

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, CHISLEHURST

England & Wales · Charity number 1131855

Details

Other names ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-09-28

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

Contact

Address St. Nicholas Church Hall
Church Lane
Chislehurst
Kent
BR7 5PE

Phone 02084670196

Email stnicholaschislehurst@outlook.com

Website www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all Provision of sacred space Pastoral work Home Visits Teaching Christianity through sermons courses small groups Taking religious assemblies in schools Promoting the mission of the Church through activities for senior citizens parents and toddlers children and young people and other groups Supporting UK registered charities working in UK or overseas.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£228,335	£194,792	-	-
2024-12-31	£189,374	£189,503	-	-
2023-12-31	£194,052	£191,008	-	-
2022-12-31	£196,175	£211,467	-	-
2021-12-31	£180,145	£182,234	-	-
2020-12-31	£180,794	£196,367	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Rachel Curley	Chair	2022-07-18
Anne Althea Hanifin		2022-05-08
Aubrey Lloyd Anderson		2023-05-08
Barbara Alison Russell		2021-05-16
CHARLES CASTELL CLARK		2019-04-28
Carole Yvonne Gray		2022-05-08
JOHN ALEXANDER GRANT		2022-05-08
Jennifer Susan Wilson		2023-05-08
Joanne Susan Papa		2022-05-23
John Stuart Bernays		2022-05-08
Justine Ruth Grant		2021-05-16
Mark Philip Wilson		2023-05-08
Michaela Davies		2022-05-08
Nicola Lindsay Smith		2023-09-25
Philip Charles Wilson		2023-05-08
SUSAN MARY BRANDON		2019-04-28

Accounts



The Parish Church of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

'An inclusive and welcoming community of faith seeking to know and share the love of God'

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

For Year Ended Dec '25



St Nicks is a welcoming and inclusive church where everyone is embraced as part of our community.



bringing **People & God** together
Parish Office • Village Hall • Church Lane • Chislehurst • BR7 5PE
www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk
0208 467 0196
office@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk



St Nicholas' Parish Church, Chislehurst
Registered Charity No. 1131855

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Rector

The Reverend Rachel Curley

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin

John Grant

Parish Office

St Nicholas Village Hall

Church Lane

Chislehurst BR7 5PE

Banks

Barclays Bank plc

and

CAF Bank Ltd

Independent Examiner

Zachary Ramsden

BACKGROUND

St Nicholas' Church is situated within the London Borough of Bromley, and historically within the county of Kent. There has been a place of worship on this site for over a thousand years.

The current building dates back to the 15th century but was significantly enlarged in the 19th century in response to pressing need as well as perceived opportunities for growth and outreach.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this parish church has a powerful history connecting it to stories of exploration, invention, achievement, and devotion both to God and to people.

Today we are still committed to that ongoing journey of evolution and growth – it is a pilgrimage of faith, to which our built heritage stands witness. Upon the firm foundations of the past, we rededicate ourselves and our church (the building and the people) as a focus of inclusion, welcome, faith, and loving service.

The Parish of Chislehurst St Nicholas is part of the Bromley Deanery, in the Diocese of Rochester, in the Province of Canterbury, within the Church of England - a member church of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number: 1131855



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the maintenance of St Nicholas Church and Churchyard, Southbeech in Old Perry Street, and the Village Hall in Church Lane.

Rector: The Reverend Rachel Curley – Chair of the PCC

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin (Joint vice chair of PCC)

John Grant (Joint vice chair of PCC)

Associate Priest (PTO)

Rev'd June Hurn until February 2025

Reader with (PTO)

Peter Ridge

Licenced Lay Ministers

Theodora Chamberlain

Lynton Karmock-Golds

Members of the PCC:

NAME & Year of Office

ELIGIBLE TO STAND FOR RE-ELECTION in 2026

Philip Wilson (23)	(ends at APCM 2026)	yes
Jenifer Wilson (23)	(ends at APCM 2026)	yes
Mark Wilson (23)	(ends at APCM 2026)	yes
Lloyd Anderson (23)	(ends at APCM 2026)	yes
Michaela Davies (23)	(ends at APCM 2026)	Standing down
Barbara Russell (24)	<i>(ends at APCM 2027)</i>	Standing down
Carole Gray (24)	<i>(ends at APCM 2027)</i>	Standing down
Justine Grant (24)	<i>(ends at APCM 2027)</i>	N/A
Nicola Smith (24)	<i>(ends at APCM 2027)</i>	N/A
John Bernays (25)	(ends at APCM 2028)	N/A
Susan Brandon (25)	(ends at APCM 2028)	N/A
Joanne Papa (25)	(ends at APCM 2028)	N/A
Adrian Kerr (25)	(ends at APCM 2026)	yes

Co-Opted on 24 November 2025

7 representatives (1 vacancy).

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF PCC

Rev'd Rachel Curley – Rector

Churchwardens

serve ONE-year terms of office up to a maximum of SIX consecutive years:

Annie Hanifin

John Grant

Representatives on Bromley Deanery Synod

Diane Moorman

Peter Ridge

Charlie Clark stood down on 24 November 2025

3 vacancies in 2026.

Aims and Purposes

St Nicholas' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, and in the case of a vacancy the Churchwardens, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Churchyard, and the Village Hall complex and grounds.

The Parish

The parish has a population of approximately 4000, across 1,500 households. The parish also has a Church of England Primary School (St Nicholas), part of the Aquinas Trust Academy of which The Reverend Rachel Curley is a member of the AAC (Aquinas Advisory Council).

Risk Management

The PCC has budgetary disciplines in place to reduce financial risk and endeavours to identify other risks which may prejudice the work of the church. Insurance policies are maintained with Aviva to cover insurable risks, and their advice is followed to reduce risks. The PCC oversees the Safeguarding Policy for children and vulnerable adults. Arrangements have been put in place to carry out checks on people working with these groups, in line with Diocesan guidelines. Like all Church of England churches, safeguarding and safer recruitment are paramount. The PCC is committed to ensuring that our church and hall are safe places for all who use them. For more detailed information and guidance see the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding. Produced by the National Safeguarding Team, it is a comprehensive guide, summarising the key areas a parish need to address with regards to safeguarding. All PCC members as well as all church leaders undertake the Safeguarding training appropriate to their level of responsibility and activity as set out in the House of Bishops Practice Guidance for Safeguarding Training. During the year we ensured that General Data Protection Regulations were followed in accordance with their introduction in 2018.

Our General Fund stands at £115,119 which approximates to just over our target of 50% of our average annual expenditure. The Church Repair Fund remains at £120,758 (2024: £120,758). Several projects as identified in the quinquennial report will be tackled in the coming year.

The PCC notes the £21,016 loss on investments (2024: gain of £21,742) but is very pleased that overall, these accounts show a net surplus before gains/(losses) on investments and gains on heritage assets of £33,543 (2024: deficit of £129).

OUR VISION, VALUES, AND MISSION

Guided by our vision to know Christ and make Him known, we seek to be a welcoming and inclusive church where all people experience the love, grace, and compassion of God.

Through worship, prayer, and learning together, we encourage discipleship and spiritual growth so that each person is equipped to follow Jesus and help others do the same.

Rooted in hospitality and forgiveness, we strive to love our neighbours and serve our community with generosity and care. By sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through service, outreach, and everyday relationships, we seek to transform lives and make disciples who make disciples.

MISSION

To be the church in the community and the community in the church.

We are committed to working hard to be:

AN INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Structure, Governance, and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Nicholas, the membership of the PCC consists of the Parish Priest, churchwardens, Deanery Synods representatives, and up to a maximum of 15 members (the maximum number allowed in any C of E church) elected by those members of the congregation **who are on the electoral roll of the church**. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC usually meets 6 times during the year.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of subgroups or Committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These committees are:

1. Standing Committee (statutory)
2. Finance Committee
3. Property Committee
4. Safeguarding Committee
5. Events Committee
6. Village Hall Development Committee
7. Village Hall Committee
8. Churchyard Team

Each is responsible to the PCC and each report back to it regularly with minutes or a summary of their decisions, being received by the full PCC and discussed / ratified as necessary.

Public Benefit

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

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

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its adherents and for everyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers
- Promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.
- Maintaining the historic fabric and architectural heritage of the St Nicholas Church building and grounds.
- Providing a quiet space that is available daily to all members of the public.

2025 in Photos



The Wedding Couple Tea February 2025



School Ash Wednesday Service



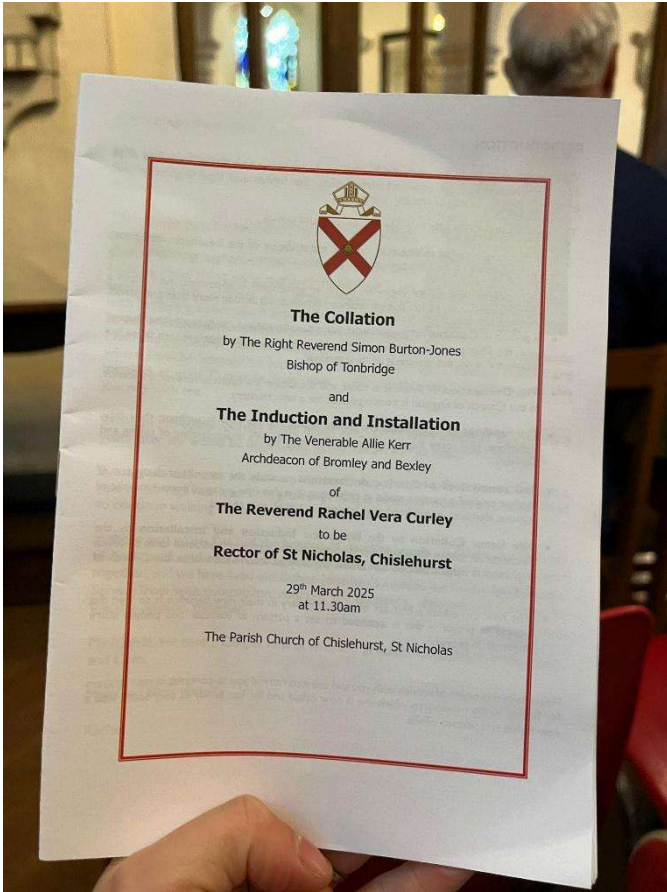
Rev'd Rachel on World Book Day



Rachel's final service as Curate

Rev'd Rachel's Installation as Rector; 29th March 2025





Home Sweet Home



It was a good sandwich!



Maundy Thursday Supper



Good Friday Service in High Street



Easter Eve; Service of Light



The Easter Bunny!



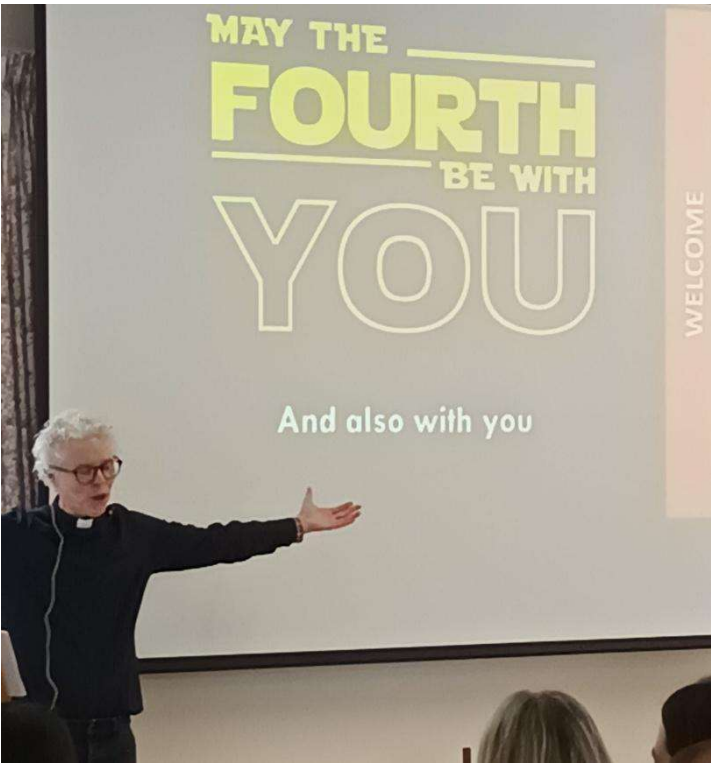
Alan's return to St Nicks!



