

# THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

England & Wales · Charity number 1118783

## Details

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**Other names** The Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas, Oxford

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2007-04-12

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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Oxford  
OX4 1SX

**Phone** 07860493718

**Email** [frstephen@stnicholas-oxford.org](mailto:frstephen@stnicholas-oxford.org)

**Website** [www.stnicholas-oxford.org](http://www.stnicholas-oxford.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEACHINGS OF THE ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH, ROOTED IN THE HOLY TRADITION, AND TAUGHT BY THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, THE SEVEN ECUMENICAL COUNCILS AND THE LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL COUNCILS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH.

**Activities:** The Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker maintains a full schedule of Orthodox church services, as well as engaging in numerous other activities relevant to parish life, such as a Sunday School and Youth Group, and the oversight of an Orthodox summer camp for children. In August 2021 it was resolved to transfer assets to a new CIO no 1194371. This is still in the course of being achieved

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED IN PRACTICE NATIONAL
- Poland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£0	£0	-	-
2023-08-31	£0	£0	-	-
2022-08-31	£186,064	£82,444	-	-
2021-08-31	£465,956	£52,819	-	-
2020-08-31	£148,649	£41,105	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>NICHOLAS GRAHAM</b>	Chair	2017-02-21
Anna Platt		2011-12-04
Dr Alexey Kostyanovsky		2019-01-01
Eric Jansson		2019-03-24
FRANCES JENNINGS		2011-12-04
Fr Stephen Tobias Ralph Platt		2008-01-01
MAEVE HENRY		2008-01-01
MARIANNA COLYER		2014-06-24
SIMON JENNINGS MA FCA		2011-12-04
Tatiana Yuryevna Nosova Cody		2017-01-01

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

England & Wales - Charity number 1118783

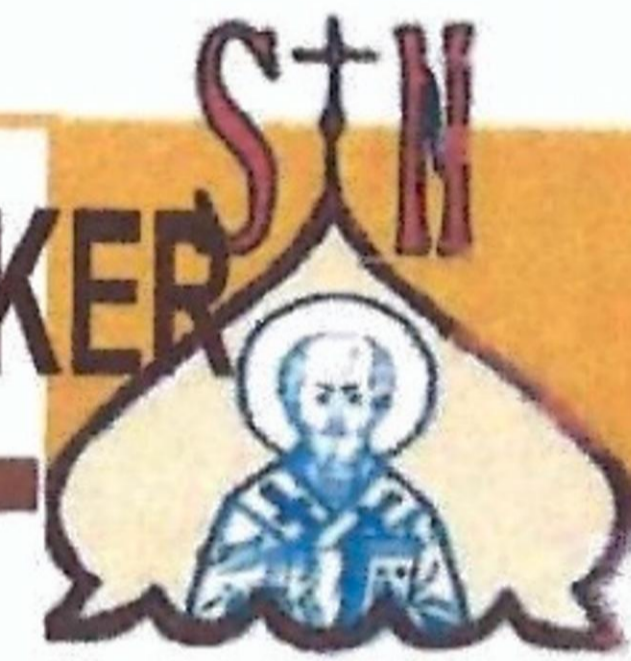
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# Accounts

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**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**



Registered Charity No 1118783  
Registered CIO No.: 1194371

THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
(Registered Charity No. 1118783)  
Registered CIO No. 1194371

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Trustees of the Russian Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker ("the Charity" or "the Church") present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022. These have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 and comply with the Charity's constitution and applicable law. The comparatives are for the year ended 31 August 2021.

These accounts have been produced in relation to the charitable trust (charity registration number 1118783) and to the CIO established on 7 May 2021 (charity registration number 1194371). On 15 August 2021, the members of the charitable trust resolved that its assets should be held for the CIO as from 1 September 2021. However, the formal transfer of assets, which was commenced at that time, was suspended pending a decision to change the name of the CIO, the better to reflect its multi-national character.

This resolution was finally taken, subject to the approval of the Charity Commission on 21 May 2023 and it is anticipated that these transfers will be completed by 31 August 2023. Accordingly, the same accounts have been prepared for both registered charities, those for the trust for the year ended 31 August 2022 and those for the CIO for the period from 7 May 2021 to 31 August 2022 albeit that the CIO was dormant for the period from 7 May 2021 to 31 August 2021.

**1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>UK Charity Registration Number:</b>	1118783 / 1194371
<b>Registered Office:</b>	St Nicholas Church 34 Ferry Road, Oxford OX3 OEU
<b>Email address:</b>	fr.stephen.platt@gmail.com
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Nicholas Graham
<b>Current Trustees:</b>	The Very Revd Archpriest Stephen Platt (rector) Revd Deacon Alexey Kostyanovsky (ex-officio) Nicholas Graham (Chairperson) Marianna Colyer (church warden; ex-officio) Simon Jennings (Treasurer) Frances Jennings (Parish Treasurer; ex-officio) Tatiana Nosova Anna Platt Maeve Henry Svetlana Pavlova Eric Jansson Ella Shatova Johnny Cowee
<b>Bankers:</b>	Lloyds Bank PLC, 399 Oxford Street, London W1C 2BU  Santander UK PLC, 301 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NB  COIF Charity Funds, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET  Metrobank, 45 Queen Street. Oxford OX1 1EJ
<b>Investment Manager:</b>	M&G Charifund
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	Mr Peter J Stevenson, 8 Harbord Road, Oxford, OX2 8LJ
<b>Tax Reference:</b>	HMRC Charities reference XT4003 / ZD18931

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

## **2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Charitable Trust, registered under the number 1118783 resolved in an Annual General Members Meeting on 15 August 2021 that the assets of the Charity should be transferred to a newly incorporated Charitable Incorporated Organisation of the same name, registered under the number 1194371. It has taken longer than anticipated to complete the transfer of all assets and the trustees of the old charity continue to hold these on trust for the CIO. Consequently, identical accounts are presented for both entities. It is anticipated that all funds and properties will have been transferred by the end of the current financial year.

The governing document of the CIO is the Constitution dated 7 May 2021.

The Rector is ecclesiastically responsible to the ruling Bishop of the Diocese of Sourozh (Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain and Ireland, Moscow Patriarchate) of which the Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker is a part. The ruling Bishop is His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh. The ruling Bishop has power to appoint the Rector. Under the constitution, the Rector is a trustee of the Charity.

A distinction is made between the ecclesiastical and charitable aspects of parish life in order to ensure that ecclesial matters concerning the Parish comply with the requirements of the Diocese of Sourozh, while financial governance accords with English Charity Law.

The Parish is run according to the Diocesan statutes. The Parish Council consists of only the Rector, Parish Treasurer and Church Warden all of whom are appointed with the agreement of the ruling Bishop

The Parish Council positions are held by the following:

Rector & Chair:           The Very Revd Archpriest Stephen Platt

Parish Deacon:           Deacon Alexey Kostyanovsky

Church Warden:         Marianna Colyer

Treasurer:               Frances Jennings

The Council of Trustees is responsible for the Charity, which exists to further the work and activities of the Parish. The Council of Trustees is made up of the 4 members of the Parish Council, who are ex-officio members, as well as a CIO, Secretary, Chair, Treasurer, and a minimum of 4 other members-at-large, who are elected yearly at the AGM of the Charity.

Day to day decisions regarding the pastoral and worshipping life of the Parish (such as the schedule of church services, baptisms, marriages, and funerals) are the responsibility of the Rector. The Council of Trustees meets at least three times a year to discuss official business, hear a report from the Rector on the activities of the Parish and relevant pastoral events or issues, and from the Treasurers on the financial position.

### **Trustees' Responsibilities**

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice (Accounting by Charities) 2005, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with our responsibilities as Trustees of the Charity under English Law, we certify that to the best of our knowledge and belief:

- we have taken all the steps we ought to make ourselves aware of all the relevant information.
- we have made the Independent Examiner aware of all such information.
- no relevant information has been withheld from the Independent Examiner.

The Trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

### **Induction and Training**

The Trustees are kept informed of their duties and obligations under the law by the Secretary, the Treasurers and the Rector, and regularly consider their policies in the light of guidance published by the Charity Commission. New trustees are elected at the AGM of the Charity or are co-opted by the Council in the course of the year. They are made aware of their responsibilities and obligations in informal training given by the Treasurers.

