP Balance		4,608	2,508
		<b><u>45,244</u></b>	<b><u>47,508</u></b>

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2021

		<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
CHURCH ROOM FUND (Designated Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
RECEIPTS			
Contributions to the use of Church Room		7,895	6,512
Income from Investments			
Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	5	13	85
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b><u>7,908</u></b>	<b><u>6,597</u></b>
PAYMENTS			
Repairs and Maintenance		3,595	1,254
Insurance		867	858
Utilities		1,347	598
Cleaning		<u>328</u>	<u>1,058</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>6,137</u></b>	<b><u>3,768</u></b>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>1,771</b>	<b>2,830</b>
Church Room Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>40,077</u>	<u>37,248</u>
<b>Church Room Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>41,848</u></b>	<b><u>40,077</u></b>

The Church Room Fund is a Designated Fund, held to ensure the ongoing maintainance and repair of the Church Rooms

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
 Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (Designated Fund)		
RECEIPTS		
Restricted Donations	-	96
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>-</u>	<u>96</u>
PAYMENTS		
Discretionary Support	-	30
Transfer to Community Cupboard Fund	2,019	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>2,019</u>	<u>30</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(2,019)</b>	<b>66</b>
Local Community Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>2,019</u>	<u>1,953</u>
<b>Local Community Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>2,019</u></b>

This fund has been amalgamated with the Community Cupboard Fund in 2021

		<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
SRI LANKA FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
GK Church donations		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Payments out	11	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		-	-
Sri Lanka Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>7,933</u>	<u>7,933</u>
<b>Sri Lanka Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<u><b>7,933</b></u>	<u><b>7,933</b></u>

The Sri Lanka Fund is a Restricted Fund, held to provide support for students of the Sri Lank Theological College whilst they are on placement in the UK, plus other specific needs, as decided and agreed with the College staff

In 2022 we are re-energising contacts with the college to ensure that these funds are best used to support students and will pay this money over as appropriate

		<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
MUSTARD SEED PROJECT FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Donations received		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Mustard Seed Project Payments	12	-	350
Other Costs		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	350
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>350</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		-	<b>(350)</b>
Mustard Seed Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>2,437</u>	<u>2,787</u>
<b>Mustard Seed Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<u><b>2,437</b></u>	<u><b>2,437</b></u>

The Mustard Seed Project is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2016 to fund and support projects relating to local asylum seeking teenagers and young people.

In 2022 we have paid the balance of this fund to the DEC appeal in support of the situation with refugees fleeing from Ukraine. The DEC work through a number of major charities.

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
Accounts for the 12 Months Ended 31st December 2021

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>			
General Fund		(59,504)	(18,208)
Community Cupboard		(1,801)	3,357
Beacon Fund		8,251	(9,335)
Weald Family Hub	13	(3,291)	(15,506)
Projects Fund		(2,264)	45,000
Church Room Fund		1,771	2,830
Local Community Fund		(2,019)	66
Mustard Seed Project Fund	12	-	(350)
		<u>(58,856)</u>	<u>7,854</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARY OF BALANCES</b>			
General Fund		(4,612)	54,892
Church Room Fund (Designated)		41,848	40,077
Local Community Fund (Designated)		-	2,019
Projects Fund (Designated)		45,244	47,508
Community Cupboard (Restricted)		1,556	3,357
Beacon Fund (Restricted)		28,313	20,063
Weald Family Hub (Restricted)	13	28,679	31,970
Sri Lanka Fund (Restricted)	11	7,933	7,933
Mustard Seed Project Fund (Restricted)	12	2,437	2,437
		<u>151,399</u>	<u>210,255</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Bank Balances - NatWest		28,352	131,118
Bank Balances - CAF Bank		51,684	8,039
Bank Balances - CAF Bank Deposit Account		10,242	10,081
CCLA Deposit Account		59,679	59,648
CCLA Investment Account - cost	14	1,442	1,370
		<u>151,399</u>	<u>210,255</u>

The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis - no provision is made for items that do not fall within the year. There are no significant items that were outstanding at 31st December 2021 nor 2020

Note

1	CallFlow	Charges are made to Callflow for the Licence Agreement relating to equipment on the Church Tower. The agreement was terminated by Callflow in 2021		
2	Income Tax recovered	Income Tax is recovered on a monthly basis, through the Diocese.		
3	Restricted Donations & Legacies	These were mainly specific donations to be paid onto third party charities - see Note 6 below		
4	Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	Three donations of over £1,000 were received during the year; none of these contained any restrictions on use		
5	Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	Income represents deposit account interest and dividend income received during the year, It is allocated between the funds on the basis of the balances at 1st January		
6	Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	The list of charities supported during the year is as follows:		
			<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
		Lisell Mukola Community School - Rose's Project	1,200	900
		Christians Against Poverty	600	500
		Fegans	600	500
		Goudhurst Scouts	600	500
		Lend With Care	600	500
		Maidstone Samaritans	600	500
		ReadyCall	-	500
		TearFund	600	500
		TearFund - Harvest Offerings	443	-
		Christian Aid	290	-
		Bibles for GK Primary School & Preschool leavers	499	451
		Eli Nelson - Donation for Nepal trip (funded by specific donation)	-	1,000
		Other	5	21
		Total Payments	<u>6,037</u>	<u>5,872</u>
7	Covid Costs	In 2020 this included the provision of a hand sanitiser station in the church. Ongoing costs are included in Church Cleaning & Supplies		
8	Repairs and Maintenance	Heating System Repairs & Servicing	699	-
		Bat assessment in Tower	334	-
		Piano & Organ Tuning	712	321
		Other	1,359	1,481
			<u>3,104</u>	<u>1,802</u>
9	Quinquennial Report	The regular inspection was carried out in November 2017 and the report issued in January 2018. The majority of the works have now been completed		
		Traditional Stone - Tower and other stone work	125,312	-
		Architects Fees	4,583	3,525
		Other Costs	1,248	564
		Less: VAT reclaims under Government Scheme	(22,216)	-
		Less: Support from the Friends of St Marys	(49,257)	-
			<u>59,670</u>	<u>4,089</u>
10	Enhancements	Updates to sound and video system (including on-line service provision)	-	5,767
		CCTV installation	1,131	-
		Upgrade to WiFi	1,079	-
		Card Payments system	507	-
			<u>122,057</u>	<u>13,945</u>

- 11 Sri Lanka Fund                      The Sri Lanka Link charity was closed in 2016. The balance of funds was transferred to St Mary's to be used for future funding of students from the college to the UK and for fieldwork training. No support payments were made in the period after the transfer of funds occurred
- 12 Mustard Seed Project Fund        Donations from the Kings Singers concert in 2015, together with other donations are held in 'The Mustard Seed Fund' - this is used to fund and support projects to local asylum seeking teenagers and young people. Applications to the Fund are required to meet pre-set criteria and are assessed by a small team from the church. During 2021 there were no support payments made
- 13 Weald Family Hub Fund            The Weald Family Hub (WFH) was set up in 2018 to provide support for young people and their families who are struggling with issues of mental health across the Wealden villages, working with the Fegans charitable organisation. St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and local Primary schools. There are a number of regular donors to the Fund, together with donations from local fund raising events and charitable trusts. There has been an amazing ongoing response to the WFH and continued counselling successes, despite the impact of Corona virus shutdowns within the schools. St Mary's has committed to funding this for three years
- 14 CCLA Investment Account        The market value of the CBF Investment Fund was as follows:
- |                       | 31-Dec<br><u>2021</u> | 31-Dec<br><u>2020</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Number of shares held | 122.59                | 119.32                |
| Value per share       | 2,338.67              | 2,012.35              |
| Market Value          | £2,870.82             | £2,401.14             |
- 15 Physical Assets                      The PCC is responsible for certain physical assets in St Mary's Church both fixed and movable which are not detailed in the financial statements, but are covered by insurance

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Goudhurst**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 12

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner**

The members of the PCC 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:

- a. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- b. Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- c. State whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records, It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- a. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - i) to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - ii) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- b. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

**Signed:**



**Dated:** 1st April 2022

Mr J A Tapper FCA  
Chartered Accountant  
Mill Cottage  
Mill Lane  
Sissinghurst  
Kent TN17 2HX

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Mr J A Tapper FCA  
Chartered Accountant  
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# Accounts

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# St Mary's Goudhurst Book of Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

October 2020 - April 2021

## Introduction - Revd Rachel Robertson

*We are the Body of Christ, and each one of us is a part of it  
1 Corinthians 12:27*

There are many ways in which we participate in being part of the Body - ways which give glory to God and help to build each other up as we follow Christ together. Not all of those ways are noted in a document! However, each year, we try and capture different areas of our church life in the Book of Reports. This is a key part of what is reported at our APCM.

Each report will:

- summarise what this area of church life is about, its purpose;
- review the October 2020-April 2021 period, highlighting what has gone well, what has been learnt, and crucially, learning to notice where God has been at work;
- give prayer pointers so that we as a church family can be praying for this area.

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## **Vicar's Report January - April 2021 - Revd Rachel Robertson**

Being Vicar of St Mary's, Goudhurst with Christ Church, Kilndown in January 2021 is a joy. My family and I have felt the warmth of your welcome and love from the outset and this has helped us to feel at home here despite starting as another national lockdown began. It is a privilege to serve you as together, as God's family, we discern how to listen to God and work on his mission here in this context.

### *Overall vision and purpose*

When asked what was the greatest commandment, Jesus replied:

“ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22: 37-40)

This will always be our vision, that we go back to again and again to remind ourselves of who we are, and why we do the things that we do. Please read my letter to the benefice dated 21 April 2021 which further outlines how this may translate into action this coming year.

