

**The Ecumenical Church Council
of
Sturry and District United Church
within the parish of
Sturry with Fordwich and Westbere with Hersden
Charity Commission reg no: 1181753**

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 December 2022

**The Ecumenical Church Council of Sturry
and District United Church**

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The Ecumenical Church Council of Sturry and District United Church

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2022.

This Annual Report, accompanying the parish and partnership annual accounts, is compiled in line with the requirements of the Charities Act 2006, the requirements of the Charity Commission and the public benefit reporting requirements that now apply to all charities.

Following the formal adoption of the new constitution on 20 February 2013, the responsibilities and the membership of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Anglican Parish of Sturry with Fordwich and Westbere with Hersden and those of the Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) of Sturry and District United Church are inevitably closely linked, and accordingly the following is a joint report approved by both councils.

Administrative information

Sturry and District United Church is a joint Anglican-Methodist Church serving the above-named parish. The Local Ecumenical Partnership in this parish was set up in September 1970 and its Sponsoring Body is Churches Together in Kent. It meets in two parish buildings, St Nicholas' church in Sturry, and All Saints' church in Westbere, both Anglican-owned but the subject of sharing agreements signed in 1988. (The church building of St Mary the Virgin in Fordwich was declared redundant in 1996 and is vested in the Churches Conservation Trust.)

As an Anglican-Methodist partnership, Sturry and District United Church is part both of the Diocese of Canterbury and Deanery of Canterbury within the Church of England and also part of The Canterbury and East Kent Circuit of The Methodist Church. The correspondence address is: C/O The ECC Secretary, 88, Sweechgate, Broad Oak, Canterbury, CT2 0QU

The Ecumenical Church Council which was set up alongside the new Parochial Church Council from 20 February 2013 fulfils within this parish and partnership the roles normally carried out by a Parochial Church Council and a Methodist Church Council, and is therefore a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006). Sturry and District United Church was registered as a charity in January 2019.

Given the suspension of the right of Presentation dated 18 May 2021 which is still in force, Revd Preb. Gillean Craig was licensed as interim 0.2 part time priest in charge rather than incumbent in September 2022. . Revd Catherine Wagstaff was welcomed to the LEP as interim part time methodist minister also on 0.2 in September. Both had been in conversation with the church in the months leading up to their joining us. It is a blessing that we have been joined by Catherine and Gillean. We thank Revd. Mark Griffin for his work in supporting the LEP during the interregnum,

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(1) PCC members who served during the period 1 January – 31 December 2022 were:

Part time interim Anglican Priest	Revd Preb Gilleen Craig	Sept '22 onwards
Part time interim Methodist Minister	Revd Catherine Wagstaff	Sept '22 onwards
<i>Retired minister with Permission to Officiate</i>	The Revd Peter Freeman (<i>co-opted</i>)	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mrs Anne Stevenson	
	Mr Darren Delo (until the AGM on 1 May 2022)	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Mrs Georgina Glover	
	Mrs Angela Pilgrim	
<i>Elected members</i>	Mrs Jane Freeman	
	Mr Paul Haines (lay vice-chair)	
	Mr Gavin Kennett (secretary)	
	Mr David Stevenson (until death Nov 28th 2022)	
	Mrs Brenda Williams (Until Dec 2022)	

(2) ECC members who served during the period 1 January – 31 December 2022 were:

Part time interim Anglican Priest	Revd Preb Gilleen Craig	Sept '22 onwards
Part time interim Methodist Minister	Revd Catherine Wagstaff	Sept '22 onwards

Retired minister with Permission to Officiate The Revd Peter Freeman (*co-opted*)

(The Circuit Superintendent minister, together with other ministers who have pastoral responsibility within the circuit, and the Bishop of Dover or her appointed representative, may also attend meetings)

