





# ST GEORGE'S CHURCH BICKLEY

**Diocese of Rochester** 

# Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2023

# **Parish Priest**

The Rev'd Henry Everett

# **Honorary Assistant Priests**

The Rev'd David Cossar SSC
The Rev'd Canon Owen Beament MBE
The Rev'd Canon Paul Jenkins

# Churchwardens

Mr Leonard Brown Mr Paul Braybrooke

# **Bankers**

**CAF Bank Ltd** 

# **Independent Examiner**

Mrs Claire Moore

Charities Act Registration Number – 1132872 www.stgeorgebickley.co.uk

# ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, BICKLEY

# **Under the Pastoral Care of the Bishop of Richborough**

#### **Mission Statement**

- We are called to serve God where there is need and especially in the parish of Bickley. We rejoice in our heritage in the Anglican Catholic tradition and that the Proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ and the Mass are at the centre of our life together. Baptism, frequent Mass, Perpetual Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament, the availability of priests to hear Confessions at advertised times are fundamental to our identity as a local church.
- Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we seek together to answer the call to give glory to God and to proclaim the Gospel by our worship and outreach, our prayer and study, our work with children and our social life. We work to include everyone as fully as possible in the life and worship of God's people, the Church.
- We are a church that is open to all, of whatever tradition or ecclesial integrity. We are called to be a community of brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ in which without exception everyone is welcome and valued. We rejoice to work with our ecumenical partners in *Churches Together*.
- We acknowledge and accept as our Anglican and Apostolic heritage the legal rights and privileges of the Bishop of Rochester. We receive valued Alternative Pastoral Care under permission of the Bishop of Rochester. In accordance with *The House* of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Priests and Bishops, the parish is served by male priests only and the sacramental ministry of bishops is exercised only by bishops who have not ordained women to the priesthood.
- We are corporate members of *The Society, Forward in Faith* and the *Church Union*, and under the patronage of the *Society for the Maintenance of the Faith*.

#### **Parochial Church Council**

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure (1956) as amended.

# Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Following resolutions of the APCM members are elected for a three-year period, after which they are not eligible for re-election until at least one year has passed. The PCC may also co-opt up to two additional members.

During 2023/24 the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council

Incumbent The Rev'd Henry Everett (Chairman)
Churchwardens Mr Leonard Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Mr Paul Braybrooke

Elected lay representatives on the Deanery Synod Mr David Hood

Mrs Monica Sanderson

#### Elected members

Mrs Margaret Brading (retires 2026)
Miss Eleanor Bull (retires 2024)
Mr Graham Callow (retires 2024)
Mr Stephen Cheese (retires 2025)
Mr Patrick Willshear (until October 2023)

Mrs Elizabeth Clitheroe (until February 2024)

# **Committees**

The PCC has set up the following committees which carry out particular functions on behalf of the Council:

# **Standing Committee**

This is the only committee required by church law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

#### **Events Committee**

This is responsible for planning parish social events. It also arranges refreshments required in association with services and other events. The Committee is also responsible – to an extent - for raising money for both general and specific purposes.

### **Mission Committee**

This Committee advises the PCC on where the parish's efforts at mission and evangelism ought to be focussed, and meets on an *ad hoc* basis.

# **PCC Meetings during 2023**

The full PCC met six times during 2023 with very good attendance on all occasions.

#### **Church Attendance**

There were 123 persons on the Church Electoral Roll in 2023. Of these approximately one third are resident in the parish and two thirds non-resident. The average Sunday Mass attendance was 86 (80). Usual Sunday Mass attendance in 2023 was 81 (78), including 10 (8) children.

Low Mass is usually offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday with an attendance ranging from 5 to 25. Mass was sung on a number of Holy Days and every day during Holy Week. Attendance at Holy Week and Easter Services was 358 and at Christmas services was 665. In addition, approximately 3400 children and parents attended school services during the year.

There were 19 baptisms (attendance 759), 6 weddings (attendance 580) and 7 funerals (attendance 591) during 2023.

The church is generally open during daylight hours.

\*Figures in brackets relate to 2022.

# Safeguarding

The parish of St George, Bickley is committed to implementing the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and good practice guidance. A formal statement under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) to adopt the House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement" was agreed by the Parochial Church Council and recorded in the Minutes of the meeting on 18 October 2020.

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church.

#### **Our Commitments:**

- · Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

#### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees take account of the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the PCC's purpose and in considering how planned activities will meet that aim.

The Trustees believe that St George's Church promotes the whole mission of the Church of England in the Parish of Bickley and beyond its boundaries, including its pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical aspects, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its adherents and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers.
- promoting Christian values, and services by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.
- maintaining the historic fabric and architectural heritage of the St George's church building and grounds including the Grade II listed War Memorial.
- providing a quiet space that is available daily to all members of the public.

