

St James & St Anne, Bermondsey ANNUAL REPORT 2021



St James & St Anne's, Bermondsey

Annual reports

for 2021

Vicar's Report

We began the year with the nation once again under Covid lockdown. Vaccinations had only just begun and the level of infections, hospitalisations and deaths was distressingly high.

On 8th January the Mayor of London declared a 'major incident' in the capital and places of worship were asked to close in order to limit the spread of infection. 85 per cent of churches in the Diocese, including the cathedral and St James and St Anne's heeded this call for the sake of the common good and out of love for our neighbours.

St James and St Anne's re-opened on the first Sunday of March, having been closed for eight weeks. Worship still remained under various restrictions: test and trace, social distancing, face masks and a ban on congregation singing. Most of these restrictions were relaxed on July 25th which led to the welcome return of congregational singing indoors. Previously – from Good Friday – outdoor singing had been permitted and this allowed us to have an outdoor service on the churchyard on Good Friday and also to have the final hymn on Easter Day outside both churches with full congregational participation. This proved such a good witness to the community that we continued this practice until the weather got colder in the autumn.

It was good to be able to resume Sunday school at St James on July 4th and Wednesday Night Church on 29th September.

From 19th May Bermondsey Daily Message became a weekly message and with much of life returning to normal our full online services ended on 5th September, to be replaced (from 20th September) by Sunday Catch-Up, which contains a shortened version of the sermon, and two songs and is distributed via Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp and Email each Monday.

During the year we have continued to develop our digital outreach with our Bermondsey Community videos, particularly designed to connect with the unchurched community, united benefice Facebook page and the God Loves Bermondsey Facebook Group which has grown from 140 members to 500 in the past year.

On 12th September we held a special 'Back to Church' open air service in the churchyard, followed by ice creams for all, and we had our largest in-person attendance since the start of the pandemic. It has been encouraging to see many people return to in-person worship during the year and also to see new people joining us.

During the year I continued to serve as Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Southwark, Area Dean of Bermondsey & Rotherhithe, IME tutor, the Diocesan Focal Lead for Estates Ministry, and the Chair of the CPAS patronage trusts.

Covid is still with us but there are encouraging signs of recovery and renewal in both church and nation and we go forward into another year trusting in the one 'who holds the future.'

Gary Jenkins (vicar)



Urban Missioner Report

It goes without saying that 2021 was another unusual year because of the pandemic.

We started the year with the churches not open for in person worship and many of our other activities having to stop as well. Our on-line services proved a lifeline for many but certainly not the same as being together. Bermondsey Daily Message continued on a three-day week basis for the first half of the year before going over to one day a week.

At the end of September, the weekly online service ended and was replaced with Sunday catch-up (an opportunity to catch up on the sermon and sing a song or hymn at home if you weren't able to be in church for some reason) Early in the year we held a Zoom 'Simply Christianity Course' which was a great success with a good number of people joining each week.

Wednesday night church had to go on line for a while but resumed in person later in the year. When the churches reopened for in-person worship we were still not able to sing but that resulted in an unexpected outreach opportunity. Following a very successful open-air service on Good Friday (outside singing was permitted) we began going outside to sing a last hymn. People passing by would stop and listen and sometimes join in.

Video specials continued with a celebration of marriage on Valentine's Day, Bermondsey Community Mother's Day, Special Community Easter Service and Bermondsey Proud and Thankful. All of these watched by a good number of people on line.

As the year went on it was encouraging to see things re starting and opening up opportunities for sharing the gospel. School assemblies resumed in person. Men's breakfast returned as did Bermondsey Brew, Wednesday night Church and RSG at St Anne's.



Filming for Bermondsey and Proud and Thankful

Thanks to Jacob and Rebecca the toddler group at St James started up again. It's now called Ready Steady Grow, the same as the one at St Anne's.

We were also able to trial a new venture for St James called 'Bible Story Club'. The format of a game, craft and bible story attracted a number of children that come along to Bermondsey Brew after school finishes.

Although it has been a tough year for many of us we do need to be thankful to God for all he has been doing and teaching us. Things may have been different but the good news of Jesus is still the same and an important message to proclaim from our churches here in Bermondsey.

Paul Warren

Curate's Report 2020

2021 was a year once again significantly affected by Covid and lockdowns. However, discipleship and mission has continued unabated. As well as leading and preaching on Sundays at St James, St Anne's and once at St Barnabas, Eltham, I have been involved with Bermondsey Weekly Message (which includes filming and editing the content); the online Sunday Services, which switched to the 'Sunday Catch-Up' in September 2021 and leadings services of Midday Prayer on Wednesdays.

Our online content also included a number of special Bermondsey Community videos for Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, Easter Sunday, and a celebration of Bermondsey called Bermondsey and Proud and Thankful. In total these specials have been viewed 3300 times which means they've been highly successful in making connections with local people who we don't see in church on Sundays. In addition, a standalone video of the interview with Danny from our Easter service has been watched 890 times. Video interviews about someone's life and faith may be an important form of digital outreach in the future.

During 2021 I conducted 5 funerals, 2 weddings and a number of baptisms. I created and ran a marriage preparation course for 5 couples in which we thought about 'What is Marriage?', 'Honesty and Repentance', 'Sex and Romance' and 'Prayer and Spiritual Life'. I also ran Baptism preparation evenings for parents and godparents of the children I baptised. I also ran a 4 part Admission to Communion course for 6 young people at St James.

In addition, Paul Warren and I co-led a Simply Christianity course. One participant has since been baptised and become a committed member of St Anne's.

During 2021 I also revamped the St James and St Anne's websites. The aim was to make them much more mobile friendly (so they work well on phones and tablets). I taught two terms of New Testament Greek to students at the Cornhill Training Course. I supervised our placement student Odel Rugema who is training for ministry in Uganda at All Nations College in Hertfordshire. He preached and prayed for us on video and came for an intensive weeklong placement the week before Christmas. I also served as a foundation governor of St James's Primary school and was on the Finance and Personnel sub-committee and was part of the RE group.

Towards the end of the year I helped set up Ready Steady Grow (see separate report) with my wife, Rebecca. I also began Bible Story Club

with Paul Warren for primary school children attending Bermondsey Brew.

It was a privilege to visit Andrew Garrahan and share with him in Holy Communion twice before Christmas.

