

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF LAVANT

England & Wales · Charity number 1131684

Details

Other names	PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS WITH ST MARY, LAVANT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-09-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Rectory Pook Lane East Lavant Chichester West Sussex PO18 0AH
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Website	http://www.lavantchurches.net

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Regular public worship. Provision of sacred space for personal prayer. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Teaching of Christianity Participating in assemblies in schools. Provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people. Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for all. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£104,620	£101,360	-	-
2023-12-31	£128,405	£162,455	-	-
2022-12-31	£236,133	£272,221	-	-
2021-12-31	£139,224	£92,689	-	-
2020-12-31	£111,884	£98,028	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CYNTHIA BLADES		2022-10-18
Deecie Tester		2017-04-23
Frances Talbot		2025-05-11
Georgina Bill		2020-10-08
Iain Colin Campbell		2022-02-15
James Pickford		2024-04-21
Jenny Quest		2020-10-08
Joanna Osbourn		2026-04-26
Joanne Heather		2024-04-21
John Wiles		2026-04-26
Michael Ian Kingsford		2023-06-20
Rev Laura Elizabeth Darrall		2024-12-09
Sue Tostevin		2020-10-08
Zoe Mann		2024-04-21

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

Of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lavant

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

Registered Charity no. 1131684

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Part 1	Trustees annual report
	Parish reports
Part 2	Statement of receipts and payments
	Statement of assets and liabilities
	Notes to the accounts
	Report of the Independent Examiner

Website: www.lavantchurches.net

Priest in Charge: The Revd. Laura Darrall
The Rectory, Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

Independent Examiner: Mr P Tostevin
48 Maplehurst Road, Chichester, PO19 1HR

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC, 74/75 East Street, Chichester PO19 1HR
Co-operative Bank, PO Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

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For the year ended 31st December 2024

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The primary objective of Lavant PCC is our Mission Statement: To lead the people of Lavant and surrounding area into the knowledge and love of God, and bring them into the life and worship of Christ's Church. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the priest in charge, the Revd. Laura Darrall, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and, ecumenical
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or, ability to pay
- Providing financial support to those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our priest in charge and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. For this year we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish and the wider locality by supporting the food bank and the relief of the homeless
- Giving grants to missionary organisations
- Reaching out to non-churchgoers through outreach activities at St Nicholas Church to create a community hub at the heart of the most populated part of the village. These activities include a monthly Brunch Café, Lunch House, Tea and Chat, a thriving Messy Church, and a Toddler Group
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as historic centres and focuses of life in the village, treasuring our past heritage whilst looking at new ways to engage people to use our buildings
- Ensuring the financial sustainability of the two churches

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

The Lavant Churches welcome visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities. The average worshipping community (monthly) was 151, this includes children and young people (33). These figures include messy Church, which hadn't been included in the 2023 figures for the worshipping community. We look to encourage the deepening of faith for all ages, and alongside our services there is a programme for young people from crèche through to teenagers to join in with. Our youth work is especially varied and open to Year 6+ and meeting on Monday evenings termtime. Christmas and Easter are very special times of celebration where many sections of the community come together to join in the services. Children and adults alike join in and memories are made.

New members, teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers:

During the year there have been 5 baptisms, 7 weddings, (no services of blessing after a civil marriage), 14 church funerals, 4 funerals at the Crematorium, and 6 Interment of ashes/burials only.

A greater number of the church family have been involved in leading various aspects of worship, lending great encouragement to those involved, as well as the whole congregation. We continue to seek to extend the opportunities for the exercise of ministry and gifts within the life of our community.

Evangelism and outreach

Lavant churchgoers are the lifeblood of many regular village events as well as new initiatives. The local Church of England Primary school is also very much at the heart of the church community and is supported in its fundraising activities by members of the church. Lavant Churches offer a number of well attended outreach activities including a monthly Lunch House attended regularly by 25 - 30 villagers and church members; a weekly Tea and Chat, mainly for elderly villagers although all are welcome, and a thriving Toddler Group which meets weekly in term time and welcomes on average 12 pre-school children with their parent or carer. The monthly Saturday Brunch continues to prove very popular and welcomes 25 – 40 villagers and churchgoers alike including parents or grandparents with children who come to enjoy a relaxed brunch while their children are occupied at the craft tables. See Parish reports.

Lavant News is the monthly Parish Magazine prepared by a small editorial team which has the objective of uniting the interests of the Church and the village, promoting community spirit. Publicity in the magazine encourages villagers who may not be churchgoers to join in events organised by the church and local organizations. 11 issues were distributed in 2024 (one magazine for December/January). The publication is now delivered free by a dedicated team of volunteers, to everyone in the parish and to those of our worshipping community outside the parish. Additional copies are available in both churches. Part of our mission is to reach out to everyone and this is one step towards that goal.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy. We celebrated 5 baptisms, 7 weddings and 14 funerals in our church during the year. Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others, as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. Our vision and plans are to continue to find ways in which the St Nicholas church building can be used for outreach and events in addition to services. Its position at the heart of the most populated part of the village together with its lack of fixed pews and well-equipped kitchen make it an ideal venue for community events. It is important to us that the church is available for private prayer and visits not just to the church family but to the wider visiting community. To this end St Nicholas and St Mary's are open during daylight hours and the many entries in the Visitors' Book (at St Mary's) testify to this. Many remark not only how refreshing it is to find an open church but, also the sense of peacefulness and spirituality the church pervades. Other remarks include the sense of history within; that people of much earlier generations found life and presence there and, comments on the appreciation of the architectural beauty of the building and biblical archaeology.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

The Pastoral Care Team, chaired by Mrs Cynthia Blades, is responsible for visits, befriending and home communions. Regularly they give of their time and energy to caring, listening and helping people in the village.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

Especially encouraging was this year's Harvest festival where the church was joined by Lavant Primary School and the Little Harriers Lavant Montessori in donating food for the Foodbank in Chichester. The school and church members responded to provide many tins of soup, toiletries and other essentials.

Other charitable giving

We supported various charities throughout the year. Our local Foodbank, Mary's Meals, the Children's Society, the 4 Streets Project Chichester and the British Legion all benefitted from our donations. Our thanks go to our generous congregation and friends for raising so much for very worthwhile charities.

Archivist

Mrs Barbara Treverton was appointed again to look after our archives. She looks after all our files and documents, is very efficient and knowledgeable especially when we require information. This year she will be stepping down from her post and our huge thanks go to her for her work in looking after our valuable records.

Youth worker

The PCC were fortunate to be able to continue to appoint a Children and Family worker, Mrs Frances Talbot, who is successfully working with the young people and families of the parish.

Financial review

As in previous years members of the congregation have helped to support church running costs and the Parish Share through the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders and collections throughout the year. Donations have been received from anonymous benefactors including those from weddings and funerals. However, in 2024 we were not able to meet our Parish Share and paid less than 50% with £31,566.00 and the hiring of rooms were quieter than the previous year. We secured the last £5,000 of the Diocesan Grant for our children's work (restricted funds), which will cover the next 18 months/2 years but we need to look to make this post sustainable once the grant is used. Electricity bill issues have been resolved and the amount outstanding paid off in instalments over 6 months is illustrated in the large increase in utility bills from £4077 in 2023 to £17818 in 2024. We will need to begin a journey to look at ensuring our churches can become financially sustainable moving forward.

St Nicholas Chancel Trust

Is held entirely by the Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance. Claims may be made for assistance with insurance premiums for St Nicholas.

Why we hold some money in reserve

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately two months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations.

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For the year ended 31st December 2024

Annual Report

Priest in Charge Report

After a three-year tenure Rev Martha left the parish for another appointment in Oxford, she goes with my prayers and best wishes for both her and her family in this new chapter. During the short interregnum the parish had great support from Rev Emma Graeme, Rev Dr Michael Semple, Rev Reji Singh, Rev John Dane and other local priests, our many thanks go to them and all who helped serve during that time. I was delighted to be appointed after interview and joined the parish on December 9th, 2024. It was an incredible welcome with a packed church for the licensing, and a home ready to move into, made possible by the hard work and faithfulness of our church wardens and parishioners. Thank you to all who made this happen! In the Christmas season, I was so encouraged to be able to visit all the activities and groups we run in Lavant and to begin to get to know our village. I was able to attend and support Frances in the school services as well as our own carol service, Midnight Mass and a full church on Christmas Day. Jo and I hosted our first 'At Home' in the Rectory with mulled wine, mince pies and over 60 people from the parish coming through the door. God is very much on the move in Lavant, and the Holy Spirit feels palpable in all our worship. I very much look forward to reporting more on 2025 at next year's APCM. But for now, it has been a very positive beginning and both Jo and myself are extremely grateful for the welcome, support and prayers of the parish as we continue to serve God and his people in this beautiful place.

Rev Laura Darrall

Churchwarden's Report

St Mary's

During the early months of the year storm force winds dislodged a number of tiles on the vestry roof. The resultant ingress of rainwater caused a small section of the lath and plaster ceiling to collapse. Contractors were engaged to effect repair of the roof, which is now weatherproof, with patch repair of the ceiling to be addressed in 2025. We are pleased to advise that we secured a grant of 60% towards the net cost of the works and full recovery of the VAT via the Listed Places of Worship scheme.

In September the Lavant History Group started a survey of the churchyard. The group's aim is to record the names and location of the graves. The findings will be made available by way of a digital survey both for the benefit of the church but also to help understand Lavant's history through the lives of those buried at St Mary's.

A new stela has been erected in the garden of remembrance for the names of those whose ashes are interred in this space.

We received a generous donation to be used for the improvement of the sound system and to this end a new lapel microphone and transmitter was purchased.

The handrail project is progressing with local authority planning permission having been obtained and the owners of the adjacent land have not raised any objections. We hope to undertake the works in summer 2025.

Unfortunately, in late 2024, during a period of high winds, the weathervane on top of the spire that surmounts the tower collapsed onto the roof damaging a number of tiles and puncturing the roofing felt. An inspection has revealed severe rot to several of the roof timbers and in particular the king post upon which the weathervane was fixed. We have effected a temporary repair of the roof pending an inspection by engineers in early 2025.

St Nicholas

The defects liability period for the 2023 refurbishment works ended in July. The appointed architect completed an inspection and a final certificate for release of the retention monies was issued.

During the year it was reported that the hearing loop system was not working, specialist engineers advised that the amplifier could not be fixed therefore a replacement has been installed.

A faculty for the construction of cupboards across the west elevation has been granted. The joinery shop at Lavant House has provided a competitive quote and the works are programmed to start in January 2025. The project is to be funded by a generous legacy left to St Nicholas by the estate of Edward Farrow.

Rectory

At the start of the interregnum the water services were isolated and council tax was suspended whilst the property remained unoccupied. The churchwardens are most grateful for the work done by Grave Concern in mowing the lawns and later in the year, to all who helped redecorate the property for the eagerly awaited arrival of our new priest-in-charge.

Financial Report

It is my privilege to present the financial results for 2024 and update you to our current situation.

A copy of our audited results for 2024 can be found at the back of either St Mary's or St Nicholas church's plus on our web site. This is the first year after a series when the results have not been inflated with the grants we received for restoring St Nicholas. I shall be happy to answer any questions you have but I would draw your attention to the closing balances for our principal activities. For children's work £11,000, Ministry and Services £45,000, Building fund £0 and a small fund to cover projects like the cupboards in St Nicholas or handrail for St Marys.

Looking ahead to our current year our funds are in varying states of health for the work we wish to do. The strongest fund is our children's work which has been adequately funded through grants and there are enough funds for the next 18-24 months. The group of volunteers under Francis Talbot raise money for May Camp at appropriate times of the year.

Our Mission and Service fund supports our Vicar and running the church services. The budget for this work if met in full would be £112,000. However, we currently raise about £78,000 pa and in 2025 we will be pledging a reduced amount of £50,000 (60%) to the diocese. This is a reduction of £32,000 against our Parish share. The subject of parish share, our pledge, Parish giving scheme and weekly giving is a subject which I shall come back to as an individual topic on another occasion.

However, our desire is to achieve a balance mission fund within the next 3 years. It is appropriate at this stage to mention the part our church wardens played in securing a full-time vicar for our parish after Rev Martha. The parish is currently under suspension and is being reviewed by the bishop. The risk we take not paying a full parish share is obvious. Our church wardens presented our parish as a worthy candidate for a priest and developed a strong relationship with Bishop Ruth which resulted in the appointment of Laura. To my mind our village without a full-time vicar would be dramatically different and it is a sad statistic that any parish which shares a vicar rarely regains a full-time post.

I have mentioned that the building fund is £0. We have a major problem with the roof and weathervane on St Mary's. We shall have to repair the damage and the faculty granted by the church stipulates that the weathervane must be repaired as well as the roof. Today we do not have a budget for this work but it could easily be in the region

of £25k. We have enjoyed the ability to reclaim VAT on restoration work but this tax refund is being reviewed by HMRC and may change in the future.

We shall seek grants for this work which we hope will cover 50% of costs but this still leaves a significant challenge for our community. I think it is fair to say that our congregation rises to the challenge of fund raising for projects and we have started this process. We shall achieve our goal adopting the approach with many small fund raising events. It reminds me of the song in Les Misérables Master of the House. A little bit here and a little bit there and it is surprising how it all adds up.

Our fundraising events for 2025 will be advertised during the year and I draw your attention to the Lavant duck race and the monthly produce stall. Mike Kingsford and his team raised over £100 on his launch event so it is realistic that over a year the stall could raise in excess £500. Link this to the duck race and brunch you are well on the way to £2k. You can have a bit of fun when raising money.

I shall be introducing the congregation to a scheme call “Easyfundraising” which is an online charity donation scheme which we set up for the benefit of Lavant Churches. It currently stands at £78, but with only 3 generous contributors. We are mindful that our local school has set this initiative up for itself and we do not wish to compete with them. However, I believe that there are members of our congregation who have no involvement with the school so there would be no conflict of interest. This scheme operates with many online purchases and is a freeby! Why should we not benefit!

Another project on our wish list is a handrail up the side of approach road leading to the Lytch gate at St Marys. This is a smaller project but contributing may appeal more to some of you. Please feel free to contribute. I would estimate the budget for this work is £3k. If there is a surplus from any of our fund raising the money will be held in the building fund to meet tomorrow’s challenges.

In summary our goals and challenges are achievable providing we are active, diligent and respectful of our community. In fact, being Christian.

James Pickford - Hon Treasurer LPCC

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll of a parish must be revised annually, except in a new year in which a new role is prepared (this is happening in 2025). Information pertaining to the Electoral roll may be found at the back of both churches, and will be presented by John Wiles our electoral roll officer at the APCM.

Pastoral Care Team

Although this continues to be advertised within our Lavant News magazine and on the E-news there is little call on the service. During the interregnum telephone calls for the service have been redirected through the churchwardens. In the past six months it was possible to assist one person who required help.

Gina Bill

Church Cleaning Report

Church cleaning at St Mary’s takes place on the third Monday of the month. The small team of dedicated church members hoover and polish both the church and the Lavant room. This ensures the church remains clean and tidy for services and occasional offices. As yet St Nicholas does not have a rota of specific cleaning days. Generally spring cleaning takes place once a year in both churches.

Gina Bill

Brass Cleaning Report

During the year six friends, under a rota lead by Sue Jackson, went monthly to the Rector's vestry. There, after removal of wax, moveable candlesticks and those by the altar, were buffed or polished. The processional cross was polished less regularly together with any other small pieces of brass.

Sue Jackson

Lunch House

Lunch House has had another busy year with the high spot being all the lovely All Bells Christmas Lunch which again we were able to supply free to all our patrons; with thanks and the generosity of the Village Fete. It was also lovely to welcome Revd. Laura to this event, one of her first since joining our community. Revd. Laura quickly joined in and was a huge help delivering meals and raffle prizes, and was also a huge hit with the volunteers and those enjoying the meal and continues to support us whenever she is free.

Just as a reminder, Lunch House is open to everyone, no invitation needed, and all ages welcome. For a very modest sum you can choose from soup, a varied mains menu including a vegetarian option and delicious puddings. Bring your friends! You don't have to live in Lavant, or be a regular church attender. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 12.00 – 1.30pm in St Nicholas Church. We look forward to seeing you.

Cynthia Blades

Tea and Chat

Tea and chat has had another year of yummy savouries, scones and cakes; copious cups of tea and lot and lots of chat. We meet in St Nicholas's on the third and fourth Wednesday of the month and the fifth Wednesday too when there is one! Tea and chat starts at 2.00pm for an hour and a half – or longer depending on the chat. Entry is free but you can make a small donation if you are able to. We tend to be ladies who attend but would love to see gentlemen too, so why not ask any chaps to join us. At present we usually have between 12-14 guests, but we can always put up a bigger table!

Cynthia Blades

Grave Concern

The report is very similar to previous years and like last year at no time did we have a full turnout. The group consists of some 8 active members and although this sounds a lot, we all have other essential commitments as well. The group is a dedicated and effective team with everyone involved working very well together. As now and reported last year we could do with more volunteers to spread the workload a little, so before the start of the mowing season I have prepared a short appeal notice for insertion into the Lavant News and the Pew Sheet but at the time of writing, no new recruits have come forward.

The new battery-operated mower bought last year, financed partly by the PCC and a donation from Lavant fete committee has proved to be a great asset as it is light and used to mow the more difficult areas of the churchyard. More battery-operated equipment would be beneficial as and when funds allow for them to be purchased. All the garden machinery will have to be serviced ready for the season starting in April 2025.

Richard Boyce

Summersdale Study Group

The group continued to meet in 2024, on the first and third Thursdays of each month. We have watched and discussed the first season of The Chosen, the Netflix dramatisation of the life and ministry of Christ, and have now begun Season 2. It has been enjoyable to watch, as well as being challenging, informative and inspiring.

We have had good times meeting together and getting to know each other better. Anyone wishing to join us would be very welcome.

Sue Tostevin

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod consists of members of the clergy together with laity team members from parishes within the Deanery. There was a meeting of the Deanery Synod on the 22nd of February 2024, an away day on the 29th of June 2024 and a finance meeting on 8th October 2024.

The meeting in February included a presentation of family support work by Mr Martin Auton-Lloyd. Beginning in the 1890's this society mainly worked with unmarried women but developed in the 1940's and 50's to become part of the social work throughout all Dioceses, but now it's only operative in Chichester, Oxford and Southwick. The Diocese has 18 workers and Mr Auton-Lloyd outlined the type and processes of the work carried out and how the teams are funded at present. This excludes the Chichester and Westbourne Deaneries due to historical reasons. The report tabled from the Diocesan Synod included the progression of the Living in Love and Faith motion and the involvement of the Diocese in the national church net zero programme. The Central Church is providing funding for 3 posts to progress this work within the Diocese.

The Deanery Synod away day on the 29th of June was focused on enabling and equipping parish ministry. There were presentations on two themes; firstly, integrating children and families into our churches, and secondly integrating the care of the environment into church life.

The autumn finance meeting addressed the monetary concerns of the Deanery; 2024 is still forecast as a deficit budget as is the proposed budget for 2025. Currently this is being funded from reserves, but it is not sustainable. Costs at Church House have been reduced, and clergy deployment is under review, as parish share income reduces.

Sue Tostevin

Organist and Choirmaster Report – 2024-2025

There has been a lot of change this year, much of it very exciting. Music in the parish continues to thrive, and the congregation, Choir, and Revd. Laura support the music making during services splendidly.

Organs:

As the organ at St Nicholas is no longer functional, the digital keyboard available has been used and accordingly with hymn selections. I would like to look at potential options at some point in the next year regarding the possibilities available to us for proper replacement and will discuss this with the church wardens and Revd. Laura this coming year.

The organ at St Mary's continues to be a wonderful instrument for enhancing service, with no issues to report.

Choir:

I am pleased to report an average attendance of 8-10 choristers at full attendance.

We have continued to provide anthems for major feast services, as well as psalms when relevant.

The choir will be helping me with my annual fundraising concert in May – singing several anthems we are familiar with and have heard in the past few years alongside a new backing of the strings and harpsichord.

The choir continues to grow from strength to strength, although our numbers are down from last year. I will be looking at potential recruitment options after Easter, once things have calmed down a little.

I would like to thank everyone as usual for their assistance in making things run smoothly at Lavant Churches from my musical perspective.

Luke Hayden

Children and Young People's Report

Lavant Youth and Schools Worker

The principal tasks of my role are to nurture children and young people within our community through Messy Church and to support our local school, Lavant C.E. Primary School, mostly by leading the 'church-led' weekly assemblies. My role also covers marketing events and activities undertaken at Lavant Churches, informing the congregation of the opportunities for children at Lavant Churches, building relationships with the children and providing them with pastoral care. I also encourage and support volunteers working with young people and children and ensure that all the safeguarding and health and safety requirements for the activities and programmes are met.

My paid role as Lavant Youth and School's Worker covers the school and Messy Church activities described below. It also covers giving talks at special services, such as the Church Christingle service. Leading Junior Church and Youth Group are some of my voluntary roles.

Frances Talbot

Messy Church

Messy Church usually meets on the second Thursday of the month in term time after school. We have an established, competent and enthusiastic team of helpers, which means the sessions run smoothly and efficiently. We always welcome additional help; it is not necessary to attend for the whole session.

