

## Contents

<b>Team Rector's Message.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Team Vicar's Review .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Church Fabric Report .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Children &amp; Families Ministry .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Church Accounts.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Finance Report .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Friend of St John's.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>St John's Centre .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>St John's Centre Accounts.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Saturday Market.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Coffee Break.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Prayer Shawl Ministry.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Charitable Donations.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6th Whitstable Scout Group.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Electoral Roll .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>DCC.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>PCC .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Deanery Synod .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Minutes of last Vestry &amp; ADCM ..</b>	<b>15</b>

## Team Rector's Message

Dear Simon and all at St John's,

Thank you for your on-going ministry amongst the community in which you are set at Swalecliffe, and stretching across the main road into Chestfield. It has a real encouragement to hear of the flourishing of TOAST and investment in the mission among our children and families, and the continuing strong relationships with the Scouting community, and Coffee Break with FareShare distribution. Your teamwork and mutual care were very evident as you worked together to allow Simon a well-earned sabbatical, and it is exciting to support Karen in her training for Reader ministry. With prayers for continued blessing on you and through you.

**Rev Rachel, Team Rector**

## Team Vicar's Review

Dear Friends

It has been a pleasure and a privilege serving you again as Team Vicar over the last year. I have found it a wonderful experience to be surrounded by so many people who are so keen to put their energies and expertise into the smooth running of St John's.

My own involvement in terms of taking church services at St John's has been mainly on Wednesdays and Sundays at our 10am Wednesday Communion and our 9.30am Sunday service. That said, in the life of any busy church there are also lots of other things I am involved in. Helping to administer the smooth running of the church is one of them. With so many groups and outreach projects running, there is inevitably a constant stream of emails to respond to. I have also been involved in taking a number of baptisms at St John's this year - 10 in all - more than we have had for a long time. A lot of the reason behind this growth in baptisms is the success of the groups Jane Myhill runs which naturally connect the church closer to the community and I would like to thank Jane for her outstanding work yet again over the last year. I also oversee a reasonable number of burials of ashes at the churchyard, which is an important ministry, and am available to conduct funerals and weddings at the church when required. I also manage to visit a number of parishioners in their homes as part of my pastoral ministry. Please do let me know if you need a visit. I realise we have a good team of pastoral visitors but I am also available.

During 2022 I had three months off on sabbatical. I spent this at the Vicarage on Church Street studying the relationship between Christianity and Philosophy which is a favourite subject of mine, and also the writings of Richard Rohr. I was particularly grateful to Karen McKane and Ann Poole, our wonderful churchwardens, for all their help with the last year, and their oversight of matters during the sabbatical. I would also like to say a

special word of thanks to Rev Pat Strowger, whose ministry is so appreciated on Sundays and Wednesdays. Thank you Pat! We are so grateful to you.

Reading the reports will I am sure show you how much vitality we have at St John's. We are really only just fully coming out of the pandemic now, as last year there were still quite a few people getting sick from the virus. My prayer is that as we continue to move forward we will attract more people to our church services and activities both in the centre and the church. Please can you pray for me and for all of us in leadership at the church, that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit in God's mission for Swalecliffe and Chestfield.

With thanks to all of you for all you do to make St John's what it is

**Simon**

## **Church Fabric**

The writing of this report gives a most welcome opportunity to thank all the many people who work so hard to keep this lovely church in such good condition. Hopefully, not forgetting anyone, we thank the churchwardens and assistants, flower arrangers, cleaners, sidespeople, refreshment servers, those who wash and launder the linen, those who count, bank and manage our finances also those who arrange the intercession and reader lists, and Nick who manages the projector and prints all and everything that is needed and not forgetting Chris who cuts the grass. Their work is so much appreciated.

Most of the outstanding work on the quinquennial has been completed. This included the repair of two of the buttresses and the attention to two of the large trees in the churchyard. The woodworm in the church has been treated & needs to be kept under review. The annual attention to the boiler, organ, fire extinguishers, electrics, gutter cleaning and a PAT test have all been completed. An unexpected cost was having the ceiling of the chancel re pinned following the fall of one of the battens. We are very grateful to the donor

who covered this expense. The wooden chairs, which were unstable, have been repaired and glued. Thanks to all who donated towards their repair. Starling nests have been removed but sadly, this will be an ongoing problem as there are too many entry points to keep them out altogether. The seagulls' nest which was a big problem last year has been removed and spikes installed in the area in the hope of stopping them nesting there in the future. The hearing loop has been adjusted to improve its performance. The porch door has been adjusted to ease the opening and will be stained once the weather is suitable. There have been five churchyard clear ups this year and hopefully a belated church spring clean shortly. There were two open days in 2022, first with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the other to coincide with the Ride and Stride Day. These gave us a wonderful opportunity to show off our lovely church.

