

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Matthew, High Brooms

(Also known as St. Matthew's Church, High Brooms)

For the period January to December 2021

The Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's Church (PCC) is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our church community at St. Matthew's, High Brooms. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services and activities can involve the many groups that live within our parish.

The mission statement of St. Matthew's Church is 'Igniting Passion for Jesus' and we aim to do this through:

- Worship and prayer, and we hope to bring people to faith through our services
- Reaching out to our community, maintaining and developing links with key community members
- Supporting the work of mission agencies around the world

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of St. Matthew's Church and St. Matthew's Church Hall.

WHAT WE DO

2021 was another challenging year for churches, including St. Matthew's Church, with a national lock-down for the first part of the year, but with churches being allowed to stay open. Covid19 caused disruption for most of the year, with changing restrictions and new variants of the virus meaning we had to keep adapting and working out how to keep people safe. All the hard work which had been put in during 2020 to run things online meant that we were well placed to adapt as needed, both with Sunday services and with youth and children's groups. St. Matthew's Church made sure that everything we did during 2021 met with national and Church of England rules and guidance.

During the second half of 2021, St. Matthew's Church was able to restart many of its services and activities in person, which took a lot of hard work and a great response from the congregation in rebuilding our volunteer teams.

As this report shows, much of what we do as a church is only possible because of the support and commitment of those in our congregation and community, and the challenges of the last two years have provided new opportunities which would not have arisen without the pandemic.

None of the activities and services which St. Matthew's Church runs would be able to happen without the many volunteers who give their time and energy. We are immensely grateful to all our volunteers, especially during this last year in which so many have faced so many challenges.

1. Worship and prayer

For most of 2021, St. Matthew's Church continued to offer one main service on a Sunday at 10am. Following a period of reopening churches in 2020 and being allowed to welcome people back into the building, the PCC had to make the decision to return to online worship only just before Christmas 2020 and this lasted through to March 2021. This was in line with most other churches locally and nationally.

Once the church building was reopened at the end of March 2021, St. Matthew's Church has continued to offer hybrid services every Sunday at 10am, both online and with people in the building.

Once services were able to be in person again, the 8am service was reintroduced on the first Sunday of each month. This small service follows the Book of Common Prayer and is a service of Holy Communion.

The decision was made towards the end of 2021 that the 5pm service (more traditional and liturgical) and the 7pm service (an informal service with café style layout and mainly attracting younger adults) would be restarted in early 2022, each once a month to start with.

It has still been quite hard to track the attendance to the online side of our services in 2021. Those leading the services have encouraged anyone watching to comment and like the service, which has helped with identifying numbers. You Tube also gives analytics of how many people viewed the video while it was being aired and how many people watched afterwards. From comments, we know that there are people who have been regularly engaging with Sunday services online who had not yet returned to in person worship by the end of 2021, and we also know that we have people joining with us online who have not worshiped with us in person before.

The average weekly attendance to our online services from January to March 2021 was 100 adults and 25 children.

Throughout the rest of the year, numbers slowly increased in the building and decreased online, and we also stopped tracking online attendance so closely.

We therefore had a combined weekly average of about 87 adults and 23 children each Sunday between April and December 2021, but the likelihood is that more people were watching the service online than we were aware of.

In person attendance grew from about 25 adults and 5 children each week in church in April to more like 55 adults and 25 children in church each Sunday towards the end of the year.

Electoral Roll

At the end of December 2021, the number of names on the Electoral Roll of St. Matthew's Church was 123, which includes 1 addition and 2 deletions during the year. The Electoral Roll was revised before the APCM in April 2021 and there were no changes for the rest of the year.

The number of people on the Electoral Roll is used to calculate the number of representatives we have on Deanery Synod. Electoral Roll additions, deletions and rolling totals are reported at each PCC meeting.

Christmas and Easter services

Christmas and Easter are special times in the church calendar.

2021 had its own challenges but also continued online opportunities for these special services.

At Easter 2021 we had just started welcoming people back into the church building for services, and our services were also streamed online. Our service on Easter Sunday was watched by about 100 people.

Christmas 2021 was also overshadowed by the Omicron variant of Covid, which meant that people were being a lot more careful about mixing in large groups again. Our numbers in person were therefore down, but people were able to watch all our services online. Our Christmas Carol service has been watched by over 100 people on You Tube, and the nativity service has over 80 views.

On Remembrance Sunday, St. Matthew's Church held a Remembrance Day service in the morning and a memorial service in the afternoon. These services were well attended and appreciated.

Life Events

Life events continued to be restricted and disrupted during 2021, as people weren't confident to plan these events in the face of uncertainty.

Two baptisms were carried out in 2021, both for young children.

10 funerals were conducted by our clergy during 2021 – 1 in church and 9 at the cemetery / crematorium.

There were no weddings at St. Matthew's Church during 2021.

Youth and children

St. Matthew's Church employed a Children and Families Minister (Lois Fryett) during 2021.