Messy Church is church in a relaxed environment. Each Messy Church session has a Bible-based theme and is divided into three parts, creativity, celebration and hospitality. We therefore have lots of fun with craft activities, painting and often making something to eat. This is followed by a short period of worship, concentrating on the theme and Bible passage. We finish with a shared meal.

In 2024 we have had an average of 21 children attending each session, all accompanied by a responsible adult, this has led to over 40 people sharing the meal on some occasions.

In 2024 we held a Messy Church session on Good Friday with bacon rolls and hot cross buns, which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Frances Talbot

School activities

Throughout 2024 I have led most of the school collective worship sessions on a Thursday, I also run a session at play time on a Thursday morning after assembly when the children can come and sit with me and write prayers or talk about any concerns. This is immediately after collective worship and is very popular with KS1 children.

I gave the talk at the school Easter Service in St Nicholas' Church, the harvest service and also at the KS2 Christmas service held in St Mary's Church. The children and staff make me feel very welcome in the school.

Revd. Martha and I held termly meetings with the head teacher Adrian King and the church school governor Rev. Michael Semple. The Growing Partnerships covenant between parish and school was signed in January 2024 by Rev. Martha and Adrian King.

Frances Talbot

Junior Church

Junior Church continues to meet in term-time during the 10 am service, this is supported by an enthusiastic and competent team of parental help. We have had an average attendance of 9 children per week, slightly higher than in 2023.

Frances Talbot

Youth Group

The youth group has met on Mondays during term time.

We have had a varied programme with many different activities.

Following on from our successful visit to Maycamp in 2023, Lavant Churches sent a group in 2024 to Maycamp at Plumpton Race Course. We joined with the youth group from St John's Southbourne. We hired a marquee, which was greatly appreciated as there was some wet and windy weather. The event was greatly enjoyed by the young people and leaders attending. The hire of the marquee, purchase of a tent for the girls and the cost of food for the young people was covered by a donation from the village fete (at which we ran an activity stall), money raised at the 2023 Christmas Fair, sales of cakes and donations from the congregation.

We are pleased that Ben Smith has now joined our leadership team.

We have had an average weekly attendance of 3 over the year.

Frances Talbot

Services

Children from Junior Church help at the monthly Let's Celebrate services, with reading intercessions and helping with sidesmen duties.

In May Rev Martha asked me if I would give the talk at the Let's Celebrate services, which I agreed to, I was then asked to lead the service, which I did up to the end of 2024, with the exception of August.

I also led and gave the talk at the church Christingle service in December 2024, which was well attended.

None of these activities would be possible without the help of many volunteers, some of whom help at more than one activity. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged with sincere thanks.

All the activities are reported in Lavant News and to the PCC meetings.

Revd. Laura Darrall became our priest-in-charge just after the Christingle service in December 2024 and has enthusiastically inspired all our activities. Her encouragement at all, and attendance at many, of our activities has been welcomed with grateful thanks. We look forward to an exciting 2025 and beyond.

Frances Talbot

Lavant Churches Safeguarding report for 2024

For most of 2024 I assisted Elizabeth Woodford with the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) role, in addition to being a recruiter for DBS checks with Thirtyoneeight.

In November 2024 I was appointed Parish Safeguarding Officer, I was already recorded in the diocese as Elizabeth's deputy. I also became the lead recruiter for DBS checks.

The PCC thanked Elizabeth for her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer over many years.

I reported a message from the bishop too the church congregation on Safeguarding Sunday.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy was approved by the PCC in February 2024.

Four leaders (three for Youth Group and one for Junior Church) applied for and have received their DBS certificates in 2024.

No safeguarding training was completed in 2024.

Regular online training and information sessions for parish safeguarding officers are held which are very helpful and there are a number of new initiatives planned for 2025. These include in-person training; I have been appointed a trainer for the parish. The SQP, which was a one-time review of the safeguarding in the parish is being replaced by a new dashboard, which will be live and up-to-date. This is being launched in May 2025.

Frances Talbot

Toddler Report

St Nic's Toddlers is still going strong. At the end of the Summer Term, we had 25 children on the Register. Some children come every week others once or twice a month but we have averaged 12 -13 most weeks. Most children come from Lavant or North Chichester.

We have a great team of 6 helpers. The Craft Table operates weekly and is very popular. We also have board games and occasional cooking sessions. There are plenty of ride on toys. We have purchased replacement dolls pram and 2 pushchairs. As well as Crafts, we have playdough, a large selection of books and puzzles and giant Lego. Plenty of toys are available on the central mats to suit all the ages who come. We always finish with a sing-song with movement and actions.

Thanks to the generosity of the Lavant Fete Committee we were able to buy the replacement pram and pushchairs and also a "go-pak" nursery size table.

It is a really lovely group and great to see the parents/carers having time to relax and socialise. We still only charge £1 per family group and provide refreshments mid- session.

Barbara Treverton

Archive Report

With regard to the Archives. I was asked by David Jarratt in 2018 if I would sort out the cupboard in the Choir Vestry at St Mary's which housed various archives amongst other things. I spent some time making sure that the only items in that cupboard pertained to archives. During the following few months, I was able to get things up-to-date and also the Record Office in Chichester was very helpful when it came to the faculties.

I hope it has been helpful over the years when details needed about various Faculties and about information about both churches in past eras. I will be standing down as Archivist and it will be good to have someone else take on this role.

Barbara Treverton

St Nic's Brunch Café Report

Brunch Café at St Nicholas Church on the first Saturday of the month, 9.30am to 11.30am is one of the highlights of the month for the Brunch Team. We love to welcome regulars and newcomers from the parish and the wider community - offering them good quality food and drink, as well as the opportunity to catch up with friends, or simply some quiet time with the Saturday newspapers. We regularly serve around 40 brunches, all on a donation basis to cover the cost of shopping and any surplus donated to church funds. If you haven't yet joined us, our 'full Monty' breakfast baps are packed with freshly cooked eggs, bacon, sausage and mushrooms, or any combination to your taste; and our fresh coffee and juices are offered plentifully along with croissants, bagels and toast. Come and relax in good company and with good food - well behaved dogs on leads welcome too!

Lindsay Campbell

St Nic's Flower Power Team

We are a small but keen bunch of flower arrangers with a range of experience (from none to quite little bit!) We enjoy working on a rota basis to make St Nicholas church look welcoming for all the services and outreach events that take place there. Invariably using greenery and flowers from our own gardens for informal arrangements, these work well within the simplicity of this lovely country church. It is a privilege to spend some quiet, creative and reflective time in St Nicholas preparing flowers to be enjoyed by the congregation and visiting parishioners. We also enjoy coming together as a team to create more impactful displays at the various festivals throughout the year. If you feel you'd like to give it a go please speak to a member of the team. Amanda Smith, Clare Evison, Karen Bartholomew, Lindsay Campbell, Jean Sherrington and Sarah Newman.

Lindsay Campbell

Lavant News Report

A local magazine for the Lavant community. 1,200 copies printed monthly and distributed by volunteers throughout the village (at a cost of £540.00)

Advertising

Mainly done by Gina but sadly due to Richard Ryder's sudden death, neither Gina nor I was fully up-to-date with the advertising side of things. This last year has been a deep learning curve for both! Gina and I have discussed approaching some business from the Valley News. If we/someone can action this, then maybe they should also look at The Village Magazine (covers Fishbourne to Emsworth)

This last year we've seen a few advertisers depart and not many take ups. I have introduced a new section, 'Spotlight on' in the hope that this may encourage some new advertisers. Gina Bill advised that the advertising fees need to be looked into as these haven't increased for some time. It's the advertising that pays for the magazine, which in turn allows for it to be free to every household in Lavant & Summersdale.

Editors

Nicola Ellis stepped down last July because of work commitments. Thank you to Nicola for her assistance.

In August Caroline Reynolds approached me and agreed to take on the shared editorial role. Since then, Caroline has been away, ill, and a sudden death in the family, so she has not yet fulfilled the role as shared editor. Training has been given by myself, and Richard Whincop. Caroline is due to undertake the June edition which has an additional 4 pages to allow for the Village Fete.

As the magazine has been the same format for quite a few years. I have/am looking for new pieces either from local groups etc. One new section 'Snap Happy' seems to be proving popular, which encourages reader input of photos of the local area wildlife, views etc. This also builds up a bank of photos we can use for the front covers.

Feedback for the magazine is always very good. It's proof-read by two people (Ben Smith & Lindsay Campbell) after I have finished it (3 if you include me) before it's sent to print. We are only human though so you might find the odd one that has escaped our notice! I still thoroughly enjoy doing it so have no plans to step down.

Amanda Smith - Editor

Monthly Prayer Meeting Report

Prayer continues for Lavant Churches, its witness and work, for local issues, those who have requested prayer and those known to be in need of prayer.

The arrival of Revd. Laura and Jo has given a boost to the monthly evening prayer meetings.

Adjusting the start time to 8.30pm has enabled those who work to join in too.

Moving forward, in the summer months we will meet in person at St Mary's in May, June and July and then return to holding a Zoom meeting in August when people are away and the evenings are closing in. Last year we demonstrated the advantages of a Zoom meeting when we hosted the July monthly meeting from our holiday destination in Cornwall!

The prayer trees in both churches continue to be well used and the requests are included in the monthly prayer meetings.

A reminder that Prayer Trust leaflets and bookmarks remain available in both St Mary's and St Nicholas.

The monthly evening prayer meetings remain open to all and new members are always welcome.

Please see Rev Laura or me for details.

Karen Crossley

Church Bookings Report

In terms of bookings, the past year has been somewhat quieter than the previous year.

The following bookings have been made:

26/4/24. Funeral wake at the Lavant Room. No fee

4/7/24. General Election at St Nic's. £130.00

31/8/24 (and several days for rehearsals) 'La Folie' concert by Luke Haydn at St Nic's, in aid of church funds

9/11/24. Children's party at the Lavant Room, £30.00

7/12/24. Charity Wreath-making event at St Nic's, for a discretionary donation

11/1/25. 60th birthday party at St Nic's, £42.00

26/11/24. Meeting of 'Lavant Allotment Association', at the Lavant Room, £22.00

There are regular monthly meetings of the 'Lavant Environment Team'. They are generally not charged, as they are held outdoors, with minimal use of the facilities.

The 'Lavant History Project' has booked St Marys for several meetings, most of which haven't been charged, as they don't use much in the way of facilities, and they are working on a booklet about Lavant Churches. There was one meeting in the Lavant Room on 31/3/25 with a guest speaker, which was charged at £25.00.

There have been a small number of provisionally booked events which were later cancelled, including a proposed weekly Baby Class. Unfortunately, there wasn't sufficient demand.

There are, of course, the usual repeating services and events which I don't book; and special events such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, which are booked by the rector.

Hire charges haven't changed since 2018, and are below (as are the Terms, Conditions and Guidance Notes for hirers).

I had a query from the Parklands Surgery, to ask if they could promote our regular events at St Nic's, such as the Lunch House, to their lonely elderly patients living in Lavant. This is part of their 'Social Prescribing', which I agreed to.

Clare Morrison

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

Registered Charity no. 1131684

For the year ended 31st December 2024

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St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>			<i>All Funds</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	
	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations, grants and legacies	78,106	1,150	9,657	-	88,913	110,455	
Charitable activities	7,003	-	160	-	7,163	7,816	
Other trading activities	8,273	-	-	-	8,273	9,869	
Investments	271	-	-	-	271	267	
Total received	93,653	1,150	9,817	-	104,620	128,407	3
Expenditure on:							
Fund-raising	625	-	-	-	625	241	
Charitable costs	68,012	11,150	15,881	-	95,043	139,216	
Trading costs	5,692	-	-	-	5,692	5,969	
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	17,031	
Total paid	74,329	11,150	15,881	-	101,360	162,457	5

Trustees Annual Report for 2024

Net income or (net expenditure)	19,324	(10,000)	(6,064)	-	3,260	<i>(34,050)</i>	
Transfers between funds	(1,523)	-	1,523	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bank accounts at 1 January	27,694	10,000	23,893	-	61,587	<i>95,637</i>	
Bank accounts at 31 December	45,495	-	19,352	-	64,847	<i>61,587</i>	A&L

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

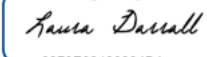
Our financial position at the year-end was

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>			<i>All Funds</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	
	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Assets:							
Bank current account	45,495	-	19,352	-	64,847	61,587	
Cash	-	-	-	-	-	-	
							R&P
Total bank, cash and deposit accounts	45,495	-	19,352	-	64,847	61,587	
Debtors & Prepayments	1,203	-	-	-	1,203	-	
Gift Aid recoverable	1,930	-	-	-	1,930	2,750	
Debtors	3,133	-	-	-	3,133	2,750	
Chancel Trust Income held by DBF	3,788	-	-	-	3,788	3,598	
Investment Assets	3,788	-	-	-	3,788	3,598	
Asset Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	17,031	
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	17,031	
Total assets	52,416	-	19,352	-	71,768	84,966	
Liabilities:							
Magazines adverts received in advance	2,251	-	-	-	2,251	2,724	
Parish Share	-	-	-	-	-	6,566	
Utilities and other creditors	2,687	-	-	-	2,687	16,500	
						-	
Total liabilities	4,938	-	-	-	4,938	25,790	

Trustees Annual Report for 2024

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2024, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Laura Darrall, PCC Chairman on 8th April 2025.

...8th April... 2025

DocuSigned by:

8978E89498984B4...
Reverend Laura Darrall

Notes to the Financial Report

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.

3 Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total	Total	Notes
	General	Designated			All Funds	All Funds	
	Fund	Funds			2024	2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	47,596	-	-	-	47,596	46,244	
Loose cash collections/GoodBox	9,485	-	232	-	9,717	8,982	
Donations and Special appeals	3,546	1,000	2,140	-	6,686	10,550	
Gift Aid recovered	13,766	-	-	-	13,766	14,247	
Legacies	-	150	-	-	150	6,633	4
Fund raising	1,327	-	750	-	2,077	400	
Grant income	2,386	-	5,000	-	7,386	23,399	
Stelae inscriptions	-	-	1,535	-	1,535	-	
Donations, grants and legacies	78,106	1,150	9,657	-	88,913	110,455	
Fees for weddings & funerals	7,003	-	160	-	7,163	7,816	
Charitable activities	7,003	-	160	-	7,163	7,816	
Magazine sales	-	-	-	-	-	95	
Magazine advertising	7,760	-	-	-	7,760	8,767	
Hall lettings	513	-	-	-	513	1,102	
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other trading activities	8,273	-	-	-	8,273	9,869	

Trustees Annual Report for 2024

Bank & CBF deposit interest	271	-	-	-	271	267
Total received on all funds	93,653	1,150	9,817	-	104,620	128,407

⁴ £4,669 remains of the legacy of £6,633 received from the Estate of the late Edward Farrow for the benefit of St Nicholas's Church which is held in Restricted Funds (see note 10).

Notes to the Financial Report – Cont.

5 Analysis of total paid

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowed	Total	Total	Notes
	General	Designated			All Funds	All Funds	
	Fund	Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s	2024	2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fund raising expenses	625	-	-	-	625	241	
Cost of raising funds	625	-	-	-	625	241	
Charitable grants and donations:	1,716	-	-	-	1,716	2,584	
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	31,566	-	-	-	31,566	72,229	
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	2,443	-	6,677	-	9,120	8,730	
Training conferences etc	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other clergy costs	5,291	-	65	-	5,356	6,486	
Insurance	3,849	-	-	-	3,849	3,789	
Water, Gas, Electricity, and Oil	6,668	11,150	-	-	17,818	4,077	
Upkeep of services (inc choir)	3,164	-	-	-	3,164	3,452	
Major church maintenance	2,280	-	3,319	-	5,599	22,212	
Upkeep of churchyard (inc Stelae)	1,120	-	-	-	1,120	2,541	
Other church maintenance	5,598	-	-	-	5,598	3,338	
Heritage Festival	-	-	-	-	-	3,697	
Children/youth work	299	-	2,127	-	2,426	2,168	
Stelae inscriptions	-	-	3,366	-	3,366	-	
Administration and other	-	-	-	-	3,556	3,913	
Other church running costs	3,556	-	327	-	789	-	
	462	-	-	-	-	-	
Charitable costs	68,012	11,150	15,881	-	95,043	139,216	
Magazine printing	5,692	-	-	-	5,692	5,969	
Bookstall costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Trading costs	5,692	-	-	-	5,692	5,969	
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-	17,031	
Total paid on all funds	74,329	11,150	15,881	-	101,360	162,457	

Notes to the Financial Report – Cont.

- 6 The Parish share to the Chichester Diocese is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. The total amount paid for parish ministry in 2024 was £31,566, of which £25,000 related to 2024 and £6,566 to 2023. The parish was unable to meet the full amount of the parish share requested by the Diocese but there is understood to be no further liability due for 2024. Other clergy costs in 2024 amounted to £5,356.
- 7 Gift Aid on all donations collected under the Diocese’s Parish Giving Scheme has been received. Gift Aid on other qualifying donations received since 30th June is outstanding.
- 8 Payments to PCC employees:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salary costs	9,120	8,930
	9,120	8,930

- 9 Payments to PCC members: No payments were made to PCC members during the year other than for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.

Notes to the Financial Report – Cont.

10 Statement of Funds

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
Building Fund	-	50	-	(50)	-
St Nicholas' Fund	6,633	-	1,964	-	4,669
Mission Fund	3,720	-	742	(2,978)	-
Youth/Children's Mission	11,507	5,572	8,126	2,978	11,930
St Mary's Garden of Remembrance	669	1,535	3,366	1,302	140
Choir Fund	1,635	160	-		1,795
Outreach	(271)	-		271	-
Handrail	-	2,500	1,683		817
Total of all restricted funds	23,893	9,817	15,881	1,523	19,352
General fund	27,694	93,653	74,329	(1,523)	45,495
Designated Funds	10,000	1,150	11,150	-	-
Total of all unrestricted funds	37,694	94,803	85,479	(1,523)	45,495
Total All Funds	61,587	104,620	101,360	-	64,847

Notes to the Financial Report – Cont.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

Mission Fund

A further instalment of the Diocesan Board of Finance grant for Youth and Children's work amounting to £5,000 was received in the year.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides

The Income of the Designated Funds amounting to £2,386 represented grants received under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme as compensation for irrecoverable VAT on building work and was applied to major repair work undertaken in 2024.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's with St Nicholas Church , Lavant for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Mary with St Nicholas, Lavant, on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2024 set out on pages 15 to 25 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Examiner's signature



Examiner's name

Philip James TOSTEVIN

Date

20th April 2025

Relevant professional qualification or body

CTA.

Examiner's address

48 Maydehurst Road,
Chichester, West Sussex

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lavant

St Mary with St Nicholas

Pook Lane, East Lavant. PO18 0AH

Registered Charity no. 1131684

For the year ended 31st December 2023

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Website: www.lavantchurches.net

Incumbent: The Revd Martha Grace Weatherill
The Rectory, Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

Independent Examiner: Mr P Tostevin
48 Maplehurst Road, Chichester PO19 6RP

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC 74/75 East Street, Chichester PO19 1HR
Co-operative Bank PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

St Mary with St Nicholas

Trustees Annual Report for 2023

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The primary objective of Lavant PCC is our Mission Statement:

To lead the people of Lavant and surrounding area into the knowledge and love of God, and bring them into the life and worship of Christ's Church.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Martha Grace Weatherill, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and, ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known;
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or, ability to pay;
- Providing financial support to those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

For this year we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish and the wider locality by supporting the food bank and the relief of the homeless
- Giving grants to missionary organisations
- Reaching out to non-churchgoers through outreach activities at St Nicholas Church to create a community hub at the heart of the most populated part of the village. These activities include a monthly Brunch Café, Lunch House, Tea and Chat, a thriving Messy Church, and a Toddler Group.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as historic centres and focuses of life in the village, treasuring our past heritage whilst looking at new ways to engage people to use our buildings
- Ensuring the financial sustainability of the two churches

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

The Lavant Churches welcome visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

"This church is like family to me and I feel at home here "

.....Member of the congregation

The average regular weekly attendance was 104 (at least attending once a month)

We look to encourage the deepening of

'Just wanted to say thank you for welcoming us last Sunday'...New member

faith for all ages, and alongside our services there is a programme for young people from crèche through to teenagers to join in with. Our youth work is especially varied and open to Year 6+ and meeting on Monday evenings termtime.

Christmas and Easter are very special times of celebration where many sections of the community come together to join in the services. Children and adults alike join in and memories are made.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

During the year there have been 9 baptisms, 10 weddings and no services of blessing after a civil marriage, 12 church funerals, 5 funerals at the Crematorium, and 9 Interment of ashes/burials only.

A greater number of the church family have been involved in leading various aspects of worship, lending great encouragement to those involved, as well as the whole congregation. We continue to seek to extend the opportunities for the exercise of ministry and gifts within the life of our community.

Evangelism and outreach

Lavant churchgoers are the lifeblood of many regular village events as well as new initiatives. The local Church of England Primary school is also very much at the heart of the church community and is supported in its fundraising activities by members of the church.