In writing this report I have been reminded how many new contacts I made during the year and how many have since drifted away or gone off the radar. It is a constant challenge to keep in touch with all the people on the fringes of church life. It is imperative that members of the congregation make every effort to welcome new people and look out for them week by week so that they feel included and part of our family. This cannot be done by clergy alone.

In summary, this has been a fruitful year. Not everything can be mentioned in a report but much good has been done by the churches and we did not fail to make Christ known even during lockdowns and under restrictions. Much of what we've learned will set us in good stead for the future. But it will require the whole church to make local mission part of our collective vision for the future.

Jacob Mercer (curate)

Reader's Report - Adrian

In terms of my formal ministry, I preached three times at St. Anne's and St James and led 2 Sunday services at St James during the year. I also led services of Mid - day Prayer on Wednesdays at St James (as part of Open Church) and led one session in the Lent course of Holy Habits. This was a much reduced workload from previous years due, in part, I believe, to the decision to change the service times for both congregations so that the same person could preach the same sermon at both churches on the same day. I was also invited to lead at St Mary, Bermondsey Street in August and led and preached at St. Barnabas, Eltham in October 2021.

Away from the United Benefice, I continued to serve as Chair of the Trustees of Salmon Youth Centre (the 4th member of the Group Ministry),

on Bermondsey Deanery Synod (as Secretary and as a member of the Deanery Leadership Team) and as Lay Chair of Southwark Diocesan Synod. I continued as a member of General Synod and on Ministry Council and to administer the regular prayer meeting for 'Christians for Transformation in Bermondsey & Rotherhithe' (C4T). In 2021, I joined the Grosvenor Community Forum, an advisory body on community issues related to the redevelopment of the site of the Peek Freans Biscuit Factory.

In December 2021, I reached the statutory age of retirement from Licensed Ministry.

Adrian Greenwood

Reader's Report – Penny

The first week of 2021 began well, with preaching the Epiphany at both St Anne's and St James, and a chance to visit Sylvia Stevens in hospital, but we then went into another lockdown. We had to resume recording contributions for on-line services, Zoom sessions for meetings, prayer and Lent Groups, video assemblies for school, phone calls to keep in touch.

For several members of our congregation it was a difficult time. Grieving in a "socially distanced" way with individuals or families suffering a bereavement felt very inadequate. When Sylvia moved into a care home in Croydon, her cousin became the sole visitor permitted and communicating by phone was at times difficult. Luckily after a couple of months, a vacancy arose at Tower Bridge Care Home. For a while after she moved there I took over as her regular visitor (complete with Covid test each time in order to be allowed in), but gradually as restrictions eased a few members of the family and some church friends were able to visit her too. When she died peacefully in her sleep on 10th August, I was privileged to be able to help her cousin and nephews make sure her funeral was an occasion when we could all share our memories and affection for her, and fine

weather meant that we could continue our conversations outside in the fresh air.

In March I was asked to take over the role of Woolwich Area Warden of Readers, which has involved a number of meetings (almost always on Zoom, which has become a normal part of life now) with other Readers & Diocesan officers. The role is largely pastoral and administrative, particularly as Covid restrictions and caution have prevented us holding get-togethers in person, which my predecessor had been very good at organising to help Readers from across the Area share fellowship, ideas and mutual support.

I remain committed to Fair Trade but did not feel it appropriate to hold sales of produce in church even when we were able to serve refreshments for a while. However a few regular customers asked for favourite items now and then, and I was, as usual, able to take orders for Christmas cards. I have also grown increasingly concerned about environmental issues, and was able to explore that theme in midday services at both churches, as well as supporting Marian as she starts working towards achieving an EcoChurch award at St James.

Throughout the year we seemed to dip in and out of restrictions, sometimes being able to enjoy worshipping or meeting together, at others having to revert to Zoom, YouTube, or some "hybrid" version. I missed my pre-Covid weekly visits to St James School during term-time to hear children read, and Governors could not go into school for regular visits, but again we were able to have meetings and conduct the necessary business on-line, as well as encouraging and supporting the staff by email.

We were able to meet in church in December, and it was great to be involved with the extended "Women's Breakfast" at the beginning of Advent. It was also a great joy to preach at Midnight Communion at a "live" service on Christmas Eve. A happy end to another strange and unsettling year.

Penny Molyneux

St Anne's Fabric Report

Despite of the continuation of the Covid restriction in 2021, we welcomed St Anne's congregation with a smile, albeit hidden by our face masks. The doors to narthex remained open for ventilation and winter was particularly hard for those who greeted people; but with a warm coat and scarf we managed to keep people safe and sound. Alan would ring the church bell 10 minutes before the Sunday service and quickly walk into the relative warmth of the church.

St Anne's building continues to be a concern due to the amount of work needed and the lack of funds to pay for it. We did, however, have had few meetings in 2021 with a housing group as we continue to explore the possibility of developing part of the site. This will be a long and slow journey with many obstacles along the way. We will continue to seek the Lord's guidance and help as we move along in this process.

In May, Mavis and Graham had the annual Archdeacon's inspection after missing a year due to lockdown. It was to be Dr Jane Steen's last inspection as she is moving onto her new role as the Bishop of Lynn. On behalf of St Anne's, we not only congratulated her but wished her well in her new role and thanked her for the good work she did for our parish and diocese.

As other years she does appreciate the problems with the St Anne's building, but nevertheless, was pleased with the way St Anne's has continued to serve Bermondsey during the pandemic. In addition, Jane thanked us for having all the correct information to hand and in order.

We'd like to thank everyone who helps with all the little jobs that keep the church going. A thank you to those on the cleaning rota, those who serve and prepare refreshments and those who made the church look so good especially at Christmas time, along with the many other jobs that get done. We'd also like to praise the work of the assistant wardens, Debbie and Matthew for their continued and support help.

Mavis Shute and Graham Russell
Retiring wardens

St James Fabric Report

The Buildings Committee of the PCC met on 5 occasions during 2021. Matters dealt with and discussed include: Painting the West end doors and railings around the edge of the portico steps. Also at a later date, the east end doors were painted: this had been noted as an urgent matter in the Quinquennial inspection. Although they are mainly out of view, the paint was peeling and the woodwork would have started to suffer without the protection of paint.