<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mr Darren Delo (until the AGM on 1 May 2022)	
	Mrs Anne Stevenson	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Mrs Georgina Glover	
	Mrs Angela Pilgrim	
<i>Members of the Circuit Meeting</i>	Mrs Anne Stevenson (<i>as churchwarden</i>)	
	Dr Liz Morrison (<i>as treasurer</i>)	
	Mrs Angela Pilgrim (<i>ex officio as circuit steward</i>)	
	Mr Martin Pilgrim (<i>elected</i>)	
<i>Elected members</i>	Mrs Jane Freeman	
	Mr Paul Haines (lay vice-chair)	
	Mr Gavin Kennett (secretary)	
	Mr David Stevenson (until death Nov 28th 2022)	
	Mrs Brenda Williams (until Dec 2022)	

PCC and ECC Dr Liz Morrison (Treasurer) was an officer of the PCC and ECC but not a voting member of either. She was a trustee of the Sturry and District United Church charity as are all other PCC and ECC members.

The Ecumenical Church Council of Sturry and District United Church

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We were very saddened to hear of the death of David Stevenson. As well as having been in the choir, he was a member of the Church Council, where he served as a valued Chair of the Property Committee. He was a server, assisting the priest in preparing for Holy Communion and in the ceremonial of other services. With his wife, Anne, he was a safeguarding officer, with responsibility for children and other vulnerable people. Dave will be greatly missed – by Anne, by his children and grandchildren and by the many people who worked with him through more than 40 years of service to our local community

Structure, governance and management

Since 20 February 2013 the method of appointment of PCC members and ECC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules of the Church of England, the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church and the constitution of the Sturry and District United Church within the parish of Sturry with Fordwich and Westbere with Hersden, with the exception that in this parish and partnership those whose names are on the Methodist membership list enjoy the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as those whose names are on the Anglican electoral roll.

There is no pre-determined ‘quota’ governing the balance between Anglican and Methodist members on the church councils; candidates are elected without regard to their formal denominational allegiance. All who attend worship regularly in our churches are invited to register on the electoral roll or Methodist membership list and stand for election to the PCC and ECC.

In 2007 a Joint Membership List was created, consisting of those who had registered on the electoral roll or Methodist membership list, and it is noteworthy that since that date all such church members have wished to regard themselves as joint members of both denominations. At the Joint Church Council (JCC) meeting of 30 March 2009 it was resolved that following the Annual General Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting the numbers reported to our parent denominations would each be one-half of the total figure for the Joint Membership List.

Under the new constitution which came into force from 20 February 2013, the maximum number of elected representatives on each of the PCC and the ECC is nine. Elected representatives are elected to serve for three years. At the end of their first period of three years they are eligible for election for a further three years, but after a service of six consecutive years there must be a gap of at least one year before they can stand again for election.

Objectives and activities

As laid down by the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, the PCC and ECC of Sturry and District United Church have the responsibility of co-operating with the Anglican and Methodist minister(s) in promoting in the parish and partnership the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the church buildings of St Nicholas, Sturry, and All Saints, Westbere, and the churchyard only (not the church building) of St Mary the Virgin, Fordwich, and also exercises functions with respect to the Church of England Primary School in the parish.

The Ecumenical Church Council of Sturry and District United Church

Joint Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council and of the Parochial Church Council for 2022 (continued)

The PCC and ECC met in person six times during the year, including a brief meeting after the 2021 AGM and APCM. The PCC and ECC generally have joint meetings, at which the business of each council is handled separately, and a similar principle applies with respect to the AGM and APCM. The Standing Committee has generally met between meetings, and minutes of their deliberations or from December 2022 a summary of actions were received by the full PCC and ECC and discussed where necessary.

Ministers' reports

Sturry church is a great place to be! When I came back from my sabbatical at the end of last May and it was confirmed that I would be adding Sturry to my existing group of churches down in the Dover end of the Canterbury and East Kent Methodist Circuit, my response was twofold. I felt somewhat daunted at the prospect of adding to an already full time calling, coupled with the excitement and challenge of having a new place in which to serve. Of course I knew that I would be sharing the work with my Anglican colleague Gillean and that has been a real privilege and blessing.

First I want to say a huge thank you for the very warm welcome you gave at the lovely gathering that we all shared in at the beginning of September. In what was left of 2022 I managed to lead you in worship only 3 or 4 times but each was a great joy – particularly I think the Christmas Eve midnight Communion service, always a very special time as we move in to the day of celebration of our Lord Jesus' birth.