"I have been attending St Mary's Church for forty years"

Member of the congregation

Lavant Churches offer a number of well attended outreach activities including a monthly Lunch House attended regularly by 25 - 30 villagers and church members; a weekly Tea and Chat, mainly for elderly villagers although all are welcome, and a thriving Toddler Group which meets weekly in term time and welcomes on average 12 pre-school children with their parent or carer. The monthly Saturday

Brunch continues to prove very popular and welcomes 25 - 40 villagers and churchgoers alike including parents or grandparents with children who come to enjoy a relaxed brunch while their children are occupied at the craft tables. See Parish reports

Lavant News is the monthly Parish Magazine prepared by a small editorial team which has the objective of uniting the interests of the Church and the village, promoting community spirit. Publicity in the magazine encourages villagers who may not be churchgoers to join in events organised by the church and local organizations. 11 issues were distributed in 2023 (one magazine for December/January). The publication is now delivered free to everyone in the parish and to those of our worshipping community outside the parish. Additional copies are available in both churches. Part of our mission is to reach out to everyone and this is one step towards that goal.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

We celebrated 9 baptisms, 10 weddings and 12 funerals in our church during the year. Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others, as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

Our vision and plans are to continue to find ways in which the St Nicholas church building can be used for outreaches and events in addition to services. Its position at the heart of the most populated part of the village together with its lack of fixed pews and well-equipped kitchen make it an ideal venue for community events.

It is important to us that the church is available for private prayer and visits not just to the church family but to the wider visiting community. To this end St Nicholas and St Mary's are open during daylight hours and the many entries in the Visitors' Book (at St Mary's) testify to this.

Many remark not only how refreshing it is to find an open church but, also the sense of peacefulness and

"I am so glad to hear that the heating repairs are being done. It's such a lovely building..."

Member of the congregation

spirituality the church pervades.

Other remarks include the sense of history within; that people of much earlier generations found life and presence there and, comments on the appreciation of the architectural beauty of the building and biblical archaeology.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

The Pastoral Care Team, chaired by Mrs Cynthia Blades, is responsible for visits, befriending and home communions.

Regularly they sacrifice their time and energies to caring, listening and helping people in the village

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

Especially encouraging was this year's Harvest festival where the church was joined by Lavant Primary School, the Little Harriers Lavant Montessori to provide food for the Foodbank in Chichester.

The school and church members responded to provide many tins of soup, toiletries and other essentials.

Other charitable giving

We supported various charities throughout the year. Our local Foodbank, Marys Meals, the Children's Society, the 4 Streets project, Safe in Sussex and My sisters' house, and the British Legion all benefitted from our donations. Our thanks go to our generous congregation and friends for raising so much for very worthwhile charities.

Archivist

Mrs Barbara Treverton was appointed again to look after our archives. She looks after all our files and documents, is very efficient and knowledgeable especially when we require information, and our thanks go to her for her work in looking after our valuable records.

Youth worker

The PCC were fortunate to be able to appoint a Youth and Schools worker, Mrs Frances Talbot, who is successfully working with the young people of the parish.

Financial review

As in previous years members of the congregation have supported church running costs and the Parish Share through the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders and collections throughout the year. Donations have been received from anonymous benefactors including those from weddings and funerals. The Parish Share pledge of £78795 was paid in full, income from weddings and funerals were up on 2022, room hire has doubled on 2022 due to St Nicholas church being available for bookings now it has been improved and decorated. Lavant News continues to show an excess of income over expenditure. Between the Restricted and Unrestricted Fund Accounts there is a total sum of £61,587 to be carried forward into 2024. A new restricted fund has been created from a grant of £10,000 received in 2023 called Children's Work. This fund is to cover salary and expenses incurred purely from Children's work (Messy Church and youth events). This will be used in conjunction with the Mission Salary fund currently being used for Children's work, giving a total of £14804 carried forward into 2024.

There is an outstanding expense for electricity not yet charged to the parish of approximately £2000 - £10000. This has been set aside for when the bill comes in

St Nicholas Chancel Trust is held entirely by the Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance. Claims may be made for assistance with insurance premiums for St Nicholas

Why we hold some money in reserve

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately two months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Churchwarden's report

St. Mary's

The quinquennial survey was carried out in May 2023 by our architect and the report submitted in the autumn. The report arranges repairs and maintenance in order of severity. Little work had been carried out from the previous survey, exacerbated by Covid restriction closing churches. However, the church remains in good repair and with the exception of overhauling the roof above the vestry, much of the maintenance work could be addressed by volunteers at minimal cost.

The war memorial plaque on the south wall was reinstated in time for our Remembrance Service following failure of the supporting brackets.

Monies donated by the Lavant Fete were used towards the purchase of a new lawn mower for Grave Concern; an electric model was chosen as it was more environmentally friendly.

The project to install a handrail along the drive to help visitors negotiate the slope is progressing. The boundary line has been ascertained and quotations obtained for the works including architect's fees. Planning permission and a faculty will need to be sought to take the project forward.

Following contact from a bell historian and archivist, a survey of the bell at St Mary's was carried out. Both the bells at St Mary's and St Nicholas (the information on the St Nicholas bell was gleaned from the survey and photographs taken during the refurbishment of St Nicholas) are now listed on the following website: thebellsofsussex.weebly.com.

St Nicholas

The final element of the refurbishment project, started in 2022, involved external repointing of the east elevation, replacement of eroded dressed stone and localised repair of the tiled roof.

A ceiling mounted projector, screen and audio system were installed prior to the Heritage Weekend in April 2023. The event included talks by local historians, an audio history and visual displays by local groups. On the Sunday the church was rededicated and blessed by the Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester.

The improvements to St Nicholas have enabled the church to continue outreach to the local and wider community and during the winter months the church provided a "warm space" for anyone who wished to attend, with soup and hot drinks being offered at no charge. Throughout the year a number of church and local groups used the facilities and in May the Brunch Group organised a themed breakfast to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

In respect of general maintenance; testing of the electrical services and fire extinguisher was completed without any concerns being raised. The drains did block on two occasions but were successfully cleared.

The Lavant Environment Team continue with a programme to create a wildflower conservation area within the churchyard. To this end we are working with Chichester District Council, who maintain the grass, to limit the frequency of cutting and to allow certain areas to grow undisturbed.

A generous legacy has been received for use at St Nicholas and consideration is being given to installing bespoke cupboards along the west elevation to provide much needed storage for toys used by the Toddler Group. The diocesan architect and a local joinery workshop have been approached for advice on the matter.

Electoral Roll

There were 205 members on the roll as reported at the APCM on 30 April 2023. In December 2023 there were 209 parishioners on the church electoral roll. There were 3 deaths and 12 new joiners. 42% [40%] of those on the roll live within the parish boundaries, however a further 52% [58%] live within a 7-mile radius of the parish.

Safeguarding

The Parish Safeguarding Policy as outlined by the Diocese was agreed by the PCC in 2023

This serves to remind us of the importance of the care and nurture of all church members for one another. During 2023 there has been one additional person who has obtained a DBS check; she helps with leading some Junior Church sessions.

Volunteers who help at the various children's and young people's activities have been undertaking their safeguarding training, as have members of the PCC.

Please note that there are cards at the back of both churches detailing the basics of Safeguarding which give very helpful information about the subject.

Frances Talbot is now assisting the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Elizabeth Woodford, on some safeguarding matters and her contact details, together with those of Elizabeth, are now on the parish website and in the pewsheets.

St Mary's Cleaning

A small team of people meet on the third Monday of every month, in the morning, for an hour or two. During that time they clean, Hoover and polish in St Mary's. The monthly cleaning ensures that St Mary's remains looking well cared for and visitors often comment on how beautifully kept the church is.

The team is always happy to welcome new people who are willing to come and help with this undertaking as the more people there are the easier the task.

St Mary's Church Brass Cleaning Team

During the year a small number of friends, under a rota lead by Jenny Wiseman, went monthly to the Rector's vestry. There, after removal of wax, both moveable candlesticks and those at the altar, were buffed or polished. The processional cross was polished less regularly together with any other pieces of brass

Flower Team - St Nicholas

The flower team at St Nicholas is a small but enthusiastic group who enjoy the simplicity of this beautiful country church. Within it there is a real sense of the centuries of worship that have taken place there. It is therefore a privilege to have the opportunity to create simple but effective displays to remind us all of God's creation expressed in flowers and greenery, which stand out against the solid stone walls and pillars. In April we were excited to welcome Bishop Martin to St Nicholas. For this special service and the reception afterwards, we were given a small grant to purchase flowers - it was really lovely to have the opportunity to create some more colourful and elaborate displays to ensure that St Nicholas was suitably bedecked for this happy occasion. During the rest of the year it is equally satisfying to fill some jam jars with garden flowers and hedgerow finds and spend some time thinking of those who have gone before us and enjoying quiet prayer time in St Nicholas. We mark the festivals with suitable displays and it is always nice to receive some appreciative comments. Do get in touch with any of us if you like to join in at any time. Karel Bartholomew, Lindsay Campbell, Clare Evison, Jean Sherrington and Amanda Smith.

Church flowers - St Mary's

St Mary's is decorated with flowers weekly with a pedestal arrangement to the left of the chancel steps and a small display on the shelf beneath the War Memorial tablet on the South wall. The flowers for weddings (of which we generally have quite a few) are nowadays arranged by professional florists. Our 'team' consists of Sarah Newman, Pat Riches, Deecie Tester and Elizabeth Woodford. We make as much use as possible of garden flowers in the summer months with the P.C.C. covering the cost if these are not available. Would you like to join us ? If so please get in touch

Pastoral Care group

We are a small group who try to help where possible responding to requests for visits or helping with lifts to important appointments. We have not been called upon often but are there when there is a need

Lunch House

Lunch House has had another busy year with the Christmas lunch as the grand finale. We are very grateful to the fete committee for kindly giving us a very generous donation again so we were able to provide Christmas lunch with all the trimmings at no cost to our loyal patrons. We seek to provide tasty meals at knock down prices once a month, always the second Wednesday at 12 noon, at St Nicholas church. The friendship and general socialising is important as the food. Why not come along and see, there is no age limit, everyone is welcome.

Tea and Chat

Held every 3rd, 4th and 5th Wednesday each month at St Nicholas Church at 2 pm. Tea and Chat is open to everyone and does exactly what it says on the tin! Delicious scones, quiche and cakes, copious tea and hilarious chat, everyone leaves feeling much better for meeting their friends. Donation only if you are able. Why not give us a try. Numbers have been growing so we must be doing something right!

Brunch Café

Brunch Café at St Nic's from 9.30am to 11.30 am on the first Saturday of the month has continued to be well supported this year. With a tasty offering of egg, bacon and sausage baps, bagels, croissants, toast and fruit, all washed down with freshly filtered coffee and tea there is something for everyone. We regularly welcome around 30 guests, a mix of regular Lavant churches friends, families from Lavant School as well as other Lavant residents, visitors from further afield, cyclists and dogwalkers. We are also blessed with a happy band of volunteer helpers. This year we have been pleased to host a regular Swap Shop where good quality clothes and jewellery can be exchanged. From time to time other village groups and societies join us to share their areas of interest via exhibitions and displays and we welcome this added interest. We operate on a donation basis via cash or the card reader in St Nicholas and cover our costs as well as making donations to church funds. Card payments are becoming more popular. All are very welcome, to enjoy a relaxed chat or quiet time catching up with the weekend newspapers in company.

Church Website

The church website remains a source of information for those outside our church. The new site has been in use for several years and is very simple to update and maintain.

Readers and Sidesperson Duties

There is very little change since the 2022 Report, with continuation of the trend of less folk taking on the duties of Sidesperson or Reading. The regulars are now doing monthly or twice monthly duties to cover the range of services. Attempts to recruit volunteers has yielded 2 x new Readers for the 8am services.

	2021	2022	2023
Total number of Readers and Sidespersons:	41	34	21

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Monthly prayer meetings continue to be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. These meetings are held on Zoom and link details are available from me. A small but dedicated group pray for Lavant Churches, local and world issues, and individuals known to be in need of prayer.

The prayer trees are being well used in both churches for prayer requests and prayer requests can still be made on-line. These are used in the monthly prayer meetings.

Prayer Trust leaflets and bookmarks which give prayers for different circumstances such as bereavement, illness and special occasions remain available in St Marys and St Nicholas churches.

The monthly prayer meetings are open to all and everyone is most welcome.

St Nic's Toddlers

The Toddler group is still going strong. At the end of the Summer Term we lost 6 children as they moved up to Primary School- most went to Lavant . We start at 9 am because quite a few mums or carers drop off their older children at school and then come to us.

During 2023 we had 30 children on the Register but most do not come every week, and 6 children moved up to mainstream school.

It is great to have more helpers. Caroline Loten and Suzy Lowe look after the craft table which is very popular. We also have Gina Bill, Cynthia Blades and Barbara Treverton so we are looking to be able to split into teams later in the year. However with more helpers we are able to offer a reading corner which Cynthia has been running.

As well as Crafts, we have playdough, a large selection of books and puzzles and giant lego . Plenty of toys are available on the central mats to suit all the ages who come. We always finish with a sing-song with movement and actions .

Thanks to the generosity of the Lavant Fete Committee we were able to buy two "balance bikes".

It is a really lovely group and great to see the parents/carers having time to relax and socialise. We still only charge £1 per family group and provide refreshments mid- session

Children and Young People's

Lavant Youth and Schools Worker

The principal tasks of the role are to nurture children and young people within our community through Messy Church and to support our local school, Lavant C.E. Primary School, mostly by leading the 'church-led' weekly assemblies. The role also covers marketing events and activities undertaken at Lavant Churches, informing the congregation of the opportunities for children at Lavant Churches, building relationships with the children and providing them with pastoral care. Volunteers working with young people and children are encouraged and supported to ensure that all the safeguarding and health and safety requirements for the activities and programmes are met.

The paid role as Lavant Youth and School's Worker covers the school and Messy Church activities described below. It also covers giving talks at special services, such as the Sunday Christingle service. Leading Junior Church and Youth Group are unpaid roles.

Messy Church

Messy Church meets on the second Thursday of the month in term time after school. We have an established, competent and enthusiastic team of helpers, which means the sessions run smoothly and efficiently. We always welcome additional help. We are very pleased that all our sessions in 2023 were held in the church, with no disruptions due to building work. It is not necessary to attend for the whole session.

Messy Church is church in a relaxed environment. Each Messy Church session has a Bible-based theme and is divided into three parts, creativity, celebration and hospitality. We therefore have lots of fun with craft activities, painting and often making something to eat. This is followed by a short period of worship, concentrating on the theme and Bible passage. We finish with a shared meal.

In 2023 we have had up to 21 children attend a session, all accompanied by a responsible adult, this has led to up to 40 people sharing the meal.

We held a Messy Church session on Maundy Thursday in 2023, as the Good Friday morning activity the previous year was not well attended. Messy Church on Maundy Thursday was reasonably well attended and regarded as very successful. We cannot repeat that this year, as the school breaks up on Maundy Thursday so the church is in use for their Easter service.

School activities

Throughout 2023 the Youth and School's Worker has led most of the school assemblies on a Thursday, and also run a session at play time on a Thursday morning after assembly when the children can come and sit with me and write prayers or talk about any concerns. This is immediately after assembly and is very popular with KS1 children.

Elizabeth Woodford kindly gave the talk at the school Easter service. The Youth and School's Worker gave the talk at the school harvest service and also the KS2 Christmas service, which this year was a Christingle service.

The children and staff are very welcoming.

Rev'd Martha and the Youth and School's Worker have termly meetings with the head teacher Adrian King. The growing partnerships covenant between parish and school has been discussed. (This was signed in January 2024 by the Head Teacher and Incumbent.)

Junior Church

Junior Church continues to meet in term-time during the 10 am service, this is supported by an enthusiastic and competent team of parental help, one of whom has started to lead the sessions. We have had an average attendance of 7 children per week (same as in 2022) from 21 on the register. Some of the young people who have moved to secondary school come to help occasionally at Junior Church; their help is appreciated.

Junior Church continues to help with the Let's Celebrate services.

We held our annual Christingle service in December, which was well attended.

Youth Group

The youth group has met on Mondays during term time.

We have had a varied programme with many different activities, including a celebratory BBQ kindly hosted by Lindsay and Iain Campbell in their lovely garden.

For the first time for many years Lavant Churches sent a group to participate fully in Maycamp at Plumpton Race Course. We joined with the youth groups from St John's Southbourne, Immanuel Church and St Paul's Chichester. Maycamp was greatly enjoyed by the young people and leaders attending - with glorious weather and cold nights.

We are very grateful for the helpers, but have struggled to find replacements for the leaders and helpers who have had to leave for various reasons. We have managed to run a session most weeks in term time. More helpers would be welcomed to bring new ideas and generally help to ensure that we can continue to offer youth group every week. Help doesn't need to be every week.

We have had an average weekly attendance of 5 over the year. Although there are 17 young people on the register, only a few of them attend most weeks; some attend very occasionally.

Thank you to volunteers

None of these activities would be possible without the help of many volunteers, some of whom help at more than one activity. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged with sincere thanks.

Lavant News

All the activities are reported in Lavant News and to the PCC meetings.

Organist and Choirmaster Report

Summary statement:

The past Year has seen some significant change, but all in all things continue to function without any significant hindrances.

Organs:

Regrettably, in the past year the organ at St Nicholas has proven to have effectively finished its functional life. Since then, a digital keyboard with an organ setting has been used to varied results, and hymn selections have been adapting accordingly. It is hoped that some day soon we may be able to begin fund raising for a replacement organ, but as most things it will take a lot of time and forward planning. There is no current time estimate for when this could start.

The organ at St Mary's continues to be a wonderful instrument for enhancing service.

Choir:

The average attendance is 8-12 choristers at full attendance.

We have continued to provide anthems for major feast services, as well as psalms when relevant.

Recruiting has regrettably been slow and we have lost a stalwart member of the choir with Phil Binns' passing. As organist I am thinking about more avenues to recruit choristers, and suspect that a beginners' workshop or sing along may be idea to get the ball rolling.

As organist I would like to thank everyone for their assistance in making things run smoothly at Lavant Churches from my musical perspective.

Grave Concern Report

This report is very similar to previous years and like last year at no time did we have a full turnout. The group consists of some 7 active members now down from 8 last year and although this sounds a lot, we all have other essential commitments as well. The core group is a dedicated team but would benefit from more volunteers to spread the workload a little. The group is effective with everyone involved working very well together.

As now and reported last year we could do with more volunteers so, before the start of the mowing season a short appeal notice will be prepared for insertion into the Lavant News and or the Pew Sheet. The sheet recently distributed identifying church voluntary activities needing more support hasn't, so far, lead to any new recruits.

At the end of last season, a new battery-operated mower was bought financed in part by the PCC and the Lavant fete committee which will be a great asset and used to mow the more difficult areas of the churchyard. The three mowers and two strimmers will have to be serviced ready for the season starting in April 2024. The border by the west door has had the blighted box removed and replanted with roses.

Study Group

The group started early in 2023, meeting on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Over the course of the year we worked through the study booklet *Listening to God*.

This year we are watching *The Chosen*, the Netflix dramatisation of the life and ministry of Christ and are discussing the films with the aid of a booklet.

We have enjoyed sharing God's Word and getting to know each other better.

Hire of Venues

A new Booking Secretary, Clare Morrison, took over from Sue Jackson in August. The role of Secretary includes all aspects of dealing with bookings for St Nicholas Church, the Lavant Room and St Mary's Church. These venues are hired for various reasons, including meetings, funeral wakes, a craft event and the Lavant Environmental Group. Revenue from the bookings is variable and we hope more bookings will be made in the coming year.

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod consists of members of the clergy together with laity members from parishes within the Deanery. There were two meetings of the Deanery Synod during 2023: March 1st at St George's Whyke and June 15th at St James Birdham. There was also a Deanery finance meeting on September 22nd.

The meeting in March included a presentation on online safety, initial discussions of the Deanery Mission Action Plan, and reports from the General Synod and Diocesan Synod. The latter reported that expenditure was exceeding income and it was difficult to see where further savings could be made. The number of curacies had been reduced, but an increase in parish share was required. At the June meeting, there was further discussion on the Deanery Mission Action Plan. There was a consensus on the need to use widely what we already have and think about where we can share resources. The Diocesan Synod report included discussions on the progress made in 'Living in Love and Faith', and a presentation on the vision for racial justice. The General Synod also discussed LLF, and other regulatory issues.

The finance meeting in September addressed the monetary concerns of the Deanery. 2023 is still forecast as a deficit budget and parishes are encouraged to pay as much as they can, increasing by the cost of inflation if possible.

Weekly Email Newsletter

We send a newsletter to about 305 [301 in 2022] people each week, a third or so are not regular members of our church but they like to keep in touch with our activities. Production of the email is shared by 3 volunteers who each take responsibility for producing the newsletter for a month at a time. Overall, the open rate has stayed steady this year at about 49-57% [compared to the sector average of 22%].