**Joan Hughes**  
**Chairman, Fabric Committee**

## **Children & Families Ministry**

Despite WC Fields advice of 'never work with children' I count myself as both very fortunate and blessed to be your Children and Families Minister here at St John's, spending my days working with children and families of all ages, sizes and varieties.

The last year has seen life largely return to a new 'normal' after the pandemic with a new weekly pattern of activities. I always endeavour to provide a mix of social and discipleship events for all ages to enable everyone to belong and feel part of our community with an option to also explore and or grow in their faith journey. During 2022 the following groups and activities happened:

Blast, our after school club meets on Wednesdays where activities range from table tennis, Lego and board games through to a tuck shop, crafts and

dodgeball. This is for primary aged children with a weekly attendance of 20 – 25 children. While the weekly craft activity may follow a theme for the week, this group is deliberately run as free play which we feel is important after a structured day at school.

Chatterbox, our baby and toddler group meets on Friday mornings and continues to thrive. As well as parents coming along with their child(ren) we also regularly welcome several grandparents: most weeks there will be around 20 children so along with their carers it's busy, messy, noisy, chaotic and a lot of fun! Themed sessions during the last year have included a Jubilee tea party as well as the traditional Christmas party with plenty of painting, biscuit icing, sand play, singing, maybe a story and many more toys thrown in.

Toast, time on a Sunday together, meets regularly on Sunday mornings offering a very informal style of worship. Each week we begin with a relaxed time of toast, fruit and drinks together before exploring a Bible passage through games, craft activities, a quiz, drama or even Lego, add in some songs for worship and a prayer activity and it's a busy hour before we all tidy up together at the end. Attendance at this is very variable, can be anything from 4 to 24.

FareShare, collecting surplus fresh produce from local supermarkets which is going out of date and then making available outside the centre on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Whitstable Community Wardrobe, the school uniform recycling scheme which although available all year, operates primarily through the summer, saw an increase of over 70% in use last year. During 2022 a total of 384 children were helped with just under 2000 items of school uniform being rehomed. This included shirts and blouses, trousers, skirts and pinafore dresses as well as badged items like PE kits, blazers, jumpers and cardigans as well as plenty of shoes and plimsolls. If each item rehomed cost £10 then savings for

families in the town will have been around £20,000

Whitstable Toys also continues to receive a huge number of children's books, games, puzzles and toys ranging from Wii's to lego to small bouncy balls and bottles of bubbles. Last year 250 families benefitted from other peoples generosity and over 6000 toys were rehomed along with 3,500 books.

Warm Space was offered on alternate Tuesdays through the winter months as more people became victims of the rising cost of living. Over 50 bread and soup lunches served, plenty of cake eaten, scrabble, Rummikub and dominos were among a variety of games played.

And of course we do our best to keep a programme of events running through the holidays as they can often become both expensive and lonely for families when all the usual clubs and groups take a break. Last summer we particularly benefitted from a grant from Canterbury City Council enabling us to provide a variety of activities from Hungry Caterpillar afternoons through to cooking groups.

And how can we forget the amazing community Jubilee celebration for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Despite the poor weather forecast and the last minute hiring of a large inflatable dome along with people of all ages from our community we shared in a truly memorable afternoon. There was live music, bouncy castle, face painting, children's crafts, royal photo booth, sumo suit wrestling, children's races and games as well as plenty of tea and cake. It was a magnificent afternoon and we look forward to a similar event this year.

2022 was a good and busy year leaving us with much to look forward to in the year ahead.

My last words go to the whole army of people who help, pray, support, encourage and tidy up after me, without all of you nothing would happen, THANK YOU!

To God be the glory!

