

PARISH OF ST LAURENCE-IN-THANET

ST CATHERINE MANSTON
ST CHRISTOPHER NEWINGTON
ST LAURENCE-IN-THANET
ST MARK NORTHWOOD
ST MARY CLIFFSEND

ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT

For the year ending 31st December 2021



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1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of the report is to review the life of the St Laurence-in-Thamet Team Ministry during 2021, as well as relating the financial statements to the work and vision of the five churches in the team. Since April 2017, the St Laurence-in-Thamet Parish has been a five church benefice which includes St Catherine Manston, St Christopher Newington, St Laurence, St Mark Northwood and St Mary Cliffsend.

2 AIM AND PURPOSE

The aim of St Laurence Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to co-operate with the Shared Leadership Team, (SLT) headed by our Team Rector Rev. Andrew Jacobson. The SLT included Rev. Captain Pete Bone, Church Army (CA) until July 2021, the Parochial Wardens Sue Booker and Sharon Cutler, and the Parish Administrator. Jess Andrews became Parish Administrator in May 2021, when Freda Parker retired. We seek to assist in promoting within the parish the whole mission of the Church, spiritual, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical (PCC measure 1956). The mission of the Church is assisted by our Honorary Assistant Curate Rev. Ken Cox, our Reader and Missioner at St Mark's Sue Cox, (until September 2021), Readers Judith Andrews, Frances Barnes, John Vinson, Amanda Champs (Reader in Training) and retired priests who have permission to officiate Rev. Philip Barnes and Rev. Brian Griffiths. Rev. Pat Westbrook retired but had special permission to officiate at her leaving service at St Catherine's, Manston, eventually held in July. The PCC has delegated maintenance responsibilities, to the relevant Local Leadership Teams (LLTs) for all five churches, and for the St Laurence Parish Hall and St Mark's Hall.

3 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- The prime objective throughout the Parish has been to mediate the love of Christ and minister to the spiritual and practical needs of our parishioners.
- To offer a variety of both traditional and creative forms of worship in each of the five churches within the benefice.

4 THE TEAM RECTOR'S ANNUAL REVIEW OF 2021

The ongoing COVID pandemic meant that 2021 was a challenging year for the Parish of St Laurence. Our priority has been to support each other and continue as best that we can to continue to provide a high level of spiritual and pastoral care to our church members and parishioners. I would personally like to thank the Shared Leadership Team, members of the PCC, our Parish Administrator Jess Andrews, our Parish Pastoral Team for all their care and dedication throughout what has been another turbulent year.

The physical and spiritual health and welfare of our church members and parishioners has been the main priority across all our churches. We have been careful to ensure that Government and Diocesan COVID-19 guidelines have been strictly adhered to. This of course has meant that in some cases we had to adapt and do things slightly differently. Many of our church groups and societies were either suspended or had to meet online. Thank you to the team of volunteers who continue to faithfully lead Morning and Night Prayer each day and Jess for distributing Parish and Pew News. I know that this has been a great source of comfort to many in the parish.

In July, we said goodbye to our curate Pete Bone and his wife Lynne and daughter Ann. We continue to pray for them as they settle into their new parish in Coventry Diocese. Whilst in October, Sue Cox relinquished her role as our Parish Missioner when the diocesan grant came to an end. However, we look forward to benefitting from her continued ministry on her return from sabbatical.

We continue to maintain our close links with St Laurence in Thanet Junior Academy and throughout lockdown, I continued to lead collective worship in school (sometimes via Microsoft Teams). In my capacity as a chaplain to the Kent Police I continued to visit Margate Police Station each month to offer pastoral care to the hardworking staff of Kent Police's East Division. During the year I was commissioned as a Royal Navy Reserve Chaplain to Ramsgate and Broadstairs Sea Cadets (T.S Bull Dog) and we are beginning to forge new links between the unit, the parish and St Laurence School.

I am pleased that we now appear to be gradually returning to some form of normality as COVID restrictions are lifted. Sadly, Sunday attendance is still below pre-pandemic levels, however many of our churches have gained new members. Whilst financial giving has remained relatively stable, there has been a sharp decrease in income from fundraising events and revenue from the hire of our church halls. Therefore, we have not been able to pay our 2021 parish share in full. God willing, this year we will be able to make a determined effort to do so.

As we begin a new year let's continue to thank God for the many blessings that he pours upon us and continue to love and care for each other and everyone in the wider community.

Rev Andrew Jacobson

4.1 REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

ANNA MINISTRY

Judith Andrews

Unfortunately, with the continuing pandemic any plans to support existing or start new groups and activities were curtailed during 2021.

Regular pastoral calls, supporting individuals and online events have continued and, undoubtedly, will continue during 2022 as many are still worried about returning to church and face to face events.

In 2021, I became the Assistant Warden of Readers in the Diocese, and with my passion for Anna Chaplaincy have used this role to promote and support Anna Chaplains in Canterbury.

The number of Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends is growing, and I hope that this will be seen in the Thanet Deanery this year.

Plans for 2022 include a "come and see" event to help spread the word of Anna Ministry and the opportunities for volunteers; presentations about Anna Chaplaincy across the Deanery; a monthly service for those living with dementia and their families/carers; a monthly social group for those living with dementia and their families; and a monthly event for older people. These plans are still very much in their infancy and will be presented to Reverend Andrew and the Senior Leadership Team later this year.

Whatever this year brings us, I will continue to hope and pray that God will use me to spread His love to older people and those living with dementia and their families.