Trustees Annual Report

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio member

Incumbent: The Rev'd Martha Weatherill - Chairman

Elected Wardens: Mrs Georgina Bill
Mr Iain Campbell

Elected Members: Mrs Caroline Loten
Mrs Jenny Quest
Mrs Deecie Tester
Mrs C Blades

Co-opted Mrs S Sims - Secretary
Mr M Kingsford

Deanery Synod Mrs Sue Tostevin

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent), the churchwardens (elected annually and who by resolution of the PCC may serve for a maximum of 6 years in succession) and members of the Deanery Synod (elected to serve for 3 years) and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to serve for a period of 3 years before seeking re-election for a further 3 year period only. Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Reverend Martha Weatherill - PCC Chairman

Signed: Reverend M Weatherill

Date: 17 March 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lavant

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

Registered Charity no. 1131684

For the year ended 31st December 2023

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St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>					
	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	
					<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations, grants and legacies	80,822	5,079	24,553	-	110,454	216,214	
Charitable activities	7,336	-	480	-	7,816	8,939	
Other trading activities	9,868	-	-	-	9,868	10,715	
Investments	267	-	-	-	267	265	
Total received	98,293	5,079	25,033	-	128,405	236,133	3
Expenditure on:							
Fund-raising	-241	-	-	-	241	500	
Charitable costs	92,954	13,717	32,543	-	139,214	266,185	
Trading costs	5,969	-	-	-	5,969	5,536	
Fixed Assets	1,270	-	15,761	-	17,031	-	
Total paid	100,434	13,717	48,304	-	162,455	272,221	5
Net income or (net expenditure)	(2,141)	(8,638)	(23,271)	-	(34,050)	(36,088)	
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds	-	-	-	-	-	-)	
Bank accounts at 1 January	29,835	18,638	47,164	-	95,637	131,725	
Bank accounts at 31 December	27,694	10,000	23,893	-	61,587	95,637	A&L

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Our financial position at the year-end was

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>			<i>All Funds</i>	<i>All Funds</i>
	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Assets:						
Bank current account	27,694	10,000	23,893	-	61,587	95,637
Cash	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total bank, cash and deposit accounts	27,694	10,000	23,893	-	61,587	95,637
Debtors & Prepayments	-	-	-	-	-	2,480
Gift Aid recoverable	2,750	-	-	-	2,750	3,100
Debtors	2,750	-	-	-	2,750	5,580
Chancel Trust Income held by DBF	3,598	-	-	-	3,598	3,486
Investment Assets	3,598	-	-	-	3,598	3,486
Asset Purchases	17,031	-	-	-	17,031	-
Fixed Assets	17,031	-	-	-	17,031	-
Total assets	51,073	10,000	23,893	-	84,966	104,703
Liabilities:						
Magazines adverts received in advance	2,724	-	-	-	2,724	2,661
Parish Share	6,566	-	-	-	6,566	-
Utilities etc.	16,500	-	-	-	16,500	2,686
						-
Total liabilities	25,790	-	-	-	25,790	5,347

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2023, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Martha Weatherill, PCC Chairman on 17 March 2024

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.

3 Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2023	Total All Funds 2022	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	46,244	-	-	-	46,244	44,738	
Loose cash collections/GoodBox	8,971	-	-	-	8,971	7,153	
Donations and Special appeals	9,950	-	600	-	10,550	12,033	
Gift Aid recovered	14,247	-	-	-	14,247	12,408	
Legacies	-	-	6,633	-	6,633	5,000	4
Fund raising	410	-	-	-	410	-	
Grant income	1,000	5,079	17,320	-	23,399	134,782	
Donations and legacies	80,822	5,079	24,553	-	110,454	216,214	
Fees for weddings & funerals	7,336	-	480	-	7,816	8,939	
Charitable activities	7,336	-	480	-	7,816	8,939	
Magazine sales	-	-	-	-	-	95	
Magazine advertising	8,766	-	-	-	8,766	9,582	
Hall lettings	1,102	-	-	-	1,102	501	
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	-	537	
Other trading activities	9,868	-	-	-	9,868	10,715	
Bank & CBF deposit interest	267	-	-	-	267	265	
Total received on all funds	98,293	5,079	25,033	-	128,405	236,133	

4 A legacy of £6,633 received from the Estate of the late Edward Farrow for the benefit of St Nicholas's Church is held in Restricted Funds (see note 10).

St Mary with St Nicholas, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

5 Analysis of total paid

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowed	Total	Total
	General	Designated			All Funds	All Funds
	Fund	Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund raising expenses	241	-	-	-	241	500
Cost of raising funds	241	-	-	-	241	500
Charitable grants and donations:	1,742	-	842	-	2,584	5,692
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	72,229	-	-	-	72,229	77,967
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	-	-	8,730	-	8,730	7,086
Training conferences etc	-	-	-	-	-	314
Other clergy costs	4,112	-	2,373	-	6,485	5,381
Insurance	3,789	-	-	-	3,789	3,217
Water, Gas, Electricity, and Oil	1,004	-	3,072	-	4,076	7,666
Upkeep of services (inc choir)	237	-	3,215	-	3,452	1,736
Major church maintenance	1,712	13,717	6,783	-	22,212	143,956
Upkeep of churchyard (inc Stelae)	878	-	1,663	-	2,541	2,615
Other church maintenance	3,338	-	-	-	3,338	5,808
Children/youth work	-	-	2,168	-	2,168	1,703
Heritage Festival	-	-	3,697	-	3,697	-
Administration and other	3,913	-	-	-	3,913	3,044
Charitable costs	92,954	13,717	32,543	-	139,214	266,185
Magazine printing	5,969	-	-	-	5,969	5,536
Bookstall costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trading costs	5,969	-	-	-	5,969	5,536
Other payments	1,270	-	15,761	-	17,031	-
Total paid on all funds	100,434	13,717	48,304	-	162,455	272,221

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

6 The Parish share to the Chichester Diocese is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. The full cost of parish ministry amounted in 2023 to £78,795, of which £1,000 was paid in 2022, £72,229 in 2023 and £6,566 in January 2024. Other clergy costs amounted to £6,485.

7 Gift Aid on all donations collected under the Diocese's Parish Giving Scheme has been received. Gift Aid on other qualifying donations received since 30th September is outstanding.

8 Payments to PCC employees:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages, salaries and honoraria	8,930	7,086
	8,930	7,086

9 Payments to PCC members: No payments were made to PCC members during the year other than for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.

10 Statement of Funds

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
Building Fund	6,683	-	6,683	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	13,016	7,320	20,336	-	-
Mission Fund	15,820	-	12,100	-	3,720
Youth/Children's Mission	9,250	10,000	7,743	-	11,507
Outreach	-271	-	-	-	-271
St Mary's Garden of Remembrance	669	600	600	-	669
Choir Fund	1,155	480	842	-	1,635
Afghan Refugee Fund	842	-	-	-	-
St Nicholas Fund	-	6,633	-	-	6,633
Total of all restricted funds	47,164	25,033	48,304	-	23,893
General fund	29,835	98,293	100,434	-	27,694
Designated Funds	18,638	5,079	13,717	-	10,000
Total of all unrestricted funds	48,473	103,372	114,151	-	37,694
Total All Funds	95,637	128,405	162,455	-	61,587

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

10 Statement of Funds (cont.)

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

Mission Fund

A further instalment of the Diocesan Board of Finance grant for Youth and Children's work amounting to £10,000 was received in the year.

Heritage Lottery Fund

The charity received the last instalment of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund amounting to £7,320, which with funds brought forward was applied to the purchase of a projector and ancillary equipment and expenditure on the Heritage Festival.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides

The Income of the Designated Funds amounting to £5,079 represented grants received under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme as compensation for irrecoverable VAT on building work and was applied to major repair work undertaken in 2023. £10,000 remained in designated funds at 31 December 2023

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Mary with St Nicholas, Lavant, on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on pages 14 to 19.

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
2. follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
3. state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to:
 - a. keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Examiner's signature



Examiner's name

Philip James Iostevin

Date

17 March 2024

Relevant professional
Qualifications(s) or body

CTA

Examiner's address

48 MAPLEHURST ROAD

MANCHESTER M19 6AP

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lavant

St Mary with St Nicholas

Pook Lane, East Lavant. PO18 0AH

Registered Charity no. 1131684

For the year ended 31st December 2022

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Website: www.lavantchurches.net

Incumbent: The Revd Martha Grace Weatherill
The Rectory, Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

Independent examiner: Mr P Tostevin
48 Maplehurst Road, Chichester PO19 6RP

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC 74/75 East Street, Chichester PO19 1HR
Co-operative Bank PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

St Mary with St Nicholas

Trustees Annual Report for 2022

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The primary objective of Lavant PCC is our Mission Statement:

To lead the people of Lavant and surrounding area into the knowledge and love of God, and bring them into the life and worship of Christ's Church.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Martha Grace Weatherill, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and, ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known;
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or, ability to pay;
- Providing financial support to those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

For this year we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish and the wider locality by supporting the food bank and the relief of the homeless
- Giving grants to missionary organisations
- Reaching out to non-churchgoers through outreach activities at St Nicholas Church to create a community hub at the heart of the most populated part of the village. These activities include a monthly Brunch Café, Lunch House, Tea and Chat, Messy Church, and a thriving Toddler Group.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as historic centres and focuses of life in the village, treasuring our past heritage whilst looking at new ways to engage people to use our buildings
- Ensuring the financial sustainability of the two churches

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

The Lavant Churches welcome visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

"This church is like family to me and I feel at home here "

.....Member of the congregation

The average regular weekly attendance was 104 (at least attending once a month)

We look to encourage the deepening of

'Just wanted to say thank you for welcoming us last Sunday'...New member

faith for all ages, and alongside our services there is a programme for young people from crèche through to teenagers to join in with. Our youth work is especially varied and open to Year 6+ and meeting on Monday evenings termtime.

Christmas and Easter are very special times of celebration where many sections of the community come together to join in the services. Children and adults alike join in and memories are made.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

During the year there have been 10 baptisms, 7 weddings plus 2 service of blessing after a civil marriage, 9 church funerals, 5 funerals at the Crematorium, and 5 Interment of ashes;

A greater number of the church family have been involved in leading various aspects of worship, lending great encouragement to those involved, as well as the whole congregation. We continue to seek to extend the opportunities for the exercise of ministry and gifts within the life of our community.

Evangelism and outreach

Lavant churchgoers are the lifeblood of many regular village events as well as new initiatives. The local Church of England Primary school is also very much at the heart of the church community and is supported in its fundraising activities by members of the church.

"I have been attending St Mary's Church for forty years"

Member of the congregation

Lavant Churches offer a number of well attended outreach activities including a monthly Lunch House attended regularly by 25 - 30 villagers and church members; a weekly Tea and Chat, mainly for elderly villagers although all are welcome, and a thriving Toddler Group which meets weekly in term time and welcomes on average 12 pre-school children with their parent or carer. The monthly Saturday

Brunch continues to prove very popular and welcomes 25 - 40 villagers and churchgoers alike including parents or grandparents with children who come to enjoy a relaxed brunch while their children are occupied at the craft tables. See Parish reports

Lavant News is the monthly Parish Magazine prepared by a small editorial team which has the objective of uniting the interests of the Church and the village, promoting community spirit. Publicity in the magazine encourages villagers who may not be churchgoers to join in events organised by the church and local organizations. 11 issues were distributed in 2022 (one magazine for December/January). The publication is now delivered free to everyone in the parish and to those of our worshipping community outside the parish. Additional copies are available in both churches. Part of our mission is to reach out to everyone and this is one step towards that goal.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

We celebrated 10 baptisms, 7 weddings and 9 funerals in our church during the year. Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others, as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

Our vision and plans are to continue to find ways in which the St Nicholas church building can be used for outreaches and events in addition to services. Its position at the heart of the most populated part of the village together with its lack of fixed pews and well-equipped kitchen make it an ideal venue for community events.

It is important to us that the church is available for private prayer and visits not just to the church family but to the wider visiting community. To this end St Nicholas and St Mary's are always open during daylight hours and the many entries in the Visitors' Book (at St Mary's) testify to this.

Many remark not only how refreshing it is to find an open church but, also the sense of peacefulness and

"I am so glad to hear that the heating repairs are being done. It's such a lovely building..."

Member of the congregation

spirituality the church pervades.

Other remarks include the sense of history within; that people of much earlier generations found life and presence there and, comments on the appreciation of the architectural beauty of the building and biblical archaeology.

Refurbishment of St Nicholas and future projects

The church family has refurbished St Nicholas kitchen, the church interiors and some exterior works using grants and funds available. We plan to continue making use of St Nicholas for our outreaches in the community and for church services.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

The Pastoral Care Team, chaired by Mrs Cynthia Blades, is responsible for visits, befriending and home communions.

Regularly they sacrifice their time and energies to caring, listening and helping people in the village.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

Especially encouraging was this year's Harvest festival where the church was joined by Lavant Primary School, the Little Harriers Lavant Montessori to provide food for the Foodbank in Chichester.

The school and church members responded to provide many tins of soup, toiletries and other essentials.

Other charitable giving

We supported various charities throughout the year. Our local Foodbank, Marys Meals, the Children's Society, the 4 Streets project, Safe in Sussex and My sisters' house, and the British Legion all benefitted from our donations. Our thanks go to our generous congregation and friends for raising so much for very worthwhile charities.

Archivist

Mrs Barbara Treverton was appointed again to look after our archives. She looks after all our files and documents, is very efficient and knowledgeable especially when we require information, and our thanks go to her for her work in looking after our valuable records.

Youth worker

In January 2022 the PCC were fortunate to be able to appoint a Youth and Schools worker who is successfully working with the young people of the parish.

Financial Review

As in the past members of the congregation supported church running costs and the Parish Share through the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders and collections from September. Donations were received from anonymous benefactors including at weddings and funerals.

The Parish Share pledge of £77967 was paid in full. Income from weddings and funerals were up on 2021.

Lettings were down on 2021 due to the fact that St Nicholas church was closed for a considerable amount of time for improvements and redecoration to take place.

Lavant News continued to show an excess of income over expenditure.

The General Fund (unrestricted) had a balance of £29835 to be carried forward to 2023 and this account is held in the Co-operative Bank.

The Buildings Fund(restricted) had a balance of £19699 as at 31 December 2022 and is held in Barclay Bank in the name of Lavant Churches Building fund

St Nicholas Chancel Trust is held entirely by the Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance. Claims may be made for assistance with insurance premiums for St Nicholas.

Why we hold some money in reserve

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately two months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Churchwarden's Report

Much of the churchwardens' work has been centred on St. Nicholas Church over the past year. It began with receipt of a very high water bill which, after investigation, was due to an escape of water from the mains supply pipe over the covid-19 "lock down" period. The volume of water that leaked from the pipe was substantial but following negotiation the water company reduced the bill from circa £5000 to £800 - a much more manageable sum to pay. The water meter is now read by us on a regular basis to avoid further problems in the future.

The new kitchen was installed and completed in June, followed later in the year by localised plaster repair and redecoration of the church. The works proceeded under the supervision of the diocesan architect and extended to include elements of the 2019 quinquennial. All parties were keen to complete the internal repairs in time for the Christmas services with external works, such as inspecting the roof, to be addressed this summer.

The project that was proposed some years previously is now substantially complete and has enabled St Nicholas to be fully operational as a community space with activities taking place most days of the week.

The refurbishment has been funded by a Heritage Lottery Grant, for which we are very thankful to Martha for her work in securing such a significant sum.

CCTV has been installed at St Nicholas as the church is now open for private prayer during the day; a rota of volunteers kindly unlock and lock the church during the week to allow access.

The grass cutting in the churchyard at St Nicholas, which is undertaken by the Chichester District Council (CDC), was suspended in 2022 to allow rewilding. However, concerns were raised about the height of the grass impeding the line of sight of motorists approaching the junction of the A286 and Downs Road. A meeting with CDC was arranged and the new supervisor agreed to keep us informed of the grass cutting schedule for 2023

Following relaxation of face mask wearing in May, refreshment after the 10am service resumed. We are very grateful to Rosie Hoare for taking on the task of organising a rota of people to provide this service to the congregation which gives rise to fellowship after the service.

In August the annual service of St Mary's boilers brought to light severe problems which culminated in the boilers being condemned. A second opinion was sought and the chimney swept. Unfortunately, this led to the discovery of a tear in the flue liner and confirmed the need for a new boiler.

We obtained competitive quotations and an emergency faculty which took some considerable time and required a feasibility study to determine how we can become carbon neutral in the near future. A new oil boiler was finally installed in November before the really cold weather set in.

The possibility of a handrail along the driveway at St Mary's is being investigated as some of the congregation find the slope difficult to negotiate. To date costing for materials are being sought. The work will require planning permission and a faculty, we will also liaise with the residents of Dame Court

Electoral Roll

There were 205 members on the roll as reported at the APCM on 8 May 2022. In December 2021 there were 200 parishioners on the church electoral roll. There were 11 death and 10 new joiners we also had a number of people who moved away from the parish. 40% [31%] of those on the roll live within the parish boundaries, however a further 58% [62%] live within a 7-mile radius of the parish

Church Cleaning Report

The church cleaning at St Mary's has continued this year in the same manner as the previous year.

A small group come together once a month on a Monday morning and over the space of a couple of hours Hoover, dust and polish St Mary's so its appearance remains clean, tidy and cared for. During the year we have welcomed two new team members but our team is still very small so new members are always welcome.

As St Nicholas has been closed for periods of time over the year a regular cleaning rota has not yet been established. This should be something to address in the coming year as, like St Mary's, the church is now open to visitors for private prayer during the week and we have returned to our previous pattern of worship which increases the number of services held there.

A thorough clean was undertaken prior to the opening of St Nicholas again in December following the refurbishment works

Safeguarding

No Safeguarding issues have been raised during the past twelve months and subsequently no referrals made to the statutory services. That is not to say that my responsibility is discharged nor that due diligence should not be exercised by all members of the Church congregation. Any concerns, however trivial they may seem should be referred in the first instance to Revd Martha or myself.

St Nic's Flower Team

It has been another quiet year for the St Nicholas flower team since we reported for the last APCM. The church remained under covid restrictions for much of the year with fewer opportunities for formal worship. However, we were delighted to provide a little colour for the 8 o'clockers and the Let's Celebrate services, and for other users of the church to enjoy. Our Harvest Festival display was small but beautiful as St Nicholas was then cleared for repainting. Thus it was with great joy that we were able to come together as a team to decorate the church in time for Christmas with lovely seasonal greenery, berries and candles. St Nicholas looked glorious over Christmastide with many services taking place there, allowing everyone to enjoy the newly refurbished space as well as the floral decorations. During Lent the opportunity for flowers is limited, but we look forward getting back to the familiar patterns of worship at St Nicholas and decorating it with love for Easter and beyond. We are a small team and what we lack in experience, we make up for in enthusiasm - anyone welcome to join as a one off or to go on the rota! Please speak to Karel Bartholomew, Lindsay Campbell, Clare Evison, Jean Sherrington or Amanda Smith if you'd like to join us.

St Mary's Flower Team

As in all churches, with the exception of Advent and Lent, St Mary's is decorated weekly with a pedestal arrangement and a further display of flowers on the shelf beneath the War Memorial tablet on the South wall. The super flower arranging group rarely these days get asked to do flowers for weddings as it seems to have become customary for couples hiring professional florists for bouquets and buttonholes offer a 'package' which includes the church. This year we had seven marriages and the members of our flower 'team' are not involved at all. We have the opportunity however to show our skills on other weekends and at the Festivals, and much appreciate the kind comments of members of the congregation when we do. Particular thanks to Julia Farwell who has been a member of the 'team' for many years, her speciality at Festivals being the pulpit. She moves away from the area in a few months' time. We wish her well. Among the newer members of our congregation anyone feel like taking her place? We'd love to hear from you. We make as much use as possible of garden flowers in the summer months but have financial support from the Parochial Church Council the rest of the year.

Grave Concern Report

This report is very similar to previous years and like last year at no time did we have a full turnout. The group consists of some 9 active members and although this sounds a lot, we all have other essential commitments as well.

As now and reported last year we could do with more volunteers so, before the start of the mowing season I will prepare a short appeal notice for insertion into the Lavant News and or the Pew Sheet. Any recruitment ideas from the PCC would be welcome.

The core group is a dedicated team but would benefit from more volunteers to spread the workload a little. The group is I believe effective with everyone involved working very well together.

The three mowers and two trimmers have been serviced ready for the season starting in April 2023.

Grave Concern will, as in previous years, commit a small amount of money on summer bedding plants to give a little colour adjacent to the west door during the summer months at a cost of approximately £20.

If agreed by the PCC the triangular area in front of the tower will between April and July/August be left for the wild flowers to grow, not planting new but to encourage what's there already to grow. The whole group is in favour of this initiative which we think is required in order to encourage insects and pollinators for the general good of the environment.

Children and Young People's reports

Lavant Youth and Schools Worker

In January 2022 I was appointed to the role of Lavant Youth and Schools Worker, initially for an average of 7 hours per month, although that has since been increased to a ceiling for paid hours of 25 per month. The principal tasks are to nurture children and young people within our community through Messy Church and supporting our local faith school, Lavant Primary School, mostly by leading the 'church-led' weekly assemblies. My role also covers marketing events and activities undertaken at Lavant Churches, informing the congregation of the opportunities for children at Lavant Churches, building relationships with the children and providing them with pastoral care. I also encourage and support volunteers working with young people and children and ensure that all the safeguarding and health and safety requirements for the activities and programmes are met.

This paid role therefore covers the school and Messy Church aspects of the children's and young people's activities described below. Leading Junior Church and Youth Group are voluntary roles.

Messy Church

We held our first Messy Church session at St Nicholas's Church in February 2022, delayed from January due to the large number of Covid cases at that time. We meet the second Thursday of the month in term time and have an established competent and enthusiastic team of helpers, which means the session runs smoothly and efficiently. We always welcome additional help!

Messy Church is church in a relaxed environment. Each Messy Church session has a Bible-based theme and is divided into three parts, creativity, celebration and hospitality. We therefore have lots of fun with craft activities, painting and often making something to eat. This is followed by a short period of worship, concentrating on the theme and Bible passage. We finish with a shared meal.