The south gallery roof developed a leak in heavy rain during early 2021. A split in the lead was discovered and this was dealt with very quickly using contractors who had been working opposite the church.

Disabled access: estimates were obtained for installing an external wheelchair lift, but although this would be a cheaper option than building a permanent ramp, the decision has been made that the cost of ongoing service and repairs would be a disadvantage. Discussions continue about the best way to replace the existing temporary ramp structure.

Crypt: some work has been done to repair the metal grills that cover the gulley on the north side and an estimate obtained for covering the circular windows, to try to prevent vermin accessing the crypt. After a difficult time during the pandemic, our main user of the crypt, Renata Massaccesi, has been able to continue her business and has asked to rent additional space. Two more people have taken on space in the crypt, providing very welcome additional rental income.

The Fire Alarm system in the church has been upgraded and extended to include the North Aisle and Crypt. Although this was an expensive project, it seemed to be a responsible course of action to enable the building to be fully in use in all these areas.

The clock chime ceased to work following the repairs to the tower. Two sets of contractors were involved in its repair, giving conflicting information about how the issue should be resolved. This has been an expensive venture, and having already paid the invoices, it is hoped that one of the contractors will make a goodwill refund.

The person in charge of the work on the Hyde Housing development opposite discovered that he had links with St James Church as his grandparents had been married here. He has donated two beautiful copper lanterns (currently in the church office), previously sited at Bournemouth Station, for fixing on the lampstands at the front of the portico. An application has been made for a Faculty but various matters need to be clarified before we are allowed to install them.

The Friends of St James Churchyard were asked to look at possibilities for upgrading the Garden of Remembrance, which is poorly maintained and often used inappropriately, for example by people letting their dogs exercise there. This is an ongoing issue. Cleaner Greener Southwark agreed a grant to renew the floodlighting in the churchyard, and this has now been completed.



New floodlighting of St James tower

Dragonfly, the freeholder of the nursery space at 28 St James Road, notified us that the building had to be surveyed for combustible cladding. We still wait to hear whether there will be any additional charge passed on to leaseholders for dealing with this.

The proprietor of the German Kindergarten nursery has recently asked for a reduction in her rent, due to low take up of places. This is partly due to people losing their jobs or working from home during the pandemic but also because of additional charges made in recruiting German speaking staff, following BREXIT. The rent from the nursery is one of the main sources of income for St James, so a 20% reduction has been agreed for the year 2022, to enable her to run a profitable business and continue as the tenant.

The Buildings Group is aware of the need to manage the building in an environmentally friendly way. This involves matters such as using a green electricity supplier, recycling, using eco-friendly cleaning products, and in the long term, installing solar panels. The church has also enrolled in the Eco-church award scheme, to encourage everyone in the congregation to reduce their carbon footprint and become more aware of local and global climate issues. The Buildings Committee continue to hold discussions about a major re-ordering of the building so that the internal space can be developed for a variety of uses for the benefit of the congregation and members of the wider community.

There are many regular tasks for example clearing leaves from the gutters and removing pigeon droppings from the steps and ledges. Adrian has been faithfully undertaking these jobs for many years and it would be good if there were a few other volunteers who would take responsibility for doing some of these tasks. This will be my last report as Churchwarden as I have completed six years in the role. I set myself an aim of clearing and getting the crypt into regular use for people from the community, with rental income to support the building become more sustainable, and this aim is now beginning to be realised. I hope that my successor will

support Pat in taking on some of the many other challenges connected with the building.

Marian Greenwood Retiring Churchwarden
Pat O'Connor Churchwarden

Bermondsey Brew

Bermondsey Brew was started in February 2017 for several reasons: one was to have the building open and welcoming so that people who would not normally come to a church activity felt comfortable to enter the building. Another was to offer a friendly setting to people in the community who might be lonely and have few contacts. And the opportunity to 'gossip the gospel' has always been very important. We serve tea, coffee, cold drinks, home-made cakes and delicious flat bread. And we have an area of activities for families with small children and older ones on their way home from school. We meet in St James' on Mondays from 2-4.30pm.

As I write in early 2022, Bermondsey Brew has again had a year hit by change due to the pandemic. During January and February 2021 we continued to open only for adults and in the open air, although some days were just too cold or wet to expect people to sit out on the portico. I always tried to let people know in advance if we decided to cancel at short notice, but some people turned up and met each other in the churchyard anyway.

People continued to be thoughtful of each other once we were allowed back indoors, observing social distancing and staying seated to be served, but we felt unable to put out the table tennis table or allow moving around in the building too much. There has been a regular group of attenders mainly in the over 60 age group, although a number of the original group have not attended recently. Several members arrive early and are waiting in the churchyard when we open the doors, and one has also given us a photo of himself for the photo board as he considers himself to be a member of St James.

It seemed unwise to open up for families until September 2021, but once we did, many of the



familiar people returned. The older children in particular were very lively and it soon became apparent that we needed to provide some extra activities for them. On several weeks, Jacob and Paul ran a short Bible focused story and games activity in the second part of the afternoon, and often had a group of up to 20 children. This was not always easy to manage with families arriving and leaving at different times. It's difficult to know what to provide when children have been confined to classrooms in the preceding hours, and maybe just need an opportunity to "let off steam", but it is a great opportunity to share our understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

When Omicron arrived in early December, we decided it would be wise to close down completely again, to avoid the risk of children bringing it to the older members of the group. As far as I can tell, we have managed to avoid any outbreaks due to Bermondsey Brew and we thank God for this. Our team of helpers have also stayed healthy, Barbara, Lydia and Adrian from St James, Manuela and Caroline our local volunteers, and more recently in 2022, Debbie and Mavis from St Anne's and Pat from St James. Jacob and Paul come when they can.

As I wrote in my report last year, the closure of toddler groups meant that many babies and small children missed out on social contact outside of their family at such an important stage of their development. And many activities for older children were cancelled for long periods too. So it will be great if we can now return to some sort of normality, opening regularly every week and offering opportunities for people of different age

groups to meet, to have conversations about life and death issues, and to experience the love of Christ as we serve them in our beautiful building.