For Gillean and me it became the story of the knee replacements as I went in just shortly before he did, same hospital and surgeon(!), to have mine done, so no sooner had I started than I was off for a few weeks. We didn't need to worry – the strong fellowship at Sturry managed beautifully! Thank you for all your love and care at that time. So what stood out for me in those few weeks? Well, some highlights have been the conversation at coffee mornings where an obvious open welcome is there for all who come - and for your readiness to engage with the 'Warm Spaces' initiative, the planning for which began before Christmas. I have really appreciated getting involved with Sturry Church of England School and leading assemblies there, going back to my Primary School teaching roots. It is a very happy school, with a deep Christian ethos, evident the moment you walk in through the doors. It will be good to build up the links between St Nicholas and the school – also with Junior Kings School of course, sitting right on your door step!

At our visioning day in October it became very clear that there is a desire to grow as disciples of Christ and to serve him by reaching out to the Community as we discussed together what our next steps as the body of Christ here in Sturry might be. I would urge your prayers for the ongoing work that this day triggered as we continue to seek God's will and way for us.

Sturry Church is undoubtedly a beautiful building – but the people make the Church... the greatest blessing of being called to serve here has been to discover your tremendous commitment to the work – from the Pastoral Committee, the ECC and the production of Link Up magazine - to those who read or lead intercessions in our worship, those who open up, lock up, ensure the place is warm, tidy and welcoming - to those who keep us firmly on track with all that 'must be done' to keep the wheels turning. Sturry is most certainly a good place to be - and I look forward to working with you as we seek to discover together who God wants us to be and where God wants to lead us in the days ahead.

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It was my privilege to be Licenced as your Interim part-time Priest In Charge on 4 September 2022, joining partnership with my (as far as Sturry is concerned) equally part-time Methodist colleague Revd Catherine Wagstaff [nb, she's far more than full-time in all the other churches where she serves]. After 41 years of parish ministry in London Linda and I moved to retirement in Whitstable. Church of England clergy must leave full-time ministry at 70 – but between 70 and 75 there is an option to take up part-time 'interim' ministry, so here I am! I'm only employed on a 0.2 basis, which the mathematically challenged CofE translates as Sunday + one weekday's work each week – far less than Sturry, Fordwich, Westbere, Hersden and Broad Oak deserve from its clergy – especially one who lives a good halfhour's drive away, even when half the roads aren't closed for repair. My lack of adequate time for your ministry has been compounded by two longstanding appointments I had to honour: immediately following my Licensing I disappeared to conduct a Pilgrimage to the Oberammergau Passion Play, and a knee replacement enforced my absence throughout the whole of November. Despite these frustrations, the Autumn with you has been a very fulfilling time, building on the warm welcome you gave us. Highlights have been appreciating how fully you seek to live out your ministry to the community – evidenced in the immediate and whole-hearted decision, in response to the fuel and cost-of-living crisis, to set up the 'Warm Wednesdays' open church initiative; your love and care for your splendid churches; and your openness to different styles of worship. It has been a delight to get to know Sturry Primary school and Junior Kings school and to lead services in church and assemblies for them. The Readings and Carols, the Christmas Eve Crib Service and Christmas Day worship were all very special occasions, and with the Fordwich Carol Service and Westbere Playgroup Christmas event demonstrated how much we want to recover from the cancellations of Covid, across the whole parish. I had not realised how much Revd Peter Freeman had contributed to the life and worship of the church, and Catherine and I have been delighted to realise that with him we are in effect a team of three ordained ministers – even if he's paid nothing at all! I want to pay tribute to our lone churchwarden Anne Stevenson for her remarkable commitment to our church, despite serious health problems and even more acutely the most distressing death of her husband Dave – whose constant work for St Nicholas' over the decades is greatly missed. Among a marvellous group that makes up day by day and week by week so many aspects of the life of our church I particularly single out parish secretary Gavin Kennett, without whom we would simply grind to a halt! We work in partnership as we look and plan ahead, rejoicing in our calling as the Body of Christ in this place, and seeking God's inspiration in our ministry to our communities. St Nicholas

Revd Preb. Gillean Craig.