### **Internal Controls**

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has appropriate systems of internal controls. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements follow best practice. They are also responsible for the Charity safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees have policies covering: substantial donations, bribery, data protection and safeguarding. The system of internal controls is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

## **3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Russian Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker is part of the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Sourozh. Its main objects are to advance the Orthodox Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with teachings of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, rooted in the holy tradition, and taught by the Holy Scriptures, the Seven Ecumenical Councils and the local and provincial councils of the Orthodox Church.

Membership of the Parish currently stands at 101 members. Membership is contingent upon being 18 years of age, having received the sacraments of confession and communion in the Parish within the previous six months, and having a permanent address in the UK (the area of the Diocese of Sourozh). The conditions of membership are subject to rules regarding membership in the wider body of the Diocese of Sourozh, of which it is a part.

The Parish has regular religious services on Saturday evenings, Sunday mornings, and Wednesday evenings, as well as on a number of Feast days. All services are open to all members of the public. These services are celebrated in a mixture of English and Church Slavonic (the traditional language of the Russian Orthodox Church).

During the COVID lockdown, to permit parishioners to participate in the liturgical life of the Church during this period, services were broadcast via Facebook or Mixlr. This proved to be of inestimable benefit to those self-isolating or unable to attend in person because of restrictions on numbers, as well as to those living far afield. It continues to be of great benefit to those prevented from attending services in person because of age, infirmity or distance. It reaches orthodox Christians in many countries.

The Parish House at 37 Ferry Road continues to be an invaluable resource for meetings, Sunday School and Youth Groups to house visitors to the Parish.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Normally on Sundays during the school year, the children are gathered together after the morning service for a short Sunday School meeting. The Parish also regularly hosts meetings of an Orthodox youth group and supports the Oxford Orthodox Student Society. The Parish also supports other initiatives of Orthodox Churches and Institutions in the United Kingdom and abroad.

The work of the Parish is entirely self-financed. The Church receives no financial help from the Diocese, the State, Russia, or any other external source. Therefore, we rely entirely on the support of parishioners and friends to enable the Parish to carry out its mission. Collections are taken at Sunday celebrations of the Divine Liturgy, as well as at the candle desk, and donations can be made online and via a Donate Station.

Further information about the on-going activities of the Parish is available on the Parish website at [www.stnicholas-oxford.org](http://www.stnicholas-oxford.org). There is a Parish Facebook page (St Nicholas Orthodox Church, Oxford).

#### **Statement of Public Benefit**

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit and confirm that they have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to it. They consider that the Parish's aims, activities and achievements demonstrate the benefit to the Public that arises from those activities, as summarised in this Annual Report.

#### **4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The work to expand the Church continues to make a significant difference to the capacity of the Church and to its beauty and harmony, despite the relatively limited extra space constructed.

In November 2020, the Charity received a bequest of a property in Kidlington, with the expressed hope that this should be used as a house of retreat, sanctuary and prayer. The property was in poor condition but structurally sound. The Trustees started work to clear debris, repair and refurbish the property to make it habitable and bring it into use. While considering the long-term use of the property, the trustees allowed a parishioner who found herself suddenly in need of accommodation to live in part of the property in return for help with the repair work and a contribution towards utilities. In June 2022, after considerable further refurbishment carried out with the help and guidance of the Local Authority Housing Officer, the trustees were able to offer the property to two Ukrainian refugee families, one of which still resides there.

Funds raised come from collections, private donations from fundraising events, and from the bookstall.

The Trustees continue to maintain their investment in M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund), Income Units. As at 31 August 2021 the value stood at £52,620 but as a result of further volatility during the period, as at 31 August 2022 the value stood at £49,416. Having considered this and the investment and other implications for the Charity of the war in Ukraine, the trustees have decided to leave the investment with M&G for the time being.

During the period of lockdown, the Trustees decided that it would be in the best interests of the Church were it to be converted into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with limited liability and legal personality. Accordingly, such an Organisation has been incorporated and registered by the Charity Commissioner under the registered number 1194371. A motion to begin the process of transferring the net assets of this Charity to the new Charitable Incorporated Association was passed at a deferred Annual General Meeting held on 15 August 2021. As a result, with effect from 1 September 2021, the Trustees are holding the net assets for the newly established CIO.

#### **5. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

All funds are unrestricted, and while in the past a distinction was made between funds for general purposes and for the building fund, this distinction has been abandoned and all funds consolidated. As all of the properties are directly used for the purposes of the charity rather than as investments, this consolidation has continued.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

### **Income**

The total charity income for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £186,064, of which £170,618 was unrestricted and £15,446 was expressly for those affected by the War in Ukraine (2021 - £465,956). The figure for the year to 31 August 2021 was increased exceptionally by the legacy of the property at Kidlington, which was valued at £350,000.

Gift Aid claimable for the period ended 31 August 2022 was estimated to be £18,079, (2021 - £14,533),

As the total charity income exceeded £25,000 for the year, the Trustees are required to have these financial statements independently examined.

### **Expenditure**

Charity expenditure for the year totaled £66,998 out of unrestricted funds and £15,446 out of those collected for Ukrainian relief (2021 - £52,819).

### **Reserves Policy**

Total reserves at 31 August 2022 stood at £2,309,382 (2021 - £2,208,966) of which £2,078,890 is represented by real property, and the balance in more liquid resources.

### **Future Plans**

The war in Ukraine has had a considerable impact upon the Charity and upon parish life since February 2022. The Parish has raised funds for the relief of Ukrainian refugees and has made substantial donations to the humanitarian work of the Polish and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches. The parish has also provided considerable support to Ukrainian families in the Church community providing help, advice and where necessary direct financial assistance and advice. Via the Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme, various parishioners have sponsored Ukrainian refugee families. The Parish has made its Kidlington property available for this purpose and has in conjunction with the Anglican Diocese of Oxford provided administrative and practical support and help to Ukrainian families settling into this country and will continue to do so.

The Parish continues to grow in numbers. Several individuals have been received into the Orthodox Church by baptism and/or chrismation. We have, in addition, welcomed about 30 Ukrainian refugees into the Parish. The Parish organized a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in February 2023 and a pilgrimage to the Holy Places in Northumbria is planned for the Summer 2023 half-term

### **Risk Management**

A risk assessment has been undertaken by means of:

- an annual review of the risks the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should those risks materialise;
- a review of the risks associated with COVID 19 or similar infections and the liturgical modifications required.


This continuing process will identify risk areas to which the Charity is vulnerable and highlight any necessary safeguards that will need to be put in place.

The Trustees are aware that the principal financial risks concern the management and banking of cash donations, and there are procedures in place to mitigate these. In particular, donations by way of standing order, PayPal or electronic transfer rather than cash are encouraged. The Trustees have installed an electronic donation tablet to allow ad hoc donations to be made other than by cash or cheque. The Trustees are aware of the size of the cash balances during the year. The funds were used to finance the enlargement of the Church, the work on which has now been completed, and have more recently been used to help those in need. The Trustees are aware of the limits under the Financial Compensation Scheme and have invested surplus cash. The Trustees maintain full insurance which is reviewed annually. They are also aware of pastoral and safeguarding concerns and have strict policies with regard to safeguarding and to GDPR requirements, which are regularly reviewed.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The war in Ukraine has caused difficulties for the Charity. The parish has remained united, but the Trustees are aware that perceived reputational issues have had repercussions, most notably in the need to demonstrate the propriety of our dealings to financial institutions. The trustees take their duties seriously and the Charity makes every effort to satisfy enquiries and perform adequate due diligence on all receipts and payments. It has also made clear that it makes no payments to any other institution, save for the humanitarian relief projects run by organizations in the UK or EU.

**Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:**

 ..... 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Date

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

I report on the financial statements (or accounts) of the Russian Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker (the Charity) for the year ended 31 August 2022, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, and the related notes.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity'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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 other matter except that referred to in the previous paragraph 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 Acthave 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.

*Peter J. Stevenson* F.C.A.