Marian Greenwood

Friends of St James Churchyard

The Friends of St. James Churchyard Group was established in January 2015. Its purpose is to work together to promote the good management, maintenance and development of the churchyard in relation to its primary uses as (a) the setting for a Church building of architectural and historic interest, with an active congregation (b) a park for use by the local community and (c) a pedestrian thoroughfare. There is also interest in developing the ecological and educational aspects of the churchyard. There is a Core group of people comprising the local ward councillor (Anood al Samerai), officers from the Council Parks Department and its contractors and representatives of the PCC and the local community who meet to take forward the purposes.

The highlight of the year was the opening of new **Bermondsey joy – slide** in **June 2021** – exactly 100 years after the opening of the original slide by George Lansbury and Ada Salter, in the presence of the benefactor, Arthur Carr of Peek Freans Biscuit Factory. A great act of generosity and social history which left hugely positive memories for local children.

The project for a new slide had started in 2017 with a Community Fun Day, partly sponsored by Grosvenor and paid for with a grant from United St. Saviours Charity. It was then that Fergus Carr, great grandson of Arthur Carr, turned up and offered to design the new slide for free. The final cost of the project was around £60,000, just under half of which was raised from Cleaner, Greener Safer (LBS) grants. Other donors included the Veolia Foundation and St. Olaves & Bermondsey United Charities, as well as local residents. The new slide has been very greatly used as was, of course, the original slide. Let's hope that the new one will be as greatly loved

and sink as deeply into the collective local memory.



In December, work to provide **new eco – friendly floodlights** for the Tower was also completed, also funded through a CGS grant. The main concern going forward is the condition and upkeep of the Garden of Remembrance and how the possibility of a new ramp will impact on this. Not much progress was made in 2021. I shall now be stepping aside as Convenor of the Group and leaving it to others to take these matters forward.

Adrian Greenwood

Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study Group continues to meet at 10am in the South Lounge at St James every Tuesday during term time, exceptions being when not many people are able to attend, then maybe the few that are able, may meet for coffee. We continue to enjoy meeting for fellowship and studying God's word together and encouraging each other to live in the light of His word.

Like all other groups, due to Covid, the past year seems to have been one starting the group and stopping the group. We followed all government guidelines when meeting and during the times of not being able to meet we kept in contact with each other via WhatsApp, sharing news and prayer needs.

As soon as we were able to meet, we did, and because we had missed so much we decided that we would hold Bible Study during the summer holidays, which we don't usually do (apart from meeting for the odd coffee) A couple of the studies were hosted at members houses and the rest were held at church. We also had one off studies or shorter studies during this time. However, at the beginning of the new term in September we recommenced longer, more in depth studies, starting with an 8 week interactive DVD led study called The Bible Course, by Bible Society. Marian and I shared the leading of these studies, with Marian doing the bulk of them.

We have a good consistent core of ladies attending but there is always room for more.

Mandy Warren

St James's CE Primary School

Schools began the year under lockdown with all learning proceeding online. The school was able to re-open before Easter and has remained open ever since, observing all the necessary Covid guidance for places of education.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all the staff for all their hard work in trying circumstances. It is a tribute to their efforts that St James's school has continued to a place of calm and purposely place of learning.

In-person school assemblies resumed in September - prior to that the church staff had produced a weekly online assembly – and school services in church were able to re-start, including a full programme of Christmas events, all held in church.

During the year we have said a fond farewell to Jim Hutchinson as vice-chair of the governing body. Jim had served for many years and had been such a good friend to St James's school, as had Pat O'Connor, who retired in December after 28 years of outstanding service to the school community. Literally hundreds of children and parents owe a huge debt of gratitude to Pat for her years of faithful, dedicated, loving and compassionate service. The whole St James community wishes her well for a well-deserved

retirement. Thank you, Pat, for all you have done.

Gary Jenkins
Chair of Governors



New playground surface at Old Jamaica Rd

St Anne's Safeguarding

We at St Anne's will follow the policy provided by the Diocese and the new revised 'Safe Church' is kept in the vestry. Safeguarding is now a regular item on every PCC meeting agenda.

We have had no incidents in 2021.

Our Safeguarding officer Jacky Weise has stepped down from the role after serving for over ten years. We would like to say a huge thank you to Jacky for her dedication and service to Safeguarding at St Anne's.

We are currently in the process of appointing two Safeguarding officers for St Anne's. This will be confirmed in due course. Should any incidents occur in the meantime, then the incumbent and the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser at the Diocese will be contacted.

All information regarding Safeguarding can be found on the church website and in the church entrance.

Ruth Reid
PCC Secretary

St James Safeguarding

Due to COVID there is again nothing to report in 2021

We at St James' will follow the policies provided by the Diocese and the new revised 'Safe Church' is in the Vestry and is a very useful guide.

Safeguarding is now a regular item on every agenda.

In March 2019 the PCC agreed that the new arrangement for serious safeguarding incidents will be reported to the Charity commission.

We had one incident which occurred during the summer and was dealt with instantly, and with no further action required.

During November/December I attended Safeguarding Leadership training which involved quite a bit of course work and am happy to say I completed the course and obtained a certificate. Leadership in Safeguarding (C2).

Everybody that works with, or is involved with children or vulnerable adults should make sure that,

1. They have a DBS (for Church), this includes sides persons, Sunday group leaders/helpers. Any one that is involved with vulnerable adults or children.

During this last year I have updated all member's DBS who are working within the church at the moment.

Sadly, Adrianna has given up the second role as safeguarding officer due to other commitments. However, we welcome Victoria Thorpe who has been officially appointed as our new officer.

All information regarding Safeguarding can be found on the church website and on the window of the church office which will be updated as and when necessary.

Safeguarding Officer
Patricia O'Connor

St Anne's Ready Steady Grow

It was another unusual year for Ready Steady Grow where we did not meet for a large part of the year. Following on from the Christmas break we were closed until June.

When we did open again it was with reduced numbers, lots of ventilation, face coverings and social distancing.

We didn't do the normal weekly craft, because it would have been getting people to close together, until we returned after the summer holidays.



Ready Steady Grow Harvest Event

On a positive note, we have seen a number of new families coming along over the autumn term. We were able to celebrate harvest and Christmas in a more usual manner.

A number of the families came to the Carols and Christingle service which was encouraging but as yet we haven't had any joining us on Sunday mornings.

Thanks to the team, Mavis, Debbie, Val and Cathy that help each week particularly for all the extra they have given because of the special arrangements we have had to contend with due to Covid.