#### Review of the Year

During the year the clergy continued to cover Sunday Masses at St Augustine's, Belvedere, and also did so at St James, Elmers End, and St Michael's, Beckenham, during their vacancies.

The Confirmation group whose preparation began in autumn 2022 were confirmed by Bishop Norman in February 2023. This was a very joyful occasion.

Lent was observed with our usual soup and bread lunch accompanying a Lent course led by the clergy on the Gospels for the Sundays of Lent. St George's hosted the Forward-in-Faith Lent Quiet Day, which was led by Fr Henry.

Our preacher on St George's Day was Fr Desmond Banister SSC, and we were joined by friends from other churches.

A number of parishioners travelled to Canterbury Cathedral on a very hot day for the Richborough Family Festival on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

We held our Summer Fete on 17th June, which was a great success. We were entertained by the Viva A Cappella Choir, who rehearse in our hall weekly.

We were pleased to continue hosting concerts in church for Sine Nomine Singers, Viva A Cappella Choir and others.

The parish pilgrimage to Walsingham in June was led by Fr Henry.

In September Fr Henry cycled around ten local churches on the hottest day of the year raising money for the Friends of Kent Churches and the PCC. Fundraising also took place during the year for Welcare in Bromley, the Additional Curates' Society, SteerRight, and Bromley Foodbank.

Parishioners enjoyed a parish lunch after the Harvest Festival. The Events Committee started planning more social events, one of which was a successful visit to the National Gallery with groups led by Fr Paul, Fr Henry and Fiona Everett and another a tour of Wren churches in the City of London led by Fr Henry and Fiona Everett.

All Saints' Day was observed jointly with the Annunciation, with a Sung Mass in Chislehurst. All Souls' Day was observed in the traditional manner, with fair attendances.

In December we were pleased to host carol services for Breaside Prep School, Bromley High Junior School, Bromley High School, and Bickley Park School.

Our 2023 Christmas celebrations began with St George's Primary School Carol Services. Our traditional Nine Lessons and Carols was well-attended. The Christmas Eve Crib Service attracted a completely full church. The Midnight Mass and Christmas morning Mass were also both well-attended, with numbers at pre-Covid levels.

In July we hosted the Funeral Mass of the Very Revd Fr John Paddock (sometime Dean of Gibraltar) who had been an honorary assistant priest here some years ago. During the year the funerals were also held for long-term worshippers Alan Cowell and John Keen, and for current PCC member Patrick Willshear, all of whom will be sadly missed.

# **Financial Review**

The net deficit for the year was £6,111 (2022: deficit £10,131), comprising a deficit in unrestricted funds of £6,357 (2022: deficit £10,131) and a surplus of £246 (2022: surplus £nil) in restricted funds.

Total incoming resources were £120,107 (2022: £114,611), £114,682 (2022: £110,949) in unrestricted funds and £5,425 (2022: £3,662) in restricted funds.

Legacies amounting to £nil (2022 £nil) were received during the year.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 total funds were £88,104 (2022: £94,215). Funds designated for specific purposes were £47,137 (2022: £42,850). The general fund decreased by £10,398 to £40,967 (2022: £51,365). Total cash balances at 31 December 2023 were £90,627 (2022: £97,892) held in short term deposits, current account and cash.

Hall income is a substantial source of income for St George's.

St George's supported a number of charities during the year. The Lent Appeal contributed £500 to the Additional Curates' Society and £700 to SteerRight. A donation of £250 was made to the College of St Barnabas. Sponsorship for Ride & Stride visiting local churches raised £400 for the Friends of Kent Churches. The Harvest collection raised £300 for the Bromley Borough Food Bank, and £550 was raised at the Christmas Family Crib Service, for Welcare, Bromley that provides support to children and families.

The main items of on-going expenditure continue to be parish share (which includes stipendiary costs), and the maintenance and running costs of the church and hall, including utility and insurance costs.

In order to secure the long-term viability of the parish, further significant maintenance works to the church and hall will be necessary over future years, including repairs to the church masonry. It is encouraging that people continue to commit to the parish through the planned giving schemes including making donations under Gift Aid. It is critical that we continue to try to increase incoming resources and manage our on-going expenditure.

# **Reserves Policy**

In 2018 the PCC set a reserves policy to endeavour to achieve a balance on undesignated funds in cash and at the bank equal to six months expenditure to cover general outgoings. Based on the 2024 budget this amounts to £62,650 (2022: £62,762). The undesignated Cash & Bank balance at 31 December 2023 of £43,490 (2022: £55,042) represented a deficit of £19,160 (2023: deficit £7,720) against this policy.