Achievements and performance

Worship In the following three paragraphs, relevant figures for 2021 are inserted in italics and in brackets, for comparison. At the time of the 2022 Annual General Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, there were 46(48) members of the Joint Membership List. Accordingly, for the purposes of annual denominational returns, 23 (24) members of the electoral roll were reported to the Church of England and 23 (24) members on the membership list were reported to the Methodist Church.

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Following the pandemic, a few members of the congregation continued to ‘worship at home’, through the provision of printed or emailed worship resources, a live Zoom service held by the Methodist Circuit, pre-recorded services from other churches or broadcast worship on the BBC. This impacted upon the number of regular worshippers actually attending church but 2022-figures show an average of 25 for the “October count” with a usual average figure of 21.

With restrictions enforced during the pandemic lifted, we aim to enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we give older children and adults, or parents and godparents on behalf of younger children, the opportunity to declare their loyalty to Christ and we ask God’s blessing on their discipleship; in marriage, public vows are exchanged with God’s blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life that is now complete in this world and commend the person into God’s keeping. During the year we celebrated seven (ten) baptisms of adults or children and six (two) marriages in the parish; and funerals were held by parish ministers for nine (seven) persons either in one of the church buildings, at a local cemetery or at a crematorium.

The ECC maintains an overview of worship within the parish and is committed to enabling as many people as would wish to worship within the church buildings of the parish and also, where appropriate, in their own home and to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Our services and worship aim to put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. In line with the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit to charities for the advancement of religion, we aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge of and trust in Jesus Christ. We try to provide pastoral care, primarily for those living within the five villages; we engage in outreach work within the villages that we serve; and we support in prayer and, when possible, in financial giving to Christian missionary work elsewhere in the UK and overseas.

On 9 October 2022, twenty plus congregation members including two children, stayed back after the Sunday 10am service to work on the first steps of our **Vision and Mission Initiative** as we seek to discern where God is calling us in the future. The group were guided by Revd. Steve Coneys, Mission and Growth Adviser of the Diocese of Canterbury and Revd. Adrian Roux, Regional Learning and Development Officer from the Methodist Connexional Team. The group spent four hours working collectively: brainstorming ideas on building community within the Church and developing our understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead. The members were treated to a shared lunch! This is the Summary of the Outcomes of the workshop 1) Building relationships; actively listening and learning all the time 2) Commitment to inclusion and learning from difference: listening and learning 3) Curiosity about what is important about church, what church can be – the form church takes (e.g., what we could let go of; what we need to travel with).

It is important that we maintain the **church buildings** at St Nicholas, Sturry, and All Saints, Westbere. Quinquennial reports for both buildings were carried out in the autumn of 2022. The project to carry out urgent repairs and maintenance of Sturry church, largely funded by the **National Lottery Heritage Fund** but supplemented by generous gifts from individuals in the community and a grant from the Friends of St Nicholas, was mostly completed a week before the lockdown of March 2020. With improvements to the kitchen with new cooker, dishwasher and fridge being completed at the end of last year we have seen huge benefits for coffee mornings / Warm Wednesday and Soup on Saturday.

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We are already being asked to hire out the church building and hope to develop this. The project also included significant expenditure on heritage and education objectives and on community engagement, and we are taking that forward whenever opportunities arise. In June, Patrick McKeating, Head of History at JKS, and George Morris, an archaeology student from Christchurch led an event in the church similar to the one held in December 2021 with more outside explanations (church walls, graveyard etc.) and additional information from George Morris's work on the graffiti. Mr McKeating has also brought Y6 students to the church to look at its History. Martin Pilgrim is thanked for all his hard work in continuing to promote the use of the church that was very much part of our NLHF bid.

In May we held a very well attended Easter Fair. We were pleased to be joined by Sturry Primary school who supported the venture.