Our routine was disrupted in the second half of the summer term by the construction of the new kitchen at St Nicholas's and again from October to December by the refurbishment of the church. We are very grateful to Adrian King, the head teacher at Lavant School, for the use of the school for Messy Church during the autumn term. We returned to the church in January 2023 and hope to re-establish our routine. We have had up to 25 children attend each session, all accompanied by a responsible adult, this has led to up to 40 people sharing the meal.

School activities

Throughout 2022 I have led most of the school assemblies on a Thursday, I have also recently initiated a session at play time on a Thursday morning when the children can come and sit with me and write prayers or talk about any concerns. This is immediately after assembly. I have only been doing this a few weeks, but up to 12 children have attended a session.

I also gave the talk at the school Easter service and the school KS2 carol service. Elizabeth Woodford kindly gave the talk at the school harvest service, as I was away with my other work.

The children and staff make me feel very welcome in the school.

Rev'd Martha and I have termly meetings with the head teacher Adrian King.

Junior Church

Junior Church continues to meet in term-time during the 10 am service, this is supported by an enthusiastic and competent team of parental help, one of whom has started to lead the sessions. We have had an average attendance of 7 children per week from 20 on the register. Some of the young people who have moved to secondary school come to help occasionally at Junior Church; their help is appreciated.

We held a children's activity session on Good Friday morning, but it was not well attended so we are considering what to offer this year.

We held our annual Christingle service in December, which was well attended. Junior Church continues to help with the Let's Celebrate services.

Youth Group

The youth group has met on Mondays during term time. While St Nicholas's kitchen and church were being refurbished we held sessions on Lavant Green during the summer and then at Lavant School during the autumn term, by kind permission of the head teacher at the school.

We have had a varied programme with many different activities, including a celebratory BBQ at St Mary's to mark the successful completion of our first year in July 2022.

Three young people came with me for a day visit to the Diocesan May Camp at Plumpton, which they very much enjoyed. I also took three young people to the mini May Camp evening in November at Burgess Hill. This again was a Diocesan event and was much enjoyed. We are planning to take a group to camp and participate in the whole of May Camp in 2023.

We had an excellent team of helpers in 2022, but are currently in need of more helpers, to ensure we can continue to offer youth group every week. Help doesn't need to be every week.

We have had an average weekly attendance of 8 over the year, with 20 young people on the register.

Attendance tends to be higher in the summer when there are more outdoor activities.

Thank you to volunteers

None of these activities would be possible without the help of many volunteers, some of whom help at more than one activity. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged with sincere thanks.

Lavant News

All the activities are reported in the Lavant News and to the PCC at meetings.

Organist and Choirmaster Report

The past Year has seen services return in full swing, with some hiccups, and other great successes. The carol service this year I am particularly proud of, with the Choir stepping up admirably to the change in logistics and acoustic, leading to a wonderful experience. I continue to monitor feedback for the organists who cover for me, as well as hymn selections, in my absence and will be mindful of said feedback going forwards.

Organs:

The organ at St Nicholas had an unexpected failure between the carol service and new year, and we had to bring in a technician to see if it was fixable, and repair if possible. I am glad to report the organ is working once again, but it is showing its age, and the technician recommended we should start to think about a possible replacement to either the electronics of the organ, or a new instrument altogether. I believe based on the current state of the instrument that we have possibly a couple of years to search and fundraise should this be decided, and am happy to work towards fund raising myself. I believe it would be wise to think ahead and work slowly towards it for when the organ fails again (the electronics are quite old now), rather than being caught without time on our side.

The organ at St Mary's continues to be a wonderful instrument for enhancing service.

Choir:

I am happy to report an average attendance of 9-13 choristers at full attendance.

We have worked hard towards our goal of more anthems during major feast days, and am proud to state

that we have managed this thus far with great resilience, dedication. We have sung relevant psalms at specific services and this has also gone well.

I would like to put forward a recruiting drive, possibly with the help of the Village magazine to bring in more singers, and would like to start a Junior section to the choir - unfortunately we lost the majority of our juniors due to extra-curricular activities at school. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas to help in this matter it would be appreciated if you find me at a service and let me know.

I would like to thank everyone for their assistance in making things run smoothly at Lavant Churches from a musical perspective.

Readers and Sidesperson duties.

Members of the congregation continue to support our worship by reading and acting as Sidespersons, at all our services. This voluntary commitment is greatly appreciated by us all.

During the festivals of Easter and Christmas, there are more duties which requires a greater commitment. This can be onerous because the number of readers and sidespersons has diminished throughout 2022. This has been due to a number of reasons (death, ill health, moving away, moving to another church). Junior Church - and Frances Talbot - have taken on the duties for the Lets Celebrate service, which is much appreciated. Evensong has been discontinued, which again helps reduce the duties to be covered. Evening services during the winter were particularly difficult to cover as people were cautious about coming out at night.

Healing Ministry

Healing ministry was suspended at the start of the Covid pandemic and this continues to be the case.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Monthly prayer meeting are ongoing but moved onto Zoom in October 2022 to save heating and lighting at St Marys and to see if more people would be able to attend. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Patrick and the late Janet Madeley who did attend in person, for their support and encouragement when we were meeting in St Marys. The current Zoom prayer meetings are open to all and everyone is most welcome on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Prayer trees remain in both churches for anyone to put in requests for prayer and can be made online too. Prayer Trust leaflets remain available at the back of St Marys

Toddler Group

Lavant Toddler Group operated for most of 2022 during school term times. We actually had 25 children on the Register but they do not come every week. Before the kitchen refurbishment in the early part of the year we had an average of 12 but although we continued throughout the work being done, the numbers did drop off. We had to stop our sessions during the church closure throughout October and November but had our Christmas Session before the end of the year.

Numbers are slowly rising again and we have 15 on the Register. We offer crafts and playdough, drawing and giant lego. There are large sit-on and push along toys. We have books and puzzles,

We have a regular team including Gina Bill, Cynthia Blades and myself and Suzy Lowe comes fortnightly to offer craftmaking. Caroline Loten has recently joined us so this will give more flexibility to run the sessions.

We were grateful to the Lavant Fete Committee for their generous donation enabling us to buy a quality wooden toy kitchen to replace the old one. This is already very popular!

It is a really great group and lovely to see parents/carers socialise and relax. We still only charge £1 per family per session and I think this cost should not rise for a while because of the cost-of-living crisis

The new heating system has proved a real bonus during the recent cold and wet weather.

Brunch @ St Nicholas Church

It was a slightly disjointed year for Brunchers as we had to pause first for the installation of the new kitchen at St Nicholas and then for the redecoration of the church itself. The new kitchen is proving to be a great asset and we have been delighted to offer Brunch on the first Saturday of the month to between 25 and 40 visitors. We were also very grateful to Lavant Primary School for offering the use of their hall and kitchen in November - which attracted a bumper crowd, keen to have the opportunity to visit the school as well as enjoy a bacon buttie! Brunch operates on a donation basis and thanks to the donations received we are able to make a contribution to church funds as well as covering costs. We offer delicious sausage, egg and bacon baps, croissants, bagels, toast, fruit as well as teas and coffees, newspapers and happy company. Now that we are in a more settled pattern, we hope that the primary school's Fair-Trade stall will start to operate again as this was a lovely addition to the morning's activities. Huge thanks to those who help run Brunch each month.

Lunch House

After COVID we saw our numbers take a dip with people being very cautious in mingling with others and sadly several of our more elderly patrons have died of non COVID age related causes so our numbers have been reduced. Happily we are now seeing a reversal and numbers are creeping up again with new people joining us. We are always pleased to see new customers, all ages are welcome and our new attendees tell us they very much look forward to coming on the second Wednesday of every month. Two of our biggest fans come from Bognor !

We were able to give a lovely Christmas lunch for 30 people with all the trimmings which was much appreciated. We are very grateful to the fete committee / parish council who gave us a generous donation enabling us to give this special meal free of charge.

We are also very pleased with our lovely new kitchen at St Nic's which really helps us cater for large numbers with top of the range equipment. Thanks go to Martha for securing grants, particularly from the Heritage Lottery fund to enable this to happen.

We look forward to another year of Lunch House. Our main aim is to show God's love to everyone with friendship and fun as important as the tasty food we offer at a very affordable price.

Tea and Chat

Tea and Chat meets on the third, fourth and when it occurs, the fifth Wednesday afternoon of each month at St Nic's at 2-00 till 4-00 pm. It is open to anyone and we normally attract 12-14 people, mainly older ladies. We always have a delicious tea of scones and a wide selection of cakes and anything left is shared out for our ladies to take home. This is ruinous for our waist lines but we certainly flex our laughter muscles as our ladies have hilarious stories to tell and we learn so much about Lavant in the past as they share their memories. We are very inclusive and would be delighted to meet new people including gentlemen! All you have to do is turn up.

Super Soup Mondays

This has been running since the beginning of January and will go on until the end of March. It was started in response to the situation we all find ourselves in with high fuel costs and the high cost of living plus it being the coldest time of the year, we felt it would offer a warm space whilst cheering us all up. We meet in St Nic's on Mondays at 12-00—1-00, no charge but a small donation if you want to.

We have been greatly helped in this by a generous donation from the fete committee/ parish council and two private donations, which we are very much appreciated.

Hire of venues

Covid restrictions were lifted in March 2022 but many hirers had either gone out of business or had been disbanded. In spite of contacting past groups, Yoga etc, no bookings were made for the Lavant Room.

A similar situation applied to St Nicholas with only the Post Office, Church outreach groups and a few one-off bookings received.

Although the pandemic has caused financial losses for both churches we are able to look forward with renewed confidence. Improvements to, and redecoration of, St Nicholas' provide an excellent venue for groups large and small with better heating and a modern kitchen. This will provide a comfortable space for the many church activities which already exist and new clubs and private users.

The Lavant Room continues to offer a smaller, carpeted room with courtyard access for barbeques in summ

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod consists of members of the clergy together with laity members from parishes within the Deanery. Matters that were discussed at their meetings were the Mission Action Plan for each Deanery and Finance. The Deanery is currently working with Clergy and Synod on its Deanery Mission Action Plan.

The Chichester Deanery appears to be one of the most generous in the diocese although it is hard for some parishes to pay their full parish share. 80% of the Parish Share monies goes on paying for clergy. Parishes are encouraged to pay their full share but can pledge a figure which they feel they can afford. They have also been asked to come up with an aspirational amount for the next 3 - 5 years so that the Diocese can plan for the future. The Diocese relies heavily on the Parish Share monies so are asking parishes, who are unable to pay the full amount, to review their pledges as the year progresses.

Weekly Email Newsletter

We send a newsletter to about 301 [293 in 2021] people each week, a third or so are not regular members of our church but they like to keep in touch with our activities. Production of the email is shared by 3 volunteers who each take responsibility for producing the newsletter for a month at a time. Overall, the open rate has stayed steady this year at about 49-53% [compared to the sector average of 22%].

Church Website

The church website remains a source of information for those outside our church. The new site has been in use for several years and is very simple to update and maintain.

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Trustees Annual Report

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio member

Incumbent:	The Rev'd Martha Weatherill Chairman	
Elected Wardens:	Mrs Georgina Bill Mr Iain Campbell	
Elected Members:	Mrs Sheila Sims Mrs Jean Sherrington Mrs Caroline Loten Mrs Zoe Mann Mrs Jenny Quest Mrs Deecie Tester Mrs C Blades	Secretary Co-opted October 2022
	Mrs Shirley Whincop Mrs Claire Evison Mrs J Rogers	Resigned January 2022 Did not seek re-election May 2022 Resigned January 2022
Deanery Synod	Mrs Sue Tostevin	

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent), the churchwardens (elected annually and who by resolution of the PCC may serve for a maximum of 6 years in succession) and members of the Deanery Synod (elected to serve for 3 years) and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to serve for a period of 3 years before seeking re-election for a further 3 year period only. Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Reverend Martha Weatherill - PCC Chairman

Signed: Rev'd M Weatherill

21 March 2023

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lavant

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

Registered Charity no. 1131684

For the year ended 31st December 2022

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St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	
	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Funds</i>			<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations, grants and legacies	75,122	26,615	114,477	-	216,214	124,211	
Charitable activities	8,336	-	603	-	8,939	5,795	
Other trading activities	10,715	-	-	-	10,715	8,961	
Investments	265	-	-	-	265	257	
Total received	94,438	26,615	115,080	-	236,133	139,224	3
Expenditure on:							
Fund-raising	-	-	500	-	500	-	
Charitable costs	95,853	968	169,364	-	266,185	89,204	
Trading costs	5,536	-	-	-	5,536	3,485	
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total paid	101,389	968	169,864	-	272,221	92,689	5
Net income or (net expenditure)	(6,951)	25,647	(54,784)	-	(36,088)	46,535	
Transfers between funds	12,009	(12,009)	-	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds	-	-	-	-	-	-)	
Bank accounts at 1 January	24,777	5,000	101,948	-	131,725	85,190	
Bank accounts at 31 December	29,835	18,638	47,164	-	95,637	131,725	A&L

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Our financial position at the year-end was

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>					
	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	
					<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Assets:							
Bank current account	29,835	18,638	47,164	-	95,637	131,675	
Cash	-	-	-	-	-	50	
							R&P
Total bank, cash and deposit accounts	29,835	18,638	47,164	-	95,637	131,725	
Debtors & Prepayments	2,480	-	-	-	2,480	206	
Gift Aid recoverable	3,100	-	-	-	3,100	1,307	
Debtors	5,580	-	-	-	5,580	1,513	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Chancel Trust income held by Diocese	3,486	-	-	-	3,486	3,441	
	3,486	-	-	-	3,486	3,441	
	-	-	-	-			
Total assets	38,901	18,638	47,164	-	104,703	133,495	
Liabilities:							
Magazines adverts received in advance	2,661	-	-	-	2,661	2,500	
Water (UW), E.W fees, LH tax and						-	
Electricity used since last billed (est'd)	2,686	-	-	-	2,686	4,887	
						-	
Total liabilities	5,347	-	-	-	5,347	7,387	

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2022, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Martha Weatherill, PCC Chairman on 21 March 2023

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.

3 Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2022	Total All Funds 2021	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	49,634	-	100	-	49,734	46,768	
Loose cash collections	3,010	-	-	-	3,010	1,991	
Donations and Special appeals	14,966	-	1,210	-	16,176	11,815	
Gift Aid recovered	7,512	-	-	-	7,512	11,796	
Legacies	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	4
Fund raising	-	-	-	-	-	842	
Grant income	-	21,615	113,167	-	134,782	50,999	
Donations and legacies	75,122	26,615	114,477	-	216,214	124,211	
Fees for weddings & funerals	8,336	-	603	-	8,939	5,795	
Charitable activities	8,336	-	603	-	8,939	5,795	
Magazine sales	95	-	-	-	95	500	
Magazine advertising	9,582	-	-	-	9,582	7,922	
Hall lettings	501	-	-	-	501	539	
Insurance claim	537	-	-	-	537	-	
Other trading activities	10,715	-	-	-	10,715	8,961	
Bank & CBF deposit interest	265	-	-	-	265	257	
Total received on all funds	94,438	26,615	115,080	-	236,133	139,224	

4 A legacy of £5,000 received in the year was set aside to the Designated Fund by the PCC.

St Mary with St Nicholas, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

5 Analysis of total paid

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowed	Total	Total	Notes
	General	Designated			All Funds	All Funds	
	Fund	Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s	2022	2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fund raising expenses	-	-	500	-	500	-	
Cost of raising funds	-	-	500	-	500	-	
Charitable grants and donations:	1,611	-	4,081	-	5,692	3,113	
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	77,967	-	-	-	77,967	56,833	
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	342	-	6,744	-	7,086	3,000	
Training conferences etc	-	-	314	-	314	388	
Other clergy costs	3,738	-	1,643	-	5,381	4,244	
Insurance	2,866	-	351	-	3,217	3,168	
Water, Gas, Electricity, and Oil	5,257	-	2,409	-	7,666	5,317	
Upkeep of services (inc choir)	630	-	1,106	-	1,736	2,099	
Major church maintenance	-	-	143,956	-	143,956	-	
Upkeep of churchyard (inc Stelae)	-	-	2,615	-	2,615	2,112	
Other church maintenance	2,256	-	3,552	-	5,808	5,283	
Children/youth work	-	-	1,545	-	1,545	-	
Administration and other	1,186	968	1,048	-	3,202	3,647	
Charitable costs	95,853	968	169,364	-	266,185	89,204	
Magazine printing	5,536	-	-	-	5,536	3,132	
Bookstall costs	-	-	-	-	-	89	
Other trading costs	-	-	-	-	-	264	
Trading costs	5,536	-	-	-	5,536	3,485	
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total paid on all funds	101,389	968	169,864	-	272,221	92,689	

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

6 The Parish share to the Chichester Diocese is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. The full cost of parish ministry amounts to Parish share: £77,967 and Clergy support: £5,381

7 Gift Aid on all donations collected under the Diocese's Parish Giving Scheme has been received. Gift Aid on other qualifying donations received since 30th September is outstanding.

Payments to PCC employees:

Wages, salaries and honoraria

2022	2021
£	£
7,086	3,000
7,086	3,000

8 Payments to PCC members: No payments were made to PCC members during the year other than for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.

9 Statement of Funds

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Building Fund (restricted)	90,231	77,267	147,799	-	19,699
Mission Fund (restricted)	9,999	25,000	9,929	-	25,070
Winter Support Fund	-	6,000	6,000	-	-
Afghan Refugee Fund	-	5,000	4,158	-	842
Outreach	-271	-	-	-	-271
St Mary's Garden of Remembrance	1,234	1,413	1,978	-	669
Choir Fund	755	400	-	-	1,155
Total of all restricted funds	101,948	115,080	169,864	-	47,164
General fund	24,777	94,438	101,389	12,009	29,835
Designated Funds	5,000	26,615	968	(12,009)	18,638
Total of all unrestricted funds	29,777	121,053	102,357	-	48,473
Total funds	131,725	236,133	272,221	-	95,637

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

9 Statement of Funds (cont.)

The Statement of Funds includes £113,167 received in Grants in 2022, as detailed above.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

The principal funds are detailed below.

The Building Fund holds and applies funds raised for the specific purpose of financing building projects and major works of maintenance.

The Mission Fund holds and applies funds for support of mission in this parish and the wider area.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides

The Income of the Designated Funds in the year was made up of grants received under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme of £21,615 as compensation for irrecoverable VAT on building work and a legacy of £5,000 from the estate of the late Mr G B Thomas. In 2022 £12,009 of the fund was applied to meet general fund expenditure.

10 Parish Share: The Parish Share for 2022 of £76,967 was paid in the year by 12 monthly instalments of £6,413.91. A further £1,000 was paid in 2022 in advance of the 2023 Parish Share.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Mary with St Nicholas, Lavant, on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2022 set out on pages 15 to 20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
2. follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
3. state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to:
 - a. keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Examiner's signature



Examiner's name

THOMAS (STEVEN)

Date

12th April 2023

Relevant professional
Qualifications(s) or body

CTA FCA (REMOVED)

Examiner's address

48 Maplehurst Road
Chichester, West Sussex

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lavant

St Mary with St Nicholas

Pook Lane, East Lavant. PO18 0AH

Registered Charity no. 1131684

For the year ended 31st December 2021

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Website: www.lavantchurches.net

Incumbent: The Revd Martha Grace Weatherill
The Rectory, Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

Independent examiner: Mr P Tostevin
48 Maplehurst Road, Chichester PO19 6RP

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC 74/75 East Street, Chichester PO19 1HR
Co-operative Bank PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

St Mary with St Nicholas

Trustees Annual Report for 2021

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The primary objective of Lavant PCC is our Mission Statement:

To lead the people of Lavant and surrounding area into the knowledge and love of God, and bring them into the life and worship of Christ's Church.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Martha Grace Weatherill, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and, ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known;
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or, ability to pay;
- Providing financial support to those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

For this year we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish and the wider locality by supporting the food bank and the relief of the homeless
- Giving grants to missionary organisations
- Reaching out to non-churchgoers through outreach activities at St Nicholas Church to create a community hub at the heart of the most populated part of the village. These activities include a monthly Brunch Café, Lunch House, Tea and Chat, Messy Church, and a thriving Toddler Group.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building as historic centres and focuses of life in the village, treasuring our past heritage whilst looking at new ways to engage people to use our buildings
- Ensuring the financial sustainability of the two churches

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

The Lavant Churches welcome visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

"This church is like family to me and I feel at home here "

.....Member of the congregation

The average regular weekly attendance, including Zoom services was 116 which included 22 children and young people. We look to

'Just wanted to say thank you for welcoming us last Sunday'...New member

encourage the deepening of faith for all ages, and alongside our services there is a programme for young people from crèche through to teenagers to join in with. Our youth work is especially varied and open to Year 6+ and meeting on Monday evenings termtime. Christmas and Easter are very special times of celebration where many sections of the community come together to join in the services. Children and adults alike join in and memories are made.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

During the year there have been 8 weddings, 9 church funerals, 1 funeral at the Crematorium, 4 Interment of ashes; 7 baptisms

A greater number of the church family have been involved in leading various aspects of worship, lending great encouragement to those involved, as well as the whole congregation. We continue to seek to extend the opportunities for the exercise of ministry and gifts within the life of our community.