Paul Warren

St James Ready, Steady, Grow

Ready Steady Grow is a group for parents and grandparents and their children/grandchildren. It takes place in the South Lounge from 10-11am on Thursdays. There are toys for the children as well as a Bible story, prayer and song time. To ensure we are as friendly and hospitable as possible we have lots of soft seating, tea and coffee and biscuits, and healthy snacks for the children.

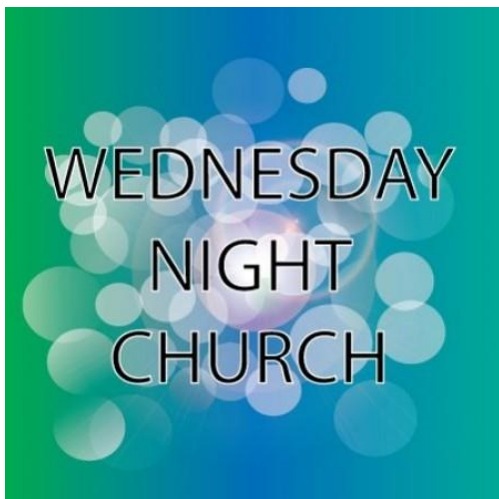
Jacob and Rebecca started the group at the beginning of November 2021. The aim is to draw in local people who don't currently have contact with St James or St Anne's and create opportunities to share the gospel and invite people to church events.

The group began well and near enough each week someone new has come. As of end of February 2022 we have 13 adults on the books. A transfer of leadership is being planned to ensure that the group continues.

Jacob Mercer

Wednesday Night Church

Wednesday Night Church is a weekly meeting in the South Lounge of St James. It begins with a dinner, dessert and coffee from 7-8pm followed by a 45 Bible Study and 15 minutes of singing and prayer, finishing at 9pm. Wednesday Night Church was going from strength to strength before the pandemic prevented us meeting in the building. Many people had joined us who would not come to church on Sundays.



During February-March 2021 we tried Wednesday Night Church online. We ran a Holy Habits course using Zoom looking at various habits that it is good for Christians to have: e.g. prayer, Bible reading, giving money, etc. This was nowhere near as well attended as proper Wednesday Night Church and it was clear that the mealtime and fellowship is a major part of what makes Wednesday Night Church so good.

Thankfully we were able to return to our normal pattern in October-November 2021. We changed the format slightly: we began with the meal from 7-8pm and then watched the sermon from the preceding Sunday on 'Sunday Catch-Up' (posted on our St James and St Anne's Bermondsey YouTube channel). After this we split into groups to think further about the passage for 30 minutes before returning to sing, using the songs on Sunday Catch-Up. This format makes Wednesday Night Church a good meeting for anyone who missed church on Sunday or who wants to go a bit deeper or who doesn't come on Sundays. We ended November with a Wednesday Night Church Christmas Dinner.

Jacob Mercer

Deanery Synod

As usual there were three Synod meetings in the year.

The first meeting took place in **March 2021**, using Zoom technology. We discussed the impact of COVID on congregational life and our respective plans as restrictions started to be eased. Would there be new opportunities and new ways of 'being Church'? The loss of face-to-face fellowship had been significant and it was not yet clear how plentiful the fruit of digital services and outreach would be. Concern was also expressed about the impact of lockdown on children and young people, including their mental and physical well-being and their educational and spiritual development. The meetings also voted for the name of the Deanery to be changed to Bermondsey & Rotherhithe and

looked forward to the Thy Kingdom Come season of prayer.

I spoke at the **June** meeting about the Southwark Vision 2017 – 2025 and about the ‘emerging’ national Vision & Strategy for the 2020s. There is considerable overlap between the two, as we are called to spiritual renewal in our personal and congregational discipleship through being centred on Jesus Christ and having our activity and behaviour shaped by the 5 Marks of Jesus’ Mission, as we seek to grow the Church and build the Kingdom here in Bermondsey & Rotherhithe.

The 3rd meeting took place in **October 2021**. There were 3 main items: Gary Jenkins spoke about the national Estates Ministry Strategy and about plans to hold the Living in Love & Faith course in the Deanery; Simon Hughes (who is Chair of the Local Governing Board) spoke about the work of Bacon’s College. The Living in Love & Faith course took place in person at St Mary Magdalen in November 2021 and continued on Zoom in January 2022. It’s about Christian teaching and learning on issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Feedback is to the House of Bishops.

There was a social event for Deanery Synod members in September but, sadly, no Deanery Confirmation service. There will be elections for lay representatives to the new Deanery Synod in 2023. The three representatives for St James are currently Simon Hughes, Jean McCorry and Michael Stokes. The two representatives for St Anne’s are Ruth Reid and Angela Isaacs.

Adrian Greenwood

Diocesan Synod

After the hiatus of 2020, we returned to 3 meetings of the Synod in 2021, although two of them were on Zoom. It was a year of transition as the 3 year term of the Synod (2018 – 2021) came to an end with fresh elections in 2021. Also the delayed elections to General Synod took place in September 2021.

The main priorities for 2018 -21 had been around developing the discipleship, leadership and ministries of **lay people** and about **developing Deaneries** as centres of mission for growth. There had also been a focus on encouraging ‘fresh expressions of church’, including hub and resourcing churches and pioneer curates, on reducing carbon emissions, on ‘deployment strategies’ and, since 2020, on the financial impact of COVID on parish and diocesan finances.

In June 2021, I was re-elected to Diocesan Synod to represent the Deanery (along with Bianca Blake of St. Philip’s); in October 2021, I was re-elected to General Synod to become the longest serving Southwark representative (lay or clergy) and at the November 2021 meeting of the Diocesan Synod I was re-elected as Chair of the House of Laity and member of the Diocesan Council of Trustees.

The priorities for the new Synod (2021 -24) will be on continuing to implement the Southwark Vision for growth through a variety of ‘deployment’ strategies and support, to continue to build financial resilience, to work towards achieving **net carbon neutral churches** (mostly through the Eco Church programme) and to implement the **Diocesan Anti - Racism Charter**, which was approved by Synod in 2021. There will also be an emphasis on re-connecting people and congregations across the Diocese after COVID and the Diocesan Conference to be held in September at Bacon’s College will be an important part of this.