Peter J Stevenson  
8 Harbord Road,  
Oxford  
OX2 8LJ

29/06/2023  
Date

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**


<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2022 Total £</b>	<b>2021 Total £</b>
Voluntary income	7	157,626	461,880
Income from charitable trading activities	10	10,308	1,777
Investment income	11	2,684	2,299
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>£170,618</b>	<b>£465,956</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities	12	66,998	52,819
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>£66,998</b>	<b>£52,819</b>
<b>Net income after expenses</b>			
Appreciation /(Depreciation) of M&G Charifund Investment	3	103,620	413,137
		(3,204)	10,907
		<b>£100,416</b>	<b>£424,044</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>			
Total funds brought forward on 1 September 2020		2,208,966	1,785,700
<b>Total unrestricted fund carried forward at 31 August 2021</b>		<b>£2,309,382</b>	<b>£2,208,966</b>
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>			
Donations towards relief for those affected by the war in Ukraine	13	15,446	-
Donations made to relief organisations	13	15,446	-
		-	-

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Freehold property - at estimated market value	2	2,078,890	2,025,180
M&G Charifund	3	49,416	52,620
		<u>£2,128,306</u>	<u>£2,077,800</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash		700	-
Debtors	4	43,265	60,033
Cash at bank	5	138,511	72,533
		<u>£182,476</u>	<u>£132,566</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>			
<b>Creditors</b> -amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>(1,400)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		181,076	131,166
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>£2,309,382</u>	<u>£2,208,966</u>
<b>Charity Funds:</b>			
General Fund - unrestricted		2,398,382	2,208,966
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>		<u>£2,309,382</u>	<u>£2,208,966</u>

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

  
 Date 29 June 2023



The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of accounting**

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investments. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015. The principal accounting policies adopted are as follows:

**Fixed Asset Investments**

The Church and the Parish House at 2 Bowness Avenue are reported at the valuation given by Hextall Twiddy in 2018, plus, in the case of the Church building, the fees incurred in respect of the enlargement have been capitalised. St. Nicholas House is reported at its purchase cost. The house at Kidlington is reported at the informal valuation given by Hextall Twiddy on 23 November 2021 of £350,000. Enhancement expenditure of £49,900 necessary to make the property habitable and safe was capitalized in the year. The Trustees consider these to be a reasonable reflection of the current market values. Maintenance costs are expensed unless they add materially to the value.

**Stock**

No account has been taken of the stock of books held for sale in the bookstore as these have been entirely donated.

**Status of Funds**

The General Fund has unrestricted funds available for application in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and the Parish. It includes the properties as they are all used for the general purposes of the charity.

**Income**

All incoming resources, notably voluntary income, Gift Aid relating thereto, and income from fundraising activities, are accounted for on a receivable basis which is when the Charity became entitled to the resource.

**Expenditure**

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party.

**Charitable activities**

Charitable expenditure comprises the maintenance of the Church, Parish House, St. Nicholas House, and 17 The Rookery, the discharge of expenses incurred by the Rector in performance of pastoral responsibilities and provision for expenses connected with the Liturgical life of the Parish, together with small donations to other charities supported by the Parish in the course of the year.

**Taxation**

The Charity is not subject to any taxes on its charitable activities. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was derived. The Charity is able to reclaim any eligible UK income tax credits from investment income. Any trading (such as the bookstore) is incidental or in pursuance of the Charity's objects and is in any event not conducted on a commercial basis.

**Gift Aid**

The Charity is able to claim Gift Aid on qualifying donations from individual donors and provision is made on donations received during an accounting period.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the level of income and expenditure 12 months from the date on which the financial statements were approved. The Trustees are confident that the anticipated future income will be sufficient to cover all annual expenditure as well as the costs of enlarging the Church building, referred to in Note 2 below, and the Charity will be able to continue as a going concern.

<b>2. FREEHOLD PROPERTY (at estimated values)</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Church Building, 34 Ferry Road, Oxford OX3 0EU		661,579	657,769
Parish House 2 Bowness Avenue, Oxford OX3 0AJ		575,000	575,000
St. Nicholas House, 37 Ferry Road, Oxford OX3 0EU		442,411	442,411
17, The Rookery, Kidlington, OX5 1AW		<u>399,900</u>	<u>350,000</u>
	11	<u>£2,078,890</u>	<u>£2,025,180</u>

A valuation report from Hextall Twiddy Limited was obtained in support of these values of the Church building and 2 Bowness Avenue in 2018. Since then costs related to the extension of the Church have been capitalised (a total of £157,769). St. Nicholas House at 37 Ferry Road is shown at the purchase price of £440,000 plus associated costs. On 6 November 2020, the Parish received a donation of a house in Kidlington at No. 17, The Rookery, Kidlington, OX5 1AW, which was in poor repair. The Trustees obtained an informal valuation of the property from Hextall Twiddy on 23 November 2021, which gave a valuation of £350,000 as at 6 November 2020. In the year to 31 August 2022, the property has been significantly refurbished at a cost of £49,900 which has been capitalised.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**3. M&G CHARIFUND**

	<b>Page</b>	<b>£</b>
Value of Units as at 31 August 2021	11	52,620
Depreciation in year to 31 August 2022	10	<u>(3,204)</u>
<b>Valued units as at 31 August 2022</b>	11	<u><b>49,416</b></u>

**4. DEBTORS**

		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Gift Aid	11	<u>43,265</u>	<u>60,033</u>
		<u>43,265</u>	<u>60,033</u>

On 24 September 2021, a claim for Gift Aid was made as a result of which £34,846 was received on 7 December 2021. On 5 October 2022 a further £10,321 was received following a claim made on 6 September 2022 (in respect of the year to 31 August 2020).

A claim for £16,079 was submitted on 16 March 2023 in respect of the year to 31 March 2021 and a claim for the year to 31 August 2022 for £18,079 will shortly be submitted.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

<b>5. CASH AT BANK</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Metrobank			
Lloyds Bank (general account)		36,549	36,955
Lloyds Bank (bookstall account)		30,071	6,519
COIF deposit account		6,522	3,694
PayPal		6,000	6,000
Santander business account		16,838	620
Santander business reserve account		25,121	7,410
		17,410	11,335
	11	<u>£138,511</u>	<u>£72,533</u>
<b>6. CREDITORS</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Father Stephen Platt - expenses, mileage and subsistence		1,150	1,150
Independent Examiner fees		250	250
	11	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,400</u>
<b>7. VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Legacy		-	350,000
Donations and collections		139,547	97,347
Gift Aid		18,079	14,533
Total	10	<u>£157,626</u>	<u>461,880</u>
<b>8. DONATIONS AND COLLECTIONS (UNRESTRICTED)</b>		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Collections and candle sales		20,931	14,098
General donations		63,525	57,668
Other donations (Just Giving & Everyclick)		322	829
Donate Station		21,789	9,365
Specific appeals		3,553	483
PayPal donations		14,003	9,275
PayPal Giving Fund		11,248	4,721
Corporate Donations		2,600	-
100 Club donations		1,121	149
CAF Give as You Earn		455	759
Total	14	<u>£139,547</u>	<u>£97,347</u>
<b>9. GIFT AID</b>		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Gift Aid on qualifying donations (provision)		18,079	14,533
<b>Total Gift Aid</b>	14	<u>£18,079</u>	<u>£14,533</u>

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Page	2022	2021
<b>10. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>		£	£
Pilgrimage receipts		3,031	-
Bookstall		7,277	1,777
	10	<u>£10,308</u>	<u>£1,177</u>
<b>11. INVESTMENT INCOME</b>		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
COIF		20	-
Santander		1	6
M&G Charifund dividends		2,663	2,293
	10	<u>£2,684</u>	<u>£2,299</u>
<b>12. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Pastoral & Social Expenses		4,440	1,495
Building Maintenance & utilities		29,391	27,464
Liturgical expenses		5,520	2,309
Expenses of Father Stephen Platt		6,900	9,265
Trustee expenses*		-	713
Donations and subscriptions		4,395	2,360
Insurance		5,601	6,426
Office administration		854	688
Independent Examiner's fee		250	250
PayPal fees		179	154
Facebook fees		-	1
AIB Fees for Donate Station		768	1,694
Pilgrimage Costs		3,182	-
Ukrainian Relief from unrestricted funds		5,518	-
	10	<u>£66,998</u>	<u>£52,819</u>

\* See also note 15. While there were significant reimbursed expenses, there were no trustee expenses as such.

**13. UKRAINIAN RELIEF**

£15,446 was raised for Ukrainian relief. Donations directly made for this purpose (excluding costs of providing accommodation to refugees) amounted to £20,964 of which £15,764 was transferred to the Polish Orthodox Charity providing humanitarian assistance to refugees in Poland, £5,000 to the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia for assistance to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and £200 to assist Ukrainian refugees in our Parish.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**14. DONATED GOODS**

The stock of books sold or available for sale in the bookstore has been entirely donated. The stock has not been accounted for in these accounts, nor is any cost attributable to sales. The value of the stock is estimated at £15,000 and the donated value is estimated to be equivalent to the sales revenue.