There was no Youth Minister in post for the whole of 2021, but thanks to Lois, Berti from Tunbridge Wells Youth For Christ, and a small but dedicated team of volunteers, we have been able to keep our youth provision going during the year.

Due to the national lockdown at the start of 2021 and the gradual opening up afterwards, groups for children and youth were run on Zoom from January to May of 2021.

Lois and a team of volunteers ran Ignite on Zoom for anyone in secondary school on Tuesday evenings, with games and a thought for the week, as well as special events like cooking, bingo and quiz nights.

Lois also ran Zoom sessions for two different age groups of children (school years R-2 and school years 3-6). These Zoom groups have all been well received and kept the connection and support going for some of our children and young people and their families.

We also continued to make videos for children and young people to accompany our Sunday services in place of in person groups being run. These continued from January to July 2021.

Children and young people have also been encouraged to get involved with our online services, taking part in pre-recorded readings, prayers, worship and song videos.

Once restrictions started to ease in April 2021, St. Matthew's Church started exploring how we could offer face to face sessions again, with the safety of leaders and young people at the forefront.

Two volunteers were able to meet with a few of our older youth for occasional sessions in a garden.

Between May and July, Lois and a team of volunteers were able to use St. Matthew's Primary School field to offer the Ignite youth session outside. This was well attended, and the young people really enjoyed getting back together again in person.

September 2021 saw St. Matthew's Church being able to restart most of its youth and children's provision in person, building up gradually as the volunteer support allowed.

This included Sunday morning groups for primary school aged children and for youth, and midweek groups for children in school years 3-6 and young people in secondary school, as well as a toddler group for preschool children and their carers.

Thank-you so much to Lois, Berti and Tunbridge Wells Youth For Christ, and to all the volunteers who have been involved in this work throughout the year. We are so incredibly grateful that we have been able to continue to offer groups and support to our children and young people through a very uncertain time.

Church Weekend Away and New Wine

Unfortunately, the church weekend away at Rose Hill School and New Wine could not be held during 2021. New Wine offered some teaching and other resources online, which members of the congregation engaged with.

Courses

In April and May of 2021, St. Matthew's Church ran The Wellbeing Journey, a course to help people think about their wellbeing coming out of the pandemic, and how to be healthy in all areas of our lives. The course was run on Zoom with about 30 people attending.

This theme was also followed in our Sunday morning services during the summer term, helping the wider congregation to think about wellbeing in relation to God.

Prayer meetings

A worship and prayer evening was started on Zoom during 2020, and this continued once a month through 2021. This was a chance for people to pray and to worship in a smaller group.

This meeting moved to being face to face from September 2021, meeting in someone's home.

Home Groups and Pods

There are 6 Home Groups at St. Matthew's Church, which meet weekly or fortnightly during the day or in the evening. These groups enable people to worship and pray together, explore their faith, ask questions to gain a greater understanding of both the Bible and Christianity and form a closer relationship with God and each other.

There are also numerous Pods, which are smaller prayer groups. These form out of existing friendships and connections and help people to further grow in their faith and deepen relationships with God and each other.

These groups have been invaluable during the pandemic, as a way of making sure members of the church are being supported and stay connected. Groups have slowly moved from meeting online to meeting in person again as restrictions have allowed and according to how each group feels about this.

Revive Women's Ministry

The women's ministry at St. Matthew's Church has been another way of making sure people are supported and connected during the pandemic.

During 2021 Revive held two Zoom sessions and one in person breakfast, which included worship, teaching, and ministry.

They also organised two different mornings of walks, to enable women to build relationships with each other and have time to chat.

In November 2021, Revive ran a Christmas Wreath Making evening, which, given the Covid situation, went really well and was a great success.

Link Mission Partners

St Matthew's Church continues to have Missionary Links with Tanzania, Pat Blanchard in Peru, Sozo in South Africa, as well as Ruth Radley at Birmingham Children's Hospital and Life & Soul locally in Tunbridge Wells. We also support Tearfund and Nourish Foodbank as a church.

A Mission Prayer Meeting is held once a month for anyone who would like to join, to hear updates and pray for all these mission links. These were on Zoom for most of the year but became hybrid once people were comfortable with meeting in person. This means some of our mission links who are not local can still join in the meetings by Zoom, and this has made the links stronger than before.

Mission & Vision

As well as the PCC, St Matthew's Church has a Leadership Team which meets to plan and develop the ministry of the church. We also have various forms of Ministry Groups that meet regularly to pray and plan for mission and ministry in the church, including youth ministry, children's ministry, women's ministry, fabric, finance, community larder, pastoral care and worship. Some of these groups have paused during the pandemic, but the aim is to restart them in early 2022.

Retired Clergy

Richard Arding joined St. Matthew's Church in September 2018 and has been actively involved in St. Matt's and helping other churches in the area as requested.

2. Reaching out to the community

St. Matthew's Church is a key part of the community of High Brooms. During 2019 and into 2020, the church leadership had been thinking and exploring what the needs are in the local community and how the church can best support the community we are part of.