### *Thank you*

Thank you for making us feel so welcome as a family, in particular the welcome from several young people to our children. A big cheer from me to the rest of the Robertson family who are awesome and behind the scenes enable me to be here as your Vicar. Thank you particularly to Simon and Ali for their vital support as Churchwardens, Becky as Administrator, Caroline as lay minister, the PCC and Leadership Team, the worship team, those who contribute to ministries noted in this report.

I've already said that ways to build up the Body of Christ do not always have a heading, or title, so thank you to everyone who has been attentive to how God is calling you to serve and worship him in daily life - from stirring the baked beans with grace, praying whilst walking the dog, caring for a loved one who is ill, to telling your friend at school that church is a place where they would be welcome.

### *Blessing*

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

## **Letter from Churchwardens - Ali Williams and Simon Taurins**

What a change six months brings! At the time of our last APCM - just over six months ago, we were facing winter-time and a period of extended anticipation - a likely deeper lockdown, wondering how Christmas would happen, no confirmation of dates for Rachel's start date, yet hoping that 2021 would bring some relief, freedom and renewal for all.

On 7 January 2021, Rachel was instituted and inducted as vicar of the United Benefice of Goudhurst and Kildown. And what a United Benefice we are - this Interregnum has brought our congregations properly together; something to really rejoice in. Every step that we have taken in this new world has felt as though we have been all together, and that has been a wonderful thing.

It is with great thanks and appreciation to our Tech Team that we were able to live-stream and record Rachel's induction. Bishop Rose spoke vividly of how "church" has entered our homes this last year. Church has not just entered "our" homes but the homes of many, many more than we could have imagined.

In our letter last year, we noted that the Church, and our church, has never reached so many people and in particular, we have never known so many pray together. We have seen so much answer to prayer this year, on a personal and corporate level. We know that God has truly intervened in the most hope-less of situations. We know too that people around us, human beings, with all their frailties, have responded to God's prompting and been themselves the answer to prayer for others in so many ways.

Our doors were closed for a while, and our singing voices have been muffled, but the church has not been stifled. It is likely that never in this generation, has the contribution of the church, and our church, and its Christian community been so impactful and appreciated, despite its doors being closed to "normal" business. We must not let go of this compassion that has gripped us.

We are excited for our church. We have an ambition to care more and if, under Rachel's guidance, we can love those around us to a greater extent, then we are doing exactly what Christ's Great Commission required. Caring more is not easy and it will require us to stretch ourselves, and probably to sacrifice in a way in which might be uncomfortable, but there is nothing better than to live knowing that we are living to the call that Jesus has upon us.

As we write this, we look forward to the day when the church can be full again, when we can sing and dance (well maybe not all dance!) together. When Wes and the band can lead us in Hallelujahs, and perhaps tears too. To embrace those we know, and those we don't, young and old, of one tradition or another, mended and broken.

As wardens, if re-elected, this is the sixth and last year that the two of us can hold this office - and that rhythm seems right. We will be ready to pass on to the next generation of warden team who will bring different gifts for a different phase in our church life. Just as we were called, we are confident that there are others, as unprepared as we, to step forward with a little courage, and enjoy the blessing that will follow.

## **Safeguarding Report - Andrea Kirkby - Safeguarding Co-Ordinator**

Throughout the year I have been carrying out various DBS checks, either for new volunteers, of which we have had many, or a five year re-check.

I attended the online annual Safeguarding Conference in January. One area for discussion was online Church and how this would continue once we can physically attend Church again. They also went through all the current and new procedures, including a few “do’s and don’ts” with Live Streaming.

The Diocese are now offering all training online. There are three training courses offered a Basic and a Foundation, which can be accessed at any time and a Leadership course, which is run via Zoom. Rachel and I have gone through those volunteers that need to complete these training courses and agreed which level of training is required. I am currently in the process of ensuring that everyone completes the appropriate level of training to keep us in line with the Diocese’s requirements. However, online training is not for everyone; some have struggled with accessing the course. Once we are able to meet in person I will run the Basic and Foundation courses in the Church. I recently did the online Leadership course as my last training was over three years ago and needed renewing. I was pleased to see that we already carry out the procedures that the Diocese require us to follow.

Caroline Davis has very kindly offered to be our Domestic Abuse Listener. Our website and posters etc have been updated to include this.

I am currently in the process of writing Guidance notes/Operation manual for the Community Cupboard with the help of Ali MacKey, following several minor issues that have been raised.

## **Worship - Revd Rachel**

Often we use worship to mean singing. Sometimes we expand this to all of gathering in a service. In fact, our whole lives count as a worship offering. We are to glorify God in all of who we are and all we do. At the Holy Communion service I use the words: ‘we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you’ which reminds us how holy God is. We also remind ourselves that we worship God ‘in all times and in all places.’ This is our calling every day and each year. I have a long list of highlights but an edited version include every time someone has stepped out of their comfort zone to participate in and help to enable worship (whether that’s logging on to Zoom for the first time, or leading up front), Holy Week, Easter Day, hearing the choir and band, Angela’s testimony on the role of music in lockdown worship, a gathering of praise on line when we heard good news about Ariana and wanted to praise God together. I could continue! I commend you for the ways you have been faithful in worship during a testing period.

## **The 8am service - Anthony Farnfield**

The 8 am service at St Mary's takes place every Sunday morning.

We have moved from sitting in the choir stalls to sitting in the main body of the church but the service retains its intimacy.

This is a quiet, reflective communion service lasting some 40 minutes based on the Book of Common Prayer, together with a short homily from the Minister. If you would like to join us you would be one of about 15 to 20 worshippers on average and you will receive a gentle but warm welcome.

## **The 10:45 service - Wes Hinsley**

The 10:45 service at St. Mary's is probably our noisiest meeting, with Sunday clubs, sometimes the full band, sometimes breakfast, usually cake and biscuits, prayer ministry, and lots of hugs and talking together. It has been hard for us to miss all of this for so long, but we have been on a journey trying out different approaches to do whatever we can.

Before Summer, we were producing pre-recorded services each week, which were creative and exciting, with lots of faces, young and old appearing each week. These continue to gather more views on YouTube! Along with needing quite a lot of preparation work, perhaps the other thing we started to notice, was that they didn't feel as live as we really wanted them to feel; YouTube chat while the service played, and sending each other a peace message by phone started to feel insufficient for how we wanted and needed to feel "together."

From September through to December, with the help and commitment of an amazing growing technical crew, we streamed the 10:45 service live from St. Mary's on YouTube, with a skeleton socially distant crew, and people joining in with the YouTube chat. For us in the church, it was good to fill the room with lights, with a message, the Bible being read, someone praying, and the band praising, and for people to join in from home, or watch later in the day. Yet that also felt somewhat incomplete. Fewer people could be actively involved, and those at home may have felt a little disconnected from the singing and speaking into a largely empty church which would normally be our home.

In New Year, following in the footsteps of the daily 10:00 prayer meetings, and the fortnightly 5:00 service, the 10:45 took the plunge onto Zoom. This is the approach which, for now, we have settled into. Like all our efforts, it is imperfect; we suffer from occasional internet blips, and while we can praise together at the same time, it is sad that we have to be muted while we sing (otherwise chaos quickly ensues!). We can see each other's faces – many faces! – and talk to each other live. We've once again heard different voices praying and reading scripture, and again, a growing team of wonderful servants has kept the technical and administrative things running. And just recently for Easter Sunday, the band gathered in a garden to make a louder celebratory sound fitting to celebrate a glorious Resurrection.

Please would you join in praying for us?

- That we'd have God's wisdom about when, and how best to meet in church again
- For the health and wellbeing of our congregation through these times, especially for people who may feel cautious or vulnerable about being in a crowd again. We do

not want anyone to feel abandoned or forgotten as we begin meeting together again.

- For all our teams – kids' clubs, prayer ministry, musicians, and technical team – that we'll have wisdom, and faith that God will do great things with us!
- Pray about whether you might like to be part of one of these teams, if you aren't already!

### **The 5 o'clock Service - Wendy Loy**

The '5 o'clock' is an informal meeting with an extended time of worship through music, followed by an open discussion based on a bible passage. The format is less structured than the morning services giving more space for testimony and prayer. The meeting moved from being once a month in church, to twice a month on Zoom during the first lockdown in Spring 2020. At this time, the music is led by Wes on guitar, without the support of more band members. Participants are allowed to sing in their own homes, but while on mute on Zoom.

Regular participants of the 5 o'clock value the time, space, and freedom to encounter God through his Holy Spirit. It is a warm fellowship which encourages and supports one another, while remaining open and welcome to new people. In the last 6 months, we have seen new people stepping up to teach, share and pray.

As we move into a transition period, we pray for guidance on how to return to worship together in person, with singing and a larger band. At the same time, we seek to maintain the informality and openness in sharing and praying. We have a vision of a banner lifted high above Goudhurst, proclaiming Jesus as Lord. We pray that by his Holy Spirit, God will continue to meet with us during the 5 o'clock and draw in new people to know God in a new way or for the first time.

### **Sung worship - Wes Hinsley**

"I will sing to the Lord, for He has been good to me", is written by David in Psalm 13:6, yet it follows deep yearning questions of "How long Lord?" about David's sorrows and trials. I'm sure many of us have had some questions a bit like that recently. But like David, we have continued to sing to God with trust and praise, just in different ways, from our homes, and in videos! Singing to the Lord is one of the things to keep us focussed on who God is, which has been vital in these uncertain times.

For the band, the months before Summer were busy videoing and assembling new recorded songs each week for pre-recorded meetings. Through Autumn, we met a few times in church to play together and be streamed to the world on YouTube! It was great to be together, and yet so strange to be in church without our congregation able to be there with us.

Through December, as another lockdown began, we recorded songs for Christmas, and were delighted some of the choir could join us. Particularly, I remember the richness of choir voices singing "O come let us adore Him" blending with the band in "Light of the world" as a vivid and moving reminder of the unity we have in praising together.