**15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

No trustee received any remuneration in the year, but expenses incurred for the Charity were re-imbursed to two trustees, Father Stephen Platt and Mrs Anna Platt. The total figure for expenses re-imbursed was £14,853.

Father Stephen Platt was re-imbursed for travel and subsistence expenses, totalling £6,900 (2021 - £9,265). In addition, he was reimbursed £6,895 for expenses incurred on behalf of the church, making the total sum re-imbursed to him £13,795. Mrs Anna Platt was reimbursed £1,058 (2021 - £689) for expenses incurred on behalf of the church. The costs of maintenance of the Parish house, in which they live, are borne by the Trust.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

England & Wales - Charity number 1118783

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# Accounts

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**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

Registered Charity No 1118783



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
(Registered Charity No. 1118783)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

The Trustees of the Russian Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker ("the Charity" or "the Church") present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021. These have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 and comply with the Charity's constitution and applicable law. The comparatives are for the year ended 31 August 2020.

**1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>UK Charity Registration Number:</b>	1118783
<b>Registered Office:</b>	St Nicholas Church 34 Ferry Road, Oxford OX3 OEU
<b>Email address:</b>	fr.stephen.platt@gmail.com
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Nicholas Graham
<b>Current Trustees:</b>	The Very Revd Archpriest Stephen Platt (rector) Revd Deacon Alexey Kostyanovsky (ex-officio) Nicholas Graham (Chairperson) Marianna Colyer (church warden; ex-officio) Simon Jennings (Treasurer) Frances Jennings (Parish Treasurer; ex-officio) Natalia Baeva (resigned 31 August 2021) Tatiana Nosova Anna Platt Maeve Henry Svetlana Pavlova Eric Jansson
<b>Bankers:</b>	Lloyds Bank PLC 399 Oxford Street, London W1C 2BU  Santander UK PLC 301 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NB  COIF Charity Funds 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET  Metrobank 45 Queen Street, Oxford OX1 1EJ
<b>Investment Manager:</b>	M&G Charifund
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	Mr Peter J Stevenson 8 Harbord Road, Oxford, OX2 8LJ
<b>Tax Reference:</b>	HMRC Charities reference XT4003

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The governing document is the byelaws adopted on 12 November 2006.

The Rector is ecclesiastically responsible to the ruling Bishop of the Diocese of Sourozh (Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain and Ireland, Moscow Patriarchate) of which the Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker is a part. The ruling Bishop has power to appoint the Rector. Under the constitution, the Rector is a trustee of the Charity.

A distinction is made between the ecclesiastical and charitable aspects of parish life in order to reconcile the running of the Parish with the requirements of the Diocese of Sourozh.

The Parish is run according to the Diocesan statutes. The Parish Council consists of only the Rector, Parish Treasurer and Church Warden all of whom are appointed with the agreement of the Bishop of the Diocese of Sourozh. The Parish Council positions are held by the following:

Ruling Bishop:	His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh
Rector & Chair:	The Very Revd Archpriest Stephen Platt
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Alexey Kostyanovsky
Church Warden:	Marianna Colyer
Treasurer:	Frances Jennings

The Council of Trustees is responsible for the Charity, which exists to further the work and activities of the Parish. The Council of Trustees is made up of the 4 members of the Parish Council, who are automatically members, as well as a Secretary, Chair, Treasurer, and a minimum of 4 other members-at-large, who are elected yearly at the AGM of the Charity.

Day to day decisions regarding the pastoral and worshipping life of the Parish (such as the schedule of church services, baptisms, marriages, and funerals) are the responsibility of the Rector. The Council of Trustees meets at least three times a year to discuss official business, hear a report from the Rector on the activities of the Parish and relevant pastoral events or issues, and from the Treasurer on the financial position.

**Trustees' Responsibilities**

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice (Accounting by Charities) 2005, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT** (continued)

In accordance with our responsibilities as Trustees of the Charity under English Law, we certify that to the best of our knowledge and belief:

- we have taken all the steps we ought to make ourselves aware of all the relevant information.
- we have made the Independent Examiner aware of all such information.
- no relevant information has been withheld from the Independent Examiner.

The Trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

**Induction and Training**

The Trustees are kept informed of their duties and obligations under the law by the Secretary, the Treasurers and the Rector, and regularly consider their policies in the light of guidance published by the Charity Commission. New trustees are elected at the AGM of the Charity or are co-opted by the Council in the course of the year. They are made aware of their responsibilities and obligations in informal training given by the Secretary and Treasurers.

**Internal Controls**

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has appropriate systems of internal controls. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements follow best practice. They are also responsible for the Charity safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The system of internal controls is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

**3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Russian Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker is part of the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Sourozh. Its main objects are to advance the Orthodox Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with teachings of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, rooted in the holy tradition, and taught by the Holy Scriptures, the Seven Ecumenical Councils and the local and provincial councils of the Orthodox Church.

Membership of the Parish currently stands at 106 members. Membership is contingent upon being 18 years of age, having received the sacraments of confession and communion in the Parish within the previous six months, and having a permanent address in the UK (the area of the Diocese of Sourozh). The conditions of membership are subject to rules regarding membership in the wider body of the Diocese of Sourozh, of which it is a part.

The Parish has regular religious services on Saturday evenings, Sunday mornings, and Wednesday evenings, as well as on a number of Feast days. All services are open to all members of the public. These services are celebrated in a mixture of English and Church Slavonic (the traditional language of the Russian Orthodox Church).

During the COVID lockdown, all activities were restricted in accordance with the requirements of the law and guidance. At times, attendance at services had to be severely restricted and, when guidelines were relaxed to permit a small congregation, had to be conducted in accordance with social distancing requirements and overall restrictions on numbers attending. To permit parishioners to participate in the liturgical life of the Church during this period, services were broadcast via Facebook or Mixlr. This proved to be of inestimable benefit to those self-isolating or unable to attend in person because of restrictions on numbers, as well as to those living far afield.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES** (continued)

The Parish House at 37 Ferry Road proved to be an invaluable resource during the period when the Church was closed because of extension works. During this time, services were held in a chapel created there as well as in hired halls for Sunday liturgies.

Normally on Sundays during the school year, the children are gathered together after the morning service for a short Sunday School meeting. During the COVID lockdown meetings took place when possible through Zoom. The Parish also regularly hosts meetings of an Orthodox youth group and supports the Oxford Orthodox Student Society. The Parish also supports other initiatives of Orthodox Churches and Institutions in the United Kingdom and abroad. These all resumed as lockdown restriction eased.

The work of the Parish is entirely self-financed. The Church receives no financial help from the Diocese, the State or any other external source. Therefore, we rely entirely on the support of parishioners and friends to enable the Parish to carry out its mission. Collections are taken at Sunday celebrations of the Divine Liturgy, as well as at the candle desk, and donations can be made online, and in the year a Donate Station was installed in the church to facilitate adhoc online donations.

Further information about the on-going activities of the Parish is available on the Parish website at [www.stnicholas-oxford.org](http://www.stnicholas-oxford.org). There is a Parish Facebook page (St Nicholas Orthodox Church, Oxford).

**Statement of Public Benefit**

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit and confirm that they have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to it. They consider that the Parish's aims, activities and achievements demonstrate the benefit to the Public that arises from those activities, as summarised in this Annual Report.

**4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During the period of COVID restrictions, the Charity Trustees commissioned works to expand the Church to provide additional space for worshipping and improved access and exits. This required the Church to be closed over the summer of 2020 until December. This work has been completed and has made a significant difference to the capacity of the Church and to its beauty and harmony, despite the relatively limited extra space constructed.

In November 2020, the Charity received a bequest of a property in Kidlington, with the expressed hope that this should be used as a house of retreat, sanctuary and prayer. The property was in poor condition but structurally sound. The Trustees started work to clear debris, repair and refurbish the property to make it habitable and bring it into use. While considering the long-term use of the property, the trustees allowed a parishioner who found herself suddenly in need of accommodation to live in part of the property in return for help with the repair work and a contribution towards utilities. In June 2022, after further refurbishment, with the help and guidance of the Local Authority Housing Officer, following the war in Ukraine, the trustees were able to offer the property to two Ukrainian refugee families, one of which still resides there.

Funds raised come from collections, private donations, and from fundraising events. The period of lockdown has been challenging, as the absence of a normal congregation and later the very restricted attendance permitted under the COVID rules, and the inability to organize fund raising ventures and the temporary closure of the bookstall has curtailed revenues. However, parishioners have shown great loyalty and devotion and online giving has increased.

