



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH BICKLEY
Diocese of Rochester

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the year ended 31st December 2024

Parish Priest

The Rev'd Henry Everett SSC

Honorary Assistant Priests

The Rev'd David Cossar SSC

The Rev'd Canon Owen Beament MBE

The Rev'd Canon Paul Jenkins

Churchwardens

Mr Leonard Brown

Mr Paul Braybrooke

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd

Independent Examiner

Mrs Claire Moore

Charities Act Registration Number – 1132872

www.stgeorgebickley.co.uk

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, BICKLEY

Under the Pastoral Care of the Bishop of Richborough

Mission Statement

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

St George's Church, Bickley

Parochial Church Council

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

Membership

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

During 2024/25 the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council

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

Elected lay representatives on the Deanery Synod	Mr David Hood
	Mrs Monica Sanderson

Elected members

Mrs Merle Bennett (retires 2025)	Mrs Pauline Emburey (retires 2026)
Mrs Margaret Brading (retires 2026)	Mr Robert Hodgetts (retires 2025)
Mr Stephen Cheese (retires 2025)	Ms Janet McFarlane (retires 2027)
Mrs Donna Dawson (retires 2027)	

Co-opted: Miss Eleanor Bull, Mr Graham Callow

Committees

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

Standing Committee

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

St George's Church, Bickley

Events Committee

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

Mission Committee

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

PCC Meetings during 2024

The full PCC met six times during 2024 with very good attendance on all occasions.

Church Attendance

There were 123 persons on the Church Electoral Roll in 2024. Of these approximately one third are resident in the parish and two thirds non-resident. The average Sunday Mass attendance was 97 (86). Usual Sunday Mass attendance in 2024 was 91 (81), including 12 (10) children.

Low Mass is usually offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday with an attendance ranging from 5 to 25. Mass was sung on a number of Holy Days and every day during Holy Week. Attendance at Easter Services was 135 and at Christmas services was 448. In addition, approximately 2500 children and parents attended school services during the year.

There were 21 baptisms, 6 weddings and 14 funerals during 2024.

The church is generally open during daylight hours.

*Figures in brackets relate to 2023.

Safeguarding

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

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

St George's Church, Bickley

Our Commitments:

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

Public Benefit

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

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

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

Review of the Year

During the year the clergy continued to cover Sunday Masses in neighbouring parishes, but were delighted to attend the institution of new parish priests at Belvedere and Beckenham.

We celebrated the 160th anniversary of the consecration of St George's with a number of special events arranged by the Events Committee.

Quiz Nights were held in January and October and were highly successful.

Bishop Norman visited us for the last time in January 2024 and conducted a confirmation. After the Mass he was presented with an icon of St George by which to remember us in his retirement.

St George's Church, Bickley

The local service for the (women's) World Day of Prayer took place at St George's, under the able leadership of Sandra Hambleton-Smith.

Lent was observed with our usual soup and bread lunch accompanying a Lent course led by the clergy on the Old Testament readings for the Sundays of Lent. The Society Penitential Service on Palm Sunday was held at St George's, and led by Fr Henry.

Our preacher on St George's Day was the Bishop of Fulham, who was offering us episcopal oversight during the Richborough vacancy, and we were joined by friends from other churches.

We enjoyed a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral in May, with a devotional tour of the Cathedral and Evensong.

Baptism families joined us at the Parish Mass for a thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Baptism in May, and recently married couples returned for a similar thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Marriage in August.

Fr Philip Corbett, General Secretary of the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith, our patrons, preached at a special Festal Evensong in June.

We held an art exhibition in the church in July by members of the Bromley Art Society, who use our hall.

We held our Summer Fete on 22nd June, which was a great success. We were entertained by the Viva A Cappella Choir, who rehearse in our hall weekly.

The Bishop of Rochester preached at the Dedication Festival in July.

Both Sine Nomine Singers in October, and Viva A Cappella Choir in September, gave concerts in church as part of the 160th anniversary. We were happy to host other concerts as well.

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

The Society parishes enjoyed a pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory in August, at which a minibus-load of parishioners were present.

Fundraising took place during the year for Aid to the Church in Need (Gaza Appeal), Welcare in Bromley, and Bromley Foodbank.

In September we held a History Study Day in collaboration with Bromley Borough Local History Society.

Parishioners enjoyed a parish lunch after the Harvest Festival.

All Saints' Day was observed on 31st October, with a Sung Mass at which the Bishop of Fulham presided and confirmed, and blessed a new Angelus Bell. All Souls' Day was observed jointly with the Annunciation, with a Sung Mass in Chislehurst.