A lot of this thinking was put on hold due to the pandemic, and due to the immediate pressures of getting services and groups online and making sure the church community was supported.

The Leadership Team and PCC are returning to this vision planning in early 2022, as we learn to live with Covid and are more able to look forward. This will need to be thought about in light of how the pandemic has reshaped our lives and our community.

Community Larder

St. Matt's Community Larder opened in November 2020 and has been open every Friday morning since in the Bethel Hall. This is only possible because of the dedication of a committed group of around 35 volunteers from the church and community. These volunteers cover a wide range of activities, including multiple supermarket collections, unloading FareShare deliveries, serving visitors on Friday mornings and packing up the Bethel Hall after the larder has taken place.

Food is purchased from the charity Fareshare at a low cost, and short date food donations are collected each week from a variety of supermarkets. The Larder has also received donations from a wide variety of organisations, including Southborough Town Council, the Lions Club, ToCH and many generous individuals.

During 2021, we were regularly seeing about 70 people a week, and this was escalating even before the current financial and world crises. As a team we feel this is a God sent opportunity to put into practice Jesus' teaching on loving those around us and helping to meet people's needs.

We have become increasingly aware of other areas of need including loneliness, anxiety and family and health pressures. Looking ahead we believe the need for food will grow and we would love to be able to provide additional practical support to our community.

We are incredibly grateful to all those who volunteer to make the Community Larder the success it is in helping to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

School links

St. Matthew's Church continues to maintain good relations with St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School. However, it has been challenging to be a presence in the school during 2021, due to the restrictions schools have had to reduce the spread of Covid.

Chris Wicks (our vicar) has been into the school to take a few key assemblies during 2021 and it was lovely to welcome KS2 year groups into the church in December for their Christmas acts of worship.

4 members of the church served as Governors at the school during 2021 – two as foundation Governors (Chris Wicks and David Johnson) and two as associate Governors (Julian Brierley and Lynn MacKay).

St Matthew's Church continues to have links with local uniformed groups, although any physical attendance at services has not been possible during 2021.

Youth and Children's Work

Our midweek clubs for children in church and in the community ran throughout 2021, starting off on Zoom and moving to face to face groups when restrictions and safety allowed.

Lois has been running these groups, helped by groups of volunteers.

Deeper (for school years 3-6) and Glow (for school years R-2) ran on Zoom until July 2021, and then started up in person in September 2021. These groups started the year with about 10 children in each group on Zoom, with the numbers dropping off as the weather improved and restrictions eased.

Deeper then started face to face in September, with very low numbers to start with, but building to about 12 children per week by Christmas 2021. These are a mixture of children from church families and children from the community.

Ignite is our group for secondary school age young people. Between 5 and 10 young people were attending this group on Zoom at the start of the year. When this was moved to face to face outside in May 2021, between 10 and 15 young people attended most sessions, culminating in an evening at Adamswell Scout Camp just before the summer holidays with 19 young people.

Ignite then started back in the church building from September 2021, run with Berti from Youth For Christ, with numbers growing from a handful of young people to an average of about 8 each week. A meal was introduced into this session, which has helped the young people and the leaders to have time to chat and to build relationships. Ignite also went bowling and ice skating in the autumn of 2021.

Another group that was able to restart in September 2021 is Matt's Monkeys Toddler Group, for preschool children and their carers. This is a very popular group, with lots of time and space for the adults to reconnect with each other and for the children to play. Matt's Monkeys had an average of about 25 children with their parents / carers attending each week between September and December 2021.

Lois also does baptism preparation for those families bringing children for baptism and is great at encouraging those families to come along to toddler group if they can.

Hubs

In 2018, St. Matthew's Church started Hubs, which are small groups based around a shared hobby or interest. 2021 has not seen much growth in these groups due to the pandemic, but the existing hubs have been another way of helping people stay connected and supported. The groups that have been running during 2021 are knitting hub, gardening hub, sewing bee hub, chair aerobics and table tennis teams.

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care team at St. Matthew's Church has continued to work very hard through 2021 to ensure the holistic care of individuals in need. This includes hospital visits, home visits where people are ill, suffering or unable to leave their homes, provision of cooked meals, coffee mornings and generally being available to listen.

Some of this support during 2021 has been through phone calls to those who are lonely or isolated but visiting has happened when it has been allowed.

Trevor Long has had a longstanding outreach to the Barnett's Wood area of High Brooms. During the pandemic he has continued to contact and follow up families and individuals that he has had contact with through St. Matthew's Church over the years.

Community Events

Some of the church's community events were able to restart in 2021, being adapted to meet current needs and safety requirements.

Rosemary Blanchard and her team ran a Macmillan Coffee Morning outside in September 2021, and then a Christmas afternoon tea in church in December, for older members of the community.

The local churches table tennis league used the church building for practices and matches, and a local choir also met in the church for rehearsals.