Revd. Rachel's ordination in early January also provided another such moment, where David and the Kilndown choir, and the St. Mary's band contributed recordings both separately, and combining together, to fill the evening with praise, as much as we could in these times.

Since then, we have enjoyed singing together on Zoom – limited by having to be muted, yet still feeling and knowing we are all singing the same things together, from our homes. The Holy Week leading to Easter was also rich with daily meetings and devotions, including some new and beautiful recordings, and ending with a first attempt to play as a band over Zoom from a garden for Easter Sunday morning.

We really hope that the different videos, recordings, and attempts to sing over Zoom have been helpful and inspiring, and enabled us to sing together even while apart. And we would love you to pray for us too!

- That we'll *all* be able to sing praise together – safely, and soon!
- Pray for God's blessing and inspiration among our creative people; for music and songs to be written, found, or remembered, that will help us to worship God in these times.
- Pray for our teams to grow in confidence, in skill, in sensitivity to the Holy Spirit in all we do.
- Pray for more people to join us too – and pray about whether you'd like to be part of us. You would be very welcome!

### **Preaching - Revd Rachel**

We are a church family who love the bible and we have more to learn as we delve into it together. It is where we learn who God is and then become more confident in articulating that in our every day lives. We have been blessed to have a range of preachers sharing their insights on scripture and how it might be applied. I am especially thankful for those who have preached and been willing to do so on line. It's a responsibility and honour to preach. Please know I am always open to feedback.

### **Weald School of Theology - Kat Ogden**

The Weald School of Theology has taken the form of groups meeting in St Mary's on a regular weekday evening for a term at a time to watch high-quality streamed lectures delivered from the St Paul's Theological Centre, based at St Mellitus in London. The lectures are based on a different theme each term, for example 'The World of The Old Testament' and the streamed lectures are followed by a time of discussion with the evening ending with Compline. An average of 20 people from across the Deanery and beyond have attended the School of Theology each term.

The last School of Theology term was held in autumn 2019. There were plans to work closely with Rev. David Commander to deliver a course in 2020 in Benenden and to continue to grow the offering, however this has been on hold due to Covid.

We ask for your prayers for wisdom in when is the right time to resume offering this resource across the Deanery.

## **10:00 Zoom prayers and Bible Study - Becky Addis**

Our 10:00 Zoom prayer and Bible Study continues to flourish with 20-30 people continuing to log on each day, Monday to Saturday to pray together, catch up with one another, listen to God's word and then discuss what God might be calling us to do. This new ministry, which sprung up at the start of the first lockdown, has become so important to those involved, whether they join once a week or six times a week – a new community has emerged and evolved, and God has created new, supportive friendships which cross over both churches and the various services.

I am so thankful to those in the 10:00 community who have been attentive to God's call to step out courageously in faith and be part of this ministry – whether that is in a leadership role leading the prayers and bible study, or simply turning up, day in, day out, to pray for the world, for the community and for each other. We have seen God answering our prayers, and that has been so exciting – I can't wait to see what God has planned going forward. We would love people to feel able to join us – the link is on the home page of the GK Church website – we'll see you there at 10:00!

## **Small Groups - Martin Loy - Small Group Co-ordinator**

Small Groups are a wonderful opportunity for members of GK Church to develop closer and stronger bonds with a small number of people from within the larger church. Small Groups meet in a variety of settings: to enjoy fellowship, learn from the Bible and each other, and support one another practically and in prayer. There is a real richness and diversity in the existing groups and an appetite from many others in the church to be involved in a group. We have a strong core of current leaders, with many others keen to step up and take on leadership of groups too.

Despite the ongoing challenges of Covid restrictions some groups have continued to meet online. Some groups have largely been 'on hold', or meeting very intermittently, whilst other groups have come to a natural end, or their composition is about to change due to leaders or members moving on. The benefit of being part of a small group has been highlighted in recent months and so a number of new people have expressed an interest in joining a group.

This is an exciting time of growth and an opportunity to enable this key area of church life to thrive even more. I have recently taken on the coordination of Small Groups and (working alongside Revd Rachel and possibly one other) am looking to enable this ministry to strengthen, develop and deepen.

We pray for ongoing wisdom as some groups are reorganised and augmented with new members and for good decisions to be made when seeking to create the best blend of people in each group. We desire that each Small Group can be a vibrant expression of fellowship, discipleship and spiritual growth that can make a direct impact in the lives of each member.

Please contact me if you wish to be involved - [martin.loy@gkchurch.org](mailto:martin.loy@gkchurch.org)

Please pray that the right person would be drawn to serve alongside me as a fellow Small group Co-ordinator.

### **Prayer Ministry - Claire Cooke**

In these times prayer has been vital part of our church and has continued to be online. In these current times the prayers continue on Zoom during the week and Saturday morning, where prayers, support and encouragement for each other gives assurance of Jesus love and compassion during these times.

Our emergency prayer chain continues to be a life line for those who need immediate prayer - and we have been blessed and encouraged with healings in Jesus' name. We are now proficient in praying for those in need and each other online, anytime, anywhere over the internet, tablet or mobile - there are no boundaries and this reminds me Matthew 8 v 5 and the faith of the Roman officer. It demonstrated that we do not need to be physically present to experience our Father's love, grace and healing - but we look forward to when we can meet together to pray.

Please do contact us if you need prayer and pray for all our community to know that they can come to our church for prayer, and to grow in the knowledge that Jesus listens. We pray for more strength and courage for our community to seek His name in prayer, so that all can experience His love at this time.

### **Alpha - Caroline Davis**

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith, giving guests the opportunity to ask questions and share their point of view.

Due to the pandemic, we have been unable to run Alpha in person since our last course ended in March 2020. Ever resourceful, HTB have come up with an online version of Alpha and they have new morning and evening courses starting on April 21st. More information is available at [www.htb.org/alpha](http://www.htb.org/alpha).

We hope to resume running Alpha courses once the restrictions on meeting together have lifted.

### **Ministry with children and young people - Caroline Turvey**

The Church is a diverse body of people both young and old. Whilst honouring everyone, at GK Church, we also want to make sure the children and young people who belong to this body are brought into relationship with the living Christ as we are. We do this through the work in our Sunday groups, in our homes and with the local schools.

- What's gone well?

The connection with the school has continued through online outreach in collective worships and special services at crucial times in the church calendar. This has been fun

and important for the children to know God's love for them wherever they have been during Covid.

Our GKCK videos have been written, filmed and edited by a small, committed group from GK Church. The Gospel has been shared each week and for those who join from their homes, these have been so important to maintain that sense of belonging to the church family.

Blend has continued online for the children who really need that connection. We have prayed each week for them at the end of the session which is a positive step forward in faith for them as the majority do not attend church at any other time.

- What's been learnt?

God loves us the same even though we're not physically in the same building. It's not been easy, but for those families for whom Christ is central to their lives, what has been provided has been a life-line. There have been some initiatives to connect with children and young people, but where online and physical gatherings haven't happened, the church community have prayed for them on a regular basis in all gatherings – home groups etc, and specifically at the 10 o'clock zoom prayer.

The older youth want to be a part of what goes on. There are ways for them to be involved and they are valid participants in all that goes on in and around church. God has been using our young people to lead our worship and support the much older, less tech savvy of us to get through a difficult season.

- Where is God at work?

We have been challenged as a church to think differently as church. Where we haven't been able to do all we want to, we have seen families really sharing Jesus more intentionally at home with their children. This has been something that has been in the forefront of the leadership for some time now; for Christ to be central to family life as this is the place where children spend most of their time. God is at work in our homes.

How can the church pray for what's ahead?

- For parents to dig deeper into their own faith to have the confidence to be the missionaries to their own children and grandchildren in their own homes. For the children and young people's leaders as they support the families in this work, both in our Sunday Groups and with suitable materials to use at home.
- For the whole church to find God's call on their lives for the children and young people. How can each person at GK Church enable each child to flourish in faith as they grow and mature? Whether it be through helping on a Sunday or regularly praying, to truly seek God in this.
- For our young people to find their place in the body of Christ. To use their gifts for the building up of all God's people at GK church.
- For all ministries to flourish – for Blend as they return to the church building, that the leaders will continue to share God's love and light with the young people. For school children to know they are loved through the ministry we continue with there.

## **The Weald Family Hub - Louise Vickerman**

The Weald Family Hub was established to ensure that mental health support for children, young people and their families is accessible, affordable, and readily available in the village communities of the Weald.

Founded by St Mary's Church, Goudhurst in 2018, the Weald Churches have come together to provide subsidised professional mental health counselling for Primary School children and family support for those that are struggling in partnership with local children's charity Fegans. The Hub also provides mentoring support for local primary and secondary school pupils.

As schools re-opened in Autumn 2020 our work began again in earnest in all thirteen of our participating schools. It saw us offering catch-up counselling sessions to seven schools where we were unable to offer sessions due to the Pandemic. With sessions also beginning for the remaining six schools for the new academic year.

Our Parents Supporting Parents co-ordinator, Katie Davis-Clifford, also hit the ground running, working with her team of volunteers continuing to support several local families, some in adapted support sessions run on Zoom.

Mentoring support, run by our co-ordinator Bridget Stewart, will resume at the High Weald Academy with an initial team of six mentors supporting twelve students.

Since it began over three years ago, the Weald Family Hub has supported more than a hundred children with professional mental health counselling in thirteen local Primary Schools, each receiving eighteen weeks of support. It has supported twenty-two families through its Parents Supporting Parents program and eight students through its mentoring scheme.

Dramatic changes in education and home life during the Pandemic have exacerbated the mental health challenges faced by children, young people and families. It was a comfort to know that we were able to start sessions in all our Hub schools as soon as they re-opened and we are very thankful for our strong, continued partnership with Fegans in making this happen.