St George's Church, Bickley

The final event of the anniversary celebrations was a Bach Evening in November, where Stephen Davies introduced the Schübler Chorales.

In December we were pleased to host carol services for 15th Bromley Scout Group, Breaside Prep School, Bromley High Junior School, Bromley High School, and Bickley Park School.

Our 2024 Christmas celebrations began with St George's Primary School Carol Services. Our traditional Nine Lessons and Carols was well-attended. The Christmas Eve Crib Service attracted a completely full church. The Midnight Mass and Christmas morning Mass were also both well-attended, with numbers at pre-Covid levels.

Financial Review

The net surplus for the year was £8,102 (2023: deficit £6,111), comprising a surplus in unrestricted funds of £4,564 (2023: deficit £6,357) and a surplus of £3,538 (2023: surplus £246) in restricted funds.

Total incoming resources were £141,595 (2023: £120,107), £129,024 (2023: £114,682) in unrestricted funds and £12,571 (2023: £5,425) in restricted funds.

Legacies amounting to £nil (2023 £nil) were received during the year.

At 31st December 2024 total funds were £96,206 (2023: £88,104). Funds designated for specific purposes were £51,815 (2023: £47,137). Restricted Funds were £3,442 (2023: Nil). The general fund decreased by £18 to £40,949 (2023: £40,967). Total cash balances at 31 December 2024 were £98,198 (2023: £90,627) held in short term deposits, current account and cash.

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

St George's supported several charities during the year. The Lent Appeal contributed £850 to Aid to the Church in Need. The Harvest collection raised £600 for the Bromley Borough Food Bank, and £650 was raised at the Christmas Family Crib Service, for Welcare, Bromley that provides support to children and families. £500 was donated to the Additional Curate Society and £1,500 to support priesthood in the Church of England. A donation of £250 was made to the College of St Barnabas.

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

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

St George's Church, Bickley

Reserves Policy

In 2018 the PCC set a reserves policy to endeavour to achieve a balance on undesignated funds in cash and at the bank equal to six months expenditure to cover general outgoings. Based on the 2025 budget this amounts to £65,600 (2024: £62,650). The undesignated Cash & Bank balance at 31 December 2024 of £46,383 (2023: £43,490) represented a deficit of £19,217 (2023: deficit £19,160) against this policy.

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

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Fr Henry Everett

Chairman

11 March 2025

St George's Church, Bickley

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 9 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The PCC's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

Claire Moore
Bickley
Kent

March 2025

St George's Church, Bickley

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary income	2a	59,277	12,571	71,848	62,913
Activities for generating funds	2b	61,352	-	61,352	50,086
Income from investments	2c	3,170	-	3,170	2,460
Church activities	2d	5,225	-	5,225	4,648
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	2	129,024	12,571	141,595	120,107
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Church activities	3a	123,867	9,033	132,900	125,035
Fund raising costs	3b	593	-	593	1,183
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	3	124,460	9,033	133,493	126,218
NET (OUTGOING) / INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		4,564	3,538	8,102	(6,111)
Transfers between funds	9	96	(96)	-	-
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		4,660	3,442	8,102	(6,111)
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1 JANUARY	9	88,104	-	88,104	94,215
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 31 DECEMBER	9	92,764	3,442	96,206	88,104

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements

St George's Church, Bickley

Balance sheet

At 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	6	-	-	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	9,798	-	9,798	9,300
Short term deposits		92,048	-	92,048	86,394
Cash at bank and in hand		2,058	4,092	6,150	4,233
		103,904	4,092	107,996	99,927
LIABILITIES					
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	8	(11,140)	(650)	(11,790)	(11,823)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		92,764	3,442	96,206	88,104
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>92,764</u>	<u>3,442</u>	<u>96,206</u>	<u>88,104</u>
PARISH FUNDS					
Unrestricted	9	92,764	-	92,764	88,104
Restricted	9	-	3,442	3,442	-
		<u>92,764</u>	<u>3,442</u>	<u>96,206</u>	<u>88,104</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Fr Henry Everett
Chairman

David Hood
Treasurer and Member of the PCC

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements

Registered Charity Number: 1132872

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of accounting

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

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

b) Funds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St George's Church, Bickley
Notes to the Financial Statements

c) Incoming resources

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

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

d) Resources used

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

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

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

e) Fixed assets

Tangible assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the financial statements.