The church also ran a quiz night in November 2021, which people invited friends and family to and held a couple of picnics and BBQs over the summer to help build relationships and grow connection.

Support for charities

At Harvest, food gifts were collected for Nourish Foodbank and an offering was taken for Tearfund.

Food was also collected throughout the year for the community larder.

Our Christmas offerings in 2020 were sent to Ruth Radley at Birmingham Children's Hospital, to help the multi-faith chaplaincy team carry out their work with sick children and their families.

Support continues for a number of local, national and international charities and organisations through the tithe that St. Matthew's Church gives each year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

St. Matthew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working alongside the Incumbent, the Reverend Christopher Wicks, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, including pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical activities.

The PCC also has the responsibility for the maintenance of St. Matthew's Church and St. Matthew's Church Hall in High Brooms.

St. Matthew's Church is situated on High Brooms Road in High Brooms (correspondence address: St. Matthew's Church, High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 9BW). It is part of the Diocese of Rochester within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently registered with the Charity Commission (registered charity number 1185772). Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. PCC members as at the APCM of May 2021 are:

Ex Officio Members:

The Reverend Christopher Wicks	Incumbent
David Johnson	Church Warden
Brian Hobden	Church Warden
Hannah Mwesigwa	Secretary (also employed as Operations Manager for the church)
Kate Whitehead	Treasurer

Elected Members:

Mary Wilson	Deanery Synod representative
Matthew Fryett	
Michael Southwick	
Suzanne Owen	
Ian Wilson	
Julia Church	
Graham Church	

Other key office holders in the church, but not on the PCC are:

Clergy – PTO:	Rev Richard Arding
Operations Manager (employed):	Hannah Mwesigwa
Children's Minister (employed):	Lois Fryett
Pastoral Assistant	Carole Wicks
Evangelist / Lay reader	Trevor Long

The following roles are appointed by the PCC:

Parish Treasurer:	Kate Whitehead
PCC Secretary:	Hannah Mwesigwa
Electoral Roll Officer:	Gill Fuller
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Linde Horseman (until November 2021) Julia Church (took over in November 2021)
Recruitment Officer:	Elaine Latchford (began this role in October 2021)
Health and Safety Officer:	Michael Southwick
Banks:	Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, Nat West Bank Plc
Independent Examiner:	David Stephens FCCA
Patronage Board includes:	Church Pastoral Aid Society

Induction and Training of Trustees

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

All new Trustees (PCC members) are provided with a link to the Charity Commission's publication: "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know" which provides guidance to all Trustees on what is involved in

being a Charity Trustee. All new Trustees are provided with Guidance Notes covering the various meetings throughout the year and other responsibilities of PCC members plus a copy of the booklet jointly produced by the Charity Commission and The Church of England entitled "Trusteeship – An Introduction for PCC Members".

PCC Meetings

The full PCC of St. Matthew's Church met eight times during 2021 with an average level of attendance of almost 90%. Five of these meetings were held on Zoom and three were held in person. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include worship, children's ministry, youth ministry, mission, pastoral care, community larder, fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary. Most of these groups have continued to meet on Zoom during the pandemic.

A Standing Committee is required under Church Representation Rules and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

The Standing Committee which was agreed at the APCM of May 2021 consists of:

Incumbent	Chris Wicks	Secretary	Hannah Mwesigwa
Church Warden	David Johnson	Elected member	Ian Wilson
Church Warden	Brian Hobden	Elected member	Graham Church
Treasurer	Kate Whitehead		

The standing committee carried out one electronic vote during the period 2021.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM was held on 10th May 2021 in St. Matthew's Church. At this meeting, Church Wardens were elected and sworn in, and Lay Representatives to the PCC were elected. Sidespeople were appointed for the coming year and the Independent Examiner was also re-appointed for 2022.

Reporting Public Benefit

The trustees of St. Matthew's Church, High Brooms, are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Matthew, High Brooms, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

1. Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the church offers; and
2. Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Major Risks

The Trustees consider that major risks have been identified. Those which are not covered by insurance through EIG plc are namely Health & Safety and Safeguarding. These topics are reviewed regularly by the PCC. The PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and the PCC complies with GDPR guidance.

Responsibilities of the PCC

In preparing the accounts of the PCC, the Trustees must make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, follow suitable and consistent accounting policies, follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the accounts and must apply the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate. The PCC is also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

OUR BUILDINGS

Report by the Church Wardens – David Johnson and Brian Hobden

Quinquennial Works

The work of maintenance and repair of the Church building reached the stage of Practical Completion in April 2021. The scaffolding was removed just as the Covid 19 lockdown period came to an end and the Church was opened once again for 'in person' worship. In accordance with the building contract, there followed a 3 month 'rectification period' when any defects in the work were noted. The Final Completion of the work was reached in July 2021 when all the defects had been rectified.