Anna Ministry is a way of responding to the needs of older people and people living with dementia and their families by keeping them at the forefront of church life. The plan remains to build a team of Anna Friends, who will focus on delivering spiritual care support to older people, people living with dementia and their carers, whether in care homes, private homes, churches or community settings.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH TEAM

There have been no meetings for the Children and Youth Team Committee since before the first lockdown in March 2020 when Gwen Hobday stepped down after serving for at least 7 years.

COFFEE & CHAOS – PARENT/CARER TODDLER GROUP

This group was closed down in March 2020 as a result of the COVID19 pandemic and remained closed throughout 2021.

FRESH EXPRESSIONS

Ignite was shut down by the Diocese in March 2020 and has not re-opened. Discussions are taking place with those in charge to find a way forward.

COMMUNITY

The Thanet Winter Shelter were unable to use the St Laurence Parish Hall or St Christopher's Church, as they did not meet government requirements for providing safe 'COVID' accommodation

PARISH PASTORAL & BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The Parish Bereavement and Pastoral team includes both Lay and Ordained members. Five are authorised Lay Ministers.

Because of the Covid situation this year, the team have only held three meetings face to face. These have been held in church to cover the spacing situation.

We have however been in regular contact by telephone.

The team took part in the All Souls Service on 31st August 2021. Many commented afterwards on how uplifting the service had been with the church filled with so much love and support.

We continue to keep in touch with church members, who always seem pleased to be remembered.

Marcia Neve

Footprints Coffee Club for the Bereaved.2021

Footprints Coffee Club is held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. 10a.m. to 11.30a.m. However, we were only able to meet for the last four months of the year because of the COVID restrictions. Two of these were held in St Laurence Church, the other two were held in the Parish Hall.

Rev. Andrew suggested the move to the hall to give us more space. We can have as many as 25 people at any one time.

We try and take great care to keep everyone as safe as we can.

Four of our members have now decided to move on from Footprints. Although they will be missed, this is why the group was set up to begin with. We are there to be listening ears and to watch as folk begin their path to something new.

Flowers were sent to Eileen from the team for Christmas. She now helps us support others with phone calls.

Flowers were also sent to Margaret to celebrate her 90th birthday.

We always remember that we never walk the path of grief alone.

Marcia Neve

4.2 ST CATHERINE MANSTON

During the closed period until Palm Sunday Rev Pete ran two bible courses via Zoom. Attendees: Julia, Cheryl, Barbara, Phil, Graham, Zoe, Freda, Margaret, Sara.

Two LLT meetings have been held this year: Feb (via Zoom), September (in church).

The renovation of the organ was completed during the closure. Barbara Redman (treasurer) liaised with Rex Goodban (benefactor) and Mander Organ Builders (formerly FH Browne & Sons Ltd). They returned later in the year to fix a pipe which had stopped opening, this was within the warranty period.

Two funeral services were held: Mr David Reeves, 28 May. Miss Pamela Hartley, 24 June

We held fare well services for Rev Pete Bone and Rev Pat Westbrook, presenting gifts and bidding well wishes for their future post/retirement.

The diocesan Care of Churches Officer, Edmund Harris, visited during the summer and clarified the position regarding faculties: the only church in our benefice requiring these is St Laurence as the other churches are not consecrated.

Two weddings were held: 21st August, Blakemore & Sinclair.

22nd November, Dickson & Endersby

Two baptism services were held.

Social events included: 6 rambles (June – November), Harvest Supper (venue: St Cath's church), Christmas

Dinner (venue: Manston village hall). Christmas Concert (venue: St Cath's church) Thanet Community Gospel Choir.

Special Services included: Harvest, Battle of Britain, Remembrance, Carol Service, Crib (no Christingle this year).

Sunday attendance has increased on average. This will be reflected in the annual figures.

Julia Penn, churchwarden St Catherine's, Manston.

4.3 ST CHRISTOPHER NEWINGTON

The Church of St Christopher is located at the end of Princess Margaret Avenue in Newington. Since 2019 there have been no members on the electoral roll. During 2021 the church continued to be closed as Ignite were unable to resume meeting each week on a Thursday

St Christopher's House, formerly the home of the St Laurence in Thanet Team Vicar, has been granted planning permission for use by the 'Break the Cycle Project'. This is a project in which 4 people leaving Elmley Prison are provided with a home and support to assist them in their transition to living in the community.

4.4 ST LAURENCE

Local Churchwarden's report 2021

Following a further Covid lockdown, the church was closed throughout January and February but, thankfully, we were able to re-open in time for Easter. We are grateful to Rev. Andrew and the Ministry Team for taking services throughout 2021, and for the sterling support provided by our Parish Readers, who are always prepared to step up to the lectern to read the lessons and lead prayers. We are also grateful to the Readers for taking the lead in Services of the Word – a new experience for the St. Laurence congregation. The 8.00 a.m. Communion Service has also been reinstated and takes place once a month.

As soon as the last lockdown was over, the Holy Dusters recommenced their weekly attendances to ensure the church is kept as clean and tidy as possible and we are grateful for their continuing efforts in this regard – not an easy task with such a large building. Thanks are also due to Wendy and her team of flower arrangers, who have provided many beautiful arrangements which they place alongside the High Altar and at various points throughout the church – their arrangements for the Christmas services were particularly festive.

To encourage families to return to church, a group helped clear the children's area and through the generosity of people in the Parish, a new children's library has been created. Pebbles (for the under fives) restarted in September, although the departure of six children who are now old enough for Rock Solid means that attendance has been limited. Rock Solid was also restarted in September, led by Sian Catto,

Since September, the Prayer Space has displayed three themes – 'Thank You', 'Remembrance' and 'Advent Promises'. Interaction with the space continues to be disappointing, despite members of the congregation and church groups being invited to become involved.

Although the Omicron strain meant that the Christingle Service had to be cancelled, we were still able to hold the Christmas Eve Midnight Service and the Christmas Day Communion Service – the Midnight Service being particularly well-attended.