Ascension Day Service



Admitting of Children to Holy Communion





Chislehurst Rotary Summer Fair



Archdeacon's Visitation – John and Annie are Licensed as Churchwardens

The Diocese of Rochester's *Leading Public Worship* course equips individuals to lead worship based on a Service of the Word. It is designed for those who feel called to take on a more active role in leading services within their parish on an occasional basis.

Upon completion, participants are authorised to lead services up to 12 times a year, with the agreement of their Incumbent and PCC, providing both the confidence and practical skills needed to lead worship faithfully and effectively.

We were thrilled when Charlie began this course, and Revd Rachel was delighted to present his certificate to him at Pentecost, marking this important step in his ministry.



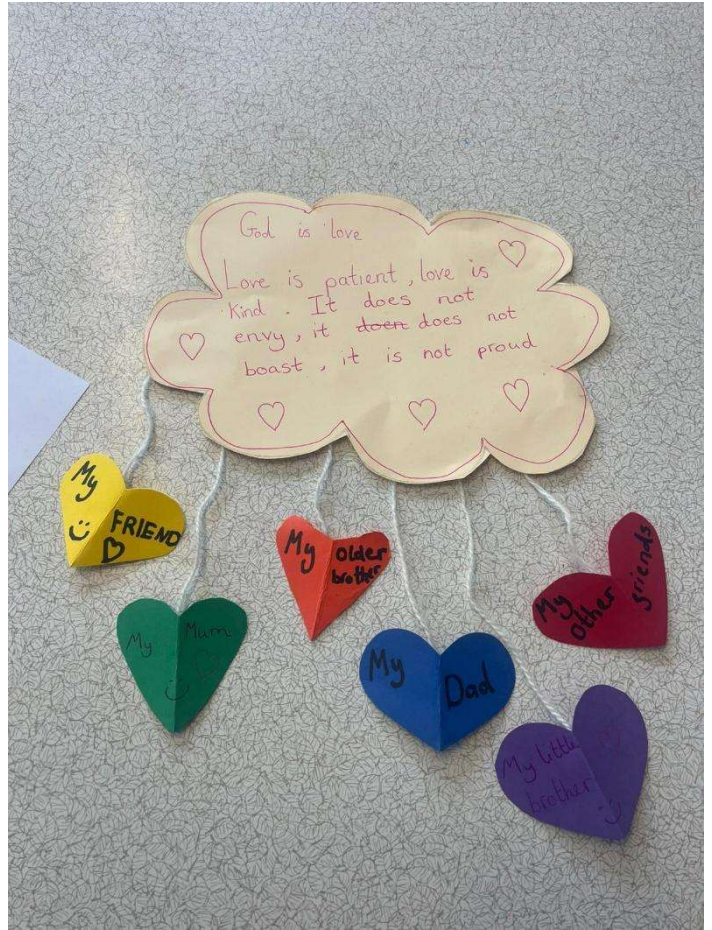
Fundraising Auction with Catherine Southon





Fundraising Auction with Catherine Southon





Everyone is Welcome at St Nicks





Back to School Sunday



**Confirmation Service
At Prince George, Duke of Kent**



Harvest Festival



Christmas Fair



Nativity Service





Christingle Service



Carol Service



Nativity Tableau

Rector's Report and Review for 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I find it hard to believe that I am writing a report for the year that was 2025. I am not quite sure where the time has gone since I arrived here in July 2022; so much has happened in that time.

I am now just under a year in post as Rector, and I can honestly say it has been the privilege of my life. At my Installation Service I said that we would walk beside one another in the years to come, through the good, the bad, the grief and the joy, and I believe we have truly done so this past year.

I began my incumbency with a clear vision, and I feel extremely proud of us as a church, and, if I may add, a little proud of myself, that we have stayed faithful to that vision. There has been no standing still here at St Nick's.

It has been encouraging to see continued growth in worship across all our services and age groups. I believe this reflects who we are as a church: inclusive, welcoming, and genuine. It has been encouraging to see continued growth in worship across all our services and age groups. I believe this reflects who we are as a church: inclusive, welcoming, and genuine. People are hearing about our church, both within and beyond our community, and are coming to see for themselves what it is about. When we say that everyone is welcome at St Nick's, we mean it, and people believe us.

We have also continued to move forward with plans to reimagine our Village Hall as part of our outreach and ministry. I am delighted that we were granted planning permission this year, a significant step forward. It has also been wonderful to welcome Andrew Stone to help lead the project as we begin turning this vision into reality for both the church and the wider community.

This year, we have had the privilege of walking alongside 89 families (44 in 2024) through baptisms, weddings, funerals, and burials, sharing with them in both joyful and difficult moments.

A particular highlight was our Admitting Children to Holy Communion service in June, followed by a Family Fun Day. I am especially grateful to Mrs Williams, Head of St Nick's School, for enabling me to teach the preparation classes during the school day.

It was also wonderful to welcome so many people to our Back-to-School Sunday service in August, including more than 50 children, with a visiting band helping to lead us in worship. I have to say I am already excited about next years service!

Our relationship with St Nicholas School has continued to grow. We have brought Collective Worship back into church, and it has been a joy to welcome each year group for class Communion services. Alongside this, I have continued leading the weekly lunchtime group, Leading Lights, and supporting RE lessons in school.

It was a real pleasure to welcome Rev'd Alan Mustoe and Kathleen back to St Nick's, and to share a Parish Lunch together. Alan kindly reflected: "We have heard on a good number of occasions how much the church and indeed parish appreciate your ministry, and we could see why. It's good to see with our own eyes what we've heard with our ears."

I remain deeply grateful for the heritage of St Nick's, and I look to the future prayerfully, trusting where God is leading us.

It was truly wonderful to record just under 4,000 people joining our services over the Christmas season. This is an incredible encouragement, and a reminder of the deep longing people have to connect with God, especially at this special time of year. We must never underestimate what this means. Every person who came through our doors carried their own story, their own hopes, questions, and prayers. It is a privilege to be a place where people feel able to come, to belong, and to encounter something of God's love.

I know that some people worry about how busy I am, but I think I would be more concerned if I wasn't. Often, busyness reflects people reaching out and encountering God in their lives. At the same time, I hope I have been able to model the importance of rest and time with God, and that you have seen me trying to practise what I preach.

As I look ahead to 2026, I sense that we will be busier still. Phase two of our vision will begin to take shape, and I pray that by the end of the year we will be closer to our new hall, improved accessibility and inclusivity, and, finally, a warm church in winter.

My friends, we know that the year ahead will bring both joy and its challenges. But as we sang at my Installation:

***We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.***

And so, we will continue to support one another as we journey together.

With my love and blessings

Rachel

Rector, St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst (this still always makes me smile!)

Junior Church on Tour at the Rotary Summer Fair.

Home Communion services and Bible studies at Faulkner House, Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Fairlight Nursing Home, Cedarmore Court and Shepherds House.



Continued to be the lead church in the development of a district-wide befriending project (Two's Company) with Rachel working alongside the coordinator and being her point of contact.

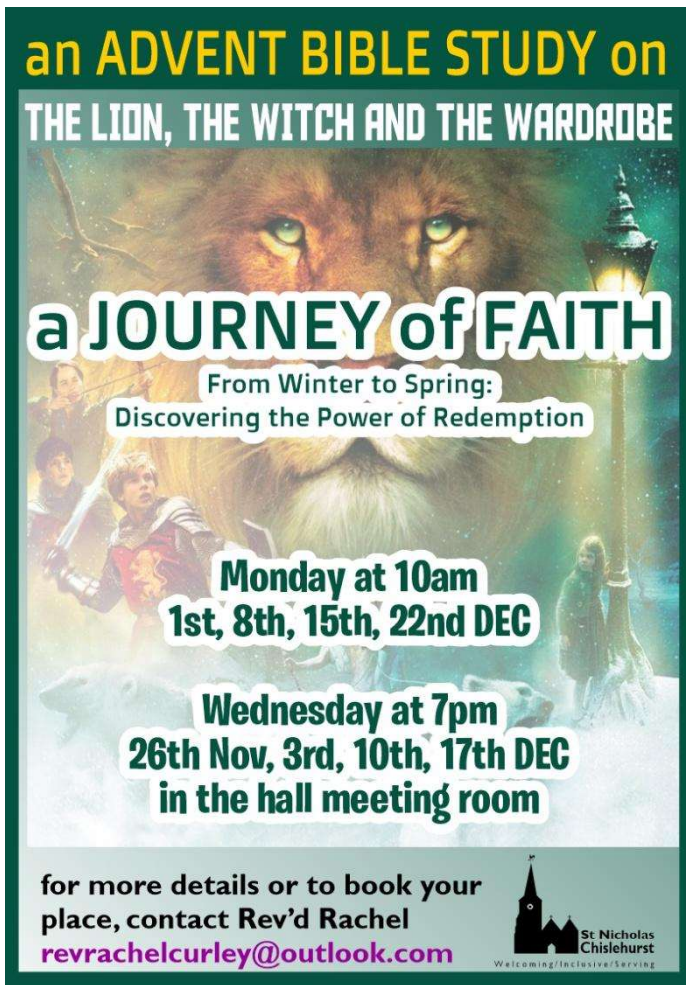
Continued with the monthly Soup Lunch which has continued to grow each month.

Hosted a 12-hour Prayer Event, at which people joined us throughout the 12 hours, including children from St Nicholas School and Marjorie McClure.

Added Sung Mattins to our list of services throughout the year as well as special services during the liturgical calendar.

Celebrated a special Mothers Union Members Communion Service where new members were enrolled.





As Rev'd Rachel was on leave before her installation service we unfortunately did not have a Lent Bible Study this year, however we did have an Advent Bible Study based on the film *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

The church continued to support local events throughout the year.

Over Christmas we were delighted to welcome an amazing number of people to our services, with **just under 4,000 people** attending across the season. Our **Christingle service** saw a record attendance—certainly the largest in the past eight years—with **over 150 people** taking part.

The **Nativity Tableau** also continues to grow year by year, drawing more members of our community to share in the joy and celebration

of Christmas at St Nicholas.

This year, for the first time, Baby Jesus went on an **Advent Journey** through our community, staying in over 24 homes. The journey began at **St Nicholas School**, and his final night was spent with **Wendy Lowdon** before returning to church for the **Nativity Tableau**. This initiative proved to be an even greater success than we had imagined, bringing joy and reflection to many homes in the community. We very much look forward to repeating the Advent Journey again in **2026**. Grateful thanks to David Sharpe for his help and planning.



Ministry through Life Events

Life events (baptisms, weddings, funerals) provide powerful opportunities for ministry and pastoral care to be exercised by our church.

In 2025 we conducted the following:

Marriages	8
Marriage Blessing	1
Baptisms	32
Funerals	29
Burials of Ashes	17





Not all of our ministry is filled with joy and celebration. One of the most significant and sacred aspects of parish life is our **funeral ministry**, which continues to be a genuine privilege.

During 2025, the number of funerals reached levels I have not seen during my time in ministry. Over the course of the year I officiated at **29 funerals at St Nicholas**, as well as several others for families and friends elsewhere. The most striking period came during **Advent**, when we held **16 funerals within just six weeks**.

Walking with families through the pain and sorrow of loss is never easy. The grief, love, and memories shared in those moments remind us of the depth of human connection and the hope we hold in Christ. It is a profound privilege to accompany people during such tender and difficult times, to hold their stories, and to commend their loved ones into God's eternal care.