Evangelism and outreach

Lavant churchgoers are the lifeblood of many regular village events as well as new initiatives. The local Church of England Primary school is also very much at the heart of the church community and is supported in its fundraising activities by members of the church.

"I have been attending St Mary's Church for forty years"
Member of the congregation

Lavant Churches offer a number of well attended outreach activities including a monthly Lunch House attended regularly by 30 villagers and church members; a weekly Tea and Chat, mainly for elderly villagers although all are welcome, and a thriving Toddler Group which meets weekly in term time and welcomes up to 30 pre-school children with their parent or carer, with a weekly average of 13. The monthly

Saturday Brunch continues to prove very popular and welcomes villagers and churchgoers alike including parents or grandparents with children who come to enjoy a relaxed brunch while their children are occupied at the craft tables. See Parish reports

Lavant News is the monthly Parish Magazine prepared by a small editorial team which has the objective of uniting the interests of the Church and the village, promoting community spirit. Publicity in the magazine encourages villagers who may not be churchgoers to join in events organised by the church and local organizations. 11 issues were distributed in 2021 (one magazine for December/January). The publication is now delivered free to everyone in the parish and to those of our worshipping community outside the parish. Additional copies are available in both churches. Part of our mission is to reach out to everyone and this is one step towards that goal.

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

We celebrated 7 baptisms, 8 weddings and 9 funerals in our church during the year. Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others, as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

The focus continues to be to find ways in which the St Nicholas church building can be used for events in addition to services. Its position at the heart of the most populated part of the village together with its lack of fixed pews and well-equipped kitchen make it an ideal venue for community events.

It is important to us that the church is available for private prayer and visits not just to the church family but to the wider visiting community. To this end St Mary's is always open and the many entries in the Visitors' Book testify to this.

Many remark not only how refreshing it is to find an open church but, also the sense of peacefulness and

"I am so glad to hear that the heating repairs are being done. It's such a lovely building..."

Member of the congregation

spirituality the church pervades.

Other remarks include the sense of history within; that people of much earlier generations found life and presence there and, comments on the appreciation of the architectural beauty of the building and biblical archaeology.

Improving Heating and Spatial refurbishing of St Nicholas and future projects

The church family has improved the heating, by installing new heaters at St Nicholas. Future plans are to enhance the audio-visual equipment, replacing some elements where necessary. This will enable a more modern approach to services. We also plan to refurbish the kitchen and church interiors using the grants received for buildings works and funds available for building.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

The Pastoral Care Team, chaired by Mrs Cynthia Blades, is responsible for visits, befriending and home communions.

Regularly they sacrifice their time and energies to caring, listening and helping people in the village.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

Especially encouraging was this year's Harvest festival where the school and church worked together to provide food for the Foodbank in Chichester.

The school and church members responded to provide many tins of soup, toiletries and other essentials.

Other charitable giving

We supported various charities throughout the year. Our Lent appeal raised £643 to MIND together with donations to the Foodbank. The Harvest appeal saw many groceries donated to the Foodbank - a very worthwhile charity and one that was needed more than ever throughout the Covid pandemic. The collection for the British Legion in November raised the sum of £259, with the Christingle service raised the sum of £198.47 for the Children's Society. Our Christmas appeal in aid of three charities, the 4 Streets project, Safe in Sussex and My sisters' house shared the total of £987 raised. Our thanks go to our generous congregation and friends for raising so much for very worthwhile charities.

Archivist

Mrs Barbara Treverton was appointed again to look after our archives. She looks after all our files and documents, is very efficient and knowledgeable especially when we require information, and our thanks go to her for her work in looking after our valuable records.

Financial Review

Once again as a result of the pandemic no actual services were held until late July and no fundraising events were held. Services during this time were held on zoom.

As in the past members of the congregation supported church running costs and the Parish Share through the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders and collections from September. Donations were received from anonymous benefactors including at weddings and funerals.

The Parish Share pledge of £62,000 was paid in full although the sum set by the Diocese was higher and beyond the means of Lavant PCC.

Income from weddings, funerals were up by 44% on 2019 but hall lettings were down by 75% on 2019.

Lavant News continued to show an excess of income over expenditure of £4,790

The General Fund (unrestricted) had a deficit of £687 for 2021 leaving a balance of £24,777 to be carried forward to 2022. This sum includes the Choir fund and the Garden of Remembrance balance for future stelae.

The Buildings Appeal Fund (restricted) fell to £54231. Grants were received for £50999

Both held in Barclays No 4 Account in the name of Lavant Churches Building appeal fund

St Nicholas Chancel Trust is held entirely by the Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance. Claims may be made for assistance with insurance premiums for St Nicholas.

Why we hold some money in reserve

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately two months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Churchwarden's Report

During this eventful year in which many of our services had to be held on Zoom and our church doors closed with activities curtailed we said a fond farewell to David and welcomed Martha as our new Rector.

We looked into the possibility of installing new doors inside to the South Porch at St. Nicholas as a community project but after consultation the plan was put on hold. Instead, the South Porch was cleared and has been opened up as the main entrance again as was suggested on the quinquennial report. Archdeacon's Approval was sought for redecoration of the porch and this has been granted. However, as a larger decoration project is planned for St. Nicholas these projects will be combined to reduce costs.

New tables were ordered for St. Nicholas and they are proving a very useful addition being much lighter and easier to handle. With the help of Sheila Sims the old Go-Pak tables went to the Memorial Hall who gave us a donation for them.

Following the news of David's departure, meetings were held with the Archdeacon and Bishop. The Bishop, Patron and Diocese then appointed Rev'd Martha as our parish priest. This is an interim appointment which is initially for three years; we were most grateful not to have to undergo a long interregnum. The Rectory received a little redecoration and a spring clean at the beginning of August and the grass was also cut in readiness for our new incumbent.

A building's committee was assembled in September and looked at what was important for St Nicholas church going forwards heating being top of the agenda church architects and heating engineers were engaged to find the best solution. This culminated in the new heating being installed at the beginning of January. It is hoped that this will make St. Nicholas a very useful space for renting out and increasing revenue.

St Nicholas was registered with CDC as a food business establishment. Food Safety training was undertaken and a Food Safety Management Plan completed.

We continued to chase CDC for the repair of the flint wall to the roadside at St Nicholas and the repairs were finally carried out earlier this year.

Jane Jones Warner Architects prepared schedules and specifications to address the Quinquennial works at both churches. These schedules will allow us to seek quotes for the works.

We anticipate the new interpretation board to be installed in St Nicholas churchyard will be in situ by the time of the APCM.

Electoral Roll

There were 208 members on the roll as reported at the APCM on 25 April 2021. In December 2021 there were 204 parishioners on the church electoral roll. There were 3 deaths and 3 new joiners we also had a number of people who moved away from the parish. 40% [31%] of those on the roll live within the parish boundaries, however a further 58% [62%] live within a 7 mile radius of the parish.

Church Cleaning Report

One of the effects of the Covid Pandemic when the church had to close its doors was the loss of the cleaning team for the churches. Following a request from David this was reinstituted last year.

A small group come together once a month on a Monday morning and over the space of a couple of hours Hoover, dust and polish St Mary's which keeps it looking clean and cared for church. During the year the group lost one team member and had one addition but the team would always welcome anyone new who felt they had the time to join.

A smaller group come together to clean St Nicholas carrying out similar activities to those at St Marys. More regular cleaning of St Nicholas will need to be considered going forward as the activities held there increase. Cleaning of the churches is very important to ensure they don't look neglected but are welcoming for both visitors and congregation alike.

St Nic's Flower Team

It has been very encouraging to see the return of the monthly Let's Celebrate service at St Nicholas' church in recent months. In addition to the alternate weekly 8am service, this has afforded the St Nic's flower team the opportunity to enjoy some creative time making this church look lovely for worshippers and weekly visitors alike. We were delighted to be able to celebrate Harvest Festival with a beautiful display of autumn colours with seasonal hedgerow flowers and grasses, as well as some magnificent locally grown, and donated, pumpkins. Our simple country church looked really beautiful at Christmas with its ledges and alcoves decorated with candles and foliage to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Spending time preparing St Nic's for services in this way is a very prayerful and grounding experience; it causes one to reflect on those who have come before us who have faithfully fulfilled this joyful task to the glory of God across the centuries. We are a small, friendly team who normally operate on a rota basis, coming together for the larger church festivals when we all enjoy playing our part. The team is ably assisted by Mrs Sarah Newman, a professional florist, who is our guiding support and offers encouragement in times of need!

St Mary's Flower Team

A pedestal of flowers and an arrangement on the Memorial shelf are provided every Sunday throughout the year by a dedicated team, except during Lent and Advent. Over the last few years for weddings, the trend has been for displays to be provided by professionals; florists, who offer a package for the church and reception. When we are involved in the decorating we make use, especially in the summer of cut flowers from our gardens to save on costs. If you would like to help in any way, please do say, at Festivals especially, extra pairs of hands are most welcome. Donations towards the cost of an arrangement in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion, are always welcome. That what we do is appreciated, is witnessed by the many and varied comments expressed throughout the year, so even if you declare that you can't 'do flowers' your support and encouragement is valued, thank you.

Brunch Café at St Nic's

After an enforced break of well over a year due to covid, it was with enthusiasm, but with understandable trepidation that the Brunch Team restarted the monthly community Brunch in June last year. A number of modifications were incorporated to ensure the safety, as far as possible, of guests and the Brunch team. However, there was no compromise on the warmth of our welcome with tables beautifully decorated with flowers. How thrilled we were to throw open the south porch doors and welcome our Brunch visitors again! It was lovely to feel that we were getting back to normal and very gratifying that so many of our Lavant churches friends were happy to join us as well as some of our regular visitors from further afield. Brunch Café at St Nic's takes place on the first Saturday of the month, serving delicious, freshly brewed coffee and tea, together with an array of bacon, sausage or egg baps, croissants, toast, bagels and other goodies. We kicked off the New Year with glasses of fizz and some smoked salmon as well as our usual offerings. It is always an opportunity to chat with friends and meet new visitors, and who knows - with the new heating system at St Nic's we should be even more cosy! We are re-introducing our Saturday newspapers; the children's crafts will be back with enthusiasm and we hope it won't be too long before our Fair Trade stall is back. We operate on a donations basis and are glad to have been able to make a contribution to church funds as well as offering the opportunity for friendship for visitors to St Nic's church. Do join us - you will be assured of a warm welcome. Grateful thanks to the lovely Brunch Team - Jo Heather, the Campbells, the Evisons, the Newmans and the Smiths - your sense of fun is always appreciated!

Grave Concern Report

This report is very similar to previous years and like last year it has been a difficult year with the COVID impacting on the time some members felt could help and still feel safe.

When things were relaxed a little, some of the team members were able to get involved but at no time did we have a full turnout. The group consists of some 12 members some more active than others.

As reported last year we could do with more volunteers so, before the start of the mowing season I will prepare a short appeal notice for insertion into the Lavant News and or the Pew Sheet as outlined below. Any recruitment ideas from the PCC would be welcome.

The core group is a dedicated team but would benefit from more volunteers to spread the workload a little. The group is I believe effective with everyone involved working very well together.

The three mowers will need to be serviced together with the two trimmers at an approximate cost of £600/£700, authority from the PCC to go ahead with this expenditure would be appreciated as soon as possible.

Grave Concern will, as in previous years, commit a small amount of money on summer bedding plants to give a little colour adjacent to the west door during the summer months at a cost of approximately £20.

Appeal for Volunteers

The group, Grave Concern, which keeps St Mary's churchyard neat and tidy desperately needs more people to get involved. Some of us have been involved for over 20 years and haven't the stamina we used to have. The group is a very sociable one and welcomes anyone willing to help with the heavier jobs like mowing and strimming, and also light work, for example, weeding, generally clearing up or edging. The group meets once a week on a Monday afternoon/evening during summer months, April to October. If Mondays are not convenient then other days could be considered as could the times.

Very often the evening concludes with a chat, nibbles and a glass of something.

The time is fast approaching when the clocks go forward and we start our work so if you feel able to help in any way, please contact Richard Boyce by email richard@boycenet.plus.com or phone 01243 527273.

Alternatively, just turn up on a Monday between 17.00hrs and 18.00hrs, once the clocks go forward.

Please come and join us as your help is essential, if we are to continue to keep St Mary's looking special.

Junior Church

Junior Church continued to operate on Zoom from the beginning of January to the end of the summer term in July. We were very pleased to be able to resume Junior Church at St Mary's in September. On Zoom we met every Sunday, except for Easter Sunday; however, once we started meeting again in person, we resumed our pattern of meeting in term time only. We are continuing to follow the readings for each Sunday using Roots as a guide.

On Zoom the children showed the congregation what they had made during the session and, now that we are back in church, we continue to tell the congregation what we have studied.

We also held a Good Friday activity session over Zoom.

Now that Let's Celebrate services have resumed, Junior Church is assisting at that service with members fulfilling the role of sidespeople, reading the lesson and leading the prayers.

We also held our annual Christingle service in December, which was well attended.

In spring term 2021, the average attendance was 15 children per week and in summer term 2021 the average attendance was 9 children, during both these terms the sessions were over zoom. In autumn term 2021 the average attendance was 8 children, meeting in person.

We have a team of enthusiastic, competent helpers who assist at the weekly sessions now that we are back in church. There is a rota for the helpers, generally with two assisting the leader each week.

Youth Group

With the PCC's agreement a youth group for years 7-10 was started in September 2021. We meet weekly in term time at St Nicholas's Church on a Monday evening and have a combination of games, activities and craft, generally with a short discussion on a relevant Christian topic.

We have averaged 6 young people attending each week, from 9 people on the register. We have a small and dedicated team of leaders, who plan and lead the term's activities.

Organist and Choirmaster Report

The past two years have been very testing for us all, and I have endeavoured with the choir to continue to serve the parish with sufficient and relevant music, to enhance worship in both of our churches, and online while it was the only possibility. Thank you all for your support in my position directing the musical activities of the choir and services. I pray that my service to the church is uplifting, competent, and in keeping with expectations. I am also deeply grateful for the kind words I receive from congregants regarding the music at services.

Organs

Both organs continue to serve the churches well. St Nicholas has not had any issues since the transposer issue previously referred; the work-around of transposing all down 1 tone continues to be a viable solution. St Mary's organ continues to be a delight to play.

Choir

I am happy to report an average attendance of 12-14 choristers at full attendance. All choristers continue to develop their abilities and I am very pleased with the progress. The choir is now back in full swing and are as good as they have ever been.

We are pushing ourselves with more unaccompanied repertoire, singing more of evensong unaccompanied, and singing an anthem every month at said Evensong service. I am also hoping to have anthems prepared for every major feast day over the next year and am carefully planning rehearsal time to accommodate this.

Last year, the choir recruited a few juniors, and a proposal was made for a separate junior rehearsal, to allow more focus on technique and development, and to reduce boredom from sitting around while we look at harmonies in the Senior choir. The proposed evening for this was Tuesday evening, and I am hoping to start this up again soon. Church protocols and guidance for Children and Vulnerable Persons Protection are being considered in full for this proposed extra rehearsal time.

I would like to thank everyone for their assistance in making things run smoothly at Lavant Churches from a musical perspective.

Readers and Sidesperson duties.

During 2021-22, the Readers and Sidespersons have adapted to the services provided according to C 19 regulations.

When Zoom services were introduced, Readers read "live" on zoom, or pre-recorded their Lesson. This worked well for those who were confident to try this new format, others decided to wait until the services returned to Church.

On return to the Church, Sidespersons implemented the C19 recommendations of mask wearing, hand sanitizing and social distance. Readers returned to reading from the Lectern.

A number of longstanding members of the Rota have stepped down - and we thank them most sincerely for the many years' service they have given. Others have joined - and we welcome them with open arms.

Overall, the number of people on the Duty Rota list has decreased, so the average number of duties undertaken has increased to 1 duty per month. This varies according to the duty, because there are more Readers than Sidespersons or 8am Sidespersons

Number of people on the Rota - with many doing more than one role.

Total :	41
Lost:	11
Gained:	2

Healing Ministry

Healing Ministry was suspended at the start of the Covid pandemic and this continues to be the case.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Prayer meetings have been held in St Mary's Church since September 2021 at 7.30pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

These meetings are open for anyone to attend to pray for; the world, our church, those in need, the sick and the bereaved. We start with scripture readings followed by open prayer. Each meeting last about 30 minutes. Everyone is most welcome.

Weekly Email Newsletter

We send a newsletter to about 293 [276 in 2020] people each week, a third or so are not regular members of our church but they like to keep in touch with our activities. Production of the email is shared by 3 volunteers who each take responsibility for producing the newsletter for a month at a time. Overall the open rate has stayed steady this year at about 49-50% [compared to the sector average of 22%].

Toddler Group

Lavant Toddler Group resumed on 22nd June 2021 after the C of E restrictions lifted. Numbers were low to start with but there were only 4 weeks of Summer Term left. When the Autumn Term started in September last year numbers started to rise rapidly. We have about 30 children on the Register but they don't all come regularly. We are averaging 13 weekly at present. Most come from Lavant or Summersdale. Some come with parents or grandparents and a few come with a childminder.

We offer Crafts and playdough, drawing and giant Lego. There is a quiet corner with books and puzzles. We offer refreshments and just charge £1 per family per session. We usually end with singing.

We have a regular team including Gina Bill, Cynthia Blades and myself and Suzy Lowe comes fortnightly to offer craftmaking.

It is a really great group and lovely to see parents/carers socialise and relax.

Finally, we really appreciate the new heating system!

Lunch House

It was a joy to at last get back to holding monthly Lunch House meetings after such a long break and also to actually celebrate Christmas with a lovely turkey lunch and a mammoth raffle. Numbers are not so high as before COVID due to some elderly members that are no longer with us for various reasons and others still feel too nervous to venture through our doors but the 20— 25 who do come really enjoy it and it has been lovely to renew our friendships. We hope to build up our numbers again as the weather improves. We are sure there are still some church members who don't know we exist after 18 years or so and we need to reach the non church members in the village too, they can be sure of a warm welcome. Our meals are tasty, nutritious and very reasonable, our ladies who run it are talented and very friendly, what's not to like? We run at St Nic's every second Wednesday in the month commencing at 12 noon.

Tea and Chat

Our small group was able to re-start meeting in July at St Nic's on the third, fourth and fifth Wednesday of the month for Tea and Chat. We have plenty of chat which goes nicely with a lovely cup of tea and delicious cakes, which are never in short supply. We try to remember our group at Easter and Christmas with a card and a little goodie of some description. If you don't come along you are missing a treat - do come and join us, we would love to see you.

Deanery Synod

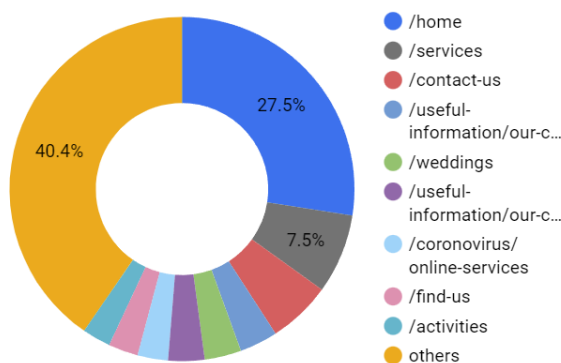
The Deanery Synod consists of members of the clergy together with laity members from parishes within the Deanery. Matters that were discussed at their meetings were the Mission Action Plan for each Deanery and Finance. Each parish is having to develop their own Mission Action Plan by Advent 2022 to feed into the Deanery plans. Finance in general and particularly the Parish Share was considered.

At the June Deanery meeting, Reverend Dr Jack Dunn who began work as Parish Development Officer in March, gave a presentation. He stated that the Church of England was 'in a pickle' financially but that the Chichester Diocese has a period of 3 - 4 years before being in a really serious situation. The Chichester Deanery appears to be one of the most generous in the diocese although it is hard for some parishes to pay their full parish share. 80% of the Parish Share monies goes on paying for clergy. Parishes are encouraged to pay their full share but can pledge a figure which they feel they can afford. They have also been asked to come up with an aspirational amount for the next 3 - 5 years so that the Diocese can plan for the future. The Diocese relies heavily on the Parish Share monies so are asking parishes, who are unable to pay the full amount, to review their pledges as the year progresses.

Church Website

The church website remains a source of information for those outside our church. The new site has been in use for over a year and is very simple to update and maintain. In the following analysis figures in brackets are for 2019.

- We had 6 [6] enquires via our contact form of which 1 concerned Baptism enquiry whereas the remainder had no common theme. We also had 40 [8] anonymous prayer request.
- During 2020 we had 3181 users [1854] who visited the website and they viewed between them 10,031 pages [5,958].
- 65% [77%] of website visitors were from the UK, 22% [8.5%] from China, 7% [6.2%] from the USA and then the rest from 39 different countries.
- The chart below shows the 10 most popular pages:



Page	Pageviews
1. /home	2,755
2. /services	750
3. /contact-us	595
4. /useful-information/our...	359
5. /weddings	345
6. /useful-information/our...	341
7. /coronavirus/online-ser...	287
8. /find-us	280
9. /activities	267
10. /useful-information	263

Online Services

At the start of COVID-19 pandemic and the first lockdown we explored how best to provide Church religious service to reach our congregation who could no longer physically attend Services in our two Churches. We evaluated several different options and chose the Zoom platform. We continued to use Zoom to deliver our main 10am Sunday Service until 20 June 2021 when we reverted all service to take place in our Churches. All Services were recorded and uploaded to the church website so those who were not able to attend at that time could view the service at a later time/date. The table shows Zoom attendances during the period that we offered online services during 2021.