Looking to the future, experts agree that underlying mental health problems will remain significantly higher because of the pandemic and the need for support is, and will continue to be, greater than we have ever seen before. It is also documented that children's mental health services in England are unable to meet demand with capacity far less than needed to cope with the impact of the Pandemic. For the coming year and beyond the work of the Hub will continue to be critical so that together we can help build mental health resilience and hope in our village communities.

Please keep in your thoughts all those who are suffering with issues of mental health and that our work can continue to support as many of them as possible at a time when they need it most, in particular the children, young people and families in our communities; please also give thanks for the expertise, skills and time given by so many people in support of our work, the team at Fegans, our volunteers and volunteer co-ordinators and to those who have financially supported our work ensuring we realise our vision to transform the lives of children, young people and families in the Weald.

## **Café Toddlers - Kat Odgen**

Café Toddlers is a wonderful community of parents, carers and their preschool children enjoying coffee, cake, chatter and craft within the Church on Friday mornings. For many of these people it is the only time they come to church and it is wonderful to see the little ones filling and enjoying the space. It was with great sadness that the pandemic forced the group to close in spring 2020.

Government guidance allows for parent and child groups to reopen indoors from mid-April, provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons (not counting children under 5) and as I write we are awaiting Church of England guidance on how to reopen safely.

From my own experience of having a baby during the pandemic, I am aware from comparing her behaviour to her older sisters' that she has really missed out on the benefits of socialisation that Café Toddlers and other groups provide. And so I really recognise the importance of opening this groups up again for both parents and their children.

Henrietta Mayhew has run (and grown) Café Toddlers brilliantly over the past ten years and we are so grateful to her and the rest of the amazing Café Todds team for this wonderful and joy-filled ministry. We cannot wait to fling the doors open once more (even if a booking system does have to be in place to begin with). We ask for your prayers that we are able to safely reopen soon and that when we do we are able to particularly reach out to those children and families within the village and surrounding areas who have been left isolated by the pandemic.

## **Goudhurst Primary School - Lindsay Roberts - Executive Headteacher**

*What has gone well?*

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, we were delighted to be able to welcome all our pupils back and once again we were reunited as a School Community. Indeed, it was so good to see the children's smiling faces and hear their voices and laughter fill the classrooms, corridors and playground once more. The children seemed to settle very quickly and it was a joy to see them working alongside their friends, sharing their energy and enthusiasm and to be able once again to, "learn at school."

Over the summer we had worked really hard, putting in place all the necessary measures to ensure that everyone would be able to stay safe over the coming months. The children were grouped into class 'bubbles' for all their lessons; we staggered drop-off and pick-ups, breaks and lunch-times and we limited the number of external visitors to the school. We were determined to continue with school life as much as possible albeit we had to be creative holding virtual parents' evenings, staff meetings, and creating a wonderful video of our end of term Nativity! We were delighted and very grateful that Caroline was able to deliver weekly Collective Worship either as a video or through zoom and sometimes from the comfort of my office! The children were able to enjoy their Christmas lunch, including a socially distanced visit from Father Christmas! The highlight of the term however, was that all the children were able to visit St. Mary's during the last week of the term and took part in a very special Christmas service – thank you again Caroline. Certainly, for us despite the national restrictions, the Autumn term seemed to go smoothly.

Unfortunately, following the government's announcement on the 30th December, all schools in Kent were then directed to close for everyone other than those children classed as 'vulnerable' or children of 'critical workers,' in order to help contain the community transmission of coronavirus. Little did we know then, that whilst we had planned for a two week closure, on 6th January 2021, we would suddenly find ourselves propelled into yet another national lockdown and 'weeks' of remote learning!

### *What have we learnt?*

Having spent all of New Year's Eve day planning for this scenario, my team and I were confident that everything was in place for as long as would be necessary. This time round, the provision offered online had increased considerably, with a wide range of media available to support lessons and alternative ways for children to share their learning with their teacher and teaching assistants. Whilst we had made the right decision not to live teach whole classes, we looked forward over forthcoming weeks to activate small live catch up groups and we invited specific children to join these sessions if they needed extra support. At school in our critical worker bubbles our Teaching Assistants utilized our recently arrived Chromebooks to access the same learning as their classmates. We also reached out to a lot of families at home and offered laptops to those that needed it. We felt blessed that Reverend Rachel had finally arrived at St. Mary's and we are looking forward to the day we can welcome her properly into school and resume face to face Collective Worship.

Thankfully, the 8<sup>th</sup> March marked the end of our second school closure and hopefully the last! As I am writing this I cannot believe that we have reached the end of yet another busy albeit unusual term. Although we have only been back in school for three weeks, it has been fantastic to see the children really getting back into their stride with their learning. I am delighted to report that the children have enjoyed a variety of activities already; our reception children learnt all about First Aid; Year 1, 3 and 5 were propelled back through the ages learning about 'toys,' 'Kings and Queens,' and the 'Vikings.' Year 2 enjoyed looking after baby chicks and learnt all about new life-perfect for the lead up to our Easter Celebrations! Year 4 were able to experience our Forest School and Year 6 have been fascinated by their topic on Coasts, Rivers and Mountains! As lockdown restrictions continue to ease, they are even hoping that their normal end of term activities will also be able to resume!

### *Where is God Moving?*

Indeed, it was wonderful to end the term altogether watching the Easter Service specially prepared by Reverend Rachel, Caroline and the team – thank you to everyone who was involved, it truly lifted our spirits. We are of course sorry to be saying goodbye to Caroline Turvey after the Easter break but we wish her lots of luck in the next phase of her journey to becoming a Vicar- she has touched our lives in many ways with her love, passion, energy and enthusiasm and she will be sorely missed.

There is no doubt, the feeling around school is very positive; it's lovely to hear the school alive and buzzing again. Everyone has slipped straight back into our now "normal" routines and safety measures and we are so proud of how the children have coped with the strange year that they have experienced so far. We are delighted that Reverend Rachel has joined our Board of Governors and will be a shining light in the future decisions of the Federation.

As we enter what I hope is the final chapter of the pandemic, I think it is fair to say that this has not been the year we expected or planned for. We faced challenges that could only have been imagined and coped with unprecedented levels of disruption and

uncertainty. Whilst many organisations have had to close their doors, schools have valiantly pushed on providing a refuge for vulnerable and keyworker children during the first and third lockdowns, developing remote learning opportunities and since September coping with rising levels of infections in the wider community, whilst trying to provide a safe learning environment in school. But we have taken comfort in the knowledge that God has supported and guided us through these uncharted waters.

Finally, I am very proud to say that despite all the challenges the pandemic has presented and continues to present, the staff, governors, children and parents have continued to show enormous determination, creativity and resilience and as a community we have become 'stronger together.'

### **Community Cupboard – Ali Mackey**

The purpose of the Community Cupboard is to offer short term or periodic food parcels for households finding themselves in financial difficulties whilst a solution to their financial problem is sought. We will also continue to support anyone needing longer term help. We regard the food parcels as a gift from the church and a demonstration of God's love and a tangible way in which we can share God's provision with the community.

Between October 2020 and April 2021, we have been supporting around 20-23 households and currently support around 16 households each week with a couple of additional households on a more ad hoc basis.

In the run up to Christmas we wrapped, packed and delivered 50 Christmas gift bags and also delivered Christmas food parcels to 24 households within our local community. This was only possible through the incredible generosity of our church congregation, the local communities in Goudhurst and Kilndown, Goudhurst Ready Call, Waitrose Paddock Wood, the Reverse Advent Calendar donations and the hard work and dedication of our wonderful team of volunteers.

We continue to receive generous financial donations from local community members which have been used to top up the contents of the Community Cupboard, purchase additional Christmas gifts and buy some extra Christmas treats. In addition, we were given 18 donations of £20 cash which the anonymous donor asked us to deliver with our Christmas donations to the households which we regularly support and were also chosen by Waitrose Paddock Wood as one of three recipients for their Give a Little Love Campaign and received a donation of £333. The Waitrose donation was used to help buy additional Christmas food items for our Christmas food bags. We also received an incredibly generous donation from The Ladham Foundation.

In addition to donations from those in our local community, we are also supported by financial donations from Ready Call and have received a number of generous financial donations which have enabled us to buy in fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, milk and cheese from Burgess Stores and the Quarry Centre to add to our food parcels. We also currently receive fresh food donations from Waitrose when available via the Fareshare initiative, fresh bread on a weekly basis from Cranbrook bakery and regular donations of freshly baked cakes and biscuits.

The Community Cupboard is shortly due to move to a new location within the church and we have used some of the money donated by The Ladham Foundation to purchase storage cupboards.

As we go through this time of change both in location and, as we gradually come out of Covid restrictions, we ask for prayers for those we support, for those who need support that they may be guided to contact us and for our volunteers who carry out mission on a weekly basis.

### **Lend with Care – Rosemary Southon**

Since the last report, the money invested by St. Mary's with various entrepreneurs around the world continues to support them with their work. Lend with Care have given these entrepreneurs some leeway in terms of the time frame for repayments due to the current circumstances. As well as the money already invested, we have a healthy amount of money to invest with other entrepreneurs when things start to open again, and we remain committed as a church to this wonderful organisation.

### **Connect - Ali Williams**

Frustrated by not being able to gather for our Connect lunches and teas, and the space they provided to chat with old friends and make new ones, the Connect ministry has looked to alternative ways to support each other during lock down in particular. Telephone calls and some doorstep visits where practical still take place, plus an increased use of the 'meal train', a wonderful system of providing meals to families or individuals who are going through a difficult patch, recovering from or suffering with illness or disability, or dealing with bereavement for instance.