It's also very good to hear the bells ringing out (particularly for the Christmas services) – thanks go to Freda and all our ringers.

Regular school services are being held each week in the church with the St. Laurence Junior Academy.

During 2021, the church hosted:

9 baptisms
3 weddings
6 funerals

Towards the end of 2021, the LLT had a discussion about payments of contributions by our congregation and it was felt that it would be advantageous if the Planned Giving envelope scheme could be phased out and people encouraged to make payments by direct debit, on-line transfer or cheque. A letter was distributed to parishioners, asking people to confirm how they would like to make their financial contributions in the future and explaining the difficulties we were having with regard to paying in cash, as well as being liable to pay fees if we went over our limit for paying in cash or cheques. We also now have the ability to accept card payments at the services, if people wish to use that option. Barbara Redman felt it was imperative that giving was made electronically (for cost and administration reasons) and said that only four or five people still used the envelope scheme.

As with most churches, due mostly to restrictions imposed with regard to the pandemic, finance continues to be a problem at St. Laurence and it was mentioned that Ecclesiastical has increased the insurance value of the church by a further £1,000,000.00, which means that the premium is also going to be increased.

Kelly Gooding produced drafts of leaflets highlighting donations and the history of the church, which were universally approved by the LLT. Kelly subsequently produced a copy of each leaflet, which have been placed in plastic stands alongside the demijohn by the church door. Thanks go to Kelly for a really excellent job. She also mentioned that the SUMUP machine that we use to take card payments should be announced/advertised at 'special' services (such as Nine Lessons and Carols, etc.) which sometimes draw people who are not regular churchgoers.

Dennis Brandrick enquired whether there was a 'donate' button on the St. Laurence church website and it was suggested that the provision of such a button (via PayPal) could be investigated.

Wendy had advised Ann that there is an account with Nationwide for the provision of flowers in the church, but Nationwide are no longer supporting trustee accounts. Barbara stated that these funds should be transferred to the church's main bank account, but suggested they could be designated as the flower fund. Ann subsequently passed this information to Wendy who said she was not a signatory to the account but arranged to call into Nationwide with Dorothy Manning (one of the original signatories) and so was able to close the account with Nationwide handing her a cheque for the balance remaining in it (bank transfer not possible from this type of account).

Nothing further has been heard with regard to removal of the holm oak tree and we are hoping that this means that the householder who made the complaint has had second thoughts about it.

The church clock is in need of repair/renovation and this matter remains 'on the books' but has been put on hold for the time being.

John Paramor confirmed that the provision of heating in the ringing chamber can go ahead, after an electrician inspected and said he believed that the necessary work can be carried out without having to add anything. This means that a faculty will not be required as nothing is being added.

With regard to the manuscript and the bible, it is hoped that a separate, free-standing, cabinet can be obtained where both items can be displayed.

We are still waiting for the Diocese to make a decision about the memorial plaque for Denys Le Fevre, but are hopeful that this will soon be forthcoming.

With regard to internal repairs to water damage inside the church, the necessary expenditure has been approved by the LLT and the PCC and we now await a faculty to enable the works to go ahead. There have been some further, relatively minor, incidences of water ingress and John Paramor and Freda Parker made a brief inspection of the roof when they were clearing gutters. They found where the water appeared to be getting in and the leak appears to be entirely dependent on the wind direction – which would seem to indicate that the problem lies either with the flashing under the lead or the pointing, both of which can be quickly renewed without the need for a faculty.

Both John and Freda expressed concerns about the ivy they found growing in the guttering and there was a general feeling that ivy should be removed to prevent damage to the guttering and roof. It was felt that removal of ivy from headstones in the churchyard should be avoided, to avoid potentially damaging the headstones themselves, but that ivy could be removed from the walls of the church and the walls in the churchyard. Barbara Byne was approached in this regard but felt that removing the ivy from the walls would be difficult and would only grow back. She also felt that the ivy in the guttering was more likely being caused by birds depositing seeds as the guttering was too far removed from the churchyard for the ivy to spread from ground level.

Liaison between the church and St. Laurence Junior Academy has been very good – the Harvest Festival and Trafalgar Day services had been particularly successful, as had the Remembrance Day service for the whole school.

The Parish Hall is still underused though various local groups (such as Footprints, the Acorn Club and the Townswomen's Guild) are now holding their regular meetings there. There has been some feedback, though, that new members, who didn't know where the hall was, had said they found it difficult to spot the hall from the road outside. The hall was also used by Thanet District Council as a polling station for the local election.

The question of the Parish Hall roof has been discussed – there were three leaks in different places. One is in the same place as before, but two were in slightly different places and there was also a hole in the wall which needs blocking up. We have a duty of care to the Hall, and expenditure was approved by the LLT.

Finally, Barbara Byne stepped down from the LLT in April 2021 and we thank her for all her hard work as a member of the Team. Barbara remains in charge of the care/maintenance of the churchyard and, backed up by her assistants, is taking excellent care of the area to ensure that the wildlife it attracts is catered for and any human visitors can enjoy a walk through one of the few tranquil spots in the Parish.

Ann Gregson – churchwarden of St. Laurence Church

Acorn Club Report 2021

The Acorn Club is a group of older members of the community who meet on a Thursday afternoon between 2p.m. and 4p.m. in term-time in the St Laurence Parish Hall for fun refreshment and fellowship. There are currently 15 members on the register. As a result of the COVID pandemic, the club remained closed from January to September 2021 but after providing a risk assessment that stated there would be increased ventilation, members would be able to sit further apart, and disinfectant hand gel would be provided, the club re-opened on 16th September, when the members were delighted to be together again. We were able to meet on 11 occasions, finishing with a Carol Service and a Christmas Tea. Earlier in the year, Acorn organiser, Zoë, kept monthly contact with the members by phone and an Easter card. Jan Lennox, a club member, has continued to send birthday cards to club members.