**Jane Myhill**  
**Children & Families Minister**

# Church Accounts

St John's Church, Swalecliffe with  
Chestfield for the year ended 31st  
December 2022

## St John's income and expenditure summary

INCOME	2022 (£)	2021 (£)	Notes
Regular Giving	22,360	20,950	
Cash gifts and other one-off donations	8,042	5,472	
Donations restricted for specific purposes	2,959	2,537	
Gift Aid	9,095	2,757	
Funeral & wedding fees	1,950	4,642	
Saturday Market & strawberry teas	8,017	3,181	
Legacies	0	31,001	1
Miscellaneous/ Grants	4,922	618	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>57,345</b>	<b>71,158</b>	

EXPENDITURE		£	
Children & Families ministry	25,247	15,486	2
Canterbury Diocese - Parish Share	27,360	17,000	
Ministry costs (direct costs of church services)	4,605	4,498	
Church building repairs and maintenance	4,946	2,437	
Churchyard upkeep and flowers	795	1,001	
Gas, Electricity & Water	2,402	1,656	
Insurance & Licences	2,218	2,212	
Office costs (Telephone, IT, stationary) & newsletter printing	5,458	1,633	
Christian Aid and other charities	1,161	2,323	
Bank charges	168		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>74,360</b>	<b>48,246</b>	

<b>SURPLUS/ DEFICIT</b>	<b>-17,015</b>	<b>22,912</b>	<b>3</b>
-------------------------	----------------	---------------	----------

1. No legacy income this year but an encouraging increase in donations and in income from our Saturday Market fundraising
2. The DCC approved a mid year increase in hours for our Children & Families Minister
3. The generous legacy received in 2021 plus healthy reserves enabled us to operate a planned deficit budget in 2022

## Summary of funds held at year end

	2022	2021	Notes
Designated for our C&F Ministry	16,083.55	34,802.33	1
Restricted for hedge project & flowers	240	306.82	
Restricted for heating costs	2,000.00		
Unrestricted funds	48,183.19	46,683.70	2
<b>TOTAL FUNDS HELD IN BANK</b>	<b>66,506.74</b>	<b>81,792.85</b>	<b>3</b>

- 1 We designated the substantial legacy received in 2021 towards our Children and Families outreach work
- 2 Our unrestricted funds are the funds available for things such as building repairs, covering deficits and any unexpected costs. Our budget for 2023 is predicting that we will need to use around £15,000 from these reserves to break even this year.
- 3 Excludes Church Centre funds - these are shown separately.

## Finance Report

First of all a very big thank you to Jack for preparing the church accounts, and to all those who give so generously to support the work of St John's. This includes those who give financially and those who give their time - and we know that many of you do both..... thank you!

Our 2022 accounts show that regular giving, fundraising and ad hoc donations have all increased since 2021. This is a really encouraging sign of a healthy church, and tribute to all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes, particularly at our Saturday markets - the 'life blood' of St John's.

In 2021 we received a very generous legacy which we earmarked for our Children & Families outreach work. We have been delighted to see numbers at our many children and families events continue to rise steadily over the year and the decision was taken to use this legacy to increase the hours of our wonderful Children & Families Minister in order to be able to respond to this opportunity.

As expected, we needed to draw on our reserves quite significantly last year in order to break even, and we expect to have to do the same again in 2023. Our reserves are currently healthy enough for us to be able to do this in the short term but we recognise we need a strategy for the longer term. We are working hard to develop new sources of income for St John's. This includes making applications for grant funding, also making our financial needs known more clearly and more widely, i.e. both to our church members and to our wider networks.

Please continue to pray with us for our financial situation, for our communication with our 'Friends of St John's', and for the 'new blood' we need to make more social and fundraising events possible. If you've not done so already, please consider making a regular donation to the work of St John's, also perhaps making a gift in your will.

Thank you for reading this, and please do get in touch if you have any questions or with any offers of help.

Karen McKane (Churchwarden)

Email: [karenmckane@gmail.com](mailto:karenmckane@gmail.com)

Tel: 07519 723000

Ann Poole (Churchwarden)

Email: [puddlespoole@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:puddlespoole@yahoo.co.uk)

Tel: 01227 792919 / 07768 618492

Jack Dale (Treasurer)

Email: [jackdale123@hotmail.com](mailto:jackdale123@hotmail.com)

Tel: 07872 906860

## Friends of St John's

2022 saw the introduction of a new initiative, "Friends of St John's".

Here at St John's in Swalecliffe we have connections with so many people through many different avenues. Some we know through attending church, some through Children's and Families activities, others through baptisms, weddings or memorial services.... and much more.

In a bid to become more organised and efficient we have now brought everyone together on one database known as 'Friends of St John's'. (Thank you Lorri!). The main purpose of this is to send occasional information about activities, services and events we have coming up. It creates (we hope!) a useful way of keeping all our growing network of contacts up to date with key events and information.

All contact details are stored safely and securely and will not be shared with anyone outside of St John's Church. Recipients can of course opt out of receiving these occasional emails at any time simply by letting us know by replying to any email received.