Church Fabric and Goods

In September 2021, our electricity and gas supplier, The People's Energy Co. stopped trading and Ofgem switched our accounts to British Gas. This is the second time our supplier has stopped trading and Ofgem have had to switch our accounts. We are therefore planning to stay with British Gas (actually British Gas Lite) to avoid any further confusion due to switched suppliers.

Church Hall Fabric

Since our last report, the boilers have been serviced and faulty fluorescent lights have been replaced. One sliding sash window had a broken catch which was replaced. Upgrades are needed to the electrical distribution board and emergency lights to meet current regulations.

Thanks and Congratulations

We would like to express our thanks for all those that have volunteered or returned to volunteering since we have got back to in person worship and activities.

We would also like to congratulate Lij Cheeseman for his runners up spot in the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's "Love Where We Live Awards" as young volunteer of the year – for his work in the livestreaming of church services for the Church since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic.

SAFEGUARDING

Report by Hannah Mwesigwa – Operations Manager

Parish Safeguarding Officer role

During 2021, Linde Horseman, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, decided to step down from the role. The process of handing over took a few months, and the role was then divided into two parts for new people to take over, as it had grown hugely during Linde's time in post.

In November 2021, Julia Church took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer and Elaine Latchford took on the role of Volunteer Coordinator.

Julia's role includes being the contact person for anyone needing to report safeguarding issues or wanting advice, dealing with any safeguarding incidents within the church, keeping up to date with guidelines from the Diocese and Church of England, and making sure the children and young people in our groups know who they can talk to if they feel unsafe in any way.

Elaine's responsibility is the safe recruitment of volunteers, including the administration of DBS checks and the application process. Anyone in the church who has responsibility for children / young people or vulnerable adults needs a DBS check.

Hannah Mwesigwa is continuing to keep a record of Safeguarding training for volunteers and reminding people when they need to complete training modules.

As a church, we would like to offer Linde our thanks and appreciation for all she did in the role. She brought the skills and personality needed for this challenging and sensitive role.

Safeguarding incident

During 2021 one safeguarding incident and one welfare concern were reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer. These were dealt with professionally and efficiently by all involved and in close partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead (Greg Barry).

In both cases pastoral support has been and is continuing to be offered to all those involved, in addition to the more formal side of the processes, and all those involved feel supported and are appreciative of the efforts and actions of the church.

Linde Horseman was very involved in both cases, and they took up a lot of her time and energy. Greg Barry has been incredibly grateful for the way Linde has handled these cases and assured us that we did everything correctly as a church.

Volunteer recruitment

2021 was a year when many groups for children and young people moved from online to in person, and the safeguarding associated with that must adjust.

Safeguarding is always considered in the planning of all groups and activities that involve children, young people and vulnerable adults, and the restarting of in person groups in September of this year meant a lot of thought was given to this.

The restarting of groups also meant that volunteer teams had to be grown, and this meant that there were quite a lot of new DBS checks carried out towards the end of the year.

In 2021, ten DBS applications and renewals have been processed.

At the St. Matthew's Church PCC meetings all the names of the people who have applied to be volunteers with youth / children and vulnerable adults and have therefore had DBS checks are put before the PCC for their approval.

Safeguarding is included on the agenda at every PCC meeting and in March 2021, Linde joined the PCC meeting in order to take members through the new Serious Incident procedure document.

Training

All those who become volunteers in a role requiring some safeguarding training are advised of which modules to do and how to do this. The Church of England safeguarding training needs to be refreshed every three years, and all volunteers are currently being notified of this.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Report by Mary Wilson - Deanery Synod representative on the PCC

In 2021, Tunbridge Wells Deanery Synod met twice under the joint chairmanship of Rev. Douglas Wren, Area Dean and Mike Lawes, Lay Chair.

The first meeting of the year was held on June 23rd via Zoom

Bishop Simon's address included the **Role of Deanery/Diocesan synod** in the life of the Diocese - generally a very poor take up. These bodies need to have strong, missional focus to energise people. There is a risk of being static and a need to work collaboratively in Mission.

Process of appointing new bishop. The final leaving service for Bishop James was on 3rd July 2021. Bishop Simon outlined the process that will take place in the appointment of a new bishop. (Easter/April/May approximate time for appointment to be made).

Challenges in Diocese for new bishop? Getting to know people. Grasp of the work of the Diocese & work of God within it. Inspiring people in mission & ministry. Bishops called to be evangelists & teachers – lead from the front. Listening ear post-Covid. Engage with social action/sharing good news of Jesus Christ. Identify with local communities where acute needs are. Inspiring confidence in the gospel & the faith that we share.

Work force – establish their vision, work out their plans, then work through employment issues/resources. Be led by God in what they're doing. Justin Welby has asked us to work closely with Canterbury – working more smartly/organically. Already working together on vocation and ministry, communications and 24/7 faith agenda.

Rochester is a strangely shaped Diocese – it is often easier in Dioceses where the boundaries link better with county boundaries. We should see ourselves as being a family of churches across the Diocese. Look at potential partnerships – we have very different churches within this Diocese.