We continue to pray for all those who mourn, trusting in the promise of resurrection and the comfort of God's presence. May those who grieve know the peace of Christ and may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

FABRIC REPORT

From the Churchwardens

This report gives an overview of the condition, maintenance requirements and necessary repairs or improvements for the church and other buildings in our care.

St. Nicholas Church in Chislehurst, England, dates back to the 13th century, making it around 800 years old. This historic church showcases a blend of architectural styles, primarily exhibiting elements of Gothic architecture, particularly evident in its pointed arches and intricate stonework. Constructed mainly from local stone, the church's exterior presents a weathered, timeless charm.



Notable features of St. Nicholas Church include its impressive tower, adorned with pinnacles, and its striking stained glass windows, which depict biblical scenes and saints. Inside, visitors can marvel at the beautifully carved wooden pulpit and the elegant vaulted ceilings, which add to the grandeur of the space. Additionally, the church houses several memorials and monuments, offering glimpses into the area's rich history and heritage.

Overall, St. Nicholas Church stands as a testament to centuries of worship and community in Chislehurst, inviting visitors to appreciate its architectural beauty and historical significance. The Church has a substantial churchyard.

St. Nicholas Village Hall is a more modern construction compared to the Church. While its exact age may vary, it dates from the late 19th century. Architecturally, the hall is characterized by a blend of traditional and functional styles, often featuring elements of vernacular or utilitarian design rather than adhering strictly to a specific architectural movement.



The building caters to the needs of the local community for gatherings, events, and meetings. Notable features of the Village Hall include its spacious interior layout, flexible multipurpose rooms, and facilities such as kitchens and toilets to accommodate various events and activities.

Overall, St. Nicholas Village Hall serves as a vital hub for community engagement and social activities in Chislehurst, embodying the evolving needs and character of the area.

The Curates house (Southbeech) dates to the 1970s and is a terraced three storey modern house, constructed of brick, with a slate roof

The Rectory is a similar age property, and is owned and maintained by the Rochester Diocese.

The fabric of the church and associated buildings has been generally well maintained during the year, with ongoing attention given to routine repairs and upkeep.

We plan to work alongside the Rector and Property Committee to develop and implement a full maintenance schedule for 2026. We are pleased to have made a start on this vision during the past year and are generally happy with the progress made and the plans ahead.

Full details of works undertaken, current issues, and planned maintenance are set out in the Property Report, to which this report refers.

Annie Hanifin and John Grant.

Churchwardens Report 2025

2025 began in a significant and memorable way for us as Churchwardens, as we took part in the interview process for the appointment of a new Rector alongside the Archdeacon. This was a new and an unusual experience, but we were committed to ensuring that everything was carried out carefully and properly. It is fair to say that we asked searching questions of Rachel, and in turn she asked important questions of us, helping everyone to understand clearly what lay ahead.



Following the decision, although we knew the outcome before Rachel did, it was the Archdeacon's role to formally invite her to take up the post. John and I found ourselves waiting in the car outside Rachel's house so that we could celebrate together immediately afterwards, a moment of real joy and anticipation. This marked the beginning of the final months of the interregnum, and our attention quickly turned to planning the Induction and Installation service.

In February, we also marked an important transition as Rev'd June's Permission to Officiate (PTO) came to an end, and she stepped down from public ministry. We are both deeply grateful to June for her many years of faithful service to St Nicholas and all she has given to the life of the church.

March brought the wonderful occasion of Rachel's Institution and Installation service, at which we were privileged to be present alongside Bishop Simon, Archdeacon Allie, and Andrew, the Area Dean. This was a particularly special highlight of the year, with over 350 people gathered in church to celebrate, including members of our church family, the wider community, dignitaries, including the Mayor of Bromley, as well as Rachel's family, friends, and colleagues.

As is so often the case at St Nick's, we have not stood still. It has been a real encouragement to see Rachel's incumbency begin to take shape, particularly as she shares and develops her vision for the church. We appreciate the way in which she is moving things forward while ensuring that everyone has a voice in shaping the future of our church community.

We are also very grateful to Bernadette for taking on the leadership of the Property Committee, working closely with us and with Rachel to ensure that our buildings are well maintained and cared for.

It has been a joy to see our church continue to grow, with new people and families joining us week by week across our services.

Alongside the Installation, other highlights of the year have included our Back to School Sunday service and the service to admit children to Holy Communion, both joyful and significant moments in the life of our church.

While there will always be challenges ahead, we are thankful that, as a leadership team alongside Rachel, we work well together and support one another.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Jo Papa, our Treasurer, for all that she does, and to Nicola Smith, our PCC Secretary. We are blessed with a strong and committed leadership team at St Nicholas.

We also want to thank the many volunteers who give their time and energy so generously. You are essential to the life of this church, and we are deeply aware that it is through your contribution that St Nick's continues to thrive. To all who give financially or practically, please know that your support is seen and greatly appreciated.

Finally, we want to thank Rachel for her continued support, both to us as Churchwardens and to the wider community.

Her vision of "the Church in the community and the community in the Church" continues to bear fruit, and it is a joy to witness.

Annie Hanifin & John Grant

A Hall For All

In July we received the good news that planning permission had been granted for the new hall. However, there are several restrictions attached to the permission that we will need to amend. Most significantly, under the current conditions we would not be able to use the hall at Christmas or Easter, as these periods are classified as bank holidays.



Work to amend these restrictions is expected to take place in early 2026.

Rev'd Rachel has also invited Andrew Stone to lead the next phase of the project, allowing John Grant to continue focusing on his role as Churchwarden. We are very grateful to John for all his work in helping us reach the stage of securing planning permission. As the project moves forward, he will continue to work alongside Annie, Rachel, and Andrew in developing the new hall.

Our grateful thanks go to Mark, Alison and Mike from Chislehurst Matters and Joanna Friel from the Chislehurst Society for all their support.

In 2026, we also plan to bring together a group of people to serve as **Community Champions**, helping to strengthen links between the church, the new hall, and the wider community.

In 2025 we held our first **Auction Fundraiser**, and we are extremely grateful to Catherine Southon, the auctioneer, and especially to her assistant Katy for all their hard work in making the event such a success. We are also very thankful to **Chislehurst Golf Club** for generously allowing us to use their space free of charge. The event raised an impressive **£13,500**.

We would also like to thank **Carl Murdock-Smith**, who enabled us to match fund **£1,000**, further boosting the total raised to **£14,500** with a profit of £12,105.

In addition, we organised a Games Afternoon, hosted a talk by Joanna Friel on the graves at St Nicholas, and enjoyed a further talk on Saint Nicholas himself. We also ran a "Barrow of Booze" at the Christmas Fair.

In total we added £20833 to the VH fund (as shown in the accounts). £13,205 of this was from fundraising and £7,628 was from direct donations .

Special thanks must also go to **Tom Allen**, who generously allowed us to auction two dinners with him and Rev'd Rachel. These lots alone raised **over £4,000** for the new hall project.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Weekly Notice Sheet

The weekly notice sheet is printed each week and available in church during worship. It continues to be an important communication tool and provides the readings and liturgy for the main Sunday service. It is also circulated electronically each week through our e-news.

E-news

To complement the weekly Notice Sheet, we have also developed an online e-news system. This enables us to circulate the Notice Sheet ahead of each Sunday and to include a range of articles, updates, and opportunities for people to engage with news and events in the life of the church.

The e-news is currently sent to around **500 email recipients**.

IT System

During 2025 we installed a new IT system, upgrading all church email addresses to ensure they comply with current **data protection requirements and GDPR regulations**. This has helped strengthen the security of our communications and improve how we manage church information digitally.

The new system also provides a more consistent and professional approach to email communication across the church, supporting both staff and volunteers in their work.

Website

Our website continues to be an important resource for people seeking information about St Nick's. It provides up-to-date details about our services, life events, and the many activities and opportunities the church offers. During 2025, traffic to the website increased by **50%**, showing that more people are using it to connect with the life of the church.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a key part of our life together, both within the congregation and in the wider community.

Through both formal and informal means, St Nicholas responds to the needs of our members and to human need more broadly in a variety of ways.

- Pastoral visits, including the taking of Holy Communion to the housebound and those in hospital or hospice care.
- Prayer ministry / intercessions / prayer lists.
- Informal visits by church members to other members.
- Taking services in local nursing homes and sheltered accommodation / retirement apartments.
- Sending monthly cards to those on our prayers lists, ensuring they know we pray for them regularly and offering opportunities to receive a visit and/or communion.
- Responding to requests from the community, especially those new to the area.
- Preparing the dying for their death.
- One-to-one bereavement support.
- Offering pastoral liturgies in response to need, including the Service of Light Memorial Service.
- Working with Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley to grow our Befriending Service for the lonely and isolated.
- The Community Soup lunch (2nd Thursday of the month in the Village Hall).

Mission and Evangelism and outreach

This includes:

- Mission / Giving to other charities, including WarChild, MANUP?, Two's Company Befriending, Bromley Brough Foodbank, Welcare
- Continued Support for Christian Aid and The Salvation Army.

In 2025, Rev'd Rachel was privileged to be invited to become a **Trustee of Welcare**. Welcare is a Christian charity that supports children and families facing challenges such as poverty, family breakdown, and social isolation. Through practical support, family mentoring, and early intervention work, Welcare seeks to strengthen families and improve outcomes for children across the communities it serves. Rachel's involvement as a trustee strengthens the links between St Nicholas and the wider work of supporting vulnerable families, reflecting our shared commitment to care for those in need and to serve the community.

REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Baptism Helpers

Overseen by Sarah Arnheim

Group Aims To have as many baptisms and welcome new members into the St Nick's family.

A busy year with over 30 Baptisms of babies, children and adults.

It is always a great privilege to help on these happy occasions.

I would like to thank the team of volunteers for their continued support and to thank those new volunteers for joining our team.



Bellringers

Overseen by Maralyn Evans and Bernadette Katchoff

Meets Sunday service ringing (when possible with the help of district members)
Monthly Wednesday evening practice



Group Aims Support ringing for services and special events with main bells, Ellacombe chimes and handbells

- Sunday service ringing when district members were able to support
- Monthly practice night ringing for all levels has been well attended- our thanks to district members Peter, Nigel and Colin for their teaching support
- Rang for 8 weddings and 1 funeral with the help of district members
- Rang for Rev'd Rachel's Collation to be Rector, on Saturday, 29 March 2025

Tenor: 15–2–19 in E

1260 Grandsire Triples (Composed by Julian O Howes)

1. Becca C Hardy
2. David Holdridge
3. Svetlana Sokolova
4. Graham Long
5. Peter D Oates
6. Nigel Pointer (C)
7. Colin J E Wyld
8. Peter A Norwood

Our congratulations to Stephanie, one of our new recruits, for ringing the tenor bell in a quarter peal at St Mary Cray in October

- Our other two learners continue to improve
- Handbell practice with Junior Church thanks to Bernadette

Hosted well attended Christmas District Social with excellent ringing and Refreshments provided by Bernadette and team.

Visit by the Clerical Guild of Ringers in October

Hopes and aspirations for the future

Sunday service ringing will become more frequent as our learners continue to improve and to continue to provide ringing for special events.

CHLOE

“CHLOE”
(Chislehurst Ladies Over Eighteen)



Overseen by Muriel Partridge and Shelia Brittain

Meets Once a month

Group Aims To encourage friendship and fellowship amongst the ladies in the congregation of St Nicholas Church.

CHLOE is a social group of ladies meeting in different houses once a month in the afternoon with the aim of having fun and time to chat.

Achievements this year An interesting programme of events

Hopes and Aspirations for the future To continue producing a varied programme and to attract new members.

Look out for notices each month in eNews!
Please come along and join in!



Events Team

Overseen by Justine Grant

Aspirations Continue to assist with the increasing social activities of the Church. More people to join the team!

Monthly All Age Breakfast Service – Breakfast prepared and served each month.