In our first email we shared details of all our Christmas activities and events in December 2022 and we aim to send out approximately one 'Friends' email a month. In 2023 onwards we hope to organise regular 'Friends' social and fundraising events.

If you are not already on the 'Friends' email list and would like to be, or if you would like to help us organise some 'Friends' events please get in touch:

Our email is [FriendsOfStJohns.Swalecliffe@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfStJohns.Swalecliffe@gmail.com)

## **St John's Centre**

During the past year the Centre has continued to demonstrate its importance in our mission to the community around us.

The many, and varied, activities organised by Jane and the Children and Families Team have gone from strength to strength, so much so that there is a real issue with a lack of space to accommodate everyone. The monthly Saturday Market, has not only been a valuable source of funds, but also a vibrant and regular meeting place for its many regular followers, and Coffee Break, as strong as ever with its no charge coffee and cake, opens its doors wide every Tuesday morning to whoever wants to come in. The Centre also provides a valuable space in the middle of people's busy lives for an opportunity to join in Christian Worship with a simple Eucharist every Wednesday morning, again, open to all, and on Sundays it plays host to Toast, Jane's informal Sunday worship and get together.

All of the above has meant that the Centre committee has had to consider how we can increase our available space, and currently under consideration is the removal of the stage and the bits taking up space in three of the four corners of the main hall, and the taking down of the wall between the main hall and the lounge. This will require some adjustment to our storage areas, and more importantly enough money to carry out the work. The storage issues have been agreed with those affected, and as far as the money goes we are incredibly indebted to Jack Dale who has secured an offer from local developer Quinn Estates, via councillor Mark Dance, to pay for the replacement flooring that will be needed after the work, and even more incredibly Jack has obtained a grant of £9,500 from the National Lottery. Many, many thanks Jack.

A downside is that we have not been able to recover all our paying hirers since the pandemic, and you will see from the

accounts that the Centre is not currently able to pay its way. We still have vacant slots that can be hired if anyone can think of any takers.

Finally, I would say that nothing runs itself, and we are extremely grateful to all those that play their part in operating, and maintaining the Centre. The many unseen volunteers, Suzanne our caretaker who is never found wanting, Chris McKane our bookings secretary (and so much more), Jane Myhill who keeps a close eye on everything, and has taken on the role of Suzanne's line manager, and Jack Dale, who amongst everything else he does is Treasurer as well. Many thanks to them all.

***Stewart Neame***

# Centre Accounts

St John's Centre Accounts for the year  
ended 31st December 2022

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
<b>Opening Bank Balance</b>	13,529.53	14,999.79
<b>Income</b>		
Grants	-	2,828.00
Hires to Individuals	1,071.50	270.50
Coffee Break	2,129.11	-
hires to groups	7,047.00	2,491.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10,247.61</b>	<b>5,590.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bank Charges	78.80	-
Caretaker Wages	6,366.00	4,980.82
Coffee Break Expenses	24.99	-
Insurance	670.14	631.03
Cleaning & Expenses	312.90	246.93
Printing & Stationery	10.00	-
Repairs and Maintenance	3,398.01	1,054.01
Gas & Electric	2,428.65	479.68
Waste Management	232.85	40.00
Water	51.14	-
Internet	278.10	244.79
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>13,851.58</b>	<b>7,677.26</b>
<b>Closing Bank Balance</b>	<b>9,925.56</b>	<b>12,912.53</b>

## Saturday Market

**£110,418.28** - Yes ONE HUNDRED AND TEN THOUSAND POUNDS is the amount of money the Saturday Markets have raised over the past 22 years.

We started the markets in August 2000 and, with the exception of the Covid Pandemic, and the 'Beast from the East' we have run a Saturday Market each month for the past 22 years.

The Saturday Market idea was created in the front room of a very dear St John's member, Lillie Huckle, back in June 2000. Church Members were given the opportunity to have a £1 coin and were asked to use their 'talents' to make a profit from it. Back then there were four of us in the fun(d)raising group, one of them being Lillie, and she came up with the idea of selling our talents (cake making sewing etc) outside the church on Sunday mornings after the service. This proved to be a success so we moved onto bigger things, using the Church Centre on the first Saturday of each month. We asked for items to sell and as they say, 'The Rest is History'.

We now have people queueing outside St John's Centre long before we open at 9.00 am on that first Saturday of each month.... this is definitely the place to be for bargains. There are bargains to be had on every stall and the raffle prizes which are donated through the year are certainly worth a try for. The cake stall is always very busy with scones cakes and hot bread pudding. Refreshments are a bargain too where else can you get a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake for a £1?