We are extremely grateful for work undertaken in maintaining and tidying the **Milner Ground** over the past year. Grounds staff of Junior King's School have continued to cut the grass, and both we and the village as a whole have benefited from the work of Community Payback who have continued their good work, so that the Milner Ground is tidy and attractive. We are also very grateful to those who ensure the regular cleaning of both Sturry and Westbere churches and to those who provide flowers.

We have been glad that a number of parishioners were again able on a rota basis to open the redundant church building of **St Mary the Virgin, Fordwich**, for prayer and visiting in daylight and for the carols by candlelight and civic service. Whilst it wasn't possible to open up Westbere Church on a regular basis during 2022, it is hoped that we shall be able to do so in 2023. However, the Westbere preschool playgroup have met in the church several times during the year.

Sturry churchyard and the two churchyards at Westbere are closed and the responsibility for maintaining those falls accordingly to Sturry Parish Council and Westbere Parish Council respectively. Both of these in fact sub-contract the work to others and we are grateful for the tidy appearance that they ensure. We are appreciative also of the work of a number of volunteers who maintain the churchyard at Fordwich.

The ECC is keen to offer a range of worship opportunities over the course of the year that different members of the regular congregations and the wider community find helpful and spiritually fulfilling. The weekly Sunday service at Sturry has remained at 10.00am which has been logistically easier for some of the congregation. We were pleased that weekday use of the church by **Junior Kings School** has restarted. We continue to ensure the traditions of both of our parent denominations are honoured; once opportunities permit, we look forward again to welcoming the uniformed organisations four or five times a year, and to welcoming the boarders and staff of the Junior King's School to share in our service at Sturry once or twice in every term. We look forward to rebuilding the close links with the Junior King's School, in shared worship, in meeting regularly with the Headteacher and the school's Church Committee and in exploring how the school and the church can work in partnership with regard to maintaining and developing the Sturry church building.

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The monthly pattern of services within the parish and partnership will continue to be kept under review, taking into account changes in attendance figures and also issues of staffing. Although we no longer run a children's group parallel with our main service at Sturry, we provide facilities for young children and their parents in the church.

In today's world it is essential that all organisations keep the effectiveness of their **communications** under constant review. The key elements are the United Church's website, its Facebook page, and the monthly magazine *Link-Up* which is delivered to around 450 homes in our villages, with additional free copies available at venues such as schools, shops and the Hersden Community Centre. We are grateful for the great commitment made by Martin Pilgrim in editing *Link Up* to its professional, interesting and extremely attractive standard month by month.

The **pastoral committee** has continued to meet regularly. Their remit included the setting up and managing a system of pastoral visiting, drawing up a rota of welcomers for church services, to be responsible for welcome letters and information which can be given out to new residents in our areas, to keep a watch on the community events the church organises, to be aware when events need support and to suggest new events as appropriate.

We have been delighted that we have been able to restart links with **Sturry Primary and Water Meadows Primary** (ex-Hersden CP School). Both Gillean and Catherine have led assemblies in the schools and Sturry Primary were due to have held a Christmas service in the church, sadly this didn't take place with snow and ice intervening. We enjoy cordial relationships with Sturry Parish Council and are glad that Sturry Parish Council and Hersden Parish Council, as well as the uniformed organisations, normally share in the wreath-laying ceremonies on Remembrance Sunday. The church held a Christingle Service, a Crib service, a Blue Christmas Service, where we remembered before the Lord those who have died in the last year, and a Midnight Service on 24 December. All the services were well attended and much appreciated by the congregations.

Safeguarding: Sturry and District United Church has agreed to follow the safeguarding policy of the Church of England, partly because the Rector and Methodist minister served as a member of the Diocese of Canterbury's Safeguarding Management group for over twenty years. Together with the Parish Safeguarding Officers the ECC discusses safeguarding on a regular basis. The parish's website has a link to safeguarding information on its home page, including contact details within the parish and at diocesan level for anyone who has a safeguarding concern. The ECC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Ecumenical links Sturry and District United Church is a member of Churches Together in Sturry and District, the other members being Broad Oak Chapel and the Roman Catholic parish of Hersden and Sturry. We are also associate members of Christians Together in Canterbury.