Monthly Soup Lunch – Homemade soup and cake

Pancake and Praise – Tuesday 4 March – Pancakes in the hall after the service in the Church

Rachel's Installation Service – Sunday 29 March – Finger buffet in the hall after the service

Maundy Thursday Supper – Thursday 17 April – Shared meal with the Passover liturgy

Twelve Hour Prayer Event – Friday 27 June – Tea and cake served in the Church

Admitting to Holy Communion Service – Sunday 29 June – Tea and cake served in the Hall after the service followed by a ‘bring your own’ picnic with bouncy castle!

Parish Lunch with Alan and Kathleen – Sunday 28 September – Shared lunch at the Hall

Christmas Fair – Saturday 29 November – Our annual fair raising funds for our four chosen charities

Advent Carol Service – Sunday 7 December – Mulled wine and mince pies served in Church after the service

Carol Service – Sunday 21 December - Mulled wine and mince pies served in Church after the service

Hopes and aspirations for the future

Continue to assist with the increasing social activities of the Church. More people to join the team!



Churches Together in Chislehurst & Bickley

Overseen By: Edmund Glynn, Chair – Hope Church
(until June)
Rev Rachel Curley, Chair – St Nicholas (from
June)

Meets Spring and Autumn meetings Summer AGM



Group Aims Churches Together consists of nine churches, of which St Nicholas is one. As representatives of all the 9 churches in the area, we aim to show those in Chislehurst and Bickley that our faith is relevant and active, and to share our faith with the people in our community.

Highlights of our year

Supported the Two's Company befriending project: appointed a new project lead, Nicola Maguire sought new sources of funding advertised widely for additional volunteers.

Debt advisory service - After many years our local service closed, but we have established links with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Bromley to seek new ways of supporting those in debt.

At our AGM, we elected Rev Rachel Curley as our Chair for the next two years.

Held a Service for Christian Unity at Christ Church in July. The guest speaker was Martin Pointing from CAP.

Supported the World Day of Prayer at St Mary's Church. The service had been prepared by Christian women of the Cook Islands. Stories of individual women's experiences were told and the theme was 'Informed Prayer and Prayerful action'.

Organised the Good Friday Walk of Witness along Chislehurst High Street, giving out hot cross buns and holding a short service in the Garden Room.

Introduced a new Fellowship service at St. Nicholas Church in October.

Improved our social media presence via Facebook, X and setting up CTCB website.

In December we:

- o gave out our annual Christmas cards
- o sang carols at Chislehurst and Bickley stations
- o had a beautifully decorated tree at the Christmas tree festival at the Methodist church.

Chislehurst Youth for Christ (CYFC) - Brigitte Sewell (CEO) advised she will be standing down from her role in the New Year.

- CHYC has youth teams providing mentoring and group sessions in some local secondary schools
- Held a Youth Worship night in July run by young people.

From St Nicholas: Barbara Adie continues as secretary and Philippa Robinson as Treasurer. Frances Follin has responsibility for social media posts. Rev Rachel manages the website.



St Nicholas Churchyard

Michaela Davies and Barbara Russell.

Our role on the PCC is to provide information about those who are buried in the churchyard, but mainly about ensuring that the graves themselves are tended and are in a good state of repair.

We are fortunate to have many fascinating and in some instances distinguished people buried within the churchyard of Saint Nicholas. Some of these include William Willett Daylight Saving, Sir Malcolm Campbell Landspeed Record Holder, Lord Arthur Hay who was the President of the British Zoological Society as well as renowned Ornithologist and his wife Lady Helena Hay, who was a Lady in waiting to Queen Victoria's children; Sir Thomas Firbank a Welsh lawyer and Member of Parliament, 19th century renowned English Rugby player Louis Birkett.

Whilst we have many interesting graves, it's also important to note that there are memorials to very influential families and organisations within the church itself, such as missionaries, painters, aristocratic families and soldiers who fought and died in both world wars.

Over the years there has been much interest in our graveyard incumbents, so much so that we are fortunate to have a list of people who attend the graves on a voluntary basis.

Our aspirations for the future are that we can continue to encourage people to engage with their local history in this unique way. We would like to think that the descendants of those buried to Saint Nicholas would be proud that we continue to care for their ancestors and that they have not been forgotten.

We also hope to secure funding to repair any graves that need it.

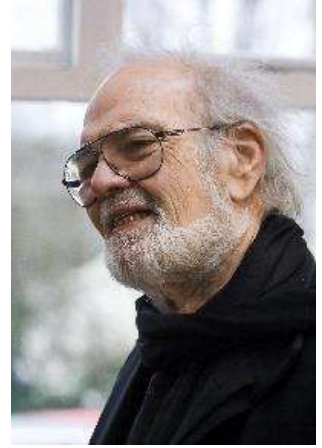
Church Choir

Overseen by Michael Bell FRCO

Rehearsals are on Thursdays (7.30 – 9pm) in the vestry (and/or choir stalls)

NEW RECRUITS are urgently welcome in all voices.

Group Aims To contribute, musically, to the enhancement of worship for the praise and glory of God.



The Church Choir sings at Sunday services at 9.30am on the second, fourth and fifth Sunday of each month. On the first Sunday of the month the Church Choir sings at 6.00pm Choral Evensong. On the third Sunday of each month the Church Choir sings at 11.15am Choral Matins. Additional services on various week days (at 6pm usually) are on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Saturday and Ascension. A number of Weddings and Funeral Services also call upon the Choir.

It has been possible to field a four-part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) choir throughout the year. Our members are loyal, talented, experienced and conscientious singers, able together to sustain a high standard and a wide repertoire of music ranging from the effectively simple to the undeniably challenging.

My thanks yet again are due to them for maintaining this so apparently cheerfully throughout the year.



Churchyard Volunteers
Overseen by Alex Roeder

Second Saturday of the month. (weather & numbers dependent). 9am-12 roughly

Achievements this year:

Managed to keep the churchyard looking good.

Gained more volunteers.

2 DoE volunteers

Raise the crowns of various trees to improve visibility across the churchyard.



LOOKING AHEAD

We hope to get some more volunteers! And we all aspire to keeping the churchyard as neat and viable as possible for the future.



Electoral Roll

Overseen by Giles Cordwell

To maintain an accurate record of Church membership and to encourage all regular worshippers to join the Electoral Roll.



It was an exciting year for the Electoral Roll, as this was the year we had to throw away the existing roll and create a new one from scratch.

This is something that has to be done every six years, to ensure that people who no longer attend are removed from our records.

We managed a pretty seamless transition from the old roll to the new, though our numbers dropped (as expected for the reasons given above) from 283 to 240 at the end of 2025.

This number will probably gradually climb over the next few years until the next time that we start again in 2031.

Community Soup Lunch

Overseen by Rev Rachel Curley
Rota co-ordinator: Barbara Adie



Meets Monthly in the Village Hall
12.45pm for 1.00pm every second Thursday (not August)

Group Aims To provide an opportunity for members of the church and wider community to meet socially, find companionship and chat over a shared lunch; to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

Achievements this year

The soup lunches have been running for four years now. They run smoothly, each volunteer team is familiar with the routine and our guests know what to expect. There is a lovely atmosphere and we provide a very welcome opportunity to meet and socialise in comfort, to relax and chat.

We continue to be grateful to Justine Grant for making the delicious soup and cakes required each month, feeding between 30- 40 guests. The lunches start with Grace and finish with After Eight / Celebration chocolates.

Unfortunately, January's lunch had to be cancelled at short notice due to the ice in the hall car park – we couldn't risk our guests taking a tumble. At Easter time, we added extra gifts of chocolate eggs for our guests to take home. Christmas lunch, which included crackers and mince pies, finished, with the children from St. Nicholas Primary coming to sing their winter themed songs and carols. It really was the highlight of the year.

We have to thank our team of 16 volunteers for generously giving their time to support these lunches. We couldn't do it without them!

Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

Soup lunches are a valued community event and we are hoping to encourage increasing numbers from the wider community to join us.



Deanery Synod Report Submitted By: Diane Moorman

The Area Dean and Synod Chair is Rev'd Andrew McClellan (Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Bromley).

The Deanery Synod is a meeting of Clergy and Laity from each PCC within the Deanery. We meet 3 times a year.

St Nicholas, Chislehurst is one of 13 churches in the Bromley Deanery within the Archdeaconry of Bromley and Bexley and the Diocese of Rochester. The representatives from St Nicholas are Diane Moorman, Peter Ridge, and Charlie Clark, who has since had to resign due to work and family commitments.

Monday 10/3/25 @ Christ Church, Chislehurst.

Bishop Jonathan gave a talk to joint Bromley and Beckenham Deanery Synods on the vision and strategy of the Diocese on change, serve and grow. He also spoke about a renewed Deanery website that would be launched, each parish would be included in it.

Wednesday 2/7/25 @ St Peter & St Paul, Bromley.

The Area Dean congratulated our three Deanery Curates Becky Willoughby, Laura Polaine, Tim Aldread, all were ordained to the Presbyterate (priest) on the 28/6/25.

Cath Johnston announced her intention to step down as lay chair. She was thanked for her many years of service, was presented with a thank you card and flowers.

The Synod was also reminded that there is a vacancy for secretary as well.

Thursday 6/11/25 @ St Nicholas, Chislehurst.

Becky Chantry, our newly elected lay chair, sent her apologies. In her absence she was congratulated by the Area Dean for taking on the role.

Representatives from three parishes were invited to share stories of mission around the Deanery.

St Nicholas: Rev'd Rachel shared her experience of young people engaging with the church following last year's confirmation service.

St George's, Bickley: Vicar Henry Everett talked about his enquirers' group, but unfortunately hardly anyone came. Christ Church, Bromley: Lay member Angela outlined their forthcoming mission week, with speaker Glen Scrivener.

Rev'd Rachel gave an update on the Deanery website which is now live at www.bromleydeanery.com/. We were encouraged to look up the site. Well done Rachel for setting this site up.

This was followed by small group discussions on working with volunteers.

Health and Safety

Overseen by John Bernays – Health and Safety Officer

Taking care of the spiritual welfare of our church family is obviously a primary concern here at St Nicholas. However, it is also important to protect the physical safety and welfare of this family, and other members of the wider community, as they use our church building, village hall and churchyard. We prepare a regular Health and Safety Risk Assessment highlighting issues which need urgent or longer-term attention, as well as working reactively to problems as they occur.



We are very fortunate that our church is solvent enough to be able to afford to keep our buildings and grounds in good repair. Generally, most issues can be dealt with by and through the PCC without the need to bother the wider congregation. However, there are a few matters of interest which do warrant reporting here.

Our risk assessment noted that much of the floor covering in the church was well passed its prime and, in many places, poses a significant trip hazard, particularly to our children and older, less-able folk. To date, some new coir matting has been installed and the old loose mat removed at the south door, but we are currently gathering information and quotations for a complete recarpet.

We are also aware that the automatic south entrance door can seem to have a mind of its own and we are seeking a solution to ensure safer operation.

In the hall, there have been a couple of very noticeable Health and Safety driven improvements. The replacement of the main entrance doors has made a huge difference, enhancing security, aesthetics and ease of operation. The refresh of the interior of the hall was precipitated by the worsening hazard of the holes in the floor. Further professional investigation also revealed a potential asbestos hazard, so the new flooring was a timely and necessary solution. The result is much-improved space for church activities and for our many community hall hires.

It is also time to review our Fire Safety Policy, including procedures for evacuation in the event of fire or other emergency. We are delighted that the Sidcup Fire Brigade is going to help us produce and maintain a robust policy.

Here's to a healthy and safe year ahead!

Finance Committee

Overseen by Sarah Cordwell
Group Aims To help with the management of church finances



Management of the church's finances is an ongoing responsibility, and we are extremely grateful for the work of our Treasurer, Jo Papa, whose careful oversight of the church's finances greatly supports and eases the work of the PCC.