Not only do we make a profit to help keep St John's afloat but we make many friends and share troubles, the outreach that goes on here is amazing. Thanks to all of you who provide the bargains the books, cd's, jewellery, cakes, marmalade, ladies and gents clothing, linens, toys, raffle prizes, bric-a-brac, furniture, all the odds and ends, garden equipment and plants in season and of course the antiques. We couldn't do this

without any of you so please, please, carry on doing whatever it is you do to help us.

My thanks must go to the very dear folk who turn up on that first Friday afternoon to prepare for the market and then again on the Saturday morning to sell it all and clear up afterwards. They are an amazing team!

Thank You

**Mary Fuller**

## Coffee Break

If you come into the centre on a Tuesday morning you'll be treated to the smell of coffee and cakes alongside the gentle hum of numerous conversations carrying on. Coffee Break offers a warm welcome and plenty of company regardless of whether you come every week or once in a while, all are welcome.

During the past year highlights have included the Queen attending just before her Jubilee celebrations (well a 'stand in' attended on her behalf), a plant stall during the summer months run by Swalecliffe Day Centre and a packed Carols at Christmas.

Our thanks go to those who faithfully serve and make cakes each week, without each one of you Coffee Break wouldn't exist so a big thank you to you all.

There is much to look forward to so why not come along and join us any Tuesday between 10.00 am and mid day, we'd love to see you!

**Joan Pilgrim and Barbara Brenson**



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Group continues to meet in the St. John's Centre on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11.00 am. We prayerfully knit and crochet shawls and blankets. These are gifted to people who are ill or struggling in some way and to celebrate happy occasions.

This year we have sent out 20 shawls, some locally and others further away in this country. Shawls have also gone to Scotland, Canada and Australia. The lady from Australia is so pleased with her shawl that when she returns home she is going to start a group at her church - and so the blessing spreads!

Thank you everyone for your support. If you are aware of anyone who is in need of a shawl, please let us know.

**Maureen Denney**

## Charitable Donations

This year as a congregation we have donated £1,000.00 to support families in Ukraine. The DCC matched funds collected in the large jar.

The latest appeal for The Earthquake in Turkey and Syria raised £200.00.

In May at very short notice, we held a Christian Aid coffee morning and with the envelopes in church we raised £555.00

The Children Society Boxes, Christingle and large Christmas card raised £132.54

The Leprosy Mission box was also emptied and £5.00 was sent.

Thank you to everyone who supports our appeals or home boxes for The Childrens Society.

**Ann Poole**

## 6th Whitstable Scout Group

This year I am very pleased to say we were back to "normal" as all the Covid restrictions were removed.

Our Leaders are working with the young people creating ideas and putting into place many varied programmes both indoors and outdoors which are exciting for those taking part and challenging. We remember that the scouting ethos is: -

**"Helping young people to get the most out of life with Fun Challenges and Adventure".**

The Group continues to run two Beaver Colonies and two Cub Packs and for the teenagers we have a growing Scout Section and new this year an Explorer Section. The Group is extremely fortunate to have very dedicated Leaders who have been running the Sections for quite a while and therefore have the benefit of experience and training provided by the Scout Association. Our latest annual Census showed we had 93 young people who regularly attended.

We are able to continue to offer the premises to the NHS for their rehabilitation programmes for local people in the community which of course assists us greatly with our finances. This year we were able to offer the HQ to the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, so this means that every evening the building is being used by young people with their various activities.

During the year we have had Jumble Sales, Quiz Nights and a very busy Christmas Bazaar with Santa.

A popular event is the Sponsored Walk along the seafront which again, thanks to our parents and supporters, raised a fantastic sum of money which we are going put to two uses, the first is to improve the fenced garden at the back of the building and secondly to donate to the Air Ambulance as they assisted one of our own Scouts recently who was seriously ill.

## DCC

### Membership

The following served during 2022/23:

Amanda Boucherat (*as member of Deanery Synod*)

Lorri Currie

Jack Dale

Tessa Dale

Chris McKane

Karen McKane (*as Churchwarden*)

Mary Fuller (*until 10th May 2022*)

Maxine Gambrill

Joan Hughes

Lesley Moxon (*until 10th May 2022*)

Jane Myhill (*co-opted 15 September 2022*)

Stewart Neame (*as Churchwarden until 10th May 2022, then as PCC rep*)

Ann Poole (*as Churchwarden from 10th May 2022*)

Sue Scott (*from 10th May 2022*)

Nick Widdows (*as a member of Deanery Synod*)

The church is entitled to two members of the Team PCC. One of these posts is currently vacant. Our churchwardens and Deanery Synod Reps are 'ex-officio' members of the PCC.