The second meeting of the year was held on October 13th hosted by King Charles the Martyr.

This was the first 'in person' meeting since before Covid. Representatives were able to sit, eat and talk together over a meal. There was a sense of the privilege of being able to share fellowship together again around the table.

Judi Hammill (St James Church and Community & Engagement Officer at Millward House) shared the need for volunteers in various roles; - visiting, IT, gardening, knitting, singing, baking art.

The planned speaker (Jenny Ross – Comms. Officer at the Diocese) was unable to attend so Rev. Douglas Wren (Rural Dean & vicar of Speldhurst) shared his 'study leave' experience of "Walking the Camino". He recommended the book "How to lead when you don't know where you're going" by Susan Beaumont (pertinent in these post-lockdown times). The walk had been a very positive experience. Some of what he learnt: - the value of walking with others - not talking but in the silence, the valuing and accepting of each other. Pilgrimages can be uncomfortable but creative times – empowering, equipping, times of change.... He felt that there is a liminal aspect to pilgrimage which shouldn't be rushed. God's people in Egypt, Jesus in the Wilderness, Paul's post-conversion time in Damascus – there is a confidence in God but uncertainty about the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Report by Kate Whitehead - Treasurer

Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew, High Brooms

Charity No: 1185772

Notes to the Financial Statements for the twelve months ended 31 December 2021

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice 2016 as the applicable standard to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (SORP(FRS102)).

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property: In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind (i.e., the church and vicarage) is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not classified in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings: These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included within the Church inventory.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity (functional fixed assets): Larger items are capitalised and written off over their useful lives. Smaller items are written off as incurred.

Short term deposits: These are the cash held on deposit either with the Diocese or at another bank.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds: These represent the income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC. These include amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are not included as 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report. If part of an unrestricted fund is earmarked for a particular project it may be designated as a separate fund, but the designation has an administrative purpose only, and does not legally restrict the trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

Restricted Funds: These are income funds restricted by the donor that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds: These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes of the accounts.

INCOMING RESOURCES

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Voluntary income and capital sources:

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the related income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its entitlement and the likely amount due.

Funds raised by church events and activities are accounted for gross, i.e., before any associated expenses.

Other ordinary income: Rental from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is paid.

Parochial fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals etc. are accounted for when received.

RESOURCES USED

Grants: Grants and donations are accounted for when paid, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly related to the work of the Church: The Diocesan Parish Offer in respect of clergy and diocesan costs is accounted for when paid. Any additional amounts agreed by the PCC but not paid across as at 31st December are shown as creditors in the balance sheet.

DEBTORS

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of income tax fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Diocesan Church Repair Fund - Quinquennial Funds

The Diocesan Church Repair Fund consists of funds designated by the PCC for future repairs.

2021 Accounts commentary

The accounts are presented for the PCC's approval. During the year ended 2021 the PCC recorded a deficit of £4,640 (2020: deficit of £29,622) on day-to-day activities plus significant repairs as per the Quinquennial report.

Although total income increased by £962 year on year to £172,847 (2020: income decreased by £1,484), unrestricted income reduced by £5,571 to £158,716 (2020: unrestricted income reduced by £8,916). Restricted giving/income increased in 2021 to £14,131 (2020: £7,598); this is due to the Community Larder having been in operation for a full year (opened in Nov 2020). Also included within the restricted funds, are the donations towards the funding of equipment, purchased to provide online services (£2,119).

Total costs decreased by £24,021 year on year to £177,486 (2020: expenses increased by £24,128). However, significantly higher expenses were incurred in both 2020 and 2021, compared with previous years. The key driver of higher expenses in these last two years is the quinquennial remedial works (£45.4k in 2020 and £26k in 2021). The delay to recruiting a Youth Minister has gone some way to mitigate this increase (staff costs were c£38k in 2021, c£54.7k in 2020).

The deficit is covered by c£4.4k remaining from the Gift Day held towards the end of 2015 – this fund is now exhausted.

The PCC has retained reserves, in cash, of £186,989, as at 31 December 2021. This is a sound financial position and meets the reserving requirements set by the PCC.

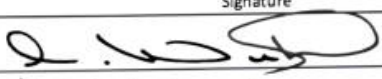
Kate Whitehead - PCC Treasurer

Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2021

Fixed Assets		None	
		2021	2020
Current Assets	Note		
Debtors & Prepayments	4	£27,761	£28,315
Short term deposits	5	£109,699	£109,444
Repair funds	6	£19,429	£54,971
Cash at bank and in hand	7	£48,999	£52,283
Total current assets		£205,887	£245,013
Creditors/Liabilities:			
Falling due within one year	8	£18,898	£53,384
NET CURRENT ASSETS		£186,989	£191,629
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted		£181,164	£190,210
Restricted		£5,825	£1,419
Endowment		£0	£0
		£186,989	£191,629

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 19 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature	Print name	Date
	Rev Chris Wicks	4/5/22
K Whitehead	Kate Whitehead	4/5/2022

Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the twelve months ended 31 December 2021

		2021				2020			
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES									
Voluntary income	1(a)	146,288	5,143	0	151,431	155,069	6,195	0	161,264
Activities for generating income	1(b)	669	963	0	1,632	78	0	0	78
Income from investments	1(c)	284	0	0	284	599	0	0	599
Income from church activities	1(d)	11,474	8,025	0	19,499	8,541	1,403	0	9,945
Total		158,716	14,131	0	172,847	164,287	7,598	0	171,885
RESOURCES EXPENDED									
Parish share	2(a)	62,000	0	0	62,000	53,437	0	0	53,437
Salaries, wages and honoraria	2(b)	38,822	0	0	38,822	54,710	0	0	54,710
Clergy & staff expenses	2(c)	3,828	0	0	3,828	4,567	0	0	4,567
Church running expenses	2(d)	15,883	1,594	0	17,477	15,612	3,750	0	19,362
Church activity expenses	2(e)	1,782	8,131	0	9,913	1,335	2,429	0	3,764
Mission giving and donations	2(f)	14,952	0	0	14,952	15,577	0	0	15,577
Hall expenses	2(g)	4,487	0	0	4,487	4,697	0	0	4,697
Major repairs to church	2(h)	26,008	0	0	26,008	45,393	0	0	45,393
Major repairs to hall	2(i)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major repairs to parsonage	2(j)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New building work	2(k)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	2(l)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		167,761	9,725	0	177,486	195,328	6,179	0	201,507
NET Incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses		(9,046)	4,406	0	(4,640)	(31,041)	1,419	0	(29,622)
Gains on investment assets on disposal on revaluation									
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(9,046)	4,406	0	(4,640)	(31,041)	1,418.84	0.00	(29,622)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS					0	439			439
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2021		190,210	1,419	0	191,629	220,812	0	0	220,812
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2021		181,164	5,825	0	186,989	190,210	1,419	0	191,629

Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772

INCOME

	2021				2020			
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1(a) Voluntary income								
Gift aided donations	113,041	1,475	0	114,517	110,611	1,062	0	111,672
Other donations	1,716	2,305	0	4,021	7,785	3,566	0	11,351
Tax recoverable	26,268	688	0	26,956	26,000	1,017	0	27,017
Collections at services	1,370	0	0	1,370	1,326	0	0	1,326
Grants	315	600	0	915	6,675	550	0	7,225
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other donations	3,577	75	0	3,652	2,673	0	0	2,673
TOTAL	146,288	5,143	0	151,431	155,069	6,195	0	161,264
1(b) Activities for generating income								
Fundraising	669	963	0	1,632	78	0	0	78
Other income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	669	963	0	1,632	78	0	0	78
1(c) Income from investments								
Dividends and interest	284	0	0	284	599	0	0	599
TOTAL	284	0	0	284	599	0	0	599
1(d) Income from church activities								
Fees	1,267	0	0	1,267	448	0	0	448
Hall lettings	8,610	0	0	8,610	6,870	0	0	6,870
Children & Youth	934	0	0	934	456	0	0	456
Church events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pastoral events	664	0	0	664	102	0	0	102
Community lunch/breakfast/fitness	0	0	0	0	666	0	0	666
Community Larder	0	8,025	0	8,025	0	1,403	0	1,403
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	11,474	8,025	0	19,499	8,541	1,403	0	9,945
TOTAL	158,716	14,131	0	172,847	164,287	7,598	0	171,885

Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772

EXPENSES

Note	2021				2020			
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church activities								
2(a) Parish share	62,000	0	0	62,000	53,437	0	0	53,437
2(b) Salaries, wages and honoraria	38,822	0	0	38,822	54,710	0	0	54,710
2(c) Clergy & staff expenses								
Parsonage	3,181	0	0	3,181	3,682	0	0	3,682
Training	120	0	0	120	643	0	0	643
Mobiles	409	0	0	409	228	0	0	228
Other Vicar expenses	118	0	0	118	14	0	0	14
	3,828	0	0	3,828	4,567	0	0	4,567
2(d) Church running expenses								
Operations	2,348	0	0	2,348	1,889	0	0	1,889
Fabric	5,363	0	0	5,363	5,565	0	0	5,565
Worship/services	2,243	1,594	0	3,836	2,528	3,750	0	6,278
Catering	174	0	0	174	491	0	0	491
Governance	844	0	0	844	606	0	0	606
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Church utility bills	4,188	0	0	4,188	3,870	0	0	3,870
Cost of fundraising	366	0	0	366	0	0	0	0
Mission and evangelism	357	0	0	357	663	0	0	663
	15,883	1,594	0	17,477	15,612	3,750	0	19,362
2(e) Church activity expenses								
Children & Youth	658	0	0	658	873	0	0	873
Pastoral events	1,074	0	0	1,074	50	0	0	50
Church events	51	0	0	51	0	0	0	0
Community Lunch/breakfast/fitness	0	0	0	0	412	0	0	412
Community Larder	0	8,131	0	8,131	0	2,429	0	2,429
	1,782	8,131	0	9,913	1,335	2,429	0	3,764
2(f) Mission giving and donations	14,952	0	0	14,952	15,577	0	0	15,577
2(g) Hall expenses	4,487	0	0	4,487	4,697	0	0	4,697
2(h) Major repairs to church	26,008	0	0	26,008	45,393	0	0	45,393
2(i) Major repairs to hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2(j) Major repairs to parsonage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2(k) New building work	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2(l) Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	167,761	9,725	0	177,486	195,328	6,179	0	201,507

Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772

Notes to the STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the twelve months ended 31 December 2021

1 RESTRICTED INCOME

Donations (including Gift Aid) to the value of £2,119 have been given to purchase technology/equipment required to provide online services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations (including Gift Aid) and grants totalling £3,894 have been given to support the set-up costs of the Community Larder. In addition, a further £8,025 has been received as a contribution towards food.

UNRESTRICTED INCOME

Congregational income has reduced by £8.8k in 2021 from 2020

1(a) GRANTS

As well as grants towards the Community Larder included above, the Job Retention Scheme ("furlough") has provided a total of £315 in payments.

2(a) PARISH SHARE

The parish share was set at £62k for 2021.

2(b) STAFF COSTS AND PENSION

During the year the PCC employed a families & children worker, an operations manager and a cleaner. None of these employees earned more than £60,000 p.a. No trustees received remuneration for their services as trustees. Total Staff Costs were:

	£
Gross Salaries	38,113
Social Security Costs	0
Pension Costs	708
	<u>38,822</u>

All employees are entitled to join a defined benefit pension scheme administered by The National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). The PCC meets its auto enrolment obligations for all eligible staff.

The reduction in salaries (£54.7 in 2020) of £15.8k is due to the Youth Worker not being replaced after he left in Oct 2020.

2(d) CHURCH RUNNING EXPENSES

Governance: includes Independent Examiner's fee of £450.

2(e) CHURCH ACTIVITY EXPENSES - RESTRICTED

A total of £1,594 has been spent on expenses relating to providing online services, leaving £586 towards 2022 costs.

A total of £8,131 has been spent on expenses relating to the Community Larder, leaving a further £3,788 towards 2022 costs.

2(f) MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING

Grants of £1,000 or more made in the period	£
CMS	3,600
Tear Fund	1,800
Life & Soul	1,800
 Grants of < £1,000 made in the period, for mission	
Other organisations/charities	6,252
Other individuals	1,500
	<hr/> 14,952 <hr/>

2(h) MAJOR REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH

In response to Quinquennial reports, significant maintenance took place towards the end of 2020 (costing £45.4k) and continued into the early part of 2021 costing a further £26k.

c. £41k has been put aside (in the Church Repair Fund) in previous years to support this expense, and a further £5k added during 2022.

PCC Members

It is a common practice, for reasons of expedition and value for money, for members (or other church members) to be requested to make purchases on behalf of the PCC for which they are later reimbursed on production of documentation. All such transactions are recorded in the accounts and accounted for under the relevant heads of expenditure.

Parochial Church Council of St Matthew High Brooms - Charity No: 1185772

Notes to the STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the twelve months ended 31 December 2021

4 DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS

	2021	2020
Tax recoverable	£27,761	£28,315
Insurance	£0	£0
Other <1000	£0	£0
	£27,761	£28,315

5 SHORT TERM DEPOSITS

	2021	2020
DBF Account	£109,699	£109,444
	£109,699	£109,444

Includes £57k legacy

6 REPAIR FUNDS

	2021	2020
Church	£5,005	£41,290
Hall	£14,424	£13,680
	£19,429	£54,971

7 CASH AT BANK & IN HAND

	2021	2020
Breakfast Café	£76	£76
Community Larder	£79	£370
Cash card - Lois	£100	£0
Lloyds	£24,393	£35,992
Nat West	£19,602	£15,498
Lloyds - Larder	£4,383	£0
Petty Cash	£366	£348
	£48,999	£52,283

8 CREDITORS/LIABILITIES

	2021	2020
Falling within one year		
PAYE - HMRC/Pension	£1,088	£3,062
Late invoices	£4,050	£2,249
Owed Tithe/Earmarked giving	£10,017	£12,313
Quinquennial	£0	£31,652
ChargeCard bill	£218	£0
Other <£1,000	£3,526	£4,108
	£18,898	£53,384

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Matthew (High Brooms)

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

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

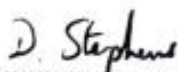
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently 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 section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to 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.



David Stephens FCCA
13 Newlands Road
Tunbridge Wells, Kent
TN4 9AS

14 May 2022
Dated

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the PCC:

Rev. Christopher Blair-Wicks (Chair)

Date (of the APCM): 25th April 2022