Anyone can offer to cook and deliver a meal by a simple means of signing up. If you would like to be part of the meal train please do let me know.

As with any of our ministries that appear to be of a practical nature, they are so much more, and the opportunity to care for people, check they are ok, have a doorstep chat and share the love of Jesus through our actions and words is part of what we are called to do and be as His disciples.

Another practical way of serving in this era of 'zoom' has been to put anyone struggling with technical problems in touch with one or two others who have the know how to sort out technical issues. Some of you have helped and supported each other out directly in this way too. We also were able to provide someone with a computer so they could access our on line services, such a joy to know this was successful.

God is already moving in this ministry, we have seen this in the broader use of the meal train, and in more volunteers coming forward to be part of it, as well as the many other ways across our church we reach out to each other individually and corporately in practical and spiritual support. May there be much more of this to come.

I see the church as a whole as the 'Connect' team, thank you to everyone who is part of it.

### **Eco Church - Sam Davis**

EcoChurch is an environmental improvement programme designed by À Rocha, a leading Christian environmental protection agency; it provides a survey against which churches can benchmark themselves in four key areas - Teaching and Worship, Land and Buildings, Community and Global, and Lifestyle. The programme has bronze, silver and gold award

levels. While EcoChurch is a highly useful tool, we see it less as a mechanical improvement exercise but more as a platform for encouraging a better stewardship culture within the church.

St Mary's received a bronze award early in 2020, but given lockdown, we haven't been able to make a lot of progress towards our next goal of silver. That said, God has been working in us over this unusual period - many of us have been able to draw nearer to God's creation whether through taking local walks more or having time to witness bird life or how different plants emerge at different seasons which is arguably a far more profound connection than any award on a wall!

We have continued to provide a collection point in the church lobby for crisp packets (clearly a lockdown favourite!), batteries and printer cartridges. We have also used the opportunity of repairs to the church tower to install swift nesting boxes behind the louvres in the hope of helping numbers of these endangered birds to recover. The swift nesting season starts from May so we may be just in time for 2021 nesting but if not, then the boxes will serve for many years to come. Thanks to Ali for her crucial role in facilitating this, to Richard Hillier and especially to Dave Lodge and Joe Meyer for providing their skilled carpentry services and materials.

There is so much to pray for in this area it is difficult to know where to start! At a macro level, let's all be praying that God provides the wisdom, righteousness, political and personal will and technological solutions necessary to reverse the damage that has been done to His creation. Locally, let's pray for church members committed to creation care to step forward to offer time, talents and innovative ideas both at St Mary's and Christchurch.

### **Church Rooms - Brian Ferdinando**

Due to Covid lockdown the Room has been closed to our regular users apart from the Pre-School which has operated as and when allowed under the regulations.

Because of these unusual circumstance the PCC treasurer agreed to reduce the Pre-School rental charge to £1 per month for three months to help the School over this difficult period. Payments resumed normally in January. There has been no other income during this period but the Church Room ring fenced account remains healthy (needed for possible future roof repairs).

A Church Room cleaner is no longer employed, Pre-School staff carry out this task in order to comply with Covid regulations.

Benenden Heating carried out normal boiler maintenance recently. Their engineer's report drew attention to the oil tank not satisfying current Building Regulations, Control of Pollution and British Standards which would apply when fitting a new tank. I am unsure if these requirements apply retrospectively. I am trying to get a professional opinion on this issue and I will keep Ali up to date with my findings.

## **Property and Fabric - Ali Williams**

After a prolonged season with the church tower shrouded in scaffolding, we are delighted to say the work on the tower identified in the quinquennial report is finally coming to an end. It has been a long and sometimes frustrating period, but with the last few elements waiting for our architect to sign them off, we should soon be able to see the fruits of this labour and expense, albeit from ground level.

The major works included various areas of repointing and lead work, some stone replacement, a new timber cill and work stabilizing the louvres. The flag pole base also requires attention but that will wait for a few weeks until the weather is drier and more stable.

In addition to this, the eagle eyes of Richard Hillier and Don Sargeant noticed the clock required refurbishment, and keen to utilise the scaffolding whilst in place, they instigated the clock restoration and re-gilding. The cost of the work on the clock was £5,400 which the Friends of St Mary's paid for in its entirety.

This isn't the only contribution by The Friends of St Mary's however. They have also paid £15,000 towards the masonry works on the tower and underwritten the other non masonry items amounting to £3,400. We are so grateful to the Friends for these substantial contributions to the work on the tower, thank you. The total cost of the work associated with this phase of the quinquennial work is £48,000 – (all these figures are net of VAT). The balance has been paid for by the PCC.

On 18 March St Mary's PCC voted unanimously to press on with the remaining works on the rest of the church identified in the quinquennial report. The cost of this is around a further £60,000 and wonderfully the Friends have again partnered with us pledging a further £24,500 in this vital undertaking. Once the scaffold is erected the work will begin, probably towards the end of April.

I would like to thank Jo Alsop, one of our church family, who very generously offered to take on the role of 'Principal Designer', a necessity for works of this magnitude. Jo has undertaken the role without charging a fee and saved the PCC a significant amount of money, we are very grateful to Jo for this, she has also agreed to do the same for the rest of the works, thank you Jo.

Other news is that discussions are underway regarding the churchyard wall to find an agreeable way forward, for a repair that will hopefully minimise the possibility of further impact damage.

Goudhurst Parish Council are undertaking further tree management in the Victorian graveyard which includes severe pruning of some of the yew trees to help rejuvenate fresh growth and bring them back into a manageable size, and removing a self seeded tree growing out of a grave. They are also arranging the repair to the damaged stonework at the entrance to the Victorian graveyard. In addition they are planting two new cherry trees in St Mary's church yard to replace the two that had to be removed, and the yew trees in front of the west doors which are a lovely shape but increasing in stature will also have a haircut. We would like to thank Goudhurst Parish Council for the maintenance of the church yard and for working patiently with us, particularly where we have to obtain diocesan permissions and authorisations for all of these works.

## **Friends of St. Mary's Annual Report 2020 - Pam Stubbs**

2020 has been a difficult year for the Friends of St. Mary's. Together with other organisations and charities, our activities were severely curtailed by the restrictions imposed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

### *Events*

We held our AGM and quiz evening on February 29<sup>th</sup>. This was the last fundraising event we were able to hold, it was well supported and raised almost £2,000.

We were unable to hold any further events but in an attempt salvage something from Christmas we hosted a Virtual Christmas Fair on Face Book. Stall holders were offered the opportunity to sell their goods via this page with 10% of sales going to the Friends. Although the income was small compared with our Annual Fair in the Church, stall-holders were grateful for the opportunity, which we are sure will stand us in good stead when we hopefully hold our actual Fair in 2021. The Virtual Fair involved a great deal of hard work and perseverance, for which I and the committee owe a large debt of gratitude to Carol Buckland.

### *Culpepper*

Fortunately we were able to advance plans for the cleaning, renovation and stabilisation of the Culpepper figures. Having received a method statement from Valentine Walsh (conservator), we also needed to secure an environmental assessment to facilitate an application for grant assistance. We retained T C Associates who provided the report. In addition we needed a 'Church Open' sign to meet grant requirements, which was generously donated by Richard Hillier. Estimates for the remedial environmental work will be sought in 2021.

### *Quinquennial Inspection*

After some delay the scaffolding was erected in October and work began on Phase 1, the West Tower. We paid £15,000 towards the work to be done in Phase 1, as identified by the inspection. We also contributed to other works on the tower including repairs to the flag pole and repairing the clock amounting to £8,800. We have pledged £24,500 towards the remaining Quinquennial inspection work.

### *Calendars*

Following the success of the previous calendar (2019) we produced a second one also sponsored by Sargeant's Garage with a mixture of village scenes and wildlife photographs donated by Nigel Witham. The result was delightful and our thanks go to both Donald and Nigel for their support. Opportunities to sell the calendars were limited by lockdown 'lite' in November, followed by more stringent measures when we entered tier 4. Undeterred, a major sales drive, including turning part of the garage into a Friends shop, produced a very satisfactory result. Remarkable given the circumstances.

As we look forward to 2021 we hope we will be able to resume our fund-raising efforts, but much remains uncertain and we can only hope for the best.

## **Stewardship – Revd Rachel**

*We trust in God* who is provider. In turn, *God trusts us* to care well for our areas of responsibility, to share wealth, to grow as his children into his likeness: to be generous, to be hospitable, to steward resources of time, energy, money, gifts - well - for his glory.

In terms of where stewardship means stewarding financial gifts we start by recognising that all that we have comes from God: 'For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.' (1 Chronicles 29:14).

I believe God calls us to honour him with our first fruits, in other words experiencing freedom to spend most of my money on personal needs having honoured God by apportioning the first amount of it to Him. Linked to that, for me the concept of giving a tithe is helpful. Regular giving to the church, straight from my bank account means it's done and dealt with. The process of claiming Gift Aid is much simpler and traceable through direct bank giving, and is our preference.

There are also times when we are called to honour God with a freewill offering in addition to regular giving. For each of us, what God may nudge us to give regularly and in addition to that is between us and God. The amounts will vary between us, and potentially the percentage of our income given will vary at different times in our lives.

Jesus' teaching on the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4) highlights how God looks at the heart when it comes to financial giving. God asks us to give out of love to Him whatever the amount we are able to give.

As Vicar I very much choose *not* to know who has given what financially. The people who know these amounts are the Treasurers, the Gift Aid Officers and the Administrator.

## **Finance – Dave Lodge**

The full 2020 Accounts can be found as an appendix to this report. These have been independently reviewed.

2020 was a difficult year financially, due to many of the normal services and activities being adversely affected by the Covid pandemic: regular donations were significantly down and fund raising events cancelled. Costs were reviewed by the PCC and savings made where possible on non-essential items to partially offset this shortfall. Advantage was taken of the Government Furlough Scheme where relevant.