### Meetings

The DCC held five meetings during the year, all in person, The council discussed:

- Considering the amount that we should offer as our contribution towards the Parish Share paid by Team Churches
- Other Finance matters
- The establishment of a 'Friends of St John's' scheme
- Alternative worship arrangements (in the event no changes were made)
- Voting of money for church repairs, especially the buttresses
- The implications of Simon's Sabbatical between August and November 2022
- Use of the Rectory garden for church mission
- Use of St John's Centre as a 'Warm Space' during winter 2023
- Issues regarding safeguarding

**Nick Widdows, DCC Secretary**

We have attended church parades throughout the year and on Remembrance Sunday the church was full with uniformed people and was in fact overflowing! We also had our Christmas Carol Service and again this was very well attended. I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the Group for the help and assistance provided by the people of St. Johns.

During the year the Beavers have had "Sleepovers" in the HQ which is a great experience for them. They have also had a "Highland Games" night to celebrate Burns night. Other nights included making Sock Puppets and growing Cress for their Gardeners Badge.

During the year some of the Cubs have been working on the environmental conservation badge and have tested soil, made rain gauges, water filters and had a recycling night. They have also enjoyed a weekend camp under canvas in the Summer.

The Scout Section have competed again the Monopoly Run in London and had a great time visiting as many places as they could on the Monopoly board. A team of Scouts also took part in the National Rifle shooting competition at Bisley where one of the teams won a "First". Two of our Scouts have been selected to train with the National Air Rifle Shooting Team as well which is an amazing achievement!

I'm very pleased to say the Group is running well, with the help of the dedicated leaders and supportive Management Committee, and I would like to thank all those who have given of their time and commitment over the last year.

We are looking forward to the coming year with a smile on our faces and laughter in the air!

**Mike Poole**  
**Group Chairman**

## Electoral Roll

A verbal report will be given at the meeting.

## PCC

Last year (2021) saw the introduction of meetings via Zoom because Covid-19 restrictions did not permit us to meet in person. Although such restrictions were no longer in place in 2022, the PCC decided that, during the winter months it was both more convenient and also cost-effective to use Zoom. So, heating and travel costs were reduced and we didn't have to turn out on cold, dark winter nights.

As always, we welcomed new people and sadly said goodbye to others. It was with sadness that the PCC paid tribute to Des Collins and sent condolences to his widow Margaret. Mike Barnett stood down from his position as one of our Diocesan Synod members, and thus his ex-officio roles on Deanery Synod and the PCC. He was thanked for his contribution over many years.

We welcomed the appointment of Will Adam as our new Archdeacon, Claudette as our new curate and the ordination as priest of our other curate, Jack. Jane Edinboro was licensed as a Anna Chaplain and the PCC was delighted to support Karen McKane's application for Reader training.

One of the roles of the PCC is to agree faculty applications, prior to their submission to our Diocesan colleagues and this year we agreed those for:

- repairs to the stonework around some of the windows, the north transept and the main entrance arch of St Alphege, Whitstable
- buttress repairs at St John's
- renovation and redecoration work to the interior of All Saints
- interior and exterior work on the South aisle in All Saints to prevent damp ingress
- installation of new paths at Seasalter Old Church as part of the restoration and renewal project involving the church and its environs

The PCC has a legal (and of course a moral) duty of care to all those to whom we minister or with whom we have any

form of interaction. Thus, all PCC and DCC members are required to complete three Safeguarding training modules – Basic Awareness, Foundation and Awareness of Domestic Abuse. To help people with this, some face-to-face training was made available and this could be repeated if there is sufficient demand.

As a number of our churches now have employees and the PCC has the legal responsibility to ensure that employment law is adhered to and that all those who work for us are treated fairly. We held a training morning for those who have line-management responsibilities, which was well-received. The PCC has approved plans to recruit people and to make significant changes to roles and responsibilities or conditions of service, to ensure that there is equitable treatment regardless of which church funds and line-manages the post.

Playing an active role in the Beach Pastors initiative is part of God's mission in our local community. The Beach Pastors patrol on Friday evenings from Easter to Christmas and our curate Rev Jack is now the Chair of the Beach Pastors Steering Committee. He is seeking more people to come forward as Beach Pastors (full training is given) and for more volunteers to be part of the prayer support team that meets at St John's Methodist Church during the time that the Beach Pastors are out on patrol.