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

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

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

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

Investments

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

St George's Church, Bickley
Notes to the Financial Statements

f) Current assets

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

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

2 Incoming resources	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
2a Voluntary income				
Planned giving				
Tax efficient donations	31,311	-	31,311	30,002
Other	2,330	-	2,330	4,016
Other giving	4,255	-	4,255	3,969
Collections at services	8,535	-	8,535	8,065
Tax recoverable	10,029	-	10,029	9,511
Donations, appeals	2,416	11,644	14,060	5,921
Tax recoverable	401	927	1,328	1,129
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	300
	59,277	12,571	71,848	62,913
2b Activities for generating funds				
Fund-raising	9,174	-	9,174	5,006
Hall lettings	52,178	-	52,178	45,080
	61,352	-	61,352	50,086
2c Income from investments				
Interest	3,170	-	3,170	2,460
2d Church activities				
Fees	3,890	-	3,890	3,293
Other fund raising events	1,335	-	1,335	1,355
	5,225	-	5,225	4,648
Total incoming resources	129,024	12,571	141,595	120,107

St George's Church, Bickley
Notes to the Financial Statements

3 Resources used	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
3a Church activities				
Missionary and charitable giving:	339	4,011	4,350	2,700
Ministry:				
Diocesan parish share	63,000	-	63,000	60,000
Families, Children Mission	290	-	290	399
Other	2,450	-	2,450	1,067
Clergy expenses	6,283	-	6,283	4,936
Upkeep of services	2,203	1,621	3,824	3,874
Music and choir	8,328	935	9,263	8,057
Church running expenses	14,811	-	14,811	20,996
Church maintenance and repairs	5,936	2,395	8,331	3,534
Churchyard upkeep	2,638	-	2,638	2,010
Hall running expenses	11,712	-	11,712	13,297
Hall maintenance and repairs	3,637	-	3,637	1,628
Printing and stationery	1,774	-	1,774	1,556
Parish office running expenses	405	71	476	882
Cost of appeals	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	61	-	61	99
	123,867	9,033	132,900	125,035
3b Fund raising costs				
Costs of fund raising events	593	-	593	1,183
Total resources used	124,460	9,033	133,493	126,218
4 Staff costs	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Wages and salaries	5,944	-	5,944	5,644
Other pension costs	-	-	-	-
	5,944	-	5,944	5,644

5 Transactions with related parties

Under accounting regulations, the PCC is required to disclose all material transactions with related parties. The PCC considers those persons who are, or are closely connected to, members of the PCC to be related parties. There were no material transactions with related parties during 2024 or 2023.

St George's Church, Bickley
Notes to the Financial Statements

6	Fixed assets	Hall <i>Equipment</i>	Total
	Tangible fixed assets	£	£
	Cost		
	At 1 January 2024	1,140	1,140
	Disposals	-	-
	At 31 December 2024	<u>1,140</u>	<u>1,140</u>
	Depreciation		
	At 1 January 2024	1,140	1,140
	Disposals	-	-
	At 31 December 2024	<u>1,140</u>	<u>1,140</u>
	Net book value		
	At 31 December 2024 and 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
7	Debtors	2024	2023
		£	£
	Tax recoverable	8,178	7,922
	Prepayments and accrued income	1,620	1,378
		<u>9,798</u>	<u>9,300</u>
8	Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
		£	£
	Creditors for goods and services	605	-
	Other creditors	-	-
	Accruals and deferred income	11,185	11,823
		<u>11,790</u>	<u>11,823</u>

St George's Church, Bickley
Notes to the Financial Statements

9 Fund details

	1 January 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund - undesignated	40,967	127,346	(124,460)	(2,904)	40,949
Diocesan Repair Scheme - designated	47,137	1,678	-	3,000	51,815
Total unrestricted funds	88,104	129,024	(124,460)	96	92,764
Restricted funds					
Charitable Collections	-	7,454	(4,012)	-	3,442
Other Donations	-	5,117	(5,021)	(96)	-
Total restricted funds	-	12,571	(9,033)	(96)	3,442
Total funds	88,104	141,595	(133,493)	-	96,206

10 Summary of fund assets

	Fixed assets £	Current assets £	Liabilities: due in less than one year £	Net asset £
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund - undesignated	-	52,089	(11,140)	40,949
Diocesan Repair Scheme - designated	-	51,815	-	51,815
Total unrestricted funds	-	103,904	(11,140)	92,764
Restricted funds				
Charitable Collections	-	4,092	(650)	3,442
Total funds	-	107,996	(11,790)	96,206