Restoration work on the Tower was finally approved and stone cutting started in late 2020, ongoing into 2021, to meet our commitments from the last Quinquennial Report. This is a significant £90,000 and The Friends of St Mary's are sharing the costs of this project.

This will mean that, unless we commit to significant additional giving as a congregation, our reserves will be completely spent by the end of 2021, a position that we have not been in for several years.

We are stepping out in faith to explore and develop a number of exciting new areas of church life to 'go deeper' and expand our reach on top of our regular activities (just look

at the many reports and areas of work included elsewhere in this APCM report!); we will need to increase our income to support this work. Are you able to help?

Please talk to Revd Rachel or Dave Lodge, our Treasurer, if you would like to discuss any aspect of our finances and donations. And 'Thank You' for all your ongoing giving.

### **Flower Arranging - Ali Williams**

At the end of 2020 we saw Angela Pakenham-Walsh step down from the oversight of the flower arranging team in St Mary's, and it is with deep gratitude we thank her for the many, many years she has dedicated to this ministry. As well as creating lots of the splendid displays in St Mary's herself often using blooms and foliage from her own garden, Angela could also be found throughout the week tending other arrangements and displays and prolonging the life and beauty of each of them. Angela is not putting her feet up though, she is now blessing Christ Church with her time, gifts and skills.

We still need to fill the post vacated by Angela, and seek someone willing to oversee the flower arranging at St Mary's so we can continue to have beautiful flowers arrangements in the church every week, which are noted and much admired by both regulars and visitors passing through. If you would like to oversee the flower rota at St Mary's, or would simply like to be part of the flower arranging team, even if you only want to do that once or twice a year, please contact Becky at the office, we would really love to hear from you.

Sadly, because we haven't had any services in church, there haven't been any flowers in church to appreciate for the first quarter, but it is with immense thanks to the team who created a most beautiful display throughout St Mary's for our Easter services in church – thank you. I would also like to thank Marian Sargeant who offered to help me spring clean the store cupboard where the flower arranging equipment is kept – she turned a chore into a fun afternoon for me!

### **Bell Ringing – Rosemary Southon**

Sadly, the bells have not been rung over the past few months due to the restrictions. However, we look forward to a time when we will be able to start ringing again.

### **Churches Together - David Denton**

The Churches Together committee has not been able to meet and no planned activities have taken place over the last year. As we move towards a time when meeting together becomes safer it is particularly important that we ensure that Churches Together does not become lost in all the inevitable changes.

Some years ago, as part of Songs of Praise, Mike Flood likened the two churches to the sides of a cross. For a long time they had been moving away from each other following the lower part of the arms of the cross. He felt then that then we had reached a point along the upper part of the arms where we were moving back towards each other. We pray that he was right and that we may continue to close that gap even further.

## **Weald Deanery - Kat Ogden**

The parishes within the Diocese are grouped into small geographical divisions known as Deaneries, each under the care of an Area Dean and governed by a Deanery Synod. Revd. Rodney Dreyer (Hawkhurst) is the Area Dean of the Weald Deanery and Kat Ogden and Sue Donkin are the representatives from St Mary's Church on the Deanery Synod.

The pandemic has of course brought unique challenges to all of the churches within the Deanery, not least the impact on church finances. However different churches are able to share how God has been at work bringing communities together in supportive initiatives such as food banks.

The Deanery has completed a first draft Deanery Plan, titled the Weald Wide Web that has been sent to Bishop Rose for review. This focusses on the areas of Witness, Work, Worship and Sustainability, looking at how we can work together to allow a flourishing, Jesus-centred ministry across the Deanery. The work on the Deanery Plan has helped us to recognise some of the challenges faced by our rural parishes; from the general trend of declining congregation numbers, to the question of how build an empowered and living church alongside issues such as rural poverty and mental health issues. We view the Deanery as a means to enable and facilitate our local churches to work together so that we can achieve things we could not do alone. We feel that it is by supporting one another that we are best able to serve our communities as Jesus intended.

Please pray for all of the church leadership teams across the Deanery as they face the challenges of re-opening churches and supporting their communities as the Covid restrictions are lifted.

## **Proceedings of the PCC - Barney Mayhew**

*What is the PCC and what does it do?*

PCC stands for Parochial Church Council. 'Parochial' simply means 'of the parish' so the PCC is the council of the church in this parish.

Essentially we are the governing body of St Mary's Church. We aim to help the church family to carry out its mission as well as possible.

In practice this means we:

- Meet about once a month, usually on a Thursday evening.
- Prayerfully debate and approve any major plans or initiatives.
- Oversee all aspects of the church's life, including worship, small groups, evangelism, finance, employment of staff, the church's buildings, links to other organisations, charitable giving, and special events. We delegate some of these topics to smaller groups who then make recommendations to the PCC.
- Are the charitable trustees for the church, with the legal responsibilities that that involves.

The Vicar and Churchwardens are automatically members, as are our representatives to the Deanery Synod. The rest are elected, though a limited number of further members can be co-opted during the year.

Since the last APCM a lot of our attention has been on enabling the church family to worship, grow in our faith, support each other and support the wider community especially during lockdown; welcoming Rachel and the whole Robertson family into the parish and into their new home; looking after our historic building and our finances; and envisioning how the church family can grow and flourish into the future.

The PCC's main formal roles are to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, and to co-operate with the vicar in "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". Minutes of PCC meetings are available for inspection by anyone whose name is on the church electoral roll.

The summary of the PCC's proceedings is that it oversaw the activities recorded in this book of reports.

*Who are the members of the PCC at the moment?*

Those who have served on the PCC or regularly attended PCC meetings since the last APCM in October 2020 are:

Ex-officio members:

- The Revd Rachel Robertson, Vicar (from January 2021)
- Simon Taurins, Church Warden
- Ali Williams, Church Warden
- Sue Donkin, Deanery Synod Representative

Attending PCC meetings by virtue of their roles:

- Becky Addis (Church Administrator and PCC Secretary)
- Caroline Turvey (Lay Minister)

Elected members (and the dates they were most recently elected):

- Claire Cooke (2020)
- Caroline Davis (2019)
- Wes Hinsley (2019)
- Catherine Lloyd (2019)
- Dave Lodge (Treasurer) (2020)
- Martin Loy (2020)
- Kat Ogden (also Deanery Synod Representative) (2019)
- Richard Vinton (2019)
- Gill Wallis-Hosken (2020)
- James Wickham (2019)
- Phil Wright (2020)

Co-opted member:

- Barney Mayhew (Vice-Chair)

#### *How new PCC members are elected*

Each year at the APCM, all those who are on the church electoral roll are entitled to take part in the election of candidates to any PCC seats that are available at that APCM.

To become a candidate for the PCC a person must:

- Be aged 16 or over
- Be a current communicant at St Mary's church (in other words they regularly worship at St Mary's church)
- Have been on the church electoral roll for at least the preceding six months (unless they are under 18 years of age at the date of the APCM)
- Have indicated that they are willing to serve on the PCC
- Be nominated, either before the meeting in writing or at the meeting, by two people who are on the church electoral roll for St Mary's.

The APCM then elects the candidates, holding a vote if there are more candidates than PCC seats available.

We encourage all church members to pray for the right people to come forward for election to the PCC (just as we pray for the right people to come forward for all other areas of the church's ministry). We also encourage a discernment process and dialogue between potential candidates and the leadership team well before the APCM.

Once elected, the term of office of a PCC member is three years. They can then stand for re-election in the normal way for a further period of three years, and so on. So at each APCM there may only be some PCC seats available because some of the three-year term of some PCC members may still have a year or two to run.

The PCC may also co-opt other PCC members during the course of the year: if so, those members' term of office lasts until the next APCM.

Note that the above is a selective summary of the rules – the full rules are set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020 which are available online.

#### *How PCC members are briefed and trained*

All PCC members are required to the Safeguarding Basic Awareness Module, which is an online course provided by the Diocese of Canterbury. Some PCC members are required to complete higher levels of safeguarding training, depending on the roles they fulfil.

All PCC members are provided at the start of each church year with a briefing document entitled 'PCC, Churchwardens, Vicar, Leadership Team – how does it all fit together?'

### *Statement of safeguarding compliance*

We are required by the rules to include this statement: The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

### *And finally*

We are very thankful to God for all his blessings, for the unity that he has given us, for the faith and love and service of so many, and for the hope that God provides throughout both good and difficult times.

### **Leadership Team - Revd Rachel**

In addition to the PCC there is a Leadership Team (also part of the PCC). This is: Revd Rachel, Simon Taurins, Ali Williams, Caroline Turvey, Becky Addis, Wes Hinsley, Dave Lodge. I love working with this gifted, wise, fun, loving team.

### **Report from the Church Office - Becky Addis**

This report is being typed from the 'Church Office' in my kitchen, which is where the Church Office has been since the start of lockdown. The office at The Vicarage is too small for any type of social distancing, so Caroline has been using the office, and I have been sitting here in my kitchen, using Zoom for meetings with my husband, children and dog wandering around in the background!

The ever-changing landscape of Covid-19 has proved challenging, but I am so thankful for the amazing team that I am blessed to work with – for their ability to discern what God is calling us to do to serve the church community, their ability to change plans at the last minute with no fuss or complaint, and so much more. I am also so thankful that God has called Revd. Rachel to lead us in this new season of our church life.

In terms of my workload, I continue to be involved with all the various administrative tasks around church life, including the preparation of the weekly GK Church news. I am also learning new skills with updating the website and finding new creative skills with the use of Canva (we use Canva to create all the images for the website and social media posts). No day is the same and I love that variety – one day I will be chatting to a bride to be, another day organising a baptism or a funeral; I might be asked to check a baptism in the register from many years ago, and over the last year I have ordered a lot of sanitiser – the job specification is very wide!