The Trustees have been reviewing their investment in M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund), Income Units. As at 31 August 2020 the value stood at £41,712. Despite further volatility during the period, as at 31 August 2021 the value stood at £52,620. Having considered this and the investment and other implications for the Charity of war in Ukraine, the trustees have decided to leave the investment with M&G for the time being. The value as at 15 November 2022 was £48,798.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**5. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

All funds are unrestricted, and while in the past a distinction was made between funds for general purposes and for the building fund, this distinction has been abandoned and all funds consolidated. As all of the properties are directly used for the purposes of the charity rather than as investments, this consolidation has continued.

**Income**

The total charity income for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £465,956 (2020 - £148,649), which included a legacy of a property valued at £350,000.

Gift Aid claimable for the period ended 31 August 2021 was estimated to be £14,533, (2020 - £34,822),

As the total charity income exceeded £25,000 for the year, the Trustees are required to have these financial statements independently examined.

**Expenditure**

Charity expenditure for the year totaled £52,819 (2020 - £41,105).

**Reserves Policy**

Total reserves at 31 August 2021 stood at £2,209,744 (2020 - £1,785,700) of which £2,025,180 is represented by real property, and the balance in more liquid resources.

**Future Plans**

During the period of lockdown, the Trustees decided that it would be in the best interests of the Church were it to be converted into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with limited liability and legal personality. Accordingly, such an Organisation has been incorporated and registered by the Charity Commissioner under the registered number 1194371. A motion to appoint the net assets of this Charity to the new Charitable Incorporated Association was passed at a deferred Annual General Meeting held on 15 August 2021. As a result, with effect from 1 September 2021, the Trustees are holding the Trust Fund for the newly established CIO absolutely.

The war in Ukraine has had a considerable impact upon the Charity and upon parish life since February 2022. The parish has raised funds for the relief of Ukrainian refugees, and has made substantial donations to the humanitarian work of the Polish and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches. The parish has provided support to Ukrainian families through individual's participation in the Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme and has made its Kidlington property available for this purpose, and has in conjunction with the Anglican Diocese of Oxford provided administrative and practical support and help to Ukrainian families settling in to this country.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**Risk Management**

A risk assessment has been undertaken by means of:

- an annual review of the risks the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should those risks materialise;
- a review of the risks associated with COVID 19 and the liturgical modifications required.

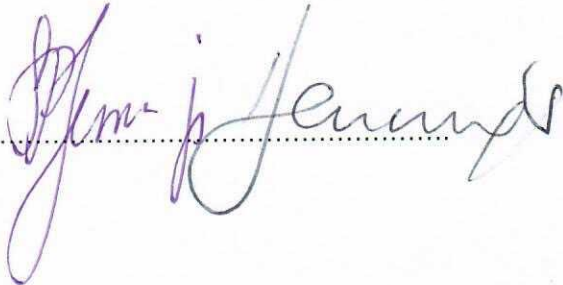
This continuing process will identify risk areas to which the Trust is vulnerable and highlight any necessary safeguards that will need to be put in place.

As noted, the Parish made every effort to maintain access to services during the lockdown. Since services have been permitted again, a limited congregation, in accordance with government regulations, has been in attendance. A booking system for those wishing to attend was established to ensure maximum safe numbers are not exceeded, and social distancing and sanitizing measures were instituted. The Trustees keep up to date with Government regulations and guidelines, and the Trustees believe that procedures in place ensured full compliance with such provisions. Once these restrictions were lifted, Parish life has returned to normal, but the Trustees continue to monitor the situation and ensure that, for example good ventilation is provided, sanitization is in place, and that high standards of hygiene are maintained.

The Trustees are aware that the principal financial risks concern the management and banking of cash donations, and there are procedures in place to mitigate these. In particular, donations by way of standing order, PayPal or electronic transfer rather than cash are encouraged. During 2020, the Trustees used an electronic donation tablet to allow ad hoc donations to be made other than by cash or cheque, which has been an effective development. The Trustees were aware of the size of the cash balances during the year. The funds were used to finance the enlargement of the Church, the work on which has now been completed. The Trustees are aware of the limits under the Financial Compensation Scheme and have invested surplus cash. The Trustees maintain full insurance which is reviewed annually. They are also aware of pastoral and safeguarding concerns and have strict policies with regard to safeguarding and to GDPR acuirements, which are regularly reviewed.

The war in Ukraine has caused difficulties for the Charity. The parish has remained united, but the Trustees are aware that perceived reputational issues have had repercussions, most notably in the need to demonstrate the propriety of our dealings to financial institutions. The trustees take their duties seriously and the Charity makes every effort to satisfy enquiries and perform adequate due diligence on all receipts and payments. It has also made clear that it makes no payments to any other institution, save for the humanitarian relief projects run by organizations in the UK or EU.

**Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:**

.....  ..... 19 December 2022 ..... Date

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

I report on the financial statements (or accounts) of the Russian Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker (the Charity) for the year ended 31 August 2021, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, and the related notes.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity'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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 other matter except that referred to in the previous paragraph 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 Acthave 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.

Peter J Stevenson  
Peter J Stevenson  
8 Harbord Road,  
Oxford  
OX2 8LJ

19/12/2022  
Date

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Notes	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
Voluntary income	7	461,880	138,336
Income from charitable trading activities	10	1,777	7,519
Investment income	11	2,299	2,751
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<u>£465,956</u>	<u>£148,606</u>
 <b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities	12	52,819	41,105
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>£52,819</u>	<u>£41,105</u>
<b>Net income after expenses</b>		413,137	107,501
Appreciation /(Depreciation) of M&G Charifund Investment	3	10,907	(9,970)
		<u>£424,044</u>	<u>£97,531</u>
 <b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>			
Total funds brought forward on 1 September 2020		1,785,700	1,688,169
<b>Total fund carried forward at 31 August 2021</b>		<u>£2,209,744</u>	<u>£1,785,700</u>

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

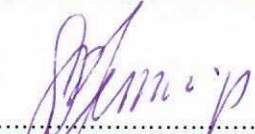
THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Freehold property - at estimated market value	2	2,025,180	1,523,407
M&G Charifund	3	52,620	41,712
		<u>£2,077,800</u>	<u>£1,565,119</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	4	60,033	45,500
Cash at bank	5	73,311	176,731
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>133,344</u>	<u>222,231</u>
<b>Creditors</b> -amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>(1,650)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		131,944	220,581
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>£2,209,744</u>	<u>£1,785,700</u>
<b>Charity Funds:</b>			
General Fund - unrestricted		2,209,744	1,785,700
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>£2,209,744</u>	<u>£1,785,700</u>

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

  
.....

Date 19 December 2021  
.....

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements

THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Basis of accounting**

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investments. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015. The principal accounting policies adopted are as follows:

**Fixed Asset Investments**

The Church and the Parish House at 2 Bowness Avenue are reported at the valuation given by Hextall Twiddy in 2018, plus, in the case of the Church building, the fees incurred in respect of the enlargement have been capitalised. St. Nicholas House is reported at its purchase cost. The house at Kidlington is reported at the informal valuation given by Hextall Twiddy on 23 November 2021 of £350,000. The Trustees consider these to be a reasonable reflection of the current market values. Maintenance costs are expensed unless they add materially to the value.

**Stock**

No account has been taken of the stock of books held for sale in the bookstore as these have been entirely donated.

**Status of Funds**

The General Fund has unrestricted funds available for application in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and the Parish. It includes the properties as they are all used for the general purposes of the charity.

**Income**

All incoming resources, notably voluntary income, Gift Aid relating thereto, and income from fundraising activities, are accounted for on a receivable basis which is when the Charity became entitled to the resource.

**Expenditure**

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party.

**Charitable activities**

Charitable expenditure comprises the maintenance of the Church, Parish House, St. Nicholas House, and 17 The Rookery, the discharge of expenses incurred by the Rector in performance of pastoral responsibilities and provision for expenses connected with the Liturgical life of the Parish, together with small donations to other charities supported by the Parish in the course of the year.

**Taxation**

The Charity is not subject to any taxes on its charitable activities. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was derived. The Charity is able to reclaim any eligible UK income tax credits from investment income. Any trading (such as the bookstore) is incidental or in pursuance of the Charity's objects and is in any event not conducted on a commercial basis.