Zoë Story (Acorn Club organizer)

Tower Captain's Report 2021

Looking back on 2021 there was a considerable amount of ringing in the tower, more than in 2020. We started the year still in lock down so no ringing in the New Year on tower bells, however we continued to meet up on Tuesday evening for our online practice using Ringing Room and Skype. The year started well with a plain course of Stedman being successfully rung at our first online practice. By mid-January most people were back each week for ringing, chat and loads of laughter. In February we held our AGM online, Rev

Andrew chaired the meeting. The Tower officers were re-elected on mass, and everyone confirmed they had managed to renew their KCACR (Kent County Association of Change Ringers) subs via the new online portal. Tower subs had also managed to find their way to Fiona during the lockdown.

March, April and May online practice continued, with some notable rings of April Day and a touch of Plain Bob Doubles. Easter came and went again without ringing the half muffled Good Friday quarter peal.

In April John, tolled the Tenor 99 times following the notification of the death of HRH Prince Philip, Freda assisted him by counting. We then both tolled again on 17th April for the funeral.

Sunday 23rd May – Pentecost. We came back to ring the tower bells for services, these service rings were pre booked with a maximum of six ringers per session. We continued to meet up Tuesdays online. In June we received a complaint regarding the noise of the bells, we checked the louvers to find one had dropped, John and Freda refitted the louver, and this rectified the complaint.

In July the covid restrictions in England had been lifted and we returned to tower bell practices. Both our young ringers Ann and Eleanor neither who had rung since March 2020 came back with great gusto and rung exceptionally well. July also saw Rev Pete's last service before he left our parish to take up his own parish. We managed a long length of Bob Doubles, so all the online practice paid off.

Over the summer we were contacted by Shireen Qureshi to see if the ringers would be interested to take part in the Ramsgate Festival of Sound. Shireen came to the tower early August and recorded the practice, which she took away and edited it with a voice over of Freda's piece "Bell Ringing in Unusual Times", which can be found on the parish website. The final item was broadcast over the weekend of 2nd to 5th September at the East Cliff Bandstand. The item was also broadcasted at railway stations in Thanet.

A small group of us attended the Canterbury District AGM at St Dunstan's, Canterbury in October. It was good to see so many old friends again. October also saw us make good progress with tower ringing with Callum, Fiona and Mick all progressing well with Plain Hunt. Debbie and Sally are tackling Bob Doubles well too. In November we had Pete come along to see what ringing is all about. He is now progressing well learning to ring the bells. November also gave us the chance to have a half-muffled practice prior to Remembrance Sunday when we rang half muffled for the service. Eva Bull who did such a lot for the bells and ringers, especially during the restoration appeal died aged 101. As a tribute to her the bells were tolled and rung half muffled, before and after her funeral service.

In December with the arrival of the Omicron variant we have continued Sunday service ringing but have gone back online to practice. We were very pleased to ring for the carol service this year as well as the Midnight service on Christmas Eve and the Christmas morning service. Unfortunately, due to not enough ringers being available we were not able to ring in the New Year again.

I would like to thank everyone of you for turning up week in and week out to continue this amazing, ancient craft of full circle ringing. Long may it continue.

Freda Parker

Tower Captain

The Friends of the Churchyard Report 2021

A hardy group of volunteers, varying in number from 2 – 5, not always the same ones, has worked in the Churchyard on Wednesday each week and quite often on Friday, for roughly 2 hours each visit. The year has been a "growth year" in so far as it was warm and damp – i.e. it rained a lot. This means that everything kept growing, weeds, grass and trees, so several jobs had to be repeated. The winter heliotrope had to be cut 3 times, as did the alexander. Each month had its plant to concentrate on:- April and May alexander, May and June sticky weed and July cow parsley whilst we left the different grasses to encourage the birds and butterflies until late September when we cut by hand to avoid damaging the gravestones.

Some jobs are on – going, such as the weeds growing in the gully, which is tackled as and when and the grass growing between the flagstones around the front of the church. Holly, bramble and cherry saplings have to be dug up and ivy when overgrown trimmed gently from the gravestones. Unfortunately the volunteer who did the mowing only came once as he was otherwise engaged, but the Town Council were very co-operative cutting the grass when they were asked – and removing our green waste builders bags and replacing them.

The Town Council also planted spring bulbs (which added to our normal grand display of bluebells, crocuses and primroses). They also prepared the ground by the Manston Road Gate for a flower garden which they planted in July and this resulted in a beautiful wild flower area by the side of which an open air service was held in late summer. We were lucky this year because two gentlemen have joined our small group and thanks

to them a different 30 percent of the growth has been cleared without disturbing wild life. Also work cutting the hedges along by "The Chase Wall" started in December and should be finished by Spring.

The Memorial Garden has been raked of leaves and the holly tree trimmed to improve the appearance of it and a dedicated volunteer comes to cut the grass when it needs it.

Several days were spent on the front of the Parish Hall and clearing the pathway round it. The litter was collected from here and it should be mentioned that much time is taken collecting litter by the sack full on Wednesday and Friday.

Barbara Byne

Events Report 2021

The only "events" organised last year were the Churchyard Tours, and the Church Tours, which we were able to start in July. 4 of these tours had roughly 12 people on each but on one occasion only 4 turned up (poor weather). The 5 Churchyard Tours resulted in a total of £177.

The Church Tours in November and December were not supported and only a 2/3 people turned up on each. Resulting in donations of £8.44.