Thank you to everyone for supporting me in my role – I continue to love serving the church community and remain excited to see what God has planned for the next year.

## Administrative information

Bankers	CAF Bank 15 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ  Nat West Bank High Street Cranbrook Kent TN17 3EA
Independent Examiner	Mr J A Tapper FCA Mill Cottage Mill Lane Sissinghurst Kent TN17 2HX
Architects	Purcell 15 Bermondsey Square London SE1 3UN

## Thank yous

A huge thank-you to everyone for being part of the church family or has supported in any way. As part of this, thank you to everyone who has:

Prayed on the emergency prayer chain	Applied for a faculty
Cooked a meal via the Meal Train	Walked 10,000 steps a day in March to raise money for Easter Eggs for the Community Cupboard families
Gave up their time to record and edit the GKCK show	Donated a laptop either for a child to use when the schools were closed or for someone in the church family to access online church
Wrote a letter to someone during lockdown	Delivered the parish magazine
Opened or locked the church – and also sanitised everything at the same time	Tidied up in the church building or graveyard when they saw something needed doing
Delivered a Christmas card	Organised the installation of the CCTV system
Helped with the new sound desk	Designed our GK Church postcards
Hosted, read, prayed or led the bible study at 10:00 Zoom prayers	Printed our posters, flyers – all our printing!
Looked after the GK Church social media feed	Looked after the safeguarding of our church
Led a small group	Reached out to someone who was grieving
Helped with the Community Cupboard	Helped with our Mothering Sunday daffodils
Gave to the Community Cupboard	Prayed for our world, our country, our community and our church family
Was part of the Blend Team during lockdown	Ran Lend with Care
Fasted for Ariana	Looked after our Connect Clothing
Led our services, both in church and also on Zoom	Did something kind for someone in the church community without anyone knowing
Led us in singing via Zoom from his Shepherd's Hut (yes that's you Wes)	Helped someone with an IT issue that meant they could then access online church
Were part of the PCC, especially those who stepped up for the first time to serve in this way	Printed off the sermon every week and dropped it off with people unable to access online church
Preached, read, led intercessions at one of our in person or online Sunday services	Volunteered to be part of the vaccination team at Headcorn Aerodrome
Updated the website (and put up with Becky's constant requests for help with the website)	Looked after our beautiful church building by fixing something or making something
Looked after the church finances	Sang for one of our pre-recorded songs
Collected and banked donations and sorted out Gift Aid	Encouraged other young people to be part of the 10:45 Zoom church
Arranged flowers and made the church look beautiful	Stepped up to be Principal Designer for the restoration work identified in the Quinquennial
Led one of the pre-recorded Holy Week services – or helped edit one of the services	Looked after the flower beds and the churchyard

Went prayer walking around Goudhurst	Looked after the Church Rooms
Put together a beautiful window as part of our Advent Windows	Went for a walk with someone who really needed someone to talk to
Kept the conversation going about what it means to be an Eco Church	Shared their faith with someone, maybe for the first time
Made the Robertson Family feel so welcome when they arrived	Recycled the crisp packets and batteries
Cleaned the church, the brass and glass doors	Looked after the linen and changed the altar frontals
Grappled with the magnetic force of the noticeboards	Hoisted a flag
Sorted out the new sound system	Set up the church for Holy Communion
Spotlighted someone	Prayed and cared for your family
Rang the bells	Said 'yes' to helping out at the last minute

St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Goudhurst

Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

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## **2020 Effect of Covid Pandemic**

### **General Fund**

Overall, the General Fund showed a shortfall for the year of £18,208

Due to the Covid pandemic, the normal church services were adversely affected for much of 2020. Other activities were cancelled, including fund-raising events. As a result, regular income for the year was some £20,000 lower than expected. Costs were reviewed by the PCC and savings made where possible on non-essential items ,of some £5,000, to partially offset this shortfall. Additional costs, including provision of hand sanitiser etc was £466. The church audio-visual system was upgraded during the year, mainly to facilitate on-line services, amounting to £5,767. Advantage was taken of the Government Furlough Scheme in respect of the Organist's salary costs, giving a benefit of £1,492

### **Beacon Fund**

Advantage was taken of the Government Furlough Scheme in respect of the salary costs, amounting to £4,116

### **Weald Family Hub**

Advantage was taken of the Government Furlough Scheme in respect of the salary costs, amounting to £2,646

		2020	2019
GENERAL FUND Receipts and Payments Account	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Incoming Resources From Donors			
Planned Giving		91,631	101,379
Collections and other giving		3,875	10,106
Call Flow - Masts on St Mary's Tower	1	2,044	2,014
Income Tax recovered	2	<u>20,282</u>	<u>27,085</u>
		117,832	140,583
Other Voluntary Income			
Restricted Donations & Legacies	3	3,710	12,638
Unrestricted Donations & Legacies	4	<u>2,500</u>	<u>6,500</u>
		6,210	19,138
Income From Investments			
Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	5	<u>315</u>	<u>364</u>
		315	364
Income from Operating Activities			
Sales of Parish Magazine		2,649	3,281
Magazine Advertisement Fees		4,278	3,696
Café Toddlers - donations / tea money etc.		-	204
Fees from Weddings and Funerals etc.		3,619	8,380
Connect Clothing		932	1,044
Other Connect Projects		-	348
Fund Raising		<u>772</u>	<u>2,004</u>
		12,250	18,957
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b><u>136,606</u></b>	<b><u>179,042</u></b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Grants & Donations			
Contribution to Weald Family Hub		6,000	6,000
Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	6	<u>5,872</u>	<u>14,543</u>
		11,872	20,543
Activities relating to the Work of the Church			
Diocesan and Deanery Parish Share		72,918	71,206
Organ, Organist and Choir		3,120	5,812
Service Consumables		949	2,925
Weddings & Funerals (including Diocesan share)		2,566	4,579
Clergy Expenses		2,268	713
Alpha, Small Groups etc		2,306	4,020
Sunday Clubs and Childrens/Youth work		2,053	3,014
Magazine Printing		<u>2,134</u>	<u>4,682</u>
		88,315	96,951
Church Running and Fabric Expenses			
Heating & Utilities		5,287	6,640
Insurance		7,703	7,667
Church Cleaning & Supplies		4,662	5,411
Covid related costs	7	466	-
Repairs and Maintenance	8	5,891	9,490
Enhancements	9	<u>5,767</u>	<u>3,873</u>
		29,776	33,082
Church Management and Administration			
Church Office, Printing Stationery, Telephone etc.		24,208	21,366
IT and Social Media costs		642	349
GK Church Branding		<u>-</u>	<u>3,000</u>
		24,850	24,715
Costs of Operating Voluntary Income			
Fund Raising Events		<u>-</u>	<u>30</u>
		-	30
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>154,814</u></b>	<b><u>175,320</u></b>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>(18,208)</u></b>	<b><u>3,722</u></b>
General Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>73,099</u>	<u>69,377</u>
<b>General Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>54,892</u></b>	<b><u>73,099</u></b>

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
COMMUNITY CUPBOARD	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Donations received	8,586	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>8,586</u>	<u>-</u>
PAYMENTS		
Cost of produce purchased	<u>5,229</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>5,229</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>3,357</b>	<b>-</b>
Projects Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Projects Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>3,357</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>

This fund is being ring-fenced for the Community Cupboard - there are a number of regular and one-off donors

In 2020, as part of the church's response to the Corona virus pandemic, the Community Cupboard was rapidly expanded and deployed to help a number of local families with provision of basic food items. This has continued during the year and is still expanding it's reach. A loyal group of helpers collect, purchase and deliver food on a weekly basis. It is becoming very well know in the locality. The PCC are considering how best to maintain and potentially expand this work in the coming months

St Mary's Church PCC Goudhurst  
 Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
BEACON FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Lay Family Worker Donations	3,079	7,735
Blend - Grant from Canterbury Diocese	-	1,665
Blend Donations received	<u>135</u>	<u>163</u>
	3,214	9,563
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><b>3,214</b></u>	<u><b>9,563</b></u>
PAYMENTS		
Lay Minister Costs (including expenses)	16,665	26,358
Less: Job Retention Scheme receipts	(4,116)	
Support Costs - temporary staff	-	800
Other Costs	<u>-</u>	<u>383</u>
	12,549	27,541
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><b>12,549</b></u>	<u><b>27,541</b></u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(9,335)</b>	<b>(17,977)</b>
Beacon Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>29,397</u>	<u>47,375</u>
<b>Beacon Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u><b>20,063</b></u>	<u><b>29,397</b></u>

The Beacon Fund is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2017 to fund and support the appointment of a Lay Minister to develop work with local children and young people.

	2020	2019
WEALD FAMILY HUB	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Donations received	17,584	41,148
St Mary's Goudhurst Contribution	6,000	6,000
Contributions from other Churches	-	900
Contributions from local Schools	-	2,430
	<u>23,584</u>	<u>50,478</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><b>23,584</b></u>	<u><b>50,478</b></u>
PAYMENTS		
Fegans Costs	31,060	12,720
Coordinator Salary and Expenses	10,557	9,126
Less: Job Retention Scheme receipts	(2,646)	
Counselling & Mentoring Course Costs	116	1,668
Other Expenses	3	288
	<u>39,091</u>	<u>23,802</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><b>39,091</b></u>	<u><b>23,802</b></u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) / EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>(15,506)</b>	<b>26,676</b>
Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>47,476</u>	<u>20,800</u>
<b>Weald Family Hub Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<u><b>31,970</b></u>	<u><b>47,476</b></u>

The Weald Family Hub was set up in 2018 to provide funding for Mental Health counselling in local schools and parent support, working through the Fegans charitable organisation. St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and a number of local schools

	2020	2019
PROJECTS FUND	<u>Notes</u>	
RECEIPTS		
Audio System Donations received	-	750
Christians Against Poverty Donations received	-	2,508
Church Wall Insurance Claim	30,000	
FOSM Contribution to Tower Works	15,000	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>45,000</u>	<u>3,258</u>
PAYMENTS		
Released to General Account	<u>-</u>	<u>1,750</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>-</u>	<u>1,750</u>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>1,508</b>
Projects Fund Balance at 1st January	<u>2,508</u>	<u>1,000</u>
<b>Projects Fund Balance at 31st December</b>	<b><u>47,508</u></b>	<b><u>2,508</u></b>

In 2019 donations were made at the service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury amounting to £2,508, to be used for local work with Christians Against Poverty, where currently there is no local provision. However, as at 31st December 2019, no such opportunities had been able to be developed. These donations are still held awaiting a decision on how best to use them.