As part of our commitment to being good stewards of the resources that God provides, all our Team Churches have registered for Eco Church and Seasalter, All Saints and St Alphege Whitstable have all achieved their Bronze Award.

Finance, of course, continues to be a subject that is a significant item on the agenda for our congregations, and our Team, our Deanery and our Diocese. To be flourishing and sustainable is not only a Diocesan objective, but it is plain common sense. As a Parish, we paid our 2022 Parish Share in full, but none of us were able to do so out of income, all had to use reserve/deposit/savings accounts.

Increasing income alongside being careful with expenditure is key. The PCC has encouraged churches to undertake a regular review of planned giving and to take advantage of any discounts available via the Parish Buying Scheme. Additionally, clergy expenses have been reviewed, with better deals for broadband and mobile phone sought as contracts approach renewal. The use of Zoom for PCC meetings, Standing Committee meetings and Monday Team Evening Prayer during the colder months are further ways in which we have aimed to keep costs at a minimum, whilst also providing environmental benefits.

I will be standing down as the PCC Vice-Chair at the APCM in May 2023, having served in this role for over five years. It's been a joy, a challenge, rewarding and at times frustrating, but absolutely a privilege to serve in this role.

Please continue to hold our Team in your prayers, remembering in particular our Team Rector Rachel and for someone to come forward to take on the role of Vice-Chair.

**Amanda Boucherat**  
**PCC Vice-Chair**

## Reculver Deanery

All Deaneries work on a three-yearly cycle – a triennium, and the current triennium ends on 30 June 2023. As I search for words to describe the last three years I realise that there is no need to search – the words are already there in the opening verses of the third chapter of Ecclesiastes:

*<sup>1</sup>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*<sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; <sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*<sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup>a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from*

*embracing; <sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; <sup>7</sup>a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; <sup>8</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.*

Our Diocese, and therefore our Deanery, our Parishes and our Church Districts have faced and continue to face significant challenges. As the second poorest Diocese in the land, our finances were in a parlous state, and in 2021 necessitated a significant loan in order that salaries and stipends could be paid. The reasons for the state of our finances are many and varied, but include - living beyond our means, falling congregations, the impact of Covid and at Diocesan level, a lack of historical assets compared to many other Dioceses. At a local level this means that many parishes have struggled to pay their Parish Share in full. This of course means that there is less money for support services, salaries and stipends!

So, at every level (Diocesan, Deanery and Parish/District) things needed to change in order that we could flourish, but do so in a way that was sustainable. Everything was on the table for change – what do we start and what do we stop, where do we work in collaboration with others and where are we most effective as the sole deliverer, what requires mending and what should be binned, etc – for a more poetic version, see the words above from Ecclesiastes!

Our Diocese decided that Deaneries would be key in the change process; providing that vital link between what was being prayerfully discerned locally and collating this in such a way as to help our Diocesan colleagues identify common themes and the ways in which practical support could best be delivered. And thus was Deanery Planning born!

Deanery Planning is an ongoing process whereby we continually pray, discern and discuss where the Spirit is calling us, where we see God at work in our communities and what we are being called to in terms of mission. All of this is then viewed against the backdrop of what is sustainable and how it feeds into the overall Deanery Plan.

It is difficult to overestimate the way in which this process changes the role of Deaneries, and therefore the role of those who serve on Deanery Synods. In turn this impacts the relationships within our Deanery and those between our Deanery and Diocese and our Deanery and our Parishes and Districts. When the culture (roles, relationships and processes) is changed it can create anxiety, excitement, joy, worry, commitment, a desire to run away, to name just a few of the emotions that have been evident. Change though is an integral part of our journey with God, and with His support we will weather the emotions that change brings.

This new model of working gives greater freedoms to Deaneries (that's us!), but of course with freedom comes responsibility. If we are to succeed in the essential call of being both flourishing and sustainable, we need to support one another and to work collaboratively when appropriate.

So please, pray for the next Deanery Triennium and for those considering standing as members of Deanery Synod and let's always remember that we are called to join God's mission and not expect God to join in "our" mission!

***Amanda Boucherat***  
***Lay Chair, Reculver Deanery***

# Minutes - Vestry Meeting & ADCM 2022

## MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022 AT 7.00 PM IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH

### 1. Welcome and Opening Worship

The Chairman, Rev Simon Tillotson, welcomed 17 church members to this year's Vestry Meeting and ADCM. The meeting was opened with worship led by The Chairman.