We joined in the Heritage Open Days in September, but again the number of visitors to the Church were few. It may be worth mentioning that quite a number of people turned up (after lock down) to research their ancestry and among these visitors to the Churchyard was Julia Abel Smith who wrote the book "Forbidden Wife – The Life and Trials of Lady Augusta Murray". Accompanying Julia was the Chairman of the Mausoleum & Monuments Trust, Ian Johnson. He was very interested in the story and the Mausoleum itself. He hoped to interest the Trust enough to obtain funding for a restoration of the Mausoleum.

Barbara Byne

Fairtrade Group 2021 trustees report

There were no celebrations for the 5th birthday of the St Laurence Fair Trade group as the Covid pandemic curtailed all activities. Originally there were 5 members who promoted the Fairtrade ideals. In November 2021 this was reduced to two members. The St Laurence LLT (local leadership team) were asked for help to continue the accreditation which expires on 25th February 2022. In the Autumn of 2021 the serving of refreshments after the Sunday 10a.m. service was resumed using Fair trade coffee, tea and sugar.

Zoë Story and Gwen Hobday

Missions and Giving 2021

Our usual sequence of collection boxes for the charities we support was very much interrupted by the closure of the church for services. We did try to follow the sequence: support for 'home' missions, Lent boxes, support for Christian Aid and then support for 'world -wide' charities. However, breaks in services meant that returns were spasmodic.

During the year we received £93 for 'home' missions, £28 for CMS, £10 for 'world-wide' mission and a general donation. Over the end of the year more boxes were returned. The total given for the year came to £578.64p. This was a little larger than in 2020 in spite of no coffee mornings, Christian Aid envelopes or Christingle. The allocations are displayed in Church.

Peter Williams

Pebbles 2021

I am delighted to say that Pebbles went live on 17th October 2021 after a very long break, due to Covid. Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to 6 of our Pebbles, who are now old enough to be in Rock Solid. Many thanks to their parents for supporting Pebbles during the months we could not be live – so good to know that we could do distance learning!!! This does mean that we only have 3 Pebbles, at the moment.

Many thanks for those who helped clear the Children's area so that families have access to a space during the service which caters for the under 5s. The generosity of people has enabled a library of appropriate new books and parents and children have been delighted with them.

Resources are still being provided for those who cannot attend church, at the moment or are forced into isolation. Each week a story linked to the Readings of the day is shared with the children, followed by an

activity: great fun is had by all. In the event that Sue Booker is not available, the story and the activities are provided to be used by the parents, in the Thirsten Room.

During our enforced separation, parents and myself learnt the importance of keeping in contact and the importance of listening to others and hearing what has been shared. It has been a privilege to share good and difficult news; even better when we can do it in the same place.

It would be brilliant if members of the Parish could advertise that the sessions are running – with the exception of the Second Sunday, as it is the Family Service – every Sunday. Parents just need to be in the Children's Area where I will be seated to meet and greet and share arrangements. With the help of the Parish, I am sure that we can return to the days of a number of children attending each Sunday and being involved in the services, as in the past.

Sue Booker

Prayer Space 2021

The Prayer Space reopened in October 2021 with the theme of Thanking God for all we have to be grateful for. Sadly, very few people coming into church took a moment to share all that they have to be thankful for. We had the Poppy Cross and appropriate readings and prayers for the Remembrance Day services. During Advent, following the example of Rock Solid, the Theme of Advent Promises was adopted and their promises were part of the display. It should be noted that children led the way by adding further promises.

It would be good if all groups linked to the St Laurence Church would take responsibility for a theme once a year, which may encourage people to take the opportunity to use the space for quiet contemplation, rather than a space to walk through. There is also nothing to stop Individuals taking responsibility for an area and create a means to help people pray, to become more involved in the life of the parish and to consider how we spread the Good News of God's Love. Sue Booker is the person to liaise with and support will be provided for those wishing to be involved.

Sue Booker.

4.5 ST MARK NORTHWOOD

St Mark's Church is situated on the corner of Margate Road and Pysons Road in the Northwood Area of Ramsgate. It is one of 5 churches in the Parish of St Laurence -in- Thanet in the Diocese of Canterbury.

Due to Covid -19 restrictions issued by the Government/Diocese, services and attendance has been affected and a pre-booking /sign in regime adopted at St Marks to ensure social distancing of Clergy and congregation at Church Meetings.

Many thanks to all who enabled this.

The Pandemic has also had a dramatic effect on the hall usage and adversely affected our income stream. Although much interest has been forthcoming with new enquiries as the restrictions ease.

On 17th October St Mark's said farewell to Sue Cox who has provided us with varied much appreciated services during her tenure as Missioner, This was a joint service and marked the departure of Archdeacon Jo to pastures new, and who has always believed in the St Marks ethos and supported us during her time of leadership.

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Phil Barnes and his wife Frances who have stepped into the leadership role with great enthusiasm.

Grounds maintenance was a further casualty of the restrictions and plans are in place to bring the grounds back to their former condition and repair the gates, paths and pointing in several areas. Specific attention to the flower beds and ivy on the Church frontage being a priority area.

The car park hedging is also in urgent need of attention and plans have been formulated for wild flower areas in the coming Spring.

Recommendations from the Quinquennial Inspection Report are being followed and several useful ideas were mooted especially with regard to heating and the main entrance to the Church.

At this moment in time we have an ongoing issue with the new floor in the Hall which has problems due to the sub floor swelling and lifting the new surface with it.

We are awaiting a response from the contractor who installed it but this is ongoing, we hope to have a solution shortly.

On another negative point water ingress to the hall is still apparent via the roof to the left of the double fire

doors,

Further water ingress has been noted in both stage wings/stairs, which have lead valleys and the lounge which also has had lead in the valley there.