A lot of my focus was devoted to the **enabling and equipping of ordinary Christians** (those not ordained or in licensed lay ministry) for **everyday faith in the whole of life**. Part of this work has been serving on the Lay Council as its Lay Chair and in 2021 we approved various aspects of the commissioning and recognising of a variety of lay ministries, including in children and youth work and as pioneers. Under my encouragement, Diocesan Synod would also include ‘**This Time Tomorrow**’ as part of its proceedings. I also helped to plan and deliver the bi-ennial Woolwich Area Lay Conference on Zoom.

Finally, I once again organised the annual Conference for the Diocesan Lay Chairs in 2021, this time on Zoom. This continued its focus on **Setting God's People Free** – which seeks to '**equip the whole of God's Church for**

the whole of God's mission in the whole of life and the whole of God's world'.
Adrian Greenwood

St Anne and St Augustine, Bermondsey

PCC Annual Report 2021



Aims and Purposes

St Anne's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

St Anne's PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church hall and parish church of St Anne's.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches

and to become part of the parish community of St Anne's. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus; provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish; and missionary and outreach work. To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church and the church hall of St Anne's.

Achievements and Performance

Please see the other pages of this report for further details.

Report of PCC meetings (by the PCC secretary, Ruth Reid)

The PCC of St Anne's Bermondsey met seven times in 2021. There were four joint meetings with St James, Bermondsey PCC on Zoom, and three PCC meetings.

The following items were discussed: The approval of accounts for 2019, 2020 and 2021; the parish pledge for 2021; the allocation of mission giving for 2020; arrangements for re-opening public worship; moving

towards the new Mission Action Plan; a placement student from all Nations College-Odel Rugema; moving forward out of Covid; the update of the St Anne's building with developers B&R; the appointment of church offices; the appointment of a new safeguarding officer, treasurer and vice chair; the Parish Support Fund for 2022; plans for the Autumn; possible future curate; the development of digital outreach; a surveyor for the building refurbishment scheme; a new video projector.

Worship and Prayer

Services of worship took place on Sunday mornings when the church was not closed because of Coronavirus. At other times worship took place online. There were no weddings, one baptism and five funerals during the year in the parish.

Deanery Synod

Lay representatives of the Deanery Synod are also members of the PCC. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. A report on the activities of the Deanery Synod will be submitted to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The Church Buildings

A report on the state of the fabric of the church buildings will be submitted to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Mission and Evangelism

We are committed to sharing the Gospel of God's grace with our community in word and deed.

Ecumenical Relationships

St James and St Anne's church are members of Christians for Transformation in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, an informal network of churches of various denominations that work together in the area in the work of mission.

Structure, governance and management The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership each PCC consists the licensed clergy, churchwardens, members of the deanery synod and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

Administrative information

The parish of St Anne's, Bermondsey is part of a United Benefice with the parish of St James, Bermondsey. Both parishes are part of a Group Ministry which also includes the parish of St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey and the Salmon Youth Centre.

St Anne's Church is situated in Thorburn Square, Bermondsey. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4 Thurland Rd, London, SE16 4AA. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC membership

Clergy: Gary Jenkins; Jacob Mercer

Urban Missioner: Paul Warren

Churchwardens: Mavis Shute; Graham Russell
Deanery Synod: Angela Isaac; Ruth Reid (secretary)
Reader: Penny Molyneux
Lay representatives: Deborah Irish; Mandy Warren; James Gilliland;



St James with Christ Church & St Crispin, Bermondsey

PCC Annual Report 2021

Aims and Purposes

St James Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of 'co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical (PCC Powers) Measure 1956).

The PCC of St James is responsible for the maintenance of the parish church of St James.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of the worshipping community of St James. Our services and worship

put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our church community through: worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus; provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish; missionary and outreach work in the parish of St James, Bermondsey, and through our mission giving, elsewhere in the UK and overseas

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the building.

Achievements and Performance

For details of achievements and performance please see the other pages of this booklet

Report of PCC meetings (by the PCC secretary, Ruth Reid)

During 2021 the St. James PCC met six times. There were four joint meetings with St Anne's, Bermondsey PCC, on Zoom and two PCC meetings were in person.

The following items were discussed: The appointment of a Foundation Governor at St James Primary School; the repainting of the main and back doors of St James; the allocation of mission giving for 2019 and 2020; the parish pledge to Salmon Youth Centre, Christian Mission Society and the Barnabas Fund; the arrangements for the reopening of public worship; the new Mission Action Plan moving forward after the Covid-pandemic. We discussed what have we learned and what we might keep or do differently; Odel

Rugema, a placement student from All Nations College; the repair of the portico floor, roof and electrical works to the Crypt; the approval of the accounts for 2019 and 2020; the proposal to change the name of the deanery from 'Deanery of Bermondsey' to 'Deanery of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe'; the appointment of an new second Safeguarding officer; changes to the Marriage registration; contactless giving with teachings on generosity and stewardship; the completion and official opening of the Joyslide; A Licence under faculty for use of the crypt for new hirers, the renewal of current lease to Designers Boutik for a further five years and a faculty application for new lanterns on the lampstands at the west end; the sound desk upgrade with new microphones and a fold back for the singing group; the Parish Support Pledge for 2022; the moving of the PCC bank account to another bank; the development of our digital outreach; a future curate; the extension of the fire alarm to the North aisle and the Crypt; St James's tower visits policy and procedure; the repair of the clock chime; future patterns of PCC meetings; St James being an eco-church; Mission giving in 2021; the Living in Love and Faith course.

Worship and Prayer

Services of worship took place on Sunday mornings when the church was not closed because of Coronavirus. At other times worship took place online. There were four weddings, twelve baptisms and eleven funerals in the parish during the year.

Deanery Synod

Lay representatives of the Deanery Synod are also members of the PCC. This provides the PCC with an important link between St James and the wider structures of the church. A report on the activities of the Deanery Synod will be submitted to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Mission and Evangelism

We are committed to sharing the Gospel of God's grace with our community in word and deed, including through Bermondsey Brew, our community café and our Church of England primary school.

Ecumenical Relationships

St James is a member of Christians for Transformation in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, an informal network of churches of various denominations that work together in the area in the work of mission.