Time Period	Average of Number of Unique Participant Screens	Average of Estimated Total Attendees
2021	45.8	74.8
Qtr1	54.1	89.3
Jan	55.8	94.0
Feb	54.3	87.7
Mar	51.8	84.9
Qtr2	38.1	61.3
Apr	36.7	58.3
May	40.0	65.8
Jun	38.0	59.8
Grand Total	45.8	74.8

Many people watch the service together sharing one screen and the table shows the estimated average attendees for each month [including children] for every online service.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lavant

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

Registered Charity no. 1131684

For the year ended 31st December 2021

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St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted Fund/s</i>	<i>Endowed Fund/s</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Designated Funds</i>			<i>All Funds 2021</i>	<i>All Funds 2020</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	68,231	-	4,981	-	73,212	97,723	
Charitable activities	5,795	-	-	-	5,795	4,019	
Other trading activities	8,961	-	-	-	8,961	10,142	
Investments	257	-	-	-	257	-	
Other receipts - Grants	-	5,000	45,999	-	50,999	-	
Total received	83,244	-	55,980	-	139,224	111,884	3
Expenditure on:					-	-	
Cost of raising funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Charitable costs	80,446	-	8,758	-	89,204	94,309	
Trading costs	3,485	-	-	-	3,485	3,719	
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total paid	83,931	-	8,758	-	92,689	98,028	5
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>							
Net income or (net expenditure)	(687)	5,000	42,222	-	46,535	13,856	
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds	-	-	-	-	-	87)	
Bank accounts at 1 January	25,464	-	59,726	-	85,190	71,334	
Bank accounts at 31 December	24,777	5,000	101,948	-	131,725	85,190	A&L

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Our financial position at the year-end was

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>			<i>All Funds</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	
	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Assets:							
Bank current account	24,727	5,000 -	101,948	-	131,675	84,613	
Cash	50	-	-	-	50	577	
		-	-	-			R&P
Total bank, cash and deposit accounts	24,777	5,000	101,948		131,725	85,190	
Debtors & Prepayments	186		20		206	1,084	
Gift Aid recoverable	1,067	-	240	-	1,307	1,061	
Debtors	1,253	-	260	-	1,513	2,145	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Chancel Trust income held by Diocese	257	-	-		257	3,440	
	-	-	-			-	
		-	-	-			
Total assets	26,287	5,000	102,208		133,495	90,775	
Liabilities:							
Magazines adverts received in advance	2,500	-	-	-	2,500	2,572	
Water (UW) 3319, E.W fees, LH tax and						-	
Electricity used since last billed (est'd)	4,887	-	-	-	4,887	345	
						-	
Total liabilities	7,387	-	-	-	7,387	2,917	

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2021, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Martha Weatherill, PCC Chairman

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.

3 Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2021	Total All Funds 2020	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	46,768	-	-	-	46,768	51,942	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Loose cash collections	1,991	-	-	-	1,991	1,185	
Donations and Special appeals	7,676	-	4,139	-	11,815	9,932	
Gift Aid recovered	11,796	-	842	-	12,638	14,559	
Fund raising	-	-	-	-	-	75	
Book stall sales	-	-	-	-	-	30	
Grants	-	5,000	45,999	-	50,999	20,000	4
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Donations and legacies	68,231	5,000	50,980	-	124,211	97,723	
Fees for weddings & funerals	5,795	-	-	-	5,795	4,019	
Charitable activities	5,795	-	-	-	5,795	4,019	
Village Fete	0	-	-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	-	
Magazine sales (LPC donation)	500	-	-	-	500	540	
Magazine advertising	7,922	-	-	-	7,922	7,532	
Hall lettings	539	-	-	-	539	2,070	
Other trading activities	8,961	-	-	-	8,961	10,142	
Bank & CBF deposit interest	257	-	-	-	257	-	
Total received on all funds	83,244	5,000-	50,980	-	139,224	111,884	

4 No legacies were received

St Mary with St Nicholas, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

5 Analysis of total paid

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowed	Total	Total	Notes
	General	Designated			All Funds	All Funds	
	Fund	Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s	2021	2020	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fund raising expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cost of raising funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Charitable grants and donations:	1,020	-	2,093	-	3,123	2,171	
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	56,833	-	-	-	56,833	67,167	
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	
Training conferences etc	388	-	-	-	388	367	
Other clergy costs	4,244	-	-	-	4,244	5,263	
Fees paid to fundraisers	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Insurance	3,168	-	-	-	3,168	3,094	
Water, Gas, Electricity, and Oil	5,317	-	-	-	5,317	4,403	
Upkeep of services (inc choir)	1,719	-	380	-	2,099	2,805	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Major church maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	1,628	
Upkeep of churchyard (inc Stelae)	807	-	1,305	-	2,112	1,512	
Other church maintenance	303	-	4,980	-	5,283	864	
Administration	3,647	-	-	-	3,647	2,034	
Charitable costs	80,446	-	8,758	-	89,204	94,308	
Magazine printing	3,132	-	-	-	3,132	3,720	
Bookstall costs	89	-	-	-	89	-	
Other trading costs	264	-	-	-	264	-	
Trading costs	3,485	-	-	-	3,485	3,720	
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total paid on all funds	83,931	-	8,758	-	92,689	98,028	

6 Charitable donations were: Lent – MIND £643 Royal British Legion £259

Harvest – Chichester Food Bank Food only

Christmas – The Four Streets Project, Safe in Sussex and My Sisters's House £329 x 3 £987

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

- 7 The Parish share to the Chichester Diocese is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. The full cost of parish ministry amounts to Parish share: £62,000 and Clergy support: £ 4,244
- 8 Gift Aid on all donations collected under the Diocese's Parish Giving Scheme has been received. Gift Aid on other qualifying donations received since 30th September is outstanding.

Payments to PCC employees:

Wages, salaries and honoraria
Organist

2021	2020
£	£
3,000	3,000
3,000	3,000

- 9 Payments to PCC members: No payments were made to PCC members during the year other than for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC. One member received reimbursements totalling £179
- 10 A persons related to PCC members was reimbursed by £81

11 Statement of Funds

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Building Fund (restricted)	58,611	36,600	4,980	-	90,231
Mission Fund (restricted)		9,999	-		9,999
Outreach	-249	2,131	2,153	-	-271
St Mary's Garden of Remembrance	439	2,100	1,305	-	1234
Choir Fund	925	150	320	-	755
Total of all restricted funds	59,726	50,980	8,758	-	101,948
General fund	25,464	83,244	83,931	-	24,777
Joan Ainsley Fund (designated)	-	5,000			5,000
Total of all unrestricted funds	25,464	88,244	83,932	-	29,777
Total funds	85,190	139,224	92,689	-	131,725

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

11 Statement of Funds (cont.)

The Statement of Funds includes £50,999 received in Grants in 2021, all of which was held in the Lavant Churches Building Fund Bank Account at the year end.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

The principal funds are detailed below.

The Building Fund holds funds raised for the specific purpose of financing building projects and major works of maintenance.

The Mission Fund holds funds for support of mission in this parish and the wider area.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides

Unrestricted funds include a grant of £5,000 from the Joan Ainslie Charitable Trust which the PCC will use as needed.

12 Parish Share: £56,833 was paid in Parish Share in 2021 by 11 monthly instalments of £5,166.66, the instalment for January 2021 having been paid in 2020 and recorded in the accounts for that year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's with St Nicholas Church, Lavant for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Mary with St Nicholas, Lavant, on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2021 set out on pages 1 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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.

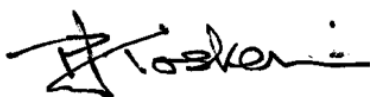
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Examiner's signature



Examiner's name CAPITALS

PHILIP JAMES TOSTEVIN

Date

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body if any

16th MARCH 2022

CTA

Examiner's address

42 MAPLEHURST ROAD

CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX PO19 6RP

Trustees Annual Report

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio member

Incumbent:	The Revd Dr David Jarratt	Chairman until August
	The Rev'd Martha Weatherill	Chairman from September

Elected Wardens:	Mr Ben Smith
	Mrs Georgina Bill

Elected Members:	Mrs Sheila Sims	Secretary
	Mrs Caroline Loten	Re-elected April 2021
	Mrs Zoe Mann	Re-elected April 2021
	Mrs Jean Sherrington	
	Mrs Shirley Whincop	
	Mrs Frances Talbot	
	Mrs Claire Evison	
	Mrs Jenny Quest	
	Mrs Jenny Rogers	
	Mrs Deecie Tester	
	Mrs Sue Jackson	Co-opted July 2021

Deanery Synod	Mrs Sue Tostevin	Elected April 2021
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Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent), the churchwardens (elected annually and who by resolution of the PCC may serve for a maximum of 6 years in succession) and members of the Deanery Synod (elected to serve for 3 years) and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to serve for a period of 3 years before seeking re-election for a further 3 year period only. Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Reverend Martha Weatherill - PCC Chairman

Signed: Rev'd M Weatherill

20 March 2022

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lavant

St Mary with St Nicholas

Pook Lane, East Lavant. PO18 0AH

For the year ended 31 December 2020

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2	Part 1: Trustees annual report
8	Part 2: Parish reports
15	Part 3: Annual Financial Report

website: www.lavantchurches.net

Incumbent: The Revd Dr David Jarratt
The Rectory, Pook Lane, East Lavant. PO18 0AH

Independent Examiner: Mr P Tostevin
48 Maplehurst Road, Chichester PO19 6RP

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC 74/75 East Street, Chichester PO19 1HR
Co-operative Bank PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

Trustees Annual Report - Part 1

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The primary objective of Lavant PCC is our Mission Statement,

'To lead the people of Lavant into the knowledge and love of God, and bring them into the life and worship of Christ's church.' This remit also encompasses those who live outside our Parish boundaries who wish to attend our Church.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, the Reverend Dr. David Jarratt in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and, ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known;
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or financial background;
- Providing financial support to those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, the Rector and the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

In 2020 the PCC continued with the objectives and activities planned in 2017 to fulfil the following aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus Christ
- Enabling as many people as possible from all walks of life to become part of our parish community
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish whilst being open to 'new ideas in worship'
- Considering how church services can involve the many age groups and backgrounds that live within the parish
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

- Providing assistance to those in need of the parish and the wider locality by supporting the food bank and relief of the homeless
- Giving grants to missionary organisations both in this country and abroad
- Reaching out to non-churchgoers through outreach activities at St Nicholas Church to create a community hub at the heart of the most populated part of the village. These activities include a monthly Brunch Cafe, Lunch House, Tea and Chat, and a thriving Toddler Group.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church buildings as historic centres and focuses of life in the village, treasuring our past heritage whilst looking at new ways to engage people to use our buildings
- Ensuring the financial sustainability of the two churches

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

The Lavant Churches welcome visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. Voluntary attendance to worship is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities. At the end of 2020 there were 209 members registered on the church electoral roll.

Services at Church were disrupted by the country going into lockdown in an aid to stop the Covid pandemic from spreading. The Church was closed for all services and private prayer, from the end of March until the beginning of July and again closed for services from the beginning of November to Christmas.

The worshipping congregation, who attend regularly, at least once a month, total 115 comprising of 17 children and 46 adults under 70 and 52 aged 70 and over.

We held two Zoom services on Sundays through the year from the March lockdown with the Zoom Junior Church being very successful attracting an average of 17 children. The 10am Zoom Sunday service averaged 97 - frequently there was more than one person logging on to their computer. The drop in numbers of the worshipping community from previous years is largely explained by the older members of the congregation being unable to access the internet.

Christmas is normally a very special time when many sections of the community come together to share in the many varied services. This year due to the restrictions the Christingle service, Carol Service and Crib Service were all held virtually on Zoom.

The Midnight Mass was attended by 63 people with families sitting together and everyone masked and spread out throughout the Church. The choir was permitted to sing but again at a social distance. The 8am Said Eucharist service on Christmas Day was

held in St Mary's. The family service on Christmas Day at 10am. was held virtually on Zoom.

Easter is normally a lovely time of year in the church calendar. However this year due to the pandemic restrictions regrettably no actual Church Services were held

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

In 2020 there has been 1 (9) baptisms, 2(6) weddings, 9 (13) church funerals

Note: Figures in brackets show numbers for the previous year.

Our worship continues to be led and informed by our Rector, Reverend Dr David Jarratt. A faithful number of adults undertake to lead our junior church and we are always seeking to welcome new leaders and helpers. Lent and Advent groups were unable to be held this year. We enjoy a very positive relationship with our local Church of England Primary School, where a weekly assembly is conducted by the Rector

Evangelism and outreach

Lavant churchgoers are the lifeblood of many regular village events as well as new initiatives. The local Church of England Primary school is also very much at the heart of the church community and is supported in its fundraising activities by members of the church.

Lavant Churches offer a number of well attended outreach activities including a monthly Lunch House attended regularly by over 30 villagers and church members; a weekly Tea and Chat, mainly for elderly villagers although all are welcome, and a thriving Toddler Group which meets weekly in term time and welcomes up to 32 pre-school children with their parent or carer. The monthly Saturday Brunch continues to prove very popular and welcomes villagers and churchgoers alike, around 40 breakfasts are served each month, including parents or grandparents with children who come to enjoy a relaxed brunch while their children are occupied at the craft tables.

Lavant News is the monthly Parish Magazine prepared by a small editorial team which has the objective of uniting the interests of the Church and the village, promoting community spirit. Publicity in the magazine encourages villagers who may not be churchgoers to join in events organised by the church and local organizations. 11 issues were distributed in 2020 (one magazine for December/January). The publication is now delivered free to everyone in the parish and to those of our worshipping community outside the parish. Additional copies are available in both churches. Part of our mission is to reach out to everyone and this is one step towards that goal

Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

We celebrated very few baptisms, weddings and funerals in our churches during the year due to the restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic. Our churches continue to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others, as spaces where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. The focus continues to find ways in which the St Nicholas church building can be used for events in addition to services. Its position at the heart of the most populated part of the village together with its lack of fixed pews and well equipped kitchen make it an ideal venue for community events. Until the pandemic restrictions in March it was currently used once or twice a week by the Post Office as well as being the venue for our outreach activities: Lunch House, Tea & Chat, Toddler group, and Saturday Brunch.

It is important to us that the church is available for private prayer not just to the church family but to the wider visiting community. To this end St Mary's church was always open during daylight hours, when restrictions allowed, and the entries in the Visitors' Book testify to this.

Spatial reordering of the church building and future projects

Ongoing decisions are made in faith, to adopt and encourage the Diocesan Strategy of re-imagining of ministry and, to modernise our church building, pointing to a hopeful future. However, such improvements will require the continued spiritual and financial commitment from all of us, to see it realised. Plans for this are currently on hold and will be reviewed in 2021.

Rector's Role

Rector's role - description. There is now a requirement under the new common tenure for this document to be completed. The PCC unanimously accepted the completed document in 2018.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

Lavant is a relatively small community with a strong sense of neighbourliness. Members of the church offer support and keep an eye on more vulnerable members, be it to assist with short term practical help or longer term needs. Those requesting spiritual support are held in prayer weekly, and according to their wishes, their reasons for asking for prayer support remain confidential. The Rector regularly makes home and hospital visits and a small team delivers home communions to those too frail to attend church.

In 2017 prayer trees were introduced in each church and these continue to be overseen by our Healing Ministry Team who respond in prayer to the requests on the prayer trees before passing them to the Rector. The Healing Ministry offers to pray with and for those in need after the Quiet service on the second Sunday of the month at 6pm at St Mary's.

Provision of tangible support to the village

It has been our custom in recent years that the Harvest Festival gifts are donated to the Food Bank in Chichester. This year as we were unable to hold Church services items were donated by leaving them at St Nicholas Church when it was open, delivering them direct to the Foodbank or dropping items off at the supermarkets when shopping.

Other charitable giving Check

During the year our charitable giving to groups and others was reduced to the fact that we were unable to continue with our Outreach activities and hold fund raising events.

The Lent appeal supported Mary's Meals which raised a total of £625

The Royal British Legion's Remembrance poppy appeal raised £147 plus an anonymous donation of £100 together with a donation from the Parish Council of £200

The Christmas Appeal raised the sum of £1546, which was divided equally between the charities, Safe in Sussex and the Four Streets Project.

The Children's Society Christingle collection raised a total of £146

Archivist

Our church archivist, Barbara Treverton, has undertaken this role for the past two years. She looks after all our files and papers and is invaluable when we require access to documents and other information. Our thanks go to Barbara for all her work and support.

Financial Review 2020

As a result of the pandemic few services and no fundraising events were held.

Members of the congregation contributed to church running costs through the Parish Giving Scheme, direct debits and standing orders.

The Parish Share of £62,000 was paid in full (2019 £71,833) The Accounts include the payment made in advance for January 2021 £5,167

Income from weddings, funerals and hall lettings were down by just under 50%

The General Fund (unrestricted) had a deficit of £7,496 for 2020 leaving a balance of £25,464 to be carried forward to 2021

The Buildings Appeal fund (restricted) rose to £58,611. This included a legacy of

£20,000 and the balance on the Friends of Lavant Churches bank account £5,197

Most of this is held in Barclays No 4 account in the name of Lavant Churches Buildings Appeal Fund.

£16,698 being held in the Co-operative Bank account in name of the Buildings Appeals Fund.

St Nicholas Chancel Trust is held entirely by the Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance. Claims to be made for assistance with insurance premiums for St Nicholas

Trustees Annual Report

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio member

Incumbent:	The Revd Dr David Jarratt	Chairman
Elected Wardens:	Mr Ben Smith Mrs Georgina Bill Mrs Cynthia Blades	Elected October 2020 Vice Chairman Retired October 2020
Elected Members:	Mr James Pickford Mrs Kathy Fletcher Mrs Sheila Sims Mrs Caroline Loten Mrs Zoe Mann Mrs Jean Sherrington Mrs Shirley Whincop Mrs Frances Talbot Mrs Claire Evison Mrs Jenny Quest Mrs Jenny Rogers Mrs Sue Tostevin Mrs Deecie Tester Mr Barry Tester	Treasurer until October Treasurer from October 2020 Secretary from October 2020 from October 2020 from October 2020 from October 2020 until October 2020
Deanery Synod	Mr Phil Binns Mrs Jo Heather Mrs Barbara Treverton	Mrs Karen Crossley Mrs Deecie Tester All retired October 2020

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent), the churchwardens (elected annually and who by resolution of the PCC may serve for a maximum of 6 years in succession) and members of the Deanery Synod (elected to serve for 3 years) and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to serve for a period of 3 years before seeking re-election for a further 3 year period only. Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Reverend Dr. David Jarratt, PCC Chairman

Signed: D Jarratt

on 21 March 2021

Trustee Annual Report - Part 2 Parish Reports

At the start of 2020 who would have envisaged that within three months Church life and everyone's personal life as we knew it would change when a Covid pandemic hit our country. During the first three months of the year all the usual Church Services and Outreach activities took place.

The end of March saw the country go into its first 'lockdown' in an effort to stop the spread of the virus and unusually all places of worship were closed. All activities and actual Church services stopped at that time - we could not even go to Church for private prayer which many people found very difficult. Later in the year we were able to hold a few services in Church but the majority had to be virtually through Zoom

Online services

At the start of COVID-19 pandemic and the first lockdown we explored how best to provide Church religious service to reach our congregation who could no longer physically attend Services in our two Churches. We evaluated several different options and chose the Zoom platform delivering our first offering on Palm Sunday. All Services are recorded and uploaded to the church website so those who are not able to attend at that time can view the service at a later time/date. Over the period that we have offered online services there has been an average of 52 unique participant logons. Many people watch the service together sharing one screen and this equates to an average of about 92 participants for every online service.

Please see below for various parish reports.

Churchwarden's reports from Ben Smith

We welcomed Gina Bill as the new Church Warden in October following the much delayed APCM.

Following receipt of the necessary permissions, quotes were obtained for the works to replace the stolen lead dormer roof with zinc. This work was undertaken by a specialist roofing company and a claim was successfully made to our insurers to cover payment of this work.

A telephone desktop survey with our insurers identified a number of minor areas for improvement, which we have now largely addressed. We have prepared a Key Register identifying who holds keys for both of our Churches. A Working from Height Policy has been written and approved by the PCC. Asbestos surveys at both Churches have been undertaken and these confirmed that no asbestos is present in either Church. Food safety training and certificates are required for the preparation and serving of food - this will be undertaken once we are able to recommence Brunch and Lunch House.

The radiators at St Marys have been serviced. Replacement filters and one new motor will be ordered and fitted in due course. We hope that this will solve the noise problem sometimes experienced.

We are very grateful to Mr Ifould who offered to pay for a replacement memorial bench at St Nics. This has been installed and looks much tidier. The wildflower planting to this part of the graveyard has been very successful. We continue to chase CDC regarding the repair of the flint wall to the roadside.

Having made good progress with the St Nics improvement project it was disappointing to have to put this on hold. We felt that now was not a good time to be fund raising and additionally the

National Lottery Heritage Fund stopped accepting new applications. Hopefully we can pick this up again when normality returns.