An inspection will be made this week to establish if an insurance claim needs to be raised and a crime number obtained.

The lounge heating is now fully working, the problem appeared to be due to person or persons unknown resetting the timers so they would only work for an hour and a quarter after midnight!

The new kitchen installation will be undertaken next month and will be of great benefit to all parties who use it, allowing us to host events that would have been outside our previous capabilities.

New LED lighting has been obtained to cover the external entrances at night and these units are activated by PIR sensors and will cut our bills when fully installed in the porch-ways and adjusted to cover the footpaths.

Services remain in their normal pattern and the evening service led by Chris Martin is growing steadily and we hope that this will continue as the weather improves and normal attendance can be reinstated.

Safeguarding,

I have been in touch with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and have been given permission to host an event at St. Marks for all who need to refresh or take up their C2 safeguarding training.

It will be face-to-face but social distancing rules will apply, as St Mark's is big enough to enable this. The limit of 30 will be adhered to and pre-booking required for the event[s].

LLT meetings have been regularly held and this is the 5th meeting since the AGM.

Many thanks to all who have undertaken chairing and organising this.

Kevin Spain.

4. ST MARY CLIFFSEND

2021 has been another quiet but blessed year for St Mary's.

There was one Local Leadership Team meeting in September.

On the 9th of April, the Church was open for public prayer on the death of Prince Philip and on the 11th we held a Memorial Service using Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer in tribute to him.

On 13th May, the water was tested by the Southern Water Engineer and taken away for analysis. It was again tested on 18th May and passed as pure.

In July we had a visit from the Care of Churches representative, who photographed various aspects of the Church and recorded the data onto the official spread sheet.

In October we were permitted to re-start singing again and it was wonderful to once again hear the Rev Ken's rich baritone voice in full flow.

Two baptisms of the same family were undertaken by the Rev Ken, and also the Harvest Service was well attended with many gifts for the food bank.

28 Nov, Rev Ken lighted the first Advent Candle for us, with a well-attended First Advent Service.

We held a Remembrance Day Service which was very well attended. Detective Superintendent Vinson MBE Read out the names of people which had been asked to be remembered by their friends and relatives, this also included a visiting family who asked for members of their family to be remembered when they were killed in a bombing in Ramsgate.

Mr Ronald Quick, our 98 year old stalwart, read the immortal words for the Last Post and Revellie with a strong voice and without using his spectacles.

We finished the year with a well-attended Midnight Communion, officiated by Rev Ken.

Throughout the year, Daily Morning and Evening Prayer Services have continued, with an "All Welcome" notice outside and on the Church noticeboard. House visits for the Elderly or people who are confined to their homes for various reasons have also continued. This includes Holy Communion with the wafers being consecrated by Rev Ken during a Holy Communion Service in the Church.

John Vinson

4.7 ST LAURENCE PARISH HALL

The hall has been very much left on its own because of Covid restrictions. We were pleased that Lynne Bone was able to run Rock Solid while it was possible and that Sian Catto was able to take over.

The May Council Elections were held in the hall, with the necessary precautions. Several repairs have been made to a leaking roof and the kitchen electrics. In the Spring an enthusiastic band of parishioners turned out to make the hall ready for business. This included many things ranging from cleaning the toilets to washing and re-lining the curtains. We are most grateful for their hard work.

The Townswomen's Guild returned in November and other organisations have returned. We had a birthday party and an all-day sale.

Those who use the hall are impressed by the space inside and appreciative of the facilities.

Please recommend the hall to those looking for a place to meet, run a sale or have a party.

Peter Williams

4.8 THE BARBER SHOP

Located adjacent to the St Laurence Parish Hall continues to be leased to Simon Wiseman with whom we have a good working relationship. The Barber Shop is now open for appointments. Simon has expressed his thanks to the parish for their support during the pandemic.

4.9 ST LAURENCE JUNIOR ACADEMY



In God's eyes we believe, achieve and aspire!

**St Laurence-in-Thanel
Church of England
Junior Academy**

Joy • Hope • Forgiveness • Love • Resilience

The Ministry Team continue to take Collective Worship at the school every Monday and Thursday. We are having to be very flexible in these uncertain times where everything changes on a sixpence, however the children are still regularly attending Church on a weekly basis and have taken part in whole school services. We are using the Diocesan Fresh Approach resources to plan and deliver our Collective Worship and closely plan with the Ministry Team. The children are enjoying a 'joined up' series of worships which are relevant, interesting and enjoyable.

The school has worked with the Ministry Team in the following ways:

- The whole school attended a Harvest Festival service at Church where Year 4 led us in giving thanks for our food.
- Year 3 led the whole school in a Christmas Nativity service which was held in the school hall - parents and the community are able to view a recording of this.
- The children enjoyed Easter and leavers services in the latter part of the year.
- A Worship Leaders club is run by Mrs Catto involving children in planning and assisting in worships.
- 'Rock Solid' - our children's Church group is led by Mrs Catto and plays an important part in Church life.
- The Ministry Team have continued to support staff in times of difficulty. Reverend Andrew continues to spend time with staff in school in addition to leading Monday Collective Worship.
- The Church very kindly allowed a banner to be put up advertising school open evenings and the school advertises the church's events through newsletters and messages to parents.