We are fortunate that we manage to cover our operating costs year on year. We started 2025 expecting a deficit, but through prudent spending and planning we have ended the year with a small surplus. We are very grateful to all those who contribute either through planned giving (Stewardship) or by "cash" giving, using the various card machine payments or actually giving cash when the plate is handed round.

Through this generosity we are able to maintain our Parish Share to the Diocese, ensure that the Church is heated (I know it feels cold, but we do heat it!), we are able to put money away to continue the important maintenance of our cherished Church, and we are able to maintain our "away giving" to our nominated charities through the on-going success of the Christmas Fair, the Tableau and the Christingle Service. In fact, in 2025, the Tableau raised the 2nd ever highest amount of money – we are truly blessed to have wonderful volunteers who organise these events and make them so successful and part of the life of the local community.

However, we need to be honest and transparent with regards our finances. Whilst they might on the surface look reasonably healthy, our regular giving (Stewardship) for various reasons, has dropped by 11% since 2022 when it was a particularly good year. Cash giving is up slightly, but not having the regular giving makes it hard to budget and plan as we can't be sure what monies we might receive.

Our costs continue to rise, but like all good "households", we continue to manage our expenditure, keeping things going, and saving costs where we can. We had a small saving in 2025 on our parish expenditure due to a change in one of the utility providers. We need to ensure we maintain our church to keep it "fit for purpose", and we don't get any money/support from the Church of England, so we rely on you - our Parishioners - to support us with your generous giving. If you feel you can increase your Stewardship (or start to give regularly) please do consider this option.

We are in a very lucky position that we are able to do what we need to maintain the life of the Church, but there is so much more would like to be able to do, and we need to continue to plan for future maintenance programmes.

Thank you for your financial support of the Church – without you we wouldn't be in the position we are in today.

If you can contribute to church or indeed if you already do and feel able to increase your giving, please scan the QR code for more details or visit the church website giving page at;
www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk/giving



Junior Church

Overseen by Sarah Armstrong and
Kate Murdock-Smith

Meets Twice a month (2nd and 4th Sunday)



Over the past year, the Junior Church group has continued to grow in numbers, creativity, and sense of belonging within the wider church community. One of our most joyful highlights was taking part in the Nativity service at Christmas. The young people embraced their roles with enthusiasm, helping to retell the Christmas story in a simple and engaging way. Their willingness to participate, learn lines, and support one another made the service both memorable and uplifting for the whole congregation.

Another significant milestone was contributing to Reverend Rachel's Installation Service. Being included in such an important occasion helped the children and young people feel valued as active members of the church family. Their involvement demonstrated not only their commitment but also the vital role that Junior Church plays in the life of the parish. It was a proud moment to see them represent the future of the church with such positivity and reverence.

Throughout the year, the group has also built stronger relationships, encouraging friendship, kindness, and a deeper understanding of faith through shared activities, songs, crafts, discussions, and worship.

Hopes and Aspirations for the Future

Looking ahead, we hope to continue building on this strong foundation by encouraging even greater involvement of our young people in regular church services. This could include opportunities such as leading prayers, reading lessons, helping with music, or taking part in special services, allowing them to feel more confident and connected in their faith journey.

We also aspire to grow Junior Church in both numbers and diversity, welcoming new children and families into our community. By creating a warm, inclusive, and engaging environment, we aim to make Junior Church a place where every child feels valued, supported, and excited to learn.

In addition, we hope to expand the range of activities we offer, combining faith-based learning with creativity, games, and opportunities for reflection so that sessions remain enjoyable and meaningful for all age groups. Strengthening links between

Junior Church and the wider congregation will remain a priority, helping to foster a true sense of unity across all generations.

Ultimately, our vision is to nurture young people in their faith, helping them grow in confidence, compassion, and understanding, while inspiring them to play an active role in the life of the church now and in the future.



Knitting Group - Tuesday's 10.30-12.00 in the Bulls Head.

Overseen by Barbara Adie and Carole Gray

Group Aims Encouraging those who would like to join the group to come and knit and chat. Those that want to can knit for a range of different projects, supporting both church and community.



With 28 regular members this year, the knitting group continues to grow. When asked what the knitting group meant to them, these were some of the replies:

‘Friendship and motivation’ ‘Learning new skills’

‘Lovely support network’ ‘Alleviated my mental health issues’

‘Since my stroke, I am learning to knit again’

‘Jolly good company and sense of community’

‘Exchanging ideas and caring for each other’

‘It’s like a therapy session’ ‘Getting to know new people and learn new skills’

‘It means everything; company, conversation, and friendship – so important when you are living on your own’

Knitting with a purpose and raising money for good causes’

Encouragement to take on new projects and having people to chat to’

I don’t feel so lonely, as I spend much of the time on my own’

I love crafting and making things for the Christmas Fair – it got me back to church!’

Four members of the group went to the ‘Big Knit’ at Rochester Cathedral in October. This event supports ‘Making Miracles’, The Birth Trauma and Baby Bereavement Care Charity.

The group love to meet socially too. We met at Barbara’s in August for lunch (despite the rain), then in the village hall in October. As usual we had our annual Christmas lunch at the Bull, celebrating the success of the Christmas Sale.

As always, we are very grateful to the management and staff at The Bull, who provide self-service coffee and don’t mind us moving their furniture around, as we extend the group along the bar. In thanks we provided 12 knitted / crafted Christmas beer pump covers for the bars again this year.

The knitting group is open to all members of the community and continues to provide a warm welcome to newcomers, so pop in one Tuesday morning 10.30-12.00 - join us for a chat and release your creative abilities! Donations of wool are always gratefully received.



✠

Memorial Garden

Overseen by Sue Thorogood

We have continued to care for the Memorial Garden throughout the last year and endeavour to keep it to a high standard. It does come with some challenges though. The drought last summer being one of them and then the huge amount of leaves that fall on it during the autumn and winter.



We would really value extra help in clearing these. We would also appreciate it if those who left floral tributes and pot plants could clear them away when they die rather than leave it to the few volunteers.

The Memorial Garden is a special place in the Churchyard and it is a privilege to care for it. If anyone would like to help I would be pleased to hear from them.

✠

Mothers' Union

Overseen by Sally Hayhow and Dorothy Baldwin
Meets On the morning of the third Thursday every month (except August)
Group Aims To share friendship and fellowship

Our M.U. branch meets at 10.30am on the 3rd Thursday of the month in The Bull where we are always made to feel welcome.

The programme for the meetings is varied and of necessity very flexible as so often the needs and contributions of those present might take precedence over the topics planned in advance. This complies perfectly with the aims and values set out 150 years ago by Mary Sumner our founder, which were to promote marriage and family life through prayer and practical support. M.U. members find friendship through shared faith and purpose where friendships grow through meeting together, church worship and mutual care.

The annual Global Wave of Prayer reflects our commitment to each other and to the places where we live and work and here in the diocese of Rochester this will take place in Church during the week of 12-18th July.

Our branch has around 20 members and meetings are well attended and always enjoyable.

Friendship is at the heart of the M.U., it sustains, encourages and reminds us that no-one walks this journey alone. Some of our members have moved away during the year. We shall miss them and wish them well and will keep in touch.

During the year we have enjoyed hearing about both The Primrose Centre and Chartwell from two members who work as volunteers there. Rachel led our Advent Meditation in November and will enrol 3 new members at a corporate communion service in the near future. We went for lunch in The Bull after last year's enrolment service and hopefully this arrangement will long continue. Summer Supper, another tradition started many years ago was a highlight in July where we raised a considerable amount for the Summer of Hope Appeal.

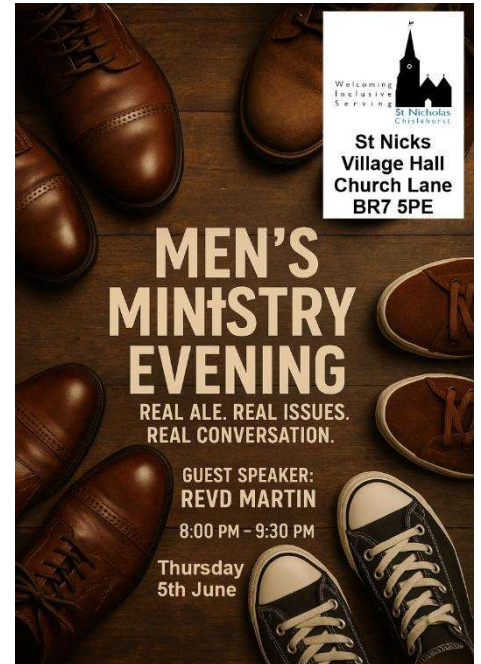


Men's Ministry

Overseen by Rev'd Rachel and John Grant

As you know, men's mental health is something very close to my heart, and it is the reason I have launched our new men's ministry group.

I am grateful to my friend, Revd Martin, for leading the first session and helping us begin to explore what this could become. I am really looking forward to developing this further and seeing it grow in 2026.



Parish Administrator

Parish Office, Mon-Fri, 9am – 1pm.

Report submitted by Selina Lindsey

This year has been extremely busy for Rachel and the office, baptisms, funerals, hall hire have been more than in previous years. The hall and office had a face-lift, which has made showing the hall to prospective hirers a lot easier as it is now a lot brighter and fresher.



The general comments are that it is much better. The photocopier was upgraded, after 5+ years the old one was obsolete.

I look forward to another busy year as the administrator and to work alongside and support the Rector as much as I can.



RIDE AND STRIDE – 13th September 2025

Once again St Nicks continued to support this charity event, whereby 50% of sponsorship money goes to the church or chapel chosen by the participant and the remaining 50% plus any gift aid, goes into a fund administered by the Friends of Kent Churches.



All of this fund is distributed in grants to Kent churches for purposes of restoration and repair.

This year Peter Appleby and myself raised just over £1100 and Nicholas has benefited from receiving 50% of that money, so thank you to everyone who sponsored us.

The event is open to everyone. Participants obtain sponsorship for every church on a list of about 7-800 churches they manage to visit on foot, horse or bicycle between 1000hrs and 1800hrs on the second Saturday in September every year.

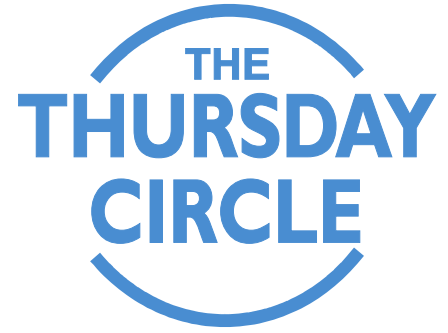
Some less agile can still gain sponsorship by acting as ‘welcomers’ to our incoming visitors.

In 2026, please do sign up and join in, it’s a great way to get some fresh air, visit local churches and to raise money for our church.

Rev’d Rachel and Peter Appleby.

The Thursday Circle

Overseen by June Hurn and Carol Gray



At the beginning of the year, Rachel invited us to look into bringing back the old Wednesday Circle, which had been run for many years by Shirley Strong.

We were delighted to restart it, now with the new name **Thursday Circle**.

The Thursday Circle meets on the last Thursday of the month at 11am at Hawkswing (June's home).

In September we welcomed Sue Ward who told about the Shoeboxes which we sent to Children in Distress in Romania and how much they were appreciated by children and old people there.

In October, Peter Gray, Carol's brother from Australia, gave us a fascinating talk about Pink Diamonds and how to write a thriller.

In November, The Reverend Canon Gordon Oliver's talk "Do you know what time it is" gave us much food for thought before Advent.

There are some very interesting speakers lined up for 2026 as you will see in Enews and everyone is welcome to join us at Hawkswing.

PCC Secretary's Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) co-operates with Rev'd Rachel to promote the whole mission of the Church in the parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership and roles

The number of members on the PCC is governed by the size of our Electoral Roll. As the Roll was completely renewed in 2025 (see report on page 45) our PCC was reduced in size.