**Gift Aid**

The Charity is able to claim Gift Aid on qualifying donations from individual donors and provision is made on donations received during an accounting period.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**3. M&G CHARIFUND**

	<b>Page</b>	<b>£</b>
Value of Units as at 31 August 2020	11	41,712
Appreciation in year to 31 August 2021	10	<u>10,907</u>
<b>Valued units as at 31 August 2021</b>	11	<u><u>52,620</u></u>

**4. DEBTORS**

		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Gift Aid	11	<u>60,033</u>	<u>45,500</u>
		<u>60,033</u>	<u>45,500</u>

On 24 September 2021, a claim for Gift Aid was made as a result of which £34,846 was received on 7 December 2021. On 5 October 2022 a further £10,321 was received following a claim made on 6 September 2022 ( in respect of the year to 31 August 2020).

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the level of income and expenditure 12 months from the date on which the financial statements were approved. The Trustees are confident that the anticipated future income will be sufficient to cover all annual expenditure as well as the costs of enlarging the Church building, referred to in Note 2 below, and the Charity will be able to continue as a going concern.

	Page	2021	2020
<b>2. FREEHOLD PROPERTY</b>			
<b>(at estimated values)</b>			
Church Building, 34 Ferry Road, Oxford OX3 0EU		657,769	505,996
Parish House 2 Bowness Avenue, Oxford OX3 0AJ		575,000	575,000
St. Nicholas House, 37 Ferry Road, Oxford OX3 0EU		442,411	442,411
17, The Rookery, Kidlington, OX5 1AW		<u>350,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	11	<u>£2,025,180</u>	<u>£1,523,407</u>

A valuation report from Hextall Twiddy Limited was obtained in support of these values of the Church building and 2 Bowness Avenue in 2018. Since then costs related to the extension of the Church have been capitalised (a total of £157,769). St. Nicholas House at 37 Ferry Road is shown at the purchase price of £440,000 plus associated costs. On 6 November 2020, the Parish received a donation of a house in Kidlington at No. 17, The Rookery, Kidlington, OX5 1AW, which was in poor repair. The Trustees obtained an informal valuation of the property from Hextall Twiddy on 23 November 2021, which gave a valuation of £350,000 as at 6 November 2020. In the year to 31 August 2022, the property has been significantly refurbished.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	<b>Page</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>5. CASH AT BANK</b>			
Metrobank		37,732	22,768
Lloyds Bank (general account)		6,519	103,208
Lloyds Bank (bookstall account)		3,694	2,822
COIF deposit account		6,000	6,000
PayPal		621	6,927
Santander business account		7,410	28,591
Santander business reserve account		11,335	6,415
	11	<u>£73,311</u>	<u>£176,731</u>
<b>6. CREDITORS</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Father Stephen Platt - expenses, mileage and subsistence		1,150	1,150
Independent Examiner fees		250	500
	11	<u>£1,400</u>	<u>£1,650</u>
<b>7. VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Legacy		350,000	
Donations and collections		97,347	103,514
Gift Aid		14,533	34,822
Total	10	<u>£461,880</u>	<u>£138,336</u>
<b>8. DONATIONS AND COLLECTIONS</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Collections and candle sales		14,098	20,048
General donations		57,668	66,247
Other donations (Just Giving & Everyclick)		829	72
Donate Station		9,365	-
Specific appeals		483	1,806
PayPal donations		9,275	8,431
PayPal Giving Fund		4,721	4,729
Corporate Donations		-	1,350
100 Club donations		149	486
CAF Give as You Earn		759	345
Total	14	<u>£97,347</u>	<u>£103,5</u>
<b>9. GIFT AID</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Gift Aid on qualifying donations (provision)	14	14,533	34,822
<b>Total Gift Aid</b>		<u>£14,533</u>	<u>£34,822</u>

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Page	2021	2020
<b>10. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>		£	£
Food Fair		-	4,871
Bookstall		1,777	2,648
	10	<u>£1,777</u>	<u>£7,519</u>
 <b>11. INVESTMENT INCOME</b>		 <b>2021</b>	 <b>2020</b>
COIF		-	28
Santander		6	10
M&G Charifund dividends		2,293	2,713
	10	<u>£2,299</u>	<u>£2,751</u>
 <b>12. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>		 <b>2021</b>	 <b>2020</b>
Pastoral & Social Expenses		1,495	2,096
General Expenses		-	147
Building Maintenance & utilities		27,464	13,270
Liturgical expenses		2,309	4,887
Expenses of Father Stephen Platt		9,265	12,699
Trustee expenses		713	-
Donations and subscriptions		2,360	2,111
Insurance		6,426	3,804
Office administration		688	1,668
Independent Examiner's fee		250	250
PayPal fees		154	135
Facebook fees		1	38
AIB Fees for Donate Station		1,694	-
	10	<u>£52,819</u>	<u>£41,105</u>

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**13. DONATED GOODS**

The stock of books sold or available for sale in the bookstore has been entirely donated. The stock has not been accounted for in these accounts, nor is any cost attributable to sales. The value of the stock is estimated at £15,000 and the donated value is estimated to be equivalent to the sales revenue.

**14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

No trustee received any remuneration in the year, but expenses incurred for the Charity were re-imbursed to 3 trustees, Father Stephen Platt, Mrs Anna Platt and Mr Eric Janssen. The total figure for expenses re-imbursed was £20,757.

Father Stephen Platt was re-imbursed for travel and subsistence expenses, totalling £9,265 (2020 - £12,099). In addition, he was reimbursed £10,090 for expenses incurred on behalf of the church, making the total sum re-imbursed to him £19,355. Mrs Anna Platt was reimbursed £689 for expenses incurred on behalf of the church. The costs of maintenance of the Parish house, in which they live, are borne by the Trust. Eric Janssen, who is preparing for ordination, was reimbursed fees of £715 for theological courses.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

England & Wales - Charity number 1118783

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# Accounts

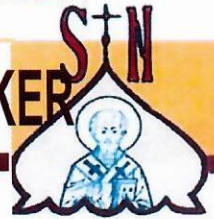
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**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**PATRIARCHATE OF MOSCOW: DIOCESE OF SOUROZH**

**PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

**Registered Charity No 1118783**



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
(Registered Charity No. 1118783)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

The Trustees of the Russian Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker ("the Charity" or "the Church") present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020. These have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 and comply with the Charity's constitution and applicable law. The comparatives are for the year ended 31 August 2019.

**1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>UK Charity Registration Number:</b>	1118783
<b>Registered Office:</b>	St Nicholas Church 34 Ferry Road, Oxford OX3 OEU
<b>Email address:</b>	fr.stephen.platt@gmail.com
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Nicholas Graham
<b>Current Trustees:</b>	The Very Revd Archpriest Stephen Platt (rector) Revd Deacon Alexey Kostyanovsky (ex-officio) Nicholas Graham (Chairperson) Marianna Colyer (church warden; ex-officio) Hannah Reinhold (Secretary) (resigned 30 May 2020) Simon Jennings (Treasurer) Frances Jennings (Parish Treasurer; ex-officio) Philipp Reinhold (resigned 30 May 2020) Natalia Baeva Tatiana Nosova Anna Platt Maeve Henry Svetlana Pavlova Eric Jansson
<b>Bankers:</b>	Lloyds Bank PLC 399 Oxford Street, London W1C 2BU  Santander UK PLC 301 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NB  COIF Charity Funds 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET
<b>Investment Manager:</b>	M&G Charifund
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	Mr Peter J Stevenson 8 Harbord Road, Oxford, OX2 8LJ
<b>Tax Reference:</b>	HMRC Charities reference XT4003

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

## **2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The governing document is the byelaws adopted on 12 November 2006.

The Rector is ecclesiastically responsible to the ruling Bishop of the Diocese of Sourozh (Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain and Ireland, Moscow Patriarchate) of which the Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker is a part. The ruling Bishop has power to appoint the Rector. Under the constitution, the Rector is a trustee of the Charity.

A distinction is made between the ecclesiastical and charitable aspects of parish life in order to reconcile the running of the Parish with the requirements of the Diocese of Sourozh.

The Parish is run according to the Diocesan statutes. The Parish Council consists of only the Rector, Parish Treasurer and Church Warden all of whom are appointed with the agreement of the Bishop of the Diocese of Sourozh. The Parish Council positions are held by the following:

Ruling Bishop:	His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh
Rector & Chair:	The Very Revd Archpriest Stephen Platt
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Alexey Kostyanovsky
Church Warden:	Marianna Colyer
Treasurer:	Frances Jennings

The Council of Trustees is responsible for the Charity, which exists to further the work and activities of the Parish. The Council of Trustees is made up of the 4 members of the Parish Council, who are automatically members, as well as a Secretary, Chair, Treasurer, and a minimum of 4 other members-at-large, who are elected yearly at the AGM of the Charity.