For further information regarding the school's events and to see what our school community are doing please visit our online newsletters at:

<http://www.stlaurencejuniors.co.uk/news/newsletters>

School Prayer

God make my life a little light
within the world to glow.
A little flame burning bright
wherever I may go. Amen



5 ELECTORAL ROLL FIGURES AND USUAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll information for all five district churches is given below

St Catherine	17	Resident	7	Non-resident	10
St Christopher	0		0		0
St Laurence	77	Resident	45	Non-resident	32
St Mark	72	Resident	47	Non-resident	25
St Mary	24	Resident	23	Non-resident	1
Totals	190	Resident	122	Non-resident	68

Church Attendance

St Catherine	12.5
St Christopher	0
St Laurence	42.25
St Mark	42.25
St Mary	13.25

6 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

6.1 INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parish of St Laurence-in-Thanet

I report on the accounts of the parish for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (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 benefice and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking 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 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.



Mrs Judith Rowland-Hill FCA

March 2022

6.2 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £102,424 of which £73,287 was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £5,457 was from Gift Aid. Restricted voluntary receipts of £15,278 were also received and are detailed in the Financial Statements. Leasing of the Barber Shop provided a net income of £4,321; rent was paid for eight out of twelve months due to enforced closure.

A comparison between the 2019, 2020 and 2021 accounts shows that Planned Giving through envelopes and standing orders decreased by 6.5% from 2020 and almost 10% from 2019. Our thanks go to the generosity of our congregations who are steadfast even through such turbulent times. Collections at services increased by over 20% compared with 2020 but were down by 31.4% from 2019. We are grateful for legacies received from the estates of Molly Pocock and Irene Thomas. Generous donations enabled the refurbishment of the organ at St Catherine's Church, also the replacement of the kitchen at St Mark's (due February 2022). Five weddings were held in the Parish this year.

Hall rental income in the parish totalled £1,621 – a decrease of £11,463 compared with 2020, and £31,042 2019. Fund raising activities across the parish this year were still severely impacted - £1,404 compared with £13,913 in 2019.

£100,303 was spent from unrestricted funds, including the contribution to the Diocesan Parish Share. The sum that the churches of the Ministry have to find is apportioned between the churches according to a formula that is based on the Usual Sunday Attendance (USA) and the voluntary receipts of each church. £52,276 was paid; an adjustment to the original share of £99,276 left arrears of £45,589. Due to the challenges faced in 2021, the Mission Resources Group of Archbishop's Council awarded the Parish a grant of £25,000 reducing the deficit to £20,589 for which we are extremely thankful. The £34,000 deficit from 2020 was reduced to £31,375 by a supplement from Lowest Income Communities Funding. Church running costs were comparable with 2020 and £8,779 lower than 2019.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £29,342. For 2022 the Parish Share has been further reduced to £81,085; dependent upon us paying our share in full and for parishes that can pay to support those who cannot.

6.3 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Parochial Church Council of St Laurence-in-Thamet Team Ministry

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Receipts and Payments Account		1				
			TOTAL FUNDS			
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021	2020
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts:						
Planned Giving		44,006			44,006	47,064
Collections at services		13,616			13,616	11,312
All other giving / voluntary receipts	5a	15,665	15,278		30,943	45,093
Gift Aid recovered		5,457	2,232		7,689	28,276
		78,744	17,510	0	96,254	131,744
Activities for generating funds	5b	1,404			1,404	2,198
Investment income	5c	16,536	1,516		18,053	17,298
Church Activities	5d	5,739	1,505		7,244	16,488
Total Receipts		102,424	20,531	0	122,955	167,728
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities						
Parish Share		52,276			52,276	73,315
Clergy and staffing costs		9,886			9,886	13,917
Church running expenses	5e	33,764	6,395		40,159	39,832
Hall running costs		4,377	824		5,201	5,607
Mission giving and donations		0	44,774		44,774	28,477
		100,303	51,993	0	152,296	161,148
Costs of generating funds	5f				0	101
Total Payments		100,303	51,993	0	152,296	161,249
Excess of Receipts over Payments		2,120	-31,462	0	-29,342	6,479
Transfer between funds	4	-635	635		0	0
		1,485	-30,827	0	-29,342	6,479

Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January	11,492	63,452	74,944	68,465
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December	12,977	32,625	45,602	74,944

6.4 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

				TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	
					2021 2020
Cash Funds					
Bank Current Account		7,122	5,017		12,139 36,132
Deposit Account		5,855	27,608		33,463 38,812
Cash		0			0 0
		12,977	32,625	0	45,602 74,944
Other Monetary Assets					
Gift Aid recoverable					0
		0	0	0	0 0
Investment Assets					
Investment Fund	2			453,539	453,539 393,886
		0	0	453,539	453,539 393,886
Fixed Assets retained for Church use	3				0
Liabilities					
		0	0	0	0 1,111
		0	0	0	0 1,111

6.5 FINANCIAL NOTES

- 1 The Financial Statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
- 2 The Endowment Funds consist of various donations to be retained as capital funds, but the income is for ordinary church purposes. They are invested in CCLA Church of England Investment Fund Shares.
- 3 Fixed Assets retained for church use - St Laurence Parish Hall and Salon/Barber Shop
- 4 Movements between unrestricted and restricted funds were to address year end balances.
- 5 Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowm't Funds
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	£	£	£
Receipts			
a Donations	1,574	14,641	
Grants	-	-	
Legacies	1,500	-	
Utilities	1,901	-	
Mission and Charity	-	638	
Miscellaneous; Church Expenses to PCC etc	10,691	-	
	<u>15,665</u>	<u>15,278</u>	
b Parish Magazine Advertising	-	-	
Fund Raising	1,404	-	
	<u>1,404</u>	<u>-</u>	
c Dividends on Investment Funds	11,828	1,516	
Salon Rental Income	4,704	-	
Bank Interest	4	-	
	<u>16,536</u>	<u>1,516</u>	
d Fees for Weddings and Funerals	4,118	-	
Parish Magazine Sales, Photocopying, Gridiron	-	5	
Hall Income	1,621	1,500	
	<u>5,739</u>	<u>1,505</u>	
Payments			
e Music including CCLI and Organ Maintenance and Tuning	556	-	
Cost of Services	166	-	
Parish Office Costs; Printing, Stationery, Broadband/Telephone	1,835	-	
Church Building Running Expenses - Water, Utilities and Insurance	20,109	-	
Churchyard Expenses	-	-	
Salon Costs (Insurance and Repairs)	383	-	
Magazine Printing	-	-	
Church Repairs and Maintenance	1,730	5,895	
Ignite Expenses	-	500	
Discretionary Fund Expenses	-	-	
Miscellaneous including Church Repayments to PCC for Running Costs (£7416.44)	8,985	-	
	<u>33,764</u>	<u>6,395</u>	