Number of PCC members 2024, plus Rev'd Rachel in each case:

- January to April = 20
- May to December = 17

Each member has a specific role within the PCC. Membership at the end of 2025 was:

Lloyd Anderson	Property Committee
John Bernays	Health and Safety
Sue Brandon	Safeguarding
Charlie Clark	Deanery Synod (resigned from PCC, November 2025)
Michaela Davies	Graveyard
Annie Hanifin	Churchwarden
John Grant	Churchwarden
Justine Grant	Events
Carole Gray	Thursday Circle
Annie Hanifin	Churchwarden
Adrian Kerr	Men's Ministry (co-opted to PCC, November 2025)
Diane Moorman	Deanery Synod
Joanne Papa	Treasurer
Peter Ridge	Deanery Synod
Barbara Russell	Graveyard
Nicola Smith	PCC Secretary
Jennifer Wilson	Rector's Vestry Steward
Mark Wilson	Property Committee
Philip Wilson	Deputy Verger

Sub-Groups

Sub-groups carry out specific functions on the PCC's behalf and report to PCC meetings:

- Standing Committee - this has power to transact PCC business between its meetings.
- Finance Committee
- Property Committee
- Safeguarding Team
- Hall Development Team
- Village Hall Team

PCC Meetings during 2025

The full PCC met 5 times during 2025 (attendance is shown in brackets):

- 3 February (62%)
- 23 June(83%)
- 14 July (61%)
- 22 September (56%)
- 24 November (79%)

11 May - Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

PCC minutes are displayed in the children's corner in church, after they have been approved and signed.

Nicola Smith, PCC Secretary



Property Committee

Overseen by Bernadette Katchoff

The Property Team works closely with the Rector to carry out a planned schedule of maintenance, repairs, and essential works, helping to ensure that our buildings remain safe, well cared for, and fit for purpose. This work also supports Rev'd Rachel's vision plan, preserving our buildings for the future and enabling them to serve both the church and the wider community.

Achievements this year

- Preparing Southbeech for rental and securing tenants.
- Cleaning of the Sanctuary pavement.
- Undertaking essential works to redecorate existing Village Hall to ensure it operates in a safe and effective way; making it more appealing for hire whilst the new village hall is developed via a separate committee. Works included redecoration throughout, a new floor and entrance door.

Hopes and aspirations for the future

- St Nicholas is a church belonging to us all. It is important therefore, to maximise involvement of the congregation with suitable skills to undertake maintenance tasks that do not require an insured contractor.
- The regular maintenance and stewardship of the church buildings is of great importance, as it provides a fabric and focal point of gathering for the congregation, further enhancing our work and ministry mission.
- Explore lower carbon heating options for the Church.

Report submitted by Bernadette Katchoff & John Grant

This report gives an overview of the condition, maintenance requirements and necessary repairs or improvements for the church and other buildings in our care. At the start of the year, Charlie Clarke was the temporary Chair of the committee. Charlie stood down mid-term, and the Wardens took temporary charge. We thank Charlie for his input and care. A new chairperson was appointed in September 2025 – Bernadette Katchoff.

Bernadette has brought a fresh perspective to the committee, helping to organise and simplify the approach to undertaking regular planned and unplanned maintenance. As a committee, we are transitioning many of the essential repairs and reactive maintenance to verified and insured tradespeople. This gives us the added reliability of work being warranted as well as ensuring health and safety of any workforce undertaking activities.

The Village Hall maintenance was headed by Steve Ripley, and this is covered in a separate report.

Summary key points:

The Church

- The annual maintenance rota has been updated and maintained, attending to various repairs such as organ tuning and servicing, boiler checks, clock and bells servicing.
- We have implemented a '*Contractors' Sign-in Book*' to record attendance and activity in church.
- The fire risk assessment was reviewed by a committee member. The annual fire safety check is due as a priority, to be undertaken in 2026. The next fire extinguisher checks are due in 2028.
- The organ has had extensive maintenance undertaken this year and is in good condition considering its age.
- Attention is still required to the degradation of external masonry to the SW buttress –a technical specification for tendering to stonemasons has been received and we await receipt of relevant tenders.
- The installation of a handrail to the pulpit steps has been put on hold, pending a review of use and potential faculty.
- The external floodlighting in the churchyard has been restored; there have been problems with setting timers correctly for seasonal lighting variations.
- Access to the belfry remains an action.
- The uncovered Sanctuary pavement was cleaned by a stone mason but not fully restored as this requires a Faculty and further funding. This is an ongoing action for the property team which has been rescheduled for 2026.
- An informal review of the internal lighting took place with proposals to improve illumination to the choir, organ, nave, pulpit and lectern.
- There were numerous leaks to the church roof; a contractor was used to resolve these and a useful drone video showing the condition of the roof was provided.
- The Quinquennial inspection took place in August 2025 but there has been prolonged delay in receiving the report despite having been chased repeatedly. This remains outstanding at time of writing report.

Churchyard

- The Churchyard team continue to provide essential maintenance alongside the regular contractor's work.
- The gardening team continue to provide essential monthly input to the general upkeep and maintenance of the grass, shrubs and trees.
- Path lighting deficits were reported between the south door and the lychgate. Proposals to install spotlights at the base of the Yew trees were declined in favour of reducing the height/breadth of Yews to improve existing daylight transfer and lamp-post illumination, to ease access. This work was recently completed.

Southbeech

- Numerous maintenance tasks were undertaken in preparation for rental.
- New tenants moved in on 01/07/26 with a one-year tenancy.
- JDM were engaged on a Property Management contract.
- Quotes for replacement of upstairs rear sealed double glazing units, resulted in the recommendation to replace the windows, since repair required scaffolding which is cost prohibitive. Condition of the windows will be reviewed in 2026.

The Rectory

The Rectory is the responsibility of the Diocese, as owner.

- Early in 2025, the property was prepared to be occupied by the new Rector.
- The property was repainted throughout and refreshed prior to occupation. The PCC elected to fund the replacement of carpets.

Special thanks go to Justine Grant, Steve Ripley, Charlie Clarke, Peter Appleby and Alex Roeder for their input and commitment to the ongoing needs of our important buildings and surroundings.

Safety and Compliance

We believe that all of the buildings in our care are in compliance with safety regulations, building codes and fire codes.

We will ensure that major tasks and those involving H&S risk are undertaken by skilled/trained contractors with appropriate public liability insurance and necessary certifications.

Environmental Considerations

We have considered environmental factors such as energy efficiency, sustainability and conservation measures in our maintenance activities.



The St Nicholas Safeguarding Committee

Susie Hemming-Clark	Parish Safeguarding Officer
Claire Palmer	Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer
Sally Hayhow	Safer Recruitment Lead
Susan Brandon	Safeguarding Administrator
Rev'd Rachel	Safeguarding Officer

Meeting Frequency

The Safeguarding Team meets every 6–10 weeks, depending on the needs of the parish. Additional communication takes place between meetings via Microsoft Teams and email.

Overview

The remit and responsibilities of the Safeguarding Team are broad and often wider than many realise. As our congregation grows, so too does the number of people who require our care, attention, and protection.

As an inclusive church, we must ensure that all ministries, gatherings, and activities are delivered safely.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility: every member of the church community plays a vital role in maintaining a safe environment.

Achievements in 2025

Refreshed and updated risk assessments for all groups using the church hall.

Improved response times from the congregation regarding DBS checks and safeguarding training, alongside proactive monitoring of renewal dates.

Increased visibility of the Safeguarding Team through e-news communications and updated posters.

Regular safeguarding discussions and scenario reviews incorporated into every PCC meeting.

Members of the team delivered a safeguarding awareness talk to the Mothers' Union.

Hopes and Aspirations for 2026

To welcome a male representative from the congregation onto the Safeguarding Team to help reflect the full diversity of our parish community.

To ensure that every member of the congregation knows who the Safeguarding Team are and feels confident in approaching them.

To achieve 100% completion of training and DBS checks promptly, with minimal need for follow up.

To maintain a strong culture of safeguarding awareness, recognising that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

To continue promoting a healthy, transparent, and accountable church culture.

Welcoming Inclusive Serving
St Nicholas Chislehurst

Promoting
a safer
Safeguarding church
at St Nicholas, Chislehurst

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Susie Hemming-Clark
safeguarding1@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

DEPUTY PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Claire Palmer
safeguarding@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

LEAD RECRUITER
Sally Hayhow
safeguarding3@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATOR
Sue Brandon
safeguarding2@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER RECTOR
The Rev'd Rachel Curley
07814 750500
revrachelcurley@outlook.com

Susie, Claire and the team have the training and support to be resilient and confident regarding Safeguarding policy and practice.

If you or someone you are concerned about is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999. If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm, please contact one of our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers (office hours):

Lead Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Greg Barry - 07585 952174
greg.barry@rochester.anglican.org

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers
Caroline Smith - 07768 036590
caroline.smith@rochester.anglican.org

Anthony Glocking - 07825 315748
anthony.glocking@rochester.anglican.org

Need to call out of hours?
Please call Thirtyone: eight on **0303 003 11 11** who provide our out of hours support.

If there is immediate risk or danger, please contact the Police on **999**

St Nicholas' Church School – Rev'd Rachel



ST NICHOLAS
CE Primary School
Part of the Aquinas Trust

I continue to greatly value the time I spend in our schools, both when visiting them and when the school community joins us in church. The relationship between the church and the school continues to grow stronger, and it is a joy to see the ways in which faith, learning, and community life connect.

I serve as part of the ACC governing body, where I work alongside the Headteacher, Laura Williams, and the staff team, offering support and encouragement wherever I can. It is a real privilege to be involved in the life of the school and to help nurture the partnership between church and school.

Our **lunchtime class** continues to grow, with more pupils joining us each term. It is a wonderful opportunity to explore faith together in an informal and engaging way. I am especially grateful to **Kate Murdock-Smith**, who generously gives so much of her time to help lead the class each week alongside me.

Ministering within our school community, through collective worship, school services, and pastoral support remains a deeply rewarding part of my ministry, and I am grateful for the warm welcome I continue to receive from both staff and pupils.

Report by Laura Williams – Head teacher at St Nick's

I am pleased to say that our relationship with Rev'd Rachel and St Nicholas church has become even stronger this year.

Rev'd Rachel and I both felt that we could create improved connection by having more regular visits to the church. St Nicholas school children now visit the church at least once each half term for school worship. Within these services Rev'd Rachel is able to teach the children about various aspects of the church. A good example of this is when Rev'd Rachel taught the whole school about Baptism and showed us the font and talked about how it is used.

Rev'd Rachel continues to be a core part of our school community holding school Communion services, Christmas Carol service and the St Nicholas day service. She is a member of our Aquinas Advisory Council and continues to champion staff wellbeing.

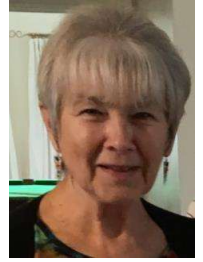
Rev'd Rachel has continued to run the Leading Lights lunchtime group, where pupils feel supported in their spiritual and emotional growth. These children have also become a wider part of the community under Rev'd Rachel's guidance when they performed their St Nicholas day story to the residents and staff of Prince George, Duke of Kent Home.

Third Sunday Singers

Overseen by Muriel Partridge

Meets Every third Saturday and Sunday in the month

Group Aims To sing during communion and to lead the congregation hymns on the third Sunday in the month



Achievements this year

Loyal attendance and commitment to helping worship.
Expanding our repertoire.
Singing at the Christmas Fair.

Hopes and Aspirations for the future

To:

- continue our service on the third Sundays
- keep extending our repertoire of music
- participate in special services if required
- attract new members.

If you love singing and would like to be part of the group, please speak to any of us.

There is no audition and previous choir experience is not necessary - just a desire to make a joyful noise!



Verger's Report

Rev'd Rachel and Philip Wilson

The role of the Verger at St Nicholas is a vital part of the life and worship of the church.