Day to day decisions regarding the pastoral and worshipping life of the Parish (such as the schedule of church services, baptisms, marriages, and funerals) are the responsibility of the Rector. The Council of Trustees meets at least three times a year to discuss official business, hear a report from the Rector on the activities of the Parish and relevant pastoral events or issues, and from the Treasurer on the financial position.

### **Trustees' Responsibilities**

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice (Accounting by Charities) 2005, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT** (continued)

In accordance with our responsibilities as Trustees of the Charity under English Law, we certify that to the best of our knowledge and belief:

- we have taken all the steps we ought to make ourselves aware of all the relevant information.
- we have made the Independent Examiner aware of all such information.
- no relevant information has been withheld from the Independent Examiner.

The Trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

**Induction and Training**

The Trustees are kept informed of their duties and obligations under the law by the Secretary, the Treasurers and the Rector, and regularly consider their policies in the light of guidance published by the Charity Commission. New trustees are elected at the AGM of the Charity or are co-opted by the Council in the course of the year. They are made aware of their responsibilities and obligations in informal training given by the Secretary and Treasurers.

**Internal Controls**

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has appropriate systems of internal controls. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements follow best practice. They are also responsible for the Charity safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The system of internal controls is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

**3. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Russian Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker is part of the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Sourozh. Its main objects are to advance the Orthodox Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with teachings of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, rooted in the holy tradition, and taught by the Holy Scriptures, the Seven Ecumenical Councils and the local and provincial councils of the Orthodox Church.

Membership of the Parish currently stands at 106 members. Membership is contingent upon being 18 years of age, having received the sacraments of confession and communion in the Parish within the previous six months, and having a permanent address in the UK (the area of the Diocese of Sourozh). The conditions of membership are subject to rules regarding membership in the wider body of the Diocese of Sourozh, of which it is a part.

The Parish has regular religious services on Saturday evenings, Sunday mornings, and Wednesday evenings, as well as on a number of Feast days. All services are open to all members of the public. These services are celebrated in a mixture of English and Church Slavonic (the traditional language of the Russian Orthodox Church).

During the COVID lockdown, all activities were restricted in accordance with the requirements of the law and guidance. At times, attendance at services had to be severely restricted and, when guidelines were relaxed to permit a small congregation, had to be conducted in accordance with social distancing requirements and overall restrictions on numbers attending. To permit parishioners to participate in the liturgical life of the Church during this period, services were broadcast via Facebook or Mixlr. This proved to be of inestimable benefit to those self-isolating or unable to attend in person because of restrictions on numbers, as well as to those living far afield.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES** (continued)

The Parish House at 37 Ferry Road proved to be an invaluable resource during the period when the Church was closed because of extension works. During this time, services were held in a chapel created there as well as in hired halls for Sunday liturgies.

Normally on Sundays during the school year, the children are gathered together after the morning service for a short Sunday School meeting. During the COVID lockdown meetings took place when possible through Zoom. The Parish also regularly hosts meetings of an Orthodox youth group and supports the Oxford Orthodox Student Society. The Parish also supports other initiatives of Orthodox Churches and Institutions in the United Kingdom and abroad. It is intended to resume these and other activities as lockdown restrictions ease.

The work of the Parish is entirely self-financed. The Church receives no financial help from the Diocese, the State or any other external source. Therefore, we rely entirely on the support of parishioners and friends to enable the Parish to carry out its mission. Collections are taken at Sunday celebrations of the Divine Liturgy, as well as at the candle desk, and donations can be made online.

Further information about the on-going activities of the Parish is available on the Parish website at [www.stnicholas-oxford.org](http://www.stnicholas-oxford.org). There is a Parish Facebook page (St Nicholas Orthodox Church, Oxford).

**Statement of Public Benefit**

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit and confirm that they have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to it. They consider that the Parish's aims, activities and achievements demonstrate the benefit to the Public that arises from those activities, as summarised in this Annual Report.

**4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Funds raised come from collections, private donations, and from fundraising events. The period of lockdown has been challenging, as the absence of a normal congregation and the inability to organize fund raising ventures and the temporary closure of the bookstall has curtailed revenues. However, parishioners have shown great loyalty and devotion and online giving has increased.

Happily, the Food Fair (our major fundraising event) took place in 2019 and raised a record of £4,870 (2019 £4,226).

His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh visited us in December 2019 for our celebration of St. Nicholas.

The Trustees have been reviewing their investment in M&G Equitas Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund), Income Units. As at 31 August 2019 the value stood at £51,682 and the COVID crisis led to further volatility during the period. As at 31 August 2020 the value stood at £41,712 and while the value has since recovered to 2019 levels, it is intended to transfer the invested funds to Sarasin & Partners at an appropriate point.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

## **5. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

All funds are unrestricted, and while in the past a distinction was made between funds for general purposes and for the building fund, this distinction has been abandoned and all funds consolidated.

### **Income**

The total charity income for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £148,649 (2019 - £206,517), which included a retrospective gift and declaration.

Gift Aid claimable for the period ended 31 August 2020 was £34,822 (estimated), which was increased by a retrospective Gift Aid declaration for a gift of £95,000 made in the year 31 August 2019. (2019 - £10,325).

As the total charity income exceeded £25,000 for the year, the Trustees are required to have these financial statements independently examined.

### **Expenditure**

Charity expenditure for the year totaled £41,105 (2019 - £39,883).

### **Reserves Policy**

Total reserves at 31 August 2020 stood at £1,785,743 (2019 - £1,688,169) of which £1,523,407 is represented by real property, and the balance in more liquid resources.

### **Future Plans**

During the period of COVID restrictions, the Charity Trustees commissioned works to expand the Church to provide additional space for worshipping and improved access and exits. This required the Church to be closed over the summer of 2020 until December. This work has been completed and has made a significant difference to the capacity of the Church and to its beauty and harmony, despite the relatively limited extra space constructed.

In November 2020, the Charity received a bequest of a property in Kidlington, with the expressed hope that this should be used as a house of retreat and prayer. The property was in poor condition but structurally sound. The Trustees are considering how this property can best be used to serve the objects of the Charity.

During the period of lockdown, the Trustees decided that it would be in the best interests of the Church were it to be converted into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with limited liability and legal personality. Accordingly, such an Organisation has been incorporated and registered by the Charity Commissioner under the registered number 1194371. A motion to appoint the net assets of this Charity to the new Charitable Incorporated Association was passed at a deferred Annual General Meeting held on 15 August 2021. As a result, with effect from 1 September 2021, the Trustees are holding the Trust Fund for the newly established CIO absolutely.

### **Risk Management**

A risk assessment has been undertaken by means of:

- an annual review of the risks the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should those risks materialise;
- a review of the risks associated with COVID 19 and the liturgical modifications required.

This continuing process will identify risk areas to which the Trust is vulnerable and highlight any necessary safeguards that will need to be put in place.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**


As noted, the Parish made every effort to maintain access to services during the lockdown. Since services have been permitted again, a limited congregation, in accordance with government regulations, has been in attendance. A booking system for those wishing to attend was established to ensure maximum safe numbers are not exceeded, and social distancing and sanitizing measures were instituted. Father Stephen, Deacon Alexey (as Safeguarding Officer) and the Trustees keep up to date with Government regulations and guidelines, and the Trustees believe that procedures in place ensured full compliance with such provisions. They continue to monitor the situation.

The problems caused by COVID have meant that an Annual General Meeting could not realistically be called before the restrictions were lifted.

The approval of these accounts, and the comparative figures from 2019, has therefore been deferred until a proper Parish assembly and AGM could be convened to take place on 15 August 2021.

The Trustees are aware that the principal financial risks concern the management and banking of cash donations, and there are procedures in place to mitigate these. In particular, donations by way of standing order, PayPal or electronic transfer rather than cash are encouraged. During 2020, the Trustees used an electronic donation tablet to allow ad hoc donations to be made other than by cash or cheque. The Trustees were aware of the size of the cash balances during the year. The funds were earmarked for use in the short-term to finance the enlargement of the Church as described under "Future Plans". The Trustees are aware of the limits under the Financial Compensation Scheme and have invested surplus cash. The Trustees maintain full insurance which is reviewed annually. They are also aware of pastoral and safeguarding concerns and have strict policies with regard to safeguarding and to GDPR acquirments.

**Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:**

  
.....

..... 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

I report on the financial statements (or accounts) of the Russian Orthodox Parish of St Nicholas the Wonderworker (the Charity) for the year ended 31 August 2020, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity'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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 other matter except that referred to in the previous paragraph 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 Acthave 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.

.....  
Peter J Stevenson  
8 Harbord Road,  
Oxford  
OX2 8LJ

.....  
Date

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Notes	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
Voluntary income			
Income from charitable trading activities	7	138,379	191,045
Investment income	10 11	7,519 2,751	8,772 6,700
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>£148,649</b>	<b>£206,517</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities			
Cost of charitable trading activities	12 13	41,105 -	39,327 556
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>£41,105</b>	<b>£39,883</b>
<b>Net income after expenses</b>			
Gains on the appreciation of freehold property		107,544	166,634
Appreciation /(Depreciation) of M&G Charifund Investment	3	-	-
		<b>(9,970)</b>	<b>(8,318)</b>
		<b>£97,574</b>	<b>£158,316</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>			
Total funds brought forward on 1 September 2019		1,688,169	1,529,853
<b>Total fund carried forward at 31 August 2020</b>		<b>£1,785,743</b>	<b>£1,688,169</b>

The notes on pages 12 to 16 form part of these financial statements

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Freehold property - at estimated market value	2	1,523,407	1,522,174
M&G Charifund	3	41,712	51,682
		1,565,119	£1,573,856
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	4	45,500	34,325
Cash at bank	5	176,774	81,388
<b>Total current assets</b>		222,274	115,713
<b>Creditors</b> -amounts falling due within one year	6	(1,650)	(1,400)
<b>Net current assets</b>		220,624	114,313
<b>Total net assets</b>		1,785,743	£1,688,169
<b>Charity Funds:</b>			
General Fund - unrestricted		1,785,743	1,688,169
<b>Total Funds</b>		£1,785,743	£1,688,169

**Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:**

.....

.....

Date .....

The notes on pages 12 to 16 form part of these financial statements

# THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

## BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **Basis of accounting**

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investments. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015. The principal accounting policies adopted are as follows:

#### **Fixed Asset Investments**

The Church and the Parish House at 2 Bowness Avenue are reported at the valuation given by Hextall Twiddy in 2018, plus, in the case of the Church building, the fees incurred in respect of the enlargement have been capitalised. St. Nicholas House is reported at its purchase cost. The Trustees consider this is a reasonable reflection of the current market values. Maintenance costs are expensed unless they add materially to the value.

#### **Stock**

No account has been taken of the stock of books held for sale in the bookstore as these have been entirely donated.

#### **Status of Funds**

The General Fund has unrestricted funds available for application in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and the Parish.

#### **Income**

All incoming resources, notably voluntary income, Gift Aid relating thereto, and income from fundraising activities, are accounted for on a receivable basis which is when the Charity became entitled to the resource.

#### **Expenditure**

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party.

#### **Charitable activities**

Charitable expenditure comprises the maintenance of the Church, Parish House and St. Nicholas House, the discharge of expenses incurred by the Rector in performance of pastoral responsibilities and provision for expenses connected with the Liturgical life of the Parish, together with small donations to other charities supported by the Parish in the course of the year.

#### **Taxation**

The Charity is not subject to any taxes on its charitable activities. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was derived. The Charity is able to reclaim any eligible UK income tax credits from investment income. Any trading (such as the bookstore) is incidental or in pursuance of the Charity's objects and is in any event not conducted on a commercial basis.

#### **Gift Aid**

The Charity is able to claim Gift Aid on qualifying donations from individual donors and provision is made on donations received during an accounting period.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the level of income and expenditure 12 months from the date on which the financial statements were approved. The Trustees are confident that the anticipated future income will be sufficient to cover all annual expenditure as well as the costs of enlarging the Church building, referred to in Note 2 below, and the Charity will be able to continue as a going concern.

	<b>Page</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>2. FREEHOLD PROPERTY</b>			
<b>(at estimated values)</b>			
Church Building, 34 Ferry Road, Oxford OX3 0EU		505,996	504,763
St. Nicholas House, 37 Ferry Road, Oxford OX3 0EU		442,411	442,411
Parish House 2 Bowness Avenue, Oxford OX3 0AJ		575,000	575,000
	11	<u>£1,523,407</u>	<u>£1,522,174</u>

A valuation report from Hextall Twiddy Limited was obtained in support of these values of the Church building and 2 Bowness Avenue in 2018. Since then costs related to the extension of the Church have been capitalised (a total of £5,996) and St. Nicholas House at 37 Ferry Road is shown at the purchase price of £440,000 plus associated costs. The Trustees do not consider a depreciation charge to be necessary.

In July 2020, a contract for extension works to the Church was entered into. The original contract sum was for £135,020 inclusive of non-recoverable VAT. In accordance with FRS 102, these accounts record this commitment by way of note only.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

<b>5. CASH AT BANK</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Metrobank			
Lloyds Bank (general account)		22,768	
Lloyds Bank (bookstall account)		103,208	56,202
COIF deposit account		2,822	1,148
PayPal		6,000	6,000
Santander business account		6,977	2,153
Santander business reserve account		28,585	13,175
		6,414	2,710
	11	<u>£176,774</u>	<u>£81,388</u>

The Trustees had accumulated larger than usual cash balances in order to meet the anticipated costs of the enlargement of the church.

<b>6. CREDITORS</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Father Stephen Platt - expenses, mileage and subsistence			
		1,150	1,150
Independent Examiner fees (2 years)			
		500	250
	11	<u>£1,650</u>	<u>£1,400</u>

<b>7. VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>		<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Donations and collections			
Gift Aid		103,557	180,720
Total		34,822	10,325
	10	<u>£138,379</u>	<u>£191,045</u>

Significant donations totaling £95,000 were received during the year to 31 August 2019 to assist in the purchase of St. Nicholas House. While no restrictions were placed on the use of these donations, they were exceptional.

<b>8. DONATIONS AND COLLECTIONS</b>		<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Collections and candle sales			
General donations		20,048	34,715
Other donations (Just Giving & Everyclick)		66,230	138,918
Specific appeals		72	19
PayPal donations		1,806	3,300
PayPal Giving Fund		8,491	1,750
Corporate Donations		4,729	
100 Club donations		1,350	
CAF Give as You Earn		486	918
Total		345	1,100
	14	<u>£103,557</u>	<u>£180,720</u>

<b>9. GIFT AID</b>		<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Gift Aid on qualifying donations (provision)			
Total Gift Aid		34,822	10,325
	14	<u>£34,822</u>	<u>£10,325</u>

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Page	2020	2019
<b>10. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>			
		£	£
Food Fair		4,871	4,226
Bookstall		2,648	4,546
Pilgrimage		-	-
	10	<u>£7,519</u>	<u>£8,772</u>
<b>11. INVESTMENT INCOME</b>			
		2020	2019
COIF		28	39
Santander		10	14
M&G Charifund dividends		2,713	6,647
	10	<u>£2,751</u>	<u>£6,700</u>
<b>12. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>			
		2020	2019
Pastoral & Social Expenses		2,096	3,771
General Expenses		147	-
Building Maintenance & utilities		13,270	16,231
Liturgical expenses		4,887	2,890
Expenses of Father Stephen Platt		12,699	9,598
Donations and subscriptions		2,111	1,619
Insurance		3,804	3,281
Office administration		1,668	1,534
Independent examiner's fee		250	250
PayPal fees		135	126
Facebook fees		38	27
	10	<u>£41,105</u>	<u>£39,327</u>
<b>13. COSTS OF CHARITABLE TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>			
		2020	2019
Cost of Pilgrimage		-	556
	10	<u>-</u>	<u>£556</u>

NB: In February 2019 a parish pilgrimage to Bari (largely self-financed) took place. No pilgrimages in the year to 31 August 2020 were possible due to lockdown.

**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**14. DONATED GOODS**

The stock of books sold or available for sale in the bookstore has been entirely donated. The stock has not been accounted for in these accounts, nor is any cost attributable to sales. The value of the stock is estimated at £15,000 and the donated value is estimated to be equivalent to the sales revenue.

**15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Payments to Father Stephen Platt, Trustee, in reimbursement of expenses, totalled £12,699 (2019 - £9,598) during the year. Mrs Anna Platt is also a Trustee. The costs of maintenance of the Parish house, in which they live, are borne by the Trust. No other Trustees received remuneration or reimbursements of expenses (2019-nil).