In 2020 a settlement claim of £30,000 was reached regarding the repeated damage to the church wall. Work is ongoing to establish the most appropriate action to avoid further damage, for which this fund will be used. A donation of £15,000 was received from the Friends of St Mary's as part of the Tower repair works - this is carried forward against payment, expected to be made in early 2021.

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
CHURCH ROOM FUND (Designated Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Contributions to the use of Church Room		6,512	9,303
Income from Investments			
Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds	5	85	143
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b><u>6,597</u></b>	<b><u>9,445</u></b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Repairs and Maintenance		1,254	2,413
Insurance		858	746
Utilities		598	1,055
Cleaning		<u>1,058</u>	<u>1,020</u>
		<u>3,768</u>	<u>5,234</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>3,768</u></b>	<b><u>5,234</u></b>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>2,830</b>	<b>4,211</b>
Church Room Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>37,248</u>	<u>33,037</u>
<b>Church Room Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>40,077</u></b>	<b><u>37,248</u></b>

The Church Room Fund is a Designated Fund, held to ensure the ongoing maintainance and repair of the Church Rooms

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (Designated Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
RECEIPTS			
Restricted Donations		96	4,496
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>96</u>	<u>4,496</u>
PAYMENTS			
Discretionary Support	10	30	201
Danny Funeral Costs		-	4,400
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>30</u>	<u>4,601</u>
<b>EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>66</b>	<b>(105)</b>
Local Community Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>1,953</u>	<u>2,058</u>
<b>Local Community Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<b><u>2,019</u></b>	<b><u>1,953</u></b>

The Local Community Fund is a Designated Fund. Payments are made to individuals, based on specific needs by the Vicar and authorised through a small support team

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
SRI LANKA FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
GK Church donations		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Payments out	11	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		-	-
Sri Lanka Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>7,933</u>	<u>7,933</u>
<b>Sri Lanka Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<u><b>7,933</b></u>	<u><b>7,933</b></u>

The Sri Lanka Fund is a Restricted Fund, held to provide support for students of the Sri Lank Theological College whilst they are on placement in the UK, plus other specific needs, as decided and agreed with the College staff

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
MUSTARD SEED PROJECT FUND (Restricted Fund)	<u>Notes</u>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Donations received		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		-	-
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Mustard Seed Project Payments	12	350	500
Other Costs		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		350	500
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>350</u>	<u>500</u>
<b>(SHORTFALL) OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>(350)</b>	<b>(500)</b>
Mustard Seed Fund Balance at 1st January		<u>2,787</u>	<u>3,287</u>
<b>Mustard Seed Fund Balance at 31st December</b>		<u><b>2,437</b></u>	<u><b>2,787</b></u>

The Mustard Seed Project is a Restricted Fund. It was set up in 2016 to fund and support projects relating to local asylum seeking teenagers and young people.

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS</b>			
General Fund		(18,208)	3,722
Community Cupboard		3,357	-
Beacon Fund		(9,335)	(17,977)
Weald Family Hub	13	(15,506)	26,676
Projects Fund		45,000	1,508
Church Room Fund		2,830	4,211
Local Community Fund		66	(105)
Mustard Seed Project Fund	12	(350)	(500)
		<u>7,854</u>	<u>17,535</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF BALANCES</b>			
General Fund		54,892	73,099
Community Cupboard (Restricted)		3,357	-
Projects Fund (Restricted)		47,508	2,508
Beacon Fund (Restricted)		20,063	29,397
Weald Family Hub (Restricted)	13	31,970	47,476
Church Room Fund (Designated)		40,077	37,248
Local Community Fund (Designated)		2,019	1,953
Sri Lanka Fund (Restricted)	11	7,933	7,933
Mustard Seed Project Fund (Restricted)	12	2,437	2,787
		<u>210,255</u>	<u>202,401</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Bank Balances - NatWest		131,118	109,324
Bank Balances - CAF Bank		8,039	22,379
Bank Balances - CAF Bank Deposit Account		10,081	10,000
CCLA Deposit Account		59,648	59,395
CCLA Investment Account - cost	14	1,370	1,303
		<u>210,255</u>	<u>202,401</u>

The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis - no provision is made for items that do not fall within the year. There are no significant items that were outstanding at 31st December 2020 nor 2019

Note

- 1 CallFlow Charges are made to Callflow for the Licence Agreement relating to equipment on the Church Tower. The agreement has been terminated by Callflow in 2021
- 2 Income Tax recovered Income Tax is recovered on a monthly basis, through the Diocese.
- 3 Restricted Donations & Legacies These were mainly specific donations to be paid onto third party charities - see Note 6 below
- 4 Unrestricted Donations & Legacies Two donations were received during the year; none of these contained any restrictions on use
- 5 Income from CBF Deposits and Investment Funds Income represents deposit account interest and dividend income received during the year, It is allocated between the funds on the basis of the balances at 1st January

6	Local, UK and Overseas Mission Giving	The list of charities supported during the year is as follows:	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
			900	610
		Lisell Mukola Community School - Rose's Project	-	2,500
		Kent Search & Rescue (May We Say Thank You Project)	500	900
		Christians Against Poverty	500	900
		Fegans	500	900
		Goudhurst Scouts	500	900
		Lend With Care	500	900
		Maidstone Samaritans	500	900
		ReadyCall	500	900
		TearFund	500	900
		TearFund - Toilet Twinning	-	252
		Blackthorn Trust (including Lent Lunches collections)	-	342
		South American Mission - Student support	-	4,020
		Bibles for GK Primary School & Preschool leavers	451	489
		Eli Nelson - Donation for Nepal trip (funded by specific donation)	1,000	
		Other	<u>21</u>	<u>30</u>
		Total Payments	<u>5,872</u>	<u>14,543</u>

In addition, £350 was paid to Kent Kindness for specific projects related to local refugees (see the Mustard Seed Project Fund)

- 7 Covid Costs This includes the provision of hand sanitiser and a hand sanitiser station in the church
- 8 Repairs and Maintenance A number of items raised in the recent Quinquennial inspection were carried out during the year, including the following:

Architects Fees	3,525
Other	<u>885</u>
	<u>4,410</u>

In addition, £1,481 was incurred on window repairs, following vandalism - the insurance proceeds were received in 2019

- 9 Enhancements Updates to sound and video system (including on-line service provision) 5,767

- 10 Discretionary Support During the year £30 was paid to support specific needs within the Parish. These payments are made by the Vicar, and authorised through a small support team.
- 11 Sri Lanka Fund The Sri Lanka Link charity was closed in 2016. The balance of funds was transferred to St Mary's to be used for future funding of students from the college to the UK and for fieldwork training. No support payments were made in the period after the transfer of funds occurred
- 12 Mustard Seed Project Fund Donations from the Kings Singers concert in 2015, together with other donations are held in 'The Mustard Seed Fund' - this is used to fund and support projects to local asylum seeking teenagers and young people. Applications to the Fund are required to meet pre-set criteria and are assessed by a small team from the church. During 2020 £350 was paid out to support buying Christmas presents for a large cohort of new refugee teenagers.
- 13 Weald Family Hub Fund The Weald Family Hub (WFH) was set up in 2018 to provide support for young people and their families who are struggling with issues of mental health across the Wealden villages, working with the Fegans charitable organisation. St Mary's employs the coordinator on a 2 days per week basis and acts as a centre for support in partnership with other churches in the Deanery and local Primary schools. There are a number of regular donors to the Fund, together with donations from local fund raising events and charitable trusts. There has been an amazing ongoing response to the WFH and continued counselling successes, despite the impact of Corona virus shutdowns within the schools. St Mary's has committed to funding this for three years
- 14 CCLA Investment Account The market value of the CBF Investment Fund was as follows:
- |                       | 31-Dec<br><u>2020</u> | 31-Dec<br><u>2019</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Number of shares held | 119.32                | 115.86                |
| Value per share       | 2,012.35              | 1,916.91              |
| Market Value          | £2,401.14             | £2,220.93             |
- 15 Physical Assets The PCC is responsible for certain physical assets in St Mary's Church both fixed and movable which are not detailed in the financial statements, but are covered by insurance
- 16 Quinquennial Report The regular inspection was carried out in November 2017 and the report issued in January 2018. A number of urgent actions have already been attended to. The first stage of work on the tower stonework commenced in late 2020 and is due to be paid in early 2021. The Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) have paid £15,000 to assist the works - this is held in the Projects Fund at 31st December 2020. Further expenditure will continue to be met by a combination of General Account and donations from FOSM over the next couple of years

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's Goudhurst**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 12

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner**

The members of the PCC 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:

- a. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- b. Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- c. State whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records, It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- a. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - i) to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - ii) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- b. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

**Signed:**



**Dated: 29 March 2021**

Mr J A Tapper FCA  
Chartered Accountant  
Mill Cottage  
Mill Lane  
Sissinghurst  
Kent TN17 2HX

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