Peter has always helped to ensure that the 8am and 10am services run smoothly and reverently, preparing the church, assisting clergy during worship, and caring for the building and its practical needs.

Much of the work happens quietly behind the scenes, but it is essential in enabling our worship and the many events that take place in the church.

This year has seen something of a transition in the role. As many will know, Peter has had to take a step back from his duties after many years of dedicated and faithful service. We remain incredibly grateful to him for the care, commitment, and wisdom he has given to St Nicholas over so many years. The reason this transition has been so smooth is largely because Peter has left us so well prepared.

In fact, Peter first made contact with me even before I arrived at St Nicks, kindly inviting me for a tour of the church. I saw everything, from the basement to the door leading to the tower. I must confess that I still have not quite made it to the very top yet. Perhaps that could be a future fundraiser, although me abseiling down the side of the church might not be quite the spectacle people are hoping for. But I digress.

Peter has been instrumental in helping Philip transition into the role of Verger, and his guidance and encouragement have made that process much smoother. Even when not physically present, Peter continues to support us in ways that make my life, and the life of the church, much easier.

We remain deeply thankful for Peter's many years of service and for the way he has helped ensure that the role of Verger at St Nicholas continues to flourish in this new chapter.



Village Hall team

Overseen by: Steve Ripley

Aims: To keep the Village Hall premises running, safe, and used as much as possible, while a replacement is being prepared.

The monthly All Age Breakfast Service, held in the Hall, is particularly successful.

Several improvements were introduced to make the Hall more attractive to hirers which included; Internal redecoration, and a new floor in the main hall / replacement of the main entrance doors and upgrading the HIVE heating control system with radiator valves. We thank the Rochester Diocese Net Zero Team for helping us with a grant for the doors and the HIVE valves.

We also held a big tidy up for the parking area and the garden - thanks to all who attended, and to Karen and Terry Baskett for the beautiful plants in the front garden. We look forward to repeating the tidy up in the Spring of 2026.

The Hall remained operational and open for use throughout the year, during which: we entered into a new cheaper contract for gas and electricity. Various repairs were made to lights, doors, plumbing, and sockets. We reviewed and updated our hire publicity, terms/conditions, and rates.

The large sycamore behind the sheds is unhealthy, we are still awaiting a decision on an appeal - removal approval having been turned down by the Council safety checks were made on the fire precautions, electrical appliances, emergency lighting, and the boiler. The hot water heater in the kitchen needs replacing.

The Hall and Church continue to be Emergency Rest Centre for Bromley Council, if required.



Rector's Vestry Steward - Jennifer Wilson

Over the past year a new role has started to take shape following conversations and ideas from Revd Rachel. She saw that there was a need for someone to help support communication in the vestry, and I have begun to take on this role.



At the moment it is still very much developing. The role hasn't been set out with a fixed list of responsibilities, but instead it is something that will grow over time as we see where help is most needed.

So far it has involved communicating with the choir and Michael, ensuring the noticeboards are up to date, and helping to keep the vestry tidy.

As time goes on we expect the role to develop further and become clearer as we learn what works best.

I'm grateful to Revd Rachel for seeing the need for this and for the encouragement to begin exploring how the role might develop.

It will take a bit of time to grow, but hopefully it will become a helpful part of supporting the life and ministry of the church.



Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council

of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst (the Church) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Zachary Ramsden

Zachary Ramsden FCA **Date : 24th March 2026**

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
63 Deakin Leas, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 2JT

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2025 £	2024 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Voluntary income	3(a)	120,693	1,483	-	122,176	109,140
Activities for generating funds	3(b)	43,863	4,000	-	47,863	40,156
Income from Church activities	3(c)	23,459	-	-	23,459	10,597
Income from investments	3(d)	3,659	-	10,207	13,866	14,218
Other income	3(e)	<u>19,124</u>	<u>1,847</u>	-	20,971	<u>15,263</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>210,798</u>	<u>7,330</u>	<u>10,207</u>	228,335	<u>189,374</u>
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>						
Church activities	4(a)	178,736	5,694	8,372	192,802	182,961
Exceptional costs	4(b)	-	1,188	-	1,188	5,885
Governance costs	4(c)	<u>802</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	802	657
Total resources expended		<u>179,538</u>	<u>6,882</u>	<u>8,372</u>	194,792	<u>189,503</u>
<u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES</u>		31,260	448	1,835	33,543	(129)
<u>NET (LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENTS</u>	7(b)	<u>(4,417)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,599)</u>	(21,016)	<u>21,742</u>
<u>GAINS ON HERITAGE ASSETS</u>	7(c)	<u>11,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	11,000	<u>-</u>
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</u>		37,843	448	(14,764)	23,527	21,613
<u>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</u>		<u>(1,416)</u>	<u>1,416</u>		-	-
Balances brought forward 1 January 2025 (2024)		<u>357,300</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>631,517</u>	987,732	<u>966,119</u>
<u>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</u>						
31 DECEMBER 2025 (2024)		<u>393,727</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>616,753</u>	1,011,259	<u>987,732</u>

The notes on pages 72 to 78 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	funds	funds	Funds	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£	£
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Tangible	7(a)	60,260	-	232,500	292,760	292,760
Investments	7(b)	226,168	-	374,731	600,899	<u>621,915</u>
Heritage Assets	7(c)	<u>11,000</u>	-	=	11,000	
		<u>297,428</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>607,231</u>	904,659	<u>914,675</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Debtors & prepayments	8	9,187	-	-	9,187	7,486
Short term deposits		49,740	779	9,522	60,041	53,339
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>55,422</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	55,422	<u>32,228</u>
		<u>114,349</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>9,522</u>	124,650	<u>93,053</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u> due within one year	9	<u>(18,050)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	(18,050)	<u>(19,996)</u>
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>		<u>96,299</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>9,522</u>	106,600	<u>73,057</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>		<u>393,727</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>616,753</u>	1,011,259	<u>987,732</u>
<u>FUNDS</u>						
<u>Unrestricted:</u>						
General		115,119	-	-	115,119	96,096
Designated:						
Church Repair Fund	11(a)	120,758	-	-	120,758	120,758
Church Hall Building	11(b)	60,260	-	-	60,260	60,260
Village Hall Fund	11(c)	96,223	-	-	96,223	80,186
Other		1,367	-	-	1,367	
<u>Restricted:</u>	14	-	779	-	779	(1,085)
<u>Endowment</u>	12	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>616,753</u>	616,753	<u>631,517</u>
		<u>393,727</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>616,753</u>	1,011,259	<u>987,732</u>

Approved by the PCC on 23rd March 2026 and signed on its behalf by :-



Rev'd Rachel Curley

The notes on pages 72 to 78 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS *For the year ended 31 December 2025*

1. CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTRATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 September 2009, with Registered No. 1131855. It is required to file its annual report and accounts with the Commission and must also send these to the Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP FRS102 (second edition). The policies are set out in full on page 39 of this report.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	2025 £	2024 £
(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	70,343	-	-	70,343	72,432
Tax recoverable	18,626	-	-	18,626	18,912
Collections at services	17,728	1,483	-	19,211	16,496
Donations/ Legacies	<u>13,996</u>	-	-	13,996	1,300
	<u>120,693</u>	<u>1,483</u>	-	122,176	109,140
(b) Activities for generating funds					
St Nicholas Fair	-	4,000	-	4,000	4,296
New Village Hall Projects	13,204	-	-	13,204	5,410
Church Hall hiring	<u>30,659</u>	-	-	30,659	30,450
	<u>43,863</u>	<u>4,000</u>	-	47,863	40,156
(c) Income from Church Activities					
Fees	20,882	-	-	20,882	8,167
Parish magazine	-	-	-	-	6
Social events	<u>2,577</u>	-	-	2,577	2,424
	<u>23,459</u>	-	-	23,459	10,597
(d) Income from investments					
Dividends & interest	<u>3,659</u>	-	<u>10,207</u>	13,866	14,218
	<u>3,659</u>	-	<u>10,207</u>	13,866	14,218
(e) Other incoming resources					
Curate Housing Grant	1,967	-	-	1,967	9,856
Southbeech Rental Income	11,309	-	-	11,309	-
LPOW VAT / Heat Grant	5,848	-	-	5,848	1,767
Sequestration Income	-	1,720	-	1,720	3,474
Flower income	-	127	-	127	166
	<u>19,124</u>	<u>1,847</u>	-	20,971	15,263
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>210,798</u>	<u>7,730</u>	<u>10,207</u>	228,335	189,374

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2025 £	2024 £
(a) Church activities					
Mission and charitable giving	3,434	5,566	-	9,000	9,083
Ministry:					
Parish Offer to Diocese	78,500	-	-	78,500	76,550
Secular charities	-	-	-	-	72
Clergy working expenses	2,157	-	-	2,157	2,098
Clergy housing costs	9,393	-	-	9,393	2,930
Church services & music	14,460	-	-	14,460	16,582
Church:					
Insurance	3,562	-	-	3,562	3,476
Utility costs	5,394	-	-	5,394	5,548
Repairs & maintenance	3,865	-	271	4,136	4,307
Major works	-	-	-	-	-
Southbeech costs	-	-	5,693	5,693	1,519
Churchyard upkeep	1,915	-	2,408	4,323	5,743
Education & Training	-	-	-	-	24
Church Hall running costs	30,030	-	-	30,030	20,257
New Church Hall Planning	4,796	-	-	4,796	11,461
Cost of social events	3,132	-	-	3,132	2,169
Administration	18,098	-	-	18,098	20,677
Flower Expenses	-	128	-	128	465
	<u>178,736</u>	<u>5,694</u>	<u>8,372</u>	<u>192,802</u>	<u>182,961</u>
(b) Exceptional costs					
Sequestration costs	-	1,188	-	1,188	5,885
(c) Governance costs					
Independent examination	600	-	-	600	460
Bank charges	202	-	-	202	197
	<u>802</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>802</u>	<u>657</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>179,538</u>	<u>6,882</u>	<u>8,372</u>	<u>194,792</u>	<u>189,503</u>

5. STAFF COSTS (included in the above figures) for the Administrator, the Hall Cleaner and the Organist/Choir master amount to £24,829 including £548 employers pension costs (2024 - £25,627 including £576 employer pension costs).

The stipends of the Rector and the Curate are paid by the diocese.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2025

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCC AND RELATED PARTIES

Note 4(a) shows the total of PCC payments to the Rector and Curate towards their working expenses and housing costs. The total stewardship income from members of the PCC in 2025 was £7,830 (2024-£9,363). "AlexThePainter", who is closely connected to one member of the PCC, was paid £5,363 (2024-£nil) for Decorating Services relating to The Village Hall , Rectory and Southbeech properties.

7. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible assets used by the PCC

Freehold land and buildings: Cost at 1 January 2025 and at 31 December 2025 **£292,760**
 The Curate's house at Southbeech, Old Perry Street, BR7 6PL was purchased in 2001 for £232,500.
 St Nicholas Village Hall was given to the PCC in 1921, mostly rebuilt in 1977 and extended in 1987.
 The total historic cost was £60,260. Neither sum is being depreciated.

(b) Investments – movements during the year: -

	£	Represented by shares in CBF Church of England Funds:	£
Market value on 1 January	621,915	Global Equities Investment Fund	76,687
Net loss on revaluation	(21,016)	Investment Fund (Equities)	524,212
	<u>600,899</u>		<u>600,899</u>

(c) Heritage Assets

It has recently been discovered that St Nicholas Chislehurst own a Flemish Close Helmet and a 16th Century European Sword . Both of these were from the tomb of Sir Edward Walsingham c.1549 and have been on loan to the Royal Armouries in Leeds since 1999. These assets are included in the accounts at the lower auction value of £11,000 but insured by the Royal Armouries at the higher auction price of £15,000 .