It was followed by a presentation about our Children and Families Ministry by Jane Myhill. This was followed by Rev Paulette Stubbings speaking to us about what Seasalter Christian Centre had learned about the church and sexuality from running the 'Living in Love and Faith' course and how they planned to respond.

There was also an informal discussion about worship. Rev Simon Tillotson agreed to append a note about this.

### 2. Apologies for absence.

Chris & Corrina Cowie, Michael Domnin, Nicola Hillier, Lesley Moxon, Joan Pilgrim, Bernard & Sheila Self, David Shelton, Jill & Ian Stickles, David Shelton and Rev Pat Strowger.

### 3. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The Chairman said that he would leave his remarks until the end.

### 4. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 10th May 2021.

The minutes had been agreed by the DCC and were accepted by the meeting.

### 5. Elections.

#### (a) Two Churchwardens.

Karen McKane was proposed by Stewart Neame and seconded by Jane Myhill.

Ann Poole was proposed by Nick Widdows and seconded by Bernard Self.

There being no other nominations, they were declared elected.

#### (b) Deputy Churchwarden.

There were no nominations.

#### (c) Assistant Churchwardens.

Jan Bailey and Lorri Currie had been proposed as Assistant Wardens and this was accepted by the meeting.

**Rev Simon Tillotson**  
*Chairman*

**Nick Widdows**  
*Secretary*

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022 AT 7.15 PM IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH

### 1. Apologies for Absence.

As Vestry Meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the ADCM held on 10th May 2021.

The minutes had been agreed by the DCC and accepted by the meeting.

### 3. Elections:

#### (a) Two PCC Representatives.

Stewart Neame was proposed by Bernard Self and seconded by Nick Widdows. There being no other nominations he was declared elected. There remained one vacancy.

**(b) Representatives for the DCC.**

Lorrie Currie was proposed by Joan Pilgrim and seconded by Nick Widdows.  
Jack Dale was proposed by Nick Widdows and seconded by Bernard Self  
Tessa Dale was proposed by Ann Poole and seconded by Bo Tomlinson.  
Maxine Gambrell was proposed by Joan Pilgrim and seconded by Nick Widdows.  
Joan Hughes was proposed by Bob Tomlinson and seconded by Nick Widdows.  
Chris McKane was proposed by Bernard Self and seconded by Nick Widdows  
Sue Scott was proposed at the meeting by Karen McKane and seconded by Mary Fuller.  
There being no other nominations, they were declared elected and their election was acclaimed by the meeting.

**(c) Sidespeople**

The following were confirmed as sides-people:

Sally Collins, Lorri Currie, Joan Hughes, Val Martin, Chris McKane, David Ribbans, Lorna Ribbans, Sue Scott, Jeremy St John and Grace Williams,

**6. Reports required by law.**

- (a) Electoral Roll.** Jane Myhill stated that the roll now stood at 70. Report received.
- (b) DCC Report.** The report was received by the meeting.
- (c) Fabric Report.** The report was received by the meeting.
- (d) PCC Report.** The report was received by the meeting.
- (e) Deanery Synod.** The report was received by the meeting.
- (f) Treasurers' Report and Presentation of Accounts for the Church and St John's Centre for year ending 31st December 2021.** The report was received by the meeting. Jack Dale said that a surplus had been created by a generous legacy but without that there would have been a substantial deficit. We could not go on like this and needed to consider other ways of generating income.

Bob Tomlinson asked why money raised for Christian Aid week had been topped up from DCC funds. Jack Dale said that due to Covid restrictions it had not been possible to hold any fund raising activities. This would probably not be necessary in 2022 but the matter would be discussed by the DCC.

Karen McKane said that we had had deficits in all recent years. A small working group had been established to consider what could be done and anyone who could help would be greatly welcomed to join the group.

It was proposed by Jack Dale, seconded by Joan Hughes and carried by the meeting that all the statutory reports be accepted.

**7. Other Reports.**

All non-statutory reports were noted by the meeting and no questions raised.

**8. Any other business.**

There was no other business.

**9. Chairman's Closing Remarks.**

The Chairman expressed thanks to Ann Poole and Mags Seppala for their sterling work in flower arrangement, Chris McKane for dealing with Centre bookings and all those who cleaned the church

He said that the 9.30 am start time for our main service seemed to be working well and was the best compromise for his duties at St John's and All Saints.

Jack Dale proposed a vote of thanks for Simon for all had done since he took over responsibility for St John's and this was warmly endorsed by the meeting. Thanks were also expressed for the Church Wardens.

**Simon Tillotson, Chairman**

**Nick Widdows, Secretary**

**May 2022**