Structure, governance and management The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists the licensed clergy, the licensed lay minister, churchwardens, members of the deanery synod, a Reader representative, an ex-officio member and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

PCC Membership

Clergy: Gary Jenkins (vicar); Jacob Mercer (curate)

Reader Penny Molyneux

Urban Missioner: Paul Warren

Churchwarden: Pat O'Connor; Marian Greenwood

Deanery Synod: Simon Hughes; Jean McCorry; Michael Stokes

Diocesan Synod: Adrian Greenwood (vice-chair)

Lay representatives: Marjorie Hill; Claire Mayne (Honorary Treasurer); Emmanuel Kode; Tim McNally; Ruth Reid (secretary, non-voting).

St James PCC has a buildings committee which oversees matters concerning the fabric of the building and reports to the PCC. A report on the state of the church fabric may be found elsewhere in this booklet.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the church including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent and overseeing the maintenance of the church building. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

Administrative information

The parish of St James, Bermondsey is part of a United Benefice with the parish of St Anne's, Bermondsey. Both parishes are part of a Group Ministry which also includes the parish of St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey and the Salmon Youth Centre.

St James Church is situated in Thurland Rd, Bermondsey. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4 Thurland Rd, London, SE16 4AA. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission (charity number 1176709).



May God bless the people of Bermondsey

Parochial Church Council of St James with Christchurch and St Crispin, Bermondsey Treasurer's Report for 2021

2021 was another difficult year financially due to the second year of the Covid epidemic. Like in 2020 this meant restrictions on the opening of the church, and less plate collections at services as many members of the congregation felt unable to return to face-to-face services, plus we had less organisations wanting to rent out the hall than in the pre-Covid times. Pressures on our tenants who were unable to trade fully also led to a slight reduction in that income stream although the trend is upwards as we let out more of the Crypt following the improvement works.

We continue to invest in repairs to the fabric of the building. Whilst it might be a natural tendency in these difficult times to avoid investment, it is often a case that £1 spent now avoids spending £2 in future years when the fabric deteriorates beyond easy repair. I have therefore encouraged the Building Committee to “invest to save” as we can take a longer-term view.

As a result, the financial outcome for the year was -£ 3,084 (-£ 32,294 in 2020). The year, like last therefore is not as bad as was expected due to the continuing generosity of our regular donors.

As can be seen on the Balances charts below, we finished 2021 only slightly behind where we started, which is very positive given the circumstances.

We have good tenants in the Aisle, Crypt and the German Kindergarten, and this income helped sustain us, although we needed to agree a slight reduction to some rents.

We were able to increase raise our Parish Support Fund contribution to the Diocese from £31,000 to £35,000 in 2021 and we pledged £36,000 for 2022. We maintained our annual Mission Giving of £7,500 to three Mission Giving organisations in the UK and overseas.

We have made progress with systems and processes and have moved to an online accounting system – and I wish to particularly thank our administrator Ruth Reid for taking on additional responsibilities in this regard.

We will be approaching all regular donors to ask them to review their contributions and to put in place a more efficient form of Standing Order which is administered by the national Church in order to achieve efficiencies and to remove administration from individual parishes.

Parochial Church Council of St. James with Christchurch and St Crispin Bermondsey
Statement for the year ended 31 December
2021

		Notes			
<u>Incoming Resources</u>					
		Restricted £	2021 Unrestricted £	Total £	2020 £
Voluntary Income:					
- <i>Tax Efficient</i>					
<i>Planned giving</i>	1a	-	20,003	20,003	29,714
- <i>Other Planned</i>					
<i>Giving</i>		11,299	110	11,409	2,729
- <i>Collections at</i>					
<i>Services</i>		-	6,111	6,111	4,786
- <i>Other Giving,</i>					
<i>including special</i>	1a		489	489	4,250
<i>appeals</i>					
- <i>Grants</i>	1b	-	-	-	3,000
Total Voluntary					
Income:		11,299	26,713	38,012	44,479
Activities for					
Generating Funds					
<i>Gross Income from</i>					
<i>fundraising activities</i>		-	-	-	-
Income from					
Investments					
<i>Dividends, interest,</i>					
<i>income from</i>	1c				
<i>property etc.</i>		-	44,659	44,659	44,816
Church Activities					
- <i>Statutory fees</i>					
<i>retained by PCC</i>					
<i>(weddings etc)</i>		-	4,678	4,678	1,030
- <i>Gross Income from</i>	1d				
<i>trading</i>		-	13,910	13,910	5,615
Other incoming					
resources					
Any other income /					
receipts not already					
listed		-	1,861	1,861	-
Total Incoming					
Resources		11,299	91,821	103,120	95,940

Parochial Church Council of St. James with Christchurch and St Crispin Bermondsey

Statement for the year ended 31 December 2021

Continued

Resources Expended

		2021			2020
Costs of generating income		Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
		£	£	£	£
Church Activities					
- Mission giving and donations	2a	-	11,350	11,350	-
- Diocesan parish share contribution		-	35,000	35,000	31,000
- Salaries, wages and honoraria	2b	-	22,263	22,263	21,166
- Clergy and staff expenses		-	5,051	5,051	3,725
Church Expenses					
- Mission and evangelism costs		-	507	507	162
- Church running expenses	2c	-	14,082	14,082	15,890
- Church utility bills		-	2,426	2,426	3,413
Other outgoing resources	2d	-	5,254	5,254	22,007
Total Day to Day Expenditure:		-	95,933	95,933	97,363
Major capital Expenditure					
- Major repairs to the church building		10,271	-	10,271	30,871
		10,271	-	10,271	30,871
Total Resources Expended		10,271	95,933	106,204	128,234
Net of income and expenditure		1,028	(4,112)	(3,084)	(32,294)

Parochial Church Council of St. James with Christchurch and St Crispin Bermondsey

Statement for the year ended 31 December 2021

Continued

Current Assets

	2021 £	2020 £
Deposits held by Diocese	-	-
Cash at Bank	80,783	83,907
Receivables	12,639	12,545
Liabilities	(597)	(543)
Net Assets	<u>92,825</u>	<u>95,909</u>

Represented By

Unrestricted Fund	61,578	80,569
Designated / Restricted Funds	31,248	15,341
	<u>92,826</u>	<u>95,910</u>