Surplus cash may be invested in short term bank deposit accounts, and endowment funds are invested in accordance with the terms of the endowment.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Fr Henry Everett

Chairman 2 April 2024

# Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St George's Church, Bickley

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 8 to 15.

# Responsibilities and basis of report

The PCC's trustees 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 Trust'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.

# **Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

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

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

Claire Moore Bickley Kent

2 April 2024

# **Statement of Financial Activities**

For the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	<b>Funds</b>	Funds
	Note	2023	2023	2023	2022
INCOMING RESOURCES		£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	2a	57,488	5,425	62,913	54,829
Activities for generating funds	2b	50,086	-	50,086	55,546
Income from investments	2c	2,460	-	2,460	352
Church activities	2d	4,648	-	4,648	3,884
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	2	114,682	5,425	120,107	114,611
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Church activities	3a	119,856	5,179	125,035	123,285
Fund raising costs	3b	1,183	-	1,183	1,457
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	3	121,039	5,179	126,218	124,742
NET (OUTGOING) / INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		(6,357)	246	(6,111)	(10,131)
RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		(0,337)	240	(0,111)	(10,131)
Transfers between funds	9	246	(246)	_	_
			(= :0)		
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(6,111)	-	(6,111)	(10,131)
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD					
1 JANUARY	9	94,215	-	94,215	104,346
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD					
31 DECEMBER	9	88,104	_	88,104	94,215
V. 2241112E11	9	30,.04		30,.07	

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements

# **Balance sheet**

At 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2023	2023	2023	2022
FIVED ACCETO		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS Tangible fixed assets	6	-	-	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	9,279	21	9,300	8,615
Short term deposits		86,394	-	86,394	87,959
Cash at bank and in hand		3,704	529	4,233	9,933
		99,377	550	99,927	106,507
LIABILITIES Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	8	(11,273)	(550)	(11,823)	(12,292)
		(11,210)	(000)	(11,020)	(12,202)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		88,104	-	88,104	94,215
TOTAL NET ASSETS		88,104	-	88,104	94,215
PARISH FUNDS					
Unrestricted	9	88,104	-	88,104	94,215
Restricted	9	-	-	-	-
		88,104	-	88,104	94,215

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 19 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Fr Henry Everett Chairman

David Hood Treasurer and Member of the PCC

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements

Registered Charity Number: 1132872

# 1 Accounting policies

# a) Basis of accounting

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS 102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

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, or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

# b) Funds

Details of the movements in the funds under the PCC's control during the year are given in note 9 to the financial statements.

The General Fund represents the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the PCC. The PCC seeks to hold sufficient free reserves in the general fund to meet its future expenditure requirements, taking into account expected future income.

The PCC has agreed that the Hall and Church Diocesan Repair Schemes as designated funds. These funds are designated to contribute to the cost of for future repairs and maintenance to the church and church hall identified as necessary by inspectors appointed on behalf of the diocese;

Restricted funds are restricted to the purpose for which the funds have been raised.

Income and expenditure relating to special appeals to meet specific expenditure are included as restricted movements. Special appeals are conducted with the proviso that any final surplus remaining once all expenditure has been met can be transferred to the unrestricted General Fund.

Where expenditure exceeds income on a specific project the excess costs are charged in the unrestricted general fund.

Endowment funds are capital funds to which the PCC has access to the income only, and can only realise the investment under the terms of the endowment.

# c) Incoming resources

Planned giving collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax income is recognised when the income to which it relates is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

All incoming resources are recognised gross except for contributions to shared costs, monies received on behalf of other parties and refunds.

# d) Resources used

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if their award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.

The parish share is accounted for when payable. All other expenditure is accounted for when due.

All expenditure is accounted for gross, except for the element of shared costs and payments of money received on behalf of other parties.

# e) Fixed assets

Tangible assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property.

For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 are capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life on a straight-line basis.

All expenditure incurred on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of moveable church furnishings is written off as incurred.

Office and other equipment are depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of less than £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired.

#### Investments

Any investments are valued at market value at 31 December each year and unrealised gains or losses are accounted for in the financial statements. Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

# f) Current assets

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

Short term deposits represent cash held on deposit at the Diocese of Rochester. Where a bank account holds cash in respect of more than one fund, the assets are apportioned between the various unrestricted and restricted funds according to the fund balance.