Safeguarding

The current Safeguarding Policy was reviewed by the PCC and there being no alterations deemed necessary agreed and a copy signed by the Rector and Churchwardens. As is customary copies can be seen in both churches with a further copy sent to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Colin Perkins, who having been seconded to the London Diocese has resumed his appointment with Chichester.

It is helpful to our aim as a Church to be fully conversant with the guidance available. PCC and congregational members therefore are encouraged to take advantage of the information available, (leaflets etc) which is located in both churches in the area where the Safeguarding Policy is displayed. It was felt by members of the Diocesan Safeguarding team good practice that not only the PCC but a larger number on the various church rotas have undertaken the on-line Safeguarding Foundation & Basic Training Courses, C0 & C1.

The Rector & myself attended a meeting with members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team at Donnington, where we presented on behalf of the Parish a file which embodied details of our commitment to Safeguarding in Lavant. The answers to the questions posed was supported by evidence in various forms including photographs and I am pleased to report that a certificate confirming our success in achieving Level 1 of SQP (Simple Quality Protects) was attained. Not only does this confirm the strength of understanding and provision as a church, but also our dedication to improving that provision where necessary.

If you wish for further clarification of anything to do with this aspect of our church life and any concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Rector, David, or myself.

Electoral Roll

There were 209 members on the roll as reported at the APCM on 8 October 2020. In December 2020 there were 209 parishioners on the church electoral roll, no change since the number reported at the previous APCM however there was 1 death and 1 new joiner. 40% [31%] of those on the roll live within the parish boundaries, however a further 58% [62%] live within a 7 mile radius of the parish.

Brunch

The monthly Saturday Brunch saw many people, an average of 30 - 40 people, meeting friends whilst enjoying everything from toast and marmalade to egg and bacon baps followed by pastries and lashings of tea and coffee. Craft activity sessions were run for children who came along with their parents and grandparents: these were very successful and enjoyed not only by the children but also by the group of willing helpers. Our thanks go to the very hard working group of volunteers who made these morning sessions possible and so enjoyable.

The Fairtrade stall was continued to attend the Brunch mornings.

Lunch House

Lunch House took place on the second Wednesday of the month with many local people enjoying the welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Every month we had at least 30 to 40 people tucking into a three course meal. These sessions would not be possible without the help of a hard working team who provide a delicious and varied menu every time.

Tea and Chat

A small group met regularly for Tea and Chat - the cakes always appreciated and chat was never in short supply. At Christmas we were able to deliver a small cake and a greetings card to all our group to let them know that they were in our thoughts and that we hadn't forgotten them.

These three activities were held in St Nic's and although the Church was not always as warm as one would have liked the atmosphere at all the activities was warm, welcoming and happy. Without the many hard working volunteers it would not be possible to organise these sessions.

Coffee after Church

Until lockdown in March refreshments had been provided after the 10.00 service each Sunday by members of the coffee/refreshments teams. This gave members of the congregation a chance to linger over a cup of coffee whilst catching up with friends and acquaintances. It also gives newcomers to the church a chance to get to know others. Many thanks to all of the team and to all those other members of the congregation who have so kindly helped on an ad-hoc basis.

Choir/organist

This year has certainly been different and as a result the report is slightly more complex than usual.

As many parishioners will know, due to the online services, the organs have not been in as much regular use as normal. I have tried to ensure that, where it is permitted, I have been able to go to St Mary's to make sure the organ gets somewhat regular use. It has continued to play in the usual fine-ness expected and has been used for multiple funerals and a couple of weddings this past year. While Lockdown was lifted, I was playing incidental music for the 8am said communion, which was very well received. Once the 8am services resume, I will be planning to return to this habit, until the 10am service becomes re-instated in the church buildings.

I have been using my keyboard, linked to a digital organ software to provide live accompaniment for the 10am Online services, except for Sundays where I am away. For those Sundays, I have pre-recorded at St Mary's, and this has gone down well also.

St Nic's organ has been serving well this year, although I have noticed a slight hiss in some of the top notes when they are being rendered. As mentioned in previous years, I am concerned we may not have many years left on the instrument - but we have more pressing matters in the meantime, and this is not an urgent situation.

On the note of St Nic's organ starting to show its age, I have purchased a Hauptwerk project for myself which I shall be picking up once lockdowns have ended - this will hopefully enable me to provide more complex and musically performed music for the 10am services, should they continue once I have it set up. I could potentially use it as a temporary stand-in instrument at St Nic's should we encounter issues with the organ at St Nic's that prove not easily remediable. My apologies for the potential doom and gloom over St Nic's, but I believe we should be aware of any oncoming issues well in advance, so we aren't surprised if anything happens.

The Choir have not met for much of the past year, having sadly missed the opportunity to do a new anthem for Easter, managed to meet to record carols for the online Carol service, which they did a fantastic job of, in a very intense and tiring recording session. This recording was also a historic first for the parish, as the first time the choir was recorded in professional quality with both video and audio.

They also sung at the Midnight mass, which went down superbly. I would like to extend my personal thanks to the choir, who reassembled with gusto and enthusiasm for Christmas after a whopping 8 months of no meeting and pulling it out of the bag

Flower Team - St Mary's

Flowers have continued to be arranged throughout the past year, excluding Lent, and Advent. It was felt that when the church was open for private prayer they provided a welcome for visitors. Comments in the visitors book confirm that. During the year the flower team has also arranged flowers for funerals and our thanks go to them for their ongoing support.

Flower Team - St Nic's.

It has been a frustrating year for many due to Covid-19 and not least the St Nic's flower team. As we approach, very hopefully, the end of another lockdown, we have all agreed that we need more flowers in our lives! While 8 o'clock services were able to take place at St Nic's, we did manage to create a little welcome, with some simple displays, and our Advent wreath was lovingly created, but sadly only enjoyed by a few. Nonetheless, we like to think that St Nic's felt loved. All being well, we hope to be back to our old ways soon, and look forward to putting on a bit of flower show at St Nic's as part of the planned Lavant week celebrations in June. If anyone would like to join us in expressing their joy through flowers, do get in touch, we are a small, amateur, but enthusiastic bunch, who love to make our small country church look lovely for all its users.

Grave Concern Report

It has been a difficult year with the first COVID lockdown preventing any gardening until well into the season. To start with I did most of the mowing with the help of Sam Humphries a Goodwood gardener who lives in the Flats adjacent to the Church and who had been furloughed and therefore offered his services which was greatly appreciated.

When things were relaxed a little, some of the team were able to get involved but at no time did we have a full turnout.

As reported last year we could do with more volunteers before the start of the mowing season. I will prepare a short appeal notice again for the Lavant News and or the Pew Sheet as outlined below. Any recruitment ideas from the PCC would be welcome.

The core group is a dedicated team but would benefit from more volunteers to spread the workload a little.

The group is I believe effective with everyone involved working very well together.

The three mowers will need to be serviced together with the two trimmers at an approximate cost of £600, Grave Concern will, as in previous years, commit a small amount of money on summer bedding plants to give a little colour adjacent to the west door during the summer months at a cost of approximately £20.

Appeal for Volunteers

The group, Grave Concern, which keeps St Mary's churchyard neat and tidy desperately needs more people to get involved. Some of us have been involved for over 20 years and haven't the stamina we used to have. The group is a very sociable one and welcomes anyone willing to help with the heavier jobs like mowing and trimming, and also light work, for example, weeding, generally clearing up or edging. The group meets once a week on a Monday afternoon/evening during summer months, April to October. If Mondays are not convenient then other days could be considered as could the times.

Very often the evening concludes with a chat, nibbles and a glass of something.

The time is fast approaching when the clocks go forward and we start our work so if you feel able to help in any way please contact Richard Boyce by e mail Richard@boycenet.plus.com or phone 01243 527273. Alternatively, just turn up on a Monday between 17.00hrs and 18.00hrs, once the clocks go forward.

Please come and join us as your help is essential, if we are to continue to keep St Mary's looking special.

Healing Ministry Report

Prayer ministry continued to be available at the 10.00 o'clock service at St Marys on the forth Sunday in the month. However, a review in the autumn in 2019 of how prayer ministry is offered at Lavant Churches led to a change. In February 2020 prayer ministry was, for a trial period, moved to a new time after the new Quiet Service in the Lavant Room at 6.00pm on the second Sunday of the month. Then in March 2020 the Healing Ministry was suspended along with the Lavant Churches services with the introduction of the lock down restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

At the time of writing this report we are in the third lock down, but infection rates are falling and in the future it is hoped to resume the healing ministry when restrictions are removed. However, it is accepted that due to way in which healing ministry is carried out, with face to face discussion and frequently the laying on of hands all Covid restrictions will have to have been removed before the healing ministry can resume in safety. It is expected that the Church of England will issue guidelines at the appropriate time.

Requests for prayer can be made online via the church website.

The annual Diocesan Healing day in Eastbourne in March 2021 was cancelled due to the Covid restrictions.

Holy Dusters

For the first three months of the year a small group of cleaners continued to meet up once a month to clean St Mary's. A spring clean of St Mary's was held one Saturday in March before the pandemic restrictions came into force when many willing helpers turned up. Unfortunately the spring clean of St Nicholas had to be cancelled. Cleaning continued regularly once we were able to hold services again and both churches were made 'Covid secure' according to the regulations laid down. Thanks go to all those who so kindly gave up their time to keep our beautiful churches looking so clean.

Junior Church

Junior Church functioned as per normal during the beginning of 2020 until the first lockdown, when services in church were stopped. Since Easter 2020 we have run Junior Church on Zoom, continuing over the school holidays up until Christmas.

We are continuing to follow the readings for each Sunday using Roots as a guide. Some of the activities cannot be conducted over Zoom, so I adapt them where necessary. We keep the activities fairly simple only requiring paper or card, scissors, glue and colouring pens. The attendees and their parents seem happy with the sessions; the children enjoy showing what they have done at the end of the main service and, from the comments I get back from the congregation, the exhibits are appreciated.

We also held our annual Christingle service in December, but this year over Zoom. Elizabeth Woodford and her team of helpers are thanked for the preparation and delivery of all the bags for Lavant School and Junior Church.

In Spring term 2020, while we were meeting in person, the average attendance was 9 children per week. From Easter to Christmas, for the Zoom sessions, the average attendance has been 16 children.

The children have enjoyed recording readings and prayers for the main Zoom service.

We will continue with Zoom sessions until we can meet in person and welcome new members.

Lavant News

The parish magazine continued to be published throughout the year and thanks is given to the editors and all those involved in the distribution. There were less contributions from local groups due to them not being able to meet, but our editors were very imaginative in finding other material to include in the magazine so that it continued to be a valuable read. The magazine was a very helpful way at the start of lockdown in publicising the support available for those who had to isolate and were not able to access grocery shopping and other needs such as picking up of prescriptions. Advertising revenue was reduced as some businesses had limited trading due to government restrictions, but we are very grateful to all those that were able to renew their commitment to the Lavant News.

Readers and Intercessors

The main service on Sunday's has been via Zoom for the year. That has meant that our readers and intercessors have been giving their ministry in a different format from what we are used to. Whilst the format has not been suitable for some on the rota usually due to poor internet connection, the Zoom format has opened up new possibilities. Some have been able to record the reading or intercessions and we have also been able to have many more children contributing in this way.

Weekly Email Newsletter

We send a newsletter to about 290 [260 in 2019] people each week, a third or so are not regular members of our church but they like to keep in touch with our activities. Production of the email is shared by 3 volunteers who each take responsibility for producing the newsletter for a month at a time. Overall the open rate has increased this year from 43-44% to 49-50% [compared to the sector average of 22%].

Church Website

The church website remains a source of information for those outside our church. The new site has been in use for over a year and is very simple to update and maintain. In the following analysis figures in brackets are for 2019.

- We had 6 [15] enquires via our contact form of which 1 concerned Baptism enquiry whereas the remainder had no common theme. We also had 8 anonymous prayer request.
- During 2020 we had 1858 users [1,950] who visited the website and they viewed between them 5,958 pages [5,867].
- 77% [80%] of website visitors were from the UK, 8.4% [1.1%] from China, 6.2% [11.7%] from the USA and then the rest from 42 different countries.
- Apart from the home page the most popular pages are on Online Services, Services, Coronavirus, Contact Us, Weekly Reflection, Find Us, Weddings, St Nicholas & Christmas

Toddler group

Lavant Toddler Group remained very active for the first two months or so of 2020 until the lockdown. Our last session was on 10th March.

We had 32 children on the register at the start of the year and regularly had around 18 children attending.

We operated with two teams; Angela Stenning, Gina Bill, Shirley Sturgess, Suzy Lowe and myself. Shirley and Suzy ran the craft table each week on their sessions. The older Toddlers really enjoyed this. In addition to this there is another table with paper, stencils and play dough Another quiet corner is set up with books and jigsaws. Another area has megablocks (giant lego) This leaves room for children to play on the big toys.

I tried to get advice as to whether we could continue through the Pandemic but the restrictions were too severe and as a volunteer church group it was just not practicable in any way. We hope to start again when the full restrictions are eased and the vaccine rolled out. Most of the volunteer helpers are in the older/more vulnerable age group.

Deanery Synod

The synod met three times during the year. One of their meetings was a presentation on Youth Work in a Parish – the practical way to start. Speakers were the Youth Ministers from St Paul's Church and St Pancras Chichester. Pandemic restrictions curtailed their planned agendas.

Friends of Lavant Churches

Due to lack of activity and the Covid-19 pandemic it was decided to make this sub-committee dormant. During 2020 there was one donation and sale of cards amounting to £2069. The balance of the account at Barclays Bank stood at £5044.61 – this was transferred to the Building Appeal Fund at Barclays Bank. The Friends of Lavant Churches bank account is held open for future use.

Secretary

This year has been a difficult year for everyone and my sincere hope is that we will be able to meet up in 2021 and join together regularly in the act of worship.

TrusteesAnnual Financial Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lavant

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

Registered Charity no. 1131684

For the year ended 31st December 2020

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St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number:1131684

Summary of Financial Receipts and Payments

The financial effect of our activities during the year can be summarised as follows

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted Fund/s</i>	<i>Endowed Fund/s</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Designated Funds</i>			<i>All Funds 2020</i>	<i>All Funds 2019</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	71181	-	26542	-	97,723	106,188	
Charitable activities	3,939	-	80	-	4,019	7,746	
Other trading activities	10,142	-	-	-	10,142	12931	
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total received	85,262	-	2,6622	-	111,884	126,868	3
Expenditure on:					-		
Cost of raising funds	0	-	-	-	0	906	
Charitable costs	90,039	-	4,270	-	94,309	113,793	
Trading costs	3,719	-	-	-	3,719	4,068	
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total paid	93,758	-	4,270	-	98,028	118,767	5
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>							
Net income or (net expenditure)	(8,496)	-	22,352	-	13,856	8,101	
Bank accounts at 1 January	32,960	-	38,374	-	71,334	63,232	
Bank accounts at 31 December	24,464	-	60,726	-	85,190	71,333	A&L

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Our financial position at the year-end was

	<i>Unrestricted</i>		<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Endowed</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>				
	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>Fund/s</i>	<i>All Funds</i>	<i>All Funds</i>
					<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Assets:						
Bank current account	24887	-	59726	-	84613	70,736
Cash	577	-	-	-	577	597
						71,333
		-	-	-		
Total bank, cash and deposit accounts	25464		59726		85190	71,333
Debtors & Prepayments	1084				1084	
Gift Aid recoverable	811	-	250	-	1061	2,140
Debtors	1895	-	250	-	2145	2,140
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chancel Trust income held by Diocese	-	-	3440		3440	3,178
	-	-	-			-
		-	-	-		
Total assets	27359		63446		90775	76,651
Liabilities:						
Magazines adverts received in advance	2572	-	-	-	2572	2,500
Electricity used since last billed (est'd)	345	-	-	-	345	600
						-
Total liabilities	2917	-	-	-	2917	3,100

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2020, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Dr David Jarratt, PCC Chairman:

Signed D Jarratt

Date: 23 March 2021

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.

3 Analysis of total received

	Unrestricted		Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total All Funds 2020	Total All Funds 2019	Notes
	General Fund	Designated Funds					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	51,782	-	160	-	51,942	54,758	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Loose cash collections	1,185	-	-	-	1,185	7,737	
Donations and Special appeals	5,143	-	3,789	-	8,932	14,877	
Gift Aid recovered	13,996	-	563	-	14,559	16,211	
Fund raising	75	-	-	-	75	0	
Book stall sales	-	-	30	-	30	105	
Legacies	-	-	21,000	-	21,000	12,500	4
	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Donations and legacies	72,181	-	25,542	-	97,723	106,188	
Fees for weddings & funerals	3,939	-	80.00	-	4,019	7,746	
Charitable activities	3,939	-	80.00	-	4,019	7,746	
Village Fete	0	-	-	-	0	1,200	
		-	-	-	-	-	
Magazine sales (LPC donation)	540	-	-	-	540	500	
Magazine advertising	7,532	-	-	-	7,532	6,931	
Hall lettings	2,070	-	-	-	2,070	4,300	
Other trading activities	10,142	-	-	-	10,142	12,931	
Bank & CBF deposit interest	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Total received on all funds	86,262	-	25,622	-	111,884	126,868	

4 Legacies include a bequest from the estate of the late Mr Brooks and Mrs Small and credited to the Lavant Church Buildings Fund

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

5 Analysis of total paid

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowed	Total	Total	Notes
	General	Designated			All Funds	All Funds	
	Fund	Funds	Fund/s	Fund/s	2020	2019	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	-	55	
Fund raising expenses	-	-	-	-	-	851	
Cost of raising funds	-	-	-	-	-	906	
Charitable grants and donations:	-	-	2,171	-	2,171	3,838	
Parish share to Chichester Diocese	67,167	-	-	-	67,167	71,883	
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	3000	
Training conferences etc	367	-	-	-	367	505	
Other clergy costs	5,263	-	-	-	5,263	5,855	
Fees paid to fundraisers	-	-	-	-	-	1,552	
Insurance	3,094	-	-	-	3,094	3,019	
Water, Gas, Electricity, and Oil	4,403	-	-	-	4,403	6,167	
Upkeep of services (inc choir)	2,805	-	-	-	2,805	4,106	
Major church maintenance	-	-	1,628	-	1,628	7,061	
Upkeep of churchyard (inc Stelae)	1,042	-	470	-	1,512	3,207	
Other church maintenance	864	-	-	-	864	868	
Administration	2,034	-	-	-	2,034	2,732	
Charitable costs	90,039	-	4,269	-	94,308	113,793	
Magazine printing	3,720	-	-	-	3,720	3,944	
Bookstall costs	-	-	-	-	-	124	
Other trading costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Trading costs	3,720	-	-	-	3,720	4,068	
Other payments							
Total paid on all funds	93,758	-	4,269	-	98,028	118,767	

6. Charitable donations were: Lent Mary's Meals £625
Christmas The Four Streets Project £773
Safe in Sussex £773

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

- 7 The Parish share to the Chichester Diocese is for the payment of Clergy and other central costs. The full cost of parish ministry amounts to Parish share: £62,000 and Clergy support: £5,263
- 8 Gift Aid on all donations collected under the Diocese's Parish Giving Scheme has been received. Gift Aid on other qualifying donations received since 30th September is outstanding.

Payments to PCC employees:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages, salaries and honoraria	3,000	3,000
Organist		
	3,000	3,000

- 9 Payments to PCC members:

No payments were made to PCC members during the year other than for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf

of the PCC. One member received reimbursements totalling £4,990

- 10 No transactions with persons related to PCC members

Clergy support: Council tax £3,066, Water, electricity, travel, postage, telephone etc £2,172 = £5,263

11 Statement of Funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
			-		
Building Fund (restricted)	33,940	21,102	1,628	5,197	58,611
Outreach	-488	2,410	2,171	-	-249
Friends of Lavant Churches	3,167	2,030	-	-5,197	-
St Mary's Garden of Remembrance	910	-	471	-	439
Choir Fund	845	80	-	-	925
Total of all restricted funds	38,374	25,622	4,270	-	59,726
General fund	32,960	86,262	93,758	-	25,464
		-	-	-	-
Total of all unrestricted funds	32,960	86,262	93,758	-	25,464
Total funds	71,334	111,884	98,028	-	85,190

St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Registered charity number 1131684

Notes to the Financial Report

11 Statement of Funds (cont.)

Lavant Churches Buildings Fund and Friends of Lavant Churches Fund:

The Friends of Lavant Churches Fund was closed during the year and the balance of £5,197 transferred to the Lavant Churches Buildings Fund.

Lavant Churches Buildings Fund income includes a legacy of £20,000 and expenditure of £1,628 charged to the Fund.

Parish Share: The monthly sum of £5166.66 for January 2021 was paid in December 2020

RESERVE POLICY: The PCC continues to maintain a reserve policy of £20000

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of St Mary with St Nicholas Church, Lavant
for the Year Ended 31st December 2020 (Reg Charity No 1131684)**

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Mary with St Nicholas, Lavant, on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2020 set out on pages 16 to 21.

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
2. follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
3. state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

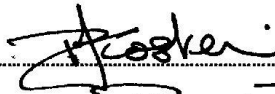
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to:
 - a. keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Examiner's signature



Examiner's name

Philip James Costevin

Date

23rd March 2021

Relevant professional
Qualifications(s) or body

CTA . FCA (retired) .

Examiner's address

48 MARPLEHURST ROAD,
CHICHESTER, West Sussex, PO19 6RP