3

Parochial Church Council of St. James with Christchurch and St Crispin Bermondsey
Notes to the accounts as at 31 December 2021

1b) The following grants were received towards the tower repairs and related works:

	2021 £	2020 £
Woolwich Area Mission Fund:	-	3,000

1c) Income from Investments

	2021 £	2020 £
North Aisle (Artist Studios)	15,086	14,689
German Kindergarten	28,579	27,067
Design Boutique	990	3,000
Interest	4	60
	<hr/> 44,659	<hr/> 44,816

1d) Gross Income from Trading

	2021 £	2020 £
Rhema Services	4,800	4,400
Other Church Hire	1,792	510
Other Trading	7,318	705
	<hr/> 13,910	<hr/> 5,615

**1e) Any other income / receipts
not already listed**

	2021 £	2020 £
Payment from St Anne's to St James for 2021	1,861	-

Note 2 - Payments:

2a) Mission Giving and Donations

The Church fund did not make any payments during the year in relation to 2021.

	2021 £	2020 £
Salmon Youth Centre	3,452	-
Eagle's Wings St Annes	4,446	-
Friends of Kagando	3,452	-
	<hr/> 11,350	<hr/> -

2b) Salaries, wages and honoraria

	2021 £	2020 £
Church staff salary & payroll costs, including cleaner	12,247	11,162
Urban Missionary Stipend		
Contribution	10,016	10,004
	<hr/> 22,263	<hr/> 21,166

The Diocese of Southwark pay 75% of the Urban Missioners stipend, national insurance and pension costs, leaving 25% (£2,504) for the United Benefice. This is shared on a 75% / 25% basis respectively between St James and St Anne's

2c) Church Running Expenses

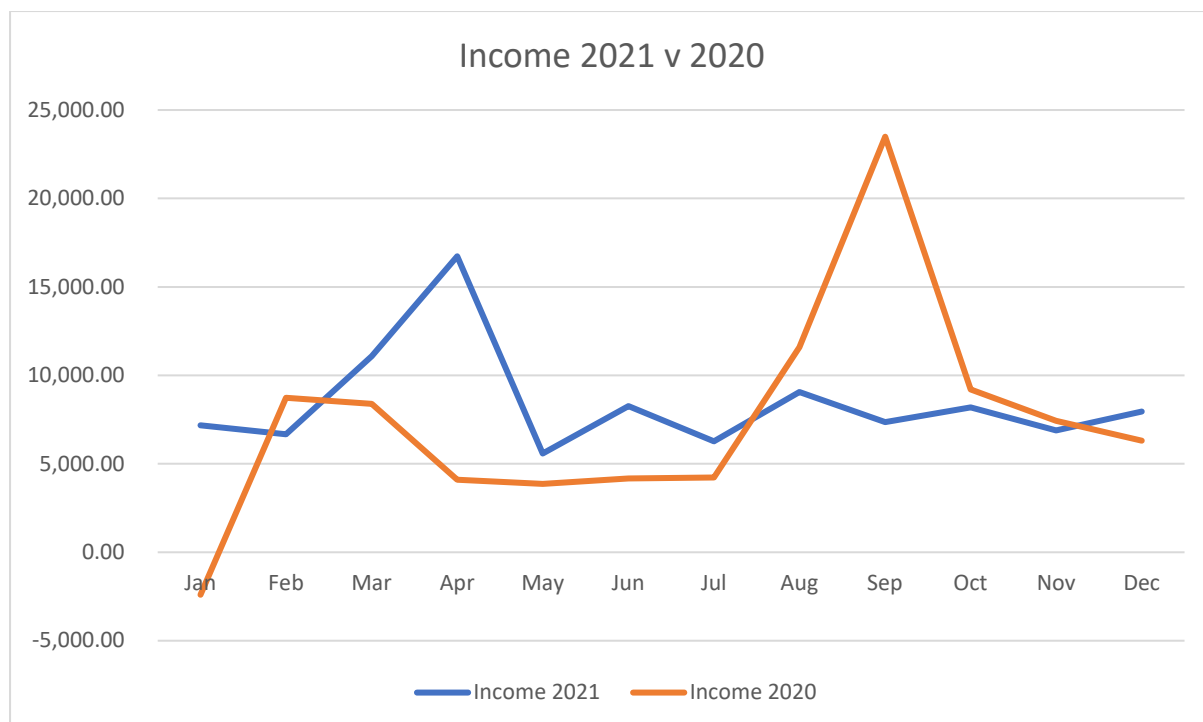
	2021 £	2020 £
Support Costs	3,456	8,212
Bank Fees	85	40
Insurance	8,014	8,038
Service costs	2,527	(400)
Printing and Stationery	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance	-	-
	<hr/> 14,082	<hr/> 15,890

2d) Other outgoing resources

	2021 £	2020 £
Payment to Deanery Synod	1,697	-
Friends of St James'		
Churchyard	-	18,450
Curate's Housing Contribution	3,557	3,557
	<hr/> 5,254	<hr/> 22,007

3) Fund reconciliation

	01-Jan-21	Receipts	Payments	Transfers between funds	31-Dec-21
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Organ Fund	7,852	-	-	-	7,852
Deanery Synod	-	-	-	590	590
Area Deanery	-	500	-	500	1,000
Browns Mission Fund	11,843	-	(836)	-	11,007
Friends of St James' Churchyard	17	-	-	(17)	-
Church Fabric Repair / HLF Project Fund	(4,371)	-	(10,271)	14,642	-
	15,341	500	(11,107)	15,715	20,449
Designated funds					
Gleaves Donation Fund	-	10,799	-	-	10,799
General funds	80,569	91,821	(95,097)	(15,715)	61,578
Total funds	95,910	103,120	(106,204)	-	92,826



Independent Examiner's Report to the members of St James with Christchurch and St Crispin, Bermondsey, Parochial Church Council.

Independent examiners report

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Respective responsibilities of the Parochial Church Council and Independent Examiner

As members of the PCC, 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 Parochial Church Council's 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 Parochial Church Council's income did not exceed £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Institute of Chartered Accounts of England & Wales

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 accounts, and seeking from the PCC as trustees, explanation concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

Yours



Philip J G Reeves
142 Glengall Road
Woodford Green
Essex IG80DS
13th September 2022