Deanery Synod In addition to the Rector and Methodist minister, two members represent the parish and partnership on the Canterbury Deanery Synod which provides an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church of England. Indeed we hosted a meeting of the Deanery Synod in the autumn.

Circuit Meeting Sturry and District United Church forms a part of the Canterbury and East Kent Circuit of The Methodist Church. The Circuit Meeting and regular meetings of the circuit ministers and the Circuit Leadership Team facilitate our collaboration in mission and ministry with other churches in the Circuit.

The Ecumenical Church Council of Sturry and District United Church (continued)

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One of our church members is a circuit steward and thus shares in meetings of the Circuit Leadership Team. In addition to her, our Anglican-Methodist partnership is entitled to be represented at Circuit Meetings by the interim priest in charge and Methodist minister, a churchwarden, the treasurer and one other elected church member.

Events We have been delighted to welcome back our regular weekly / monthly events. The weekly Coffee Morning in Sturry church, on Wednesdays, has provided a warm welcome and meeting-place for the wider community, as well as raising funds for the parish; and a monthly 'Soup on Saturday' also provided a welcome opportunity for church members and others to meet. We look forward to being able to hold occasional social and fundraising events, although there are fewer church members able to share in the hard work that fetes, fairs and the like necessarily entail. Having a range of events hosted by the parish and by the Friends of St Nicholas helps to build community and raises funds for the ongoing ministry of the church and our running costs. In the Autumn of last year, we extended our Coffee morning to run as a Warm Space from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. We were grateful to the Methodist Circuit for giving us a grant of £1000 towards heating and food. The Diocese provided grants to both Sturry and Westbere churches towards heating costs to help with the increased rates. We were also very grateful to members of our regular congregation who donated money to the Warm Wednesday scheme.

Other Reports

Flowers: Unfortunately, we no longer have a flower arrangers rota providing flowers each week, as happened in the past, but we have managed extra displays for Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter. At other times we compromise by using artificial flowers.

A Church of England tradition is not to have flowers in church during Advent and Lent and from a practical point this is helpful! I personally feel that it makes the flowers a more notable part of our joyful celebrations at Christmas and Easter.

Without donations from members of the congregation towards the cost of flowers we would not be able to do as much as we do so a big thank you to those who regularly contribute financially. At Easter we had more lilies donated in memory of loved ones than ever before.

The highlight of the year was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration weekend when there were more than twenty-five displays depicting aspects of the Queen's reign and arranged by different groups and organisations from our community.

Looking to the future it would be wonderful to have extra arrangers and there are already a couple of volunteers willing to help occasionally and hopefully there will be more. No experience is necessary.

Jane Freeman

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St Nicholas Cleaning Team

Thursday mornings is our special time for cleaning St Nicholas Church. We currently have four regular members and occasional help from one or two others. Most weeks we have time for a chat and a laugh and, very occasionally, a cup of tea. The church is open from 10 until 11.30am and we frequently welcome visitors during the time we are there. One local resident comes for a time of quiet prayer and reflection every Thursday.

A huge thank you goes to Joyce, Celia, and Pauline. We would happily welcome new volunteers.

Jane Freeman

Sturry Singers

Sturry Singers have been busy this last year. Apart from the practices on Tuesday afternoons, the group has travelled out on several occasions to the wider community to sing to: Age UK (Canterbury); Bradbury Grange; (Whistable) and Meadow View (Hersden). The group continue to increase their repertoire with a variety of familiar songs, Songs from the musicals and Songs from the 1940s.

The Annual Lunch was held at the Golden Lion in January.

Sturry Singers are a non profit group and is grateful to St. Nicholas Church and committee for the use of the church for practices. The Singers practice on Tuesday afternoons 2-3.30pm

All new comers are welcome to join us

Pauline Louch

CraftyAllsorts -Monday 2pm – 4pm

CraftyAllsorts is a group of lovers of all things crafty. It began with a group of Knitters and Stitchers, however, it is now open to all types of craftiness. At present there are lace makers, crochet, Knitting, crystal art, colouring, lino cutting, machine embroidery and a variety of cross stitch and embroidery. We also have had patchers, quilters and rug makers.