f Fundraising

-

7 REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

7.1 PARISH NAME AND LOCATION

St Laurence in Thanet Team Ministry is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, 2 Newington Road, Ramsgate. CT11 0QT

7.2 PCC MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The members of the PCC, excepting Clergy, Readers and Parochial Churchwardens, were elected at the Annual Church Meeting for each member church. All clergy in the team were members ex-officio, as were such of the Readers as the Annual Parochial Church Meeting determined. The Parochial Churchwardens were elected at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry). The Assistant churchwardens and/or PCC representatives were elected at the Annual Meeting of parishioners for each member church as were the Deanery Synod representatives. Helen Ulrich was re-appointed as the Parish Safeguarding Officer and co-opted to the PCC in May 2021

The roles of the Parish Disclosure Officer and the Parish Health and Safety Coordinator were held by Freda Parker until May 2021 when she retired from the Parish Administrator Post. No-one has subsequently taken on these roles.

PCC MEMBERS May 2021 – April 2022

Team Rector and Chairperson	Rev I Andrew Jacobson
Clergy Team	Rev Captain Peter Bone (CA) until July 2021 Rev Ken Cox
Parochial Churchwardens appointed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)	Sue Booker Sharon Cutler
Parish Reader	(vacancy)
Local Church Wardens and PCC representatives appointed at the Annual Church Meetings (ACM):	
St Catherine	
Local Church Wardens and PCC reps	Cheryl Belsey Julia Penn
St Christopher	
Local Church Wardens	Vacancy
PCC representatives	Vacancies
St Laurence	
Local Church Wardens and PCC representatives	Ann Gregson and one vacancy
Deanery Synod representatives	2 vacancies
St Mark	
Missioner	Sue Cox until September 2021
Local Church Wardens and PCC representatives	Kevin Spain Zena Baron
Deanery Synod Representatives	Carole Bean Dave Newman
St Mary	
Local Church Wardens	John Vinson and one vacancy
PCC Representatives	John Vinson and one vacancy
All the above were approved at the APCM in May 2021	
These Deanery Synod Representatives are also members of the PCC:-	Carole Bean and Dave Newman (St Mark) St Catherine, St Christopher, St Laurence and St Mary have no Deanery Synod Representative
Secretary (non-voting)	Zoë Story
Treasurer (non-voting)	Alison Willoughby-Browne

In 2021, the PCC held 4 ZOOM meetings, in January, February, May, July and 2 in person meetings in September and November. Lockdown 2, in response to the continuing Covid 19 pandemic caused the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be postponed from April to May when it was held through ZOOM. There was a brief PCC meeting after the APCM to appoint the standing committee. The ZOOM meetings were chaired by Rev Andrew

and the other two by Sue Booker. Some issues that needed PCC approval, were dealt with by email, recorded and brought to the next PCC meeting.

Committees

The PCC has a Standing Committee which can meet between scheduled Meetings to discuss any outstanding business, and to make recommendations to the PCC, or to take decisions on urgent matters on behalf of the PCC. Its members are all the Parish clergy, the two parochial churchwardens and 2 PCC representatives who were Carole Bean and Sue Cox until September 2021. (The treasurer and secretary are non-voting and there needs to be 5 members on the standing committee). This committee did not meet in 2021

Each of the five churches has a Local Leadership Team (LLT), elected from Parishioners who are usual attenders of that church; the composition of each LLT is formally approved at the Annual Parochial Church meeting. The LLT of each church meets at least 4 times a year and reports to the PCC.

7.3 INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs Judith Rowland-Hill

8 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. The PCC is exempt by order from registering with the Charity Commission. It has delegated to five committees (one in each of the five churches) known as Local Leadership Teams (LLTs) all its functions in respect of the Parish Church of St Laurence-in-Tanet, St Laurence Parish Hall, and the other churches in the Parish. LLTs have more flexibility than District Church Councils (DCCs), and delegated responsibilities differ in each church depending on local circumstances.

The PCC has retained the right to be consulted and to make decisions on any expenditure proposed by the LLTs for which borrowing is required, and to decide on any application for a Faculty or Archdeacon's certificate, or planning permission for any development and its rights as an interested party under the Pastoral Measure 1983. The PCC has responsibility for the oversight of the maintenance, repair and insurance of the Churches in the Parish, namely St Catherine in Manston, St Christopher in Newington, St Laurence in Ramsgate, St Mark in Northwood and St Mary in Cliffsend, the grounds and churchyards of those churches, (In the case of St Laurence only the Memorial Garden is the responsibility of the church).

At the PCC meeting on Wednesday 24th February it was unanimously agreed that the Trustees Report for 2021 would be circulated by email, and hard copies provided for those without email and that approval would ensue by unanimous email and telephone messages.

Approved by the PCC using the above procedure and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Andrew Jacobson (PCC Chairman)

Parish Website - <http://www.stlaurenceparish-ramsgate.org.uk>