2	Incoming resources	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
2a	Voluntary income	£	£	£	£
	Planned giving				
	Tax efficient donations	30,002	-	30,002	27,666
	Other	4,016	-	4,016	4,895
	Other giving	3,969	-	3,969	2,989
	Collections at services	8,065	-	8,065	6,329
	Tax recoverable	9,511	-	9,511	9,158
	Donations, appeals	1,589	4,332	5,921	3,011
	Tax recoverable	336	793	1,129	581
	Legacies	-	-	-	-
	Grants	-	300	300	200
		57,488	5,425	62,913	54,829
2b	Activities for generating funds				
	Fund-raising	5,006	-	5,006	9,744
	Hall lettings	45,080	-	45,080	45,802
		50,086	-	50,086	55,546
2c	Income from investments				
	Interest	2,460	-	2,460	352
2d	Church activities				
	Fees	3,293	-	3,293	2,687
	Other fund raising events	1,355	-	1,355	1,197
	•	4,648	-	4,648	3,884
Tot	al incoming resources	114,682	5,425	120,107	114,611

3	Resources used	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
3a	Church activities				
	Missionary and charitable giving:	282	2,418	2,700	3,071
	Ministry:				
	Diocesan parish share	60,000	-	60,000	60,000
	Families, Children Mission	99	300	399	246
	Other	1,067	-	1,067	2,446
	Clergy expenses	4,936	-	4,936	4,238
	Upkeep of services	1,792	2,082	3,874	2,360
	Music and choir	8.057	-	8,057	6,910
	Church running expenses	20,996	-	20,996	16,336
	Church / Vicarage maintenance				
	& repairs	3,534	-	3,534	10,165
	Churchyard upkeep	2,010	-	2,010	2,010
	Hall running expenses	13,297	-	13,297	10,527
	Hall maintenance and repairs	1,249	379	1,628	2,611
	Printing and stationery	1,556	-	1,556	1,889
	Parish office running expenses	882	-	882	394
	Cost of appeals	-	-	-	-
	Bank charges	99	-	99	82
		119,856	5,179	125,035	123,285
3b	Fund raising costs				
	Costs of fund raising events	1,183	-	1,183	1,457
	Total resources used	121,039	5,179	126,218	124,742
4	Staff costs	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
7	Stail Costs	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
		2023	2023	2023	2022
	Wages and colories	£ 644	£	£	£
	Wages and salaries	5,644	-	5,644	5,208
	Other pension costs	-	-	-	- -
		5,644	-	5,644	5,208

# 5 Transactions with related parties

Under accounting regulations, the PCC is required to disclose all material transactions with related parties. The PCC considers those persons who are, or are closely connected to, members of the PCC to be related parties. There were no material transactions with related parties during 2023 or 2022.

6	Fixed assets	Hall <i>Equipment</i>	Total
	Tangible fixed assets Cost	£	£
	At 1 January 2023 Disposals	1,140 -	1,140 -
	At 31 December 2023	1,140	1,140
	Depreciation At 1 January 2023 Disposals	1,140 -	1,140 -
	At 31 December 2023	1,140	1,140
	Net book value		
	At 31 December 2023 and 2022	-	
7	Debtors	2023	2022
	Tauraaanaahla	£	£
	Tax recoverable	7,922	7,183
	Prepayments and accrued income	1,378	1,432
		9,300	8,615
8	Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
		£	£
	Creditors for goods and services	-	493
	Other creditors	-	288
	Accruals and deferred income	11,823	11,511
		11,823	12,292

9 F	⁼und	detai	s

9 Fund details					
	1 January	Incoming	Resources	Transfers	31 December
	2023	Resources	Expended		2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds Undesignated					
General Fund	51,365	113,395	(121,039)	(2,754)	40,967
Designated					
Diocesan Repair Scheme – Hall	11,189	339	-	1,000	12,528
Diocesan Repair Scheme - Church	31,661	948	-	2,000	34,609
	42,850	1,287	-	3,000	47,137
Total unrestricted funds	94,215	114,682	(121,039)	246	88,104
Restricted funds					
Special Charitable Collections	-	2,418	(2,418)	-	_
Other Donations	_	2,707	(2,461)	(246)	_
Grants	_	300	(300)	-	_
	_	5,425	(5,179)	(246)	-
Total funds	94,215	120,107	(126,218)	-	88,104
10 Summary of fund assets					
To Summary of fund assets			Liab	ilities: due	
		Fixed C		less than	
		assets	assets	one year	Net asset
Unrestricted funds – undesignated		£	£	£	£
General Fund		- (	52,240	(11,273)	40,967
Unrestricted funds – designated					
Diocesan Repair Scheme – Hall			12,528	_	12,528
Diocesan Repair Scheme – Church			34,609	_	34,609
Ziooccaii repaii Conome Citaron			47,137	_	47,137
Total unrestricted funds			99,377	(11,273)	88,104
Restricted funds					
Charity Collections		_	550	(550)	_
Charity Collections	-		550	(550)	<u>-</u>
Total funds			99,927	(11,823)	
i otal lalias		-	JU,ULI	(11,020)	55,104