Currently, the group is putting together a panel depicting interesting places of Sturry done in embroidery/fabric painting/machine embroidery and is hoped to be ready soon.

The group is grateful to the Church and committee to be able to use the church on Monday afternoons. A suggested donation of £2 each session per person to cover cost of cuppa and the use of the heating.

Pauline Louch

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Financial review We are grateful to those church members who reviewed their giving through the church over the year, and to all who have organised and supported fundraising events. However, we need to increase our income if we are to become truly sustainable

Details of our receipts and expenditure, including our parish share by which we contribute to ministry costs not only in this parish but in the wider churches, will be available in the financial accounts.

As at the end of 2022 we are without a Treasurer. We are grateful to the work of Liz Morrison who agreed to help out as Treasurer for a period of two years. An ad-hoc group of the ECC has worked with advisers from the Methodist church to get the 2020 and 2021 accounts to a position where they can be independently examined. At the time of writing this report, both the 2020 and 2021 accounts have been filed with the Charity Commission.

Given the late filing of the ye 31/12/20 and ye 21/12/21 accounts as, we have not yet been able to finally account for the NLHF project to NLHF because of the lack of financial information for the financial years 2020 and 2021. At the time of writing the report Martin Pilgrim is progressing work on this.

We are very grateful for those who give generously both in terms of time and of money. The parish and partnership have developed a legacies policy and encourage church members and others to make a bequest in their wills to the work of the church in this parish, but inevitably the results of that work will not be seen (we hope!) until sometime into the future.

Reserves policy The PCC has reviewed the church's needs for reserves in line with the Operational Guidance No 43 (Charity Income Reserves) issued by the Charity Commission. The income of the Parish, as well as its financial demands, are subject to fluctuation. Maintaining two listed buildings can be costly and in order to meet the cost of major repairs and other calls upon parish funds, the PCC consider it prudent to maintain substantial reserves.

**Report approved by the Parochial Church Council and the Ecumenical Church Council on
28th May 2023 and signed on its behalf by Revd. Preb. Gilleen Craig**



The Ecumenical Church Council of Sturry and District United Church

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Ecumenical Church Council of Sturry and District United Church

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 13 to 14.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's 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 charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and 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.

C. Dean

CLARE DEAN FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountant

18/20 Canterbury Road

Whitstable

Kent

CT5 4EY

Receipts and Payments summary 2022

			Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2022.00 Total funds	2021.00 Total funds
RECEIPTS							
Voluntary receipts			£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving			16755.00	0.00	0.00	16755.00	20645.90
Giving at services			702.43	0.00	0.00	702.43	698.83
All other giving/voluntary receipts	KSC		5040.00	0.00	0.00	5040.00	5040.00
	Donations (general)		1763.89	0.00	0.00	1763.89	4555.96
	Fees to PCC		1631.50	0.00	0.00	1631.50	3472.22
	Fees due to DBF		0.00	1783.00	0.00	1783.00	3688.00
1	Wedding staged payments		2303.00	2500.00	0.00	4803.00	2000.00
Tax recovered	2	Gift Aid (planned giving)	2934.00	0.00	0.00	2934.00	5666.06
		VAT (NLHF project)	0.00	1188.40	0.00	1188.40	-
			31129.82	5471.40	0.00	36601.22	45766.97
Activities for generating funds							
	Coffee		663.29	0.00	0.00	663.29	22.00
	Fundraising events (inc. craft)		1675.00	0.00	0.00	1675.00	100.27
	Soup lunches		584.96	0.00	0.00	584.96	23.20
3	Warm Space/heating donations		859.31	0.00	0.00	859.31	
	Diocesan heating grants		2400.00	0.00	0.00	2400.00	
Investment Income			0.00	0.00	4063.69	4063.69	4056.98
Interest			270.15	0.00	0.00	270.15	51.50
Church activities							
	Magazine		1475.60	0.00	0.00	1475.60	507.40
	Charity collections		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.00
Total receipts			39058.13	5471.40	4063.69	48593.22	50693.32
PAYMENTS							
Church Activities							
Stipend contributions/share/assessment	4		10000.00	0.00	0.00	10000.00	10000.00
Clergy and staffing costs	5	Ministry costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	735.15
Church running expenses							
	Heat, light, water, insurance		16835.63	0.00	0.00	16835.63	12632.78
	Upkeep of services		177.38	0.00	0.00	177.38	169.65
	Bells, organists, virgers		2515.00			2515.00	1480.00
	Minor repairs, organ tuning		1679.27	0.00	0.00	1679.27	4261.30
	Churchyard maintenance		2610.00	0.00	0.00	2610.00	1080.00
	Admin		68.00	0.00	0.00	68.00	406.56
	Magazine		2378.24	0.00	0.00	2378.24	666.22
Fees returned							
	Deposits		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
	to Diocese		0.00	3000.00	0.00	3000.00	776.00
Hall running costs			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mission giving and donations			651.75	0.00	0.00	651.75	600.50
6	Sundries		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00
NLHF Project			0.00	5114.10	0.00	5114.10	15229.10
			36915.27	8114.10	0.00	45029.37	49537.26
Costs of generating funds			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revaluation of Investments			0.00	0.00	18941.51	18941.51	(13419.00)
Internal transfers			8515.39	(4551.70)	(4053.69)	0.00	-
Total Payments			45530.66	3562.40	14877.82	63970.88	36118.26
Excess of Receipts over Payments			(6472.53)	1909.00	(10814.13)	(15377.66)	14575.06
Cash in bank and at hand at 1 January 2022			46169.81	10536.00	156493.00	213198.81	198623.00
Cash in bank and at hand at 31 December 2022			47824.66	12445.00	137551.49	197821.15	213198.00

SADAMC

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2022	2021
					£	£
Cash Funds						
Lloyds Bank Current Account		26,377.09	12,445.00		38,822.09	35,528.39
Lloyds Magazine Account	6	434.42			434.42	434.42
Cash in hand		15.00			15.00	15.00
Other monetary assets						
Gift Aid recoverable	2		work in progress			
Investment Assets at 31/12/22						
CCLA 1 606061001 D Development Fund		19,560.54				19,307.00
CCLA 2 606061001 F Sale of Rectory Site				27,201.23		
CCLA 3 606061001 S Mission Room Recoupment Order				17,718.39		156,493.00
CCLA CBF Investment 1060016875-21911 STURRY				92,631.87		
CFB Deposit 06982010		1,437.61				1421
	Totals					
Fixed Assets retained for church use			n/a			
Liabilities						Arrears of Anglican Parish Share and Methodist Assessment yet to be determined

Notes:

- 1 **Wedding Staged payments.**
Previous description as 'DEPOSIT' no longer acceptable to Diocese. £250 of this payment is still regarded as restricted because of the mandatory fee payable to the diocese, but it can be returned if the wedding does not take place. Other fees (bells etc) are in general accounts.
- 2 **Gift Aid**
Collected as described. Claims have not yet caught up with current year's planned giving.
Estimate unavailable for asset calculation.
- 3 **Warm Space/Heating donations**
ECC initiative to make the church available as a warm space, intended to offset heating bills.
Together with diocesan heating grants this is considered designated rather than restricted funding.
- 4 **Stipend contributions**
Anglican and Methodist churches have made an appointment of two Interim Part-Time priests to oversee the LEP with effect from 1st September 2022. £5000 paid to each authority represents a 0.2 share of Ministry costs for the 4 months. No contribution or assessment is made for any shared costs.
- 5 **Clergy and staffing costs**
Paid directly to individuals by diocese and the Methodist church.
- 6 **Magazine account**
Lloyds bank account ('Magazine Account') previously assumed to be closed was found to be still holding a balance of £434.42. Statement obtained via a long-retired signatory. Transfer to a working account not yet achieved. Information in bank statements file.