	2025	2024
	£	£
	<u>11,000</u>	-

8. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	4,479	2,186
Tax recoverable	4,292	4,764
VAT recoverable	416	536
	<u>9,187</u>	<u>7,486</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) *For the year ended 31 December 2025*

9. LIABILITIES due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Goods and services	10,563	10,358
Donations allocated out of 2025 (2024) income	7,487	8,553
Sequestration account deficit	=	<u>1,085</u>
	<u>18,050</u>	<u>19,996</u>

10. GIVING TO MISSIONS & CHARITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Two's Company	1,501	-
War Child	1,501	-
Bromley Borough Foodbank	1,501	-
MANUP?	1,501	1,838
St Nicholas Mens Mental Health Project	1,200	-
Wecare in Bromley	606	1,838
Salvation Army	606	579
Children's Society	271	43
Churches Together in Chislehurst & Bickley	200	150
Children in Distress	-	250
Whitechapel Mission	-	579
Compassion UK	-	1,838
Church Army, Marylebone Women's Hostel	-	1,838
Assistance to poorer parishes and other items	113	130
	9,000	9,083
Secular charities	=	<u>72</u>
Total	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,155</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2025

II. Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance £	Income in year £	Expenditure in year £	Heritage assets £	Inter Fund Transfers £	Investment Result £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted							
General	96,096	188,598	(174,742)	11,000	(1,416)	(4,417)	115,119
Designated							
Church Repair	120,758	-	-		-	-	120,758
Hall Building	60,260	-	-		-	-	60,260
New Village Hall	80,186	20,833	(4,796)		-	-	96,223
Other	-	1,367	-		-	-	1,367
Restricted							
Minor funds	863	127	(211)		-	-	779
Sequestration	(1,948)	1,720	(1,188)		1,416	-	-
Away Giving	-	5,483	(5,483)		-	-	-
Endowments	<u>631,517</u>	<u>10,207</u>	<u>(8,372)</u>		-	<u>(16,599)</u>	<u>616,753</u>
Totals	<u>987,732</u>	<u>228,335</u>	<u>(194,792)</u>	<u>11,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,016)</u>	<u>1,011,259</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Financial provision is being made via designated funds for future non-annual repairs and renewal.

Church Repair Fund - The Fund stood at £120,758 at the start and end of the year. No money has been transferred from General Fund in this financial year . The PCC makes regular deposits into diocesan accounts as recommended by the diocesan surveyor, for future quinquennial fabric repairs to the Church and the Curate's house. In the year to 31st December 2025 no money was spent on major repairs to the church. This leaves a balance of £120,758 in the fund at the end of the year.)

Church Hall - The hall is run on a self-financing basis to generate sufficient funds to meet any major work on the fabric of the Hall. The annual income and expenditure and the resultant financial surplus or deficit from its operations is accounted for within the General Fund Statement of Financial Activities. The designated fund represents the historic book value of the building which as such is an illiquid asset.

New Village Hall Fund – The fund stood at £80,186 at the start of the year . Donations totalling £7,629 for the Re-building were received in the year and £13,204 was generated from fundraising projects. A further £4,796 was spent on work towards the Planning Application. This leaves a balance of £96,223 in the fund at the end of the year.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2025

12. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Capital funds which the PCC has no power to expend (permanent), or which may be spent in certain circumstances (expendable). The income is available for specific purposes as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| (a) Churchyard fund - to maintain 29 graves in St Nicholas churchyard | } | Permanent endowments
market value
£92,567 |
| (b) Fabric Trust - for repairs to the church fabric | | |
| (c) Nussey Trust - for church maintenance | | |
| (d) Clergy House Trust - an expendable endowment. It holds the curate's house (see note 7(a), investments of £269,366 and short-term deposits £9,523 . The income arising is available to the PCC and the capital is available for ecclesiastical purposes in or near the parish under the oversight of the Diocese as custodian trustee. | | |
| (e) Hawes Trust - it is agreed that the capital may be invested in an accumulating fund, provided that the two-family graves are maintained. The capital may be used after May 2059 (Market value £12,797). | | |

CONNECTED CHARITIES

Monies handled by the St Nicholas branch of the Mother's Union are not included in these accounts.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

- The church holds a fund of £520 available to meet the objects of 'Chislehurst Relief in Need' (2024 - £603)
- In the year the Flower Fund had income of £127 and expenses of £128, leaving a balance of £259 (2024 - £260)
- St Nicholas was in an interregnum at the start of the year . The Sequestration Account had a balance of £(1,948) at 1st January 2025 . The Sequestration Account holds the fees for Weddings and Funerals that would normally be due to the parish less any expenses relating to visiting clergy and the upkeep of the Rectory. The interregnum came to an end on 29th March 2025 and the final balance on the Sequestration Account was £(1,416) . As the account is in deficit the PCC has to meet the cost and the balance has been transferred to the General Fund.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For the year ended 31 December 2025

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP FRS102 (second edition).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Fund Accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place. Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted, and the PCC may move any surplus to other general funds.

Resources expended

Donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with the s.10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Heritage assets

Heritage assets are held for their contribution to knowledge and culture. They are measured at valuation.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. The Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Charities Act 2011

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £5,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

A sneak peek into 2026



**St Nicholas Parish Office
The Village Hall
Church Lane
Chislehurst
BR7 5PE**

0208 467 0196



www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk



St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst



@stnickschislehurst

Accounts



Diocese of Rochester
called together



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Welcoming
Inclusive
Serving



The Parish Church of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

'An inclusive and welcoming community of faith seeking to know and share the love of God'

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

For Year Ended Dec '24



bringing **People & God** together
Parish Office • Village Hall • Church Lane • Chislehurst • BR7 5PE
www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk
0208 467 0196
stnicholaschislehurst@outlook.com



Diocese of Rochester
called together



Called to Grow
grow with resource



St Nicholas' Parish Church, Chislehurst
Registered Charity No. 1131855

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Rector – In Vacancy

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

John Grant (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

Licensed Ordained Minister

The Rev'd Rachel Curley (Curate)

Parish Office

St Nicholas Village Hall

Church Lane

Chislehurst BR7 5PE

Banks

Barclays Bank plc

and

CAF Bank Ltd

Independent Examiner

Christopher Archer FCA

Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd

BACKGROUND

St Nicholas' Church is situated within the London Borough of Bromley, and historically within the county of Kent. There has been a place of worship on this site for over a thousand years.

The current building dates back to the 15th century but was significantly enlarged in the 19th century in response to pressing need as well as perceived opportunities for growth and outreach.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this parish church has a powerful history connecting it to stories of exploration, invention, achievement, and devotion both to God and to people.

Today we are still committed to that ongoing journey of evolution and growth – it is a pilgrimage of faith, to which our built heritage stands witness. Upon the firm foundations of the past, we rededicate ourselves and our church (the building and the people) as a focus of inclusion, welcome, faith, and loving service.

The Parish of Chislehurst St Nicholas is part of the Bromley Deanery, in the Diocese of Rochester, in the Province of Canterbury, within the Church of England - a member church of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number: 1131855



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the maintenance of St Nicholas Church and Churchyard, Southbeech in Old Perry Street, and the Village Hall in Church Lane.

Rector: *In Vacancy*

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

John Grant (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

Curate

The Rev'd Rachel Curley

Priest with PTO

The Rev'd June Hurn (*until 28th February 2025*)

Licenced Lay Ministers

Theodora Chamberlain

Lynton Karmock-Golds

Reader

Peter Ridge

Members of the PCC:

NAME	Year of Office (Term of 3 years)	ELIGIBLE TO STAND FOR RE-ELECTION in 2025
John Bernays	3rd (ends at APCM 2025)	yes
Susan Brandon	3rd (ends at APCM 2025)	yes
Sabina Oakes	3rd (ends at APCM 2025)	yes
Sheila Brittain	3rd (ends at APCM 2025)	yes
Philip Wilson	2nd (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Jenifer Wilson	2nd (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Mark Wilson	2nd (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Lloyd Anderson	2nd (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Michaela Davies	2nd (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Barbara Russell	(ends at APCM 2027)	N/A
Justine Grant	(ends at APCM 2027)	N/A
Carole Grey	(ends at APCM 2027)	N/A
Sarah Arnheim	(ends at APCM 2027)	N/A
Joanne Papa	<i>Co-Opted as Treasurer</i>	

3 places up for election in 2025

There are up to a maximum of 3 places available for co-opted (1-year term) members:

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF PCC

Rev'd Rachel Curley – Curate

Churchwardens

serve ONE-year terms of office up to a maximum of SIX consecutive years:

Annie Hanifin

John Grant

Representatives on Bromley Deanery Synod

Peter Ridge (until 2025)

Charlie Clark (until 2025)

Diane Moorman (until 2026)

Aims and Purposes

St Nicholas' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, and in the case of a vacancy the Churchwardens, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Churchyard, and the Village Hall complex and grounds.

The Parish

The parish has a population of approximately 4000, across 1,500 households.

The parish also has a Church of England Primary School (St Nicholas), part of the Aquinas Trust Academy of which The Reverend Rachel Curley is a member of the AAC (Aquinas Advisory Council).

Risk Management

The PCC has budgetary disciplines in place to reduce financial risk and endeavours to identify other risks which may prejudice the work of the church. Insurance policies are maintained with Aviva to cover insurable risks, and their advice is followed to reduce risks. The PCC oversees the Safeguarding Policy for children and vulnerable adults. Arrangements have been put in place to carry out checks on people working with these groups, in line with Diocesan guidelines. Like all Church of England churches, safeguarding and safer recruitment are paramount. The PCC is committed to ensuring that our church and hall are safe places for all who use them. For more detailed information and guidance see the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, <https://www.rochester.anglican.org> and click on safeguarding. Produced by the National Safeguarding Team, it is a comprehensive guide, summarising the key areas a parish need to address with regards to safeguarding. All PCC members as well as all church leaders undertake the Safeguarding training appropriate to their level of responsibility and activity as set out in the House of Bishops Practice Guidance for Safeguarding Training. During the year we ensured that General Data Protection Regulations were followed in accordance with their introduction in 2018.

Our General Fund stands at £96,096 which approximates to our target of 50% of our average annual expenditure. The Church Repair Fund was increased to £120,758 (2023: £95,758) to help spread the costs of maintaining the church building over a five-year cycle. It is anticipated that after two years of no major works being carried out on the church, there will of necessity be some expenditure in the coming year.

The PCC notes the £21,742 gain on investments (2023: gain of £59,846) but is cognisant of the fact that investments rise and fall and are a long-term commitment.

OUR VISION, VALUES, AND MISSION

VISION

To know Christ and make Him known. To love our neighbours and serve our world by sharing the gospel.

To be a church that makes disciples who make disciples, transforming lives for Christ.



VALUES

- Welcoming
- Inclusive
- Love and Compassion
- Faith
- Grace and Forgiveness
- Hospitality
- Service and Outreach
- Discipleship and Spiritual Growth

MISSION

To be the church in the community and the community in the church.

We are committed to working hard to be:

AN **INCLUSIVE** AND **WELCOMING** COMMUNITY OF **FAITH**

Structure, Governance, and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Nicholas, the membership of the PCC consists of the Parish Priest, churchwardens, Deanery Synods representatives, and up to a maximum of 15 members (the maximum number allowed in any C of E church) elected by those members of the congregation **who are on the electoral roll of the church**. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC usually meets 6 times during the year.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of subgroups or Committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These committees are:

1. Standing Committee (statutory)
2. Finance Committee
3. Property Committee
4. Safeguarding Committee
5. Events Committee
6. Village Hall Development Committee
7. Village Hall Committee
8. Churchyard Team

Each is responsible to the PCC and each report back to it regularly with minutes or a summary of their decisions, being received by the full PCC and discussed / ratified as necessary.

Public Benefit

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

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

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its adherents and for everyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers
- Promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.
- Maintaining the historic fabric and architectural heritage of the St Nicholas Church building and grounds.
- Providing a quiet space that is available daily to all members of the public.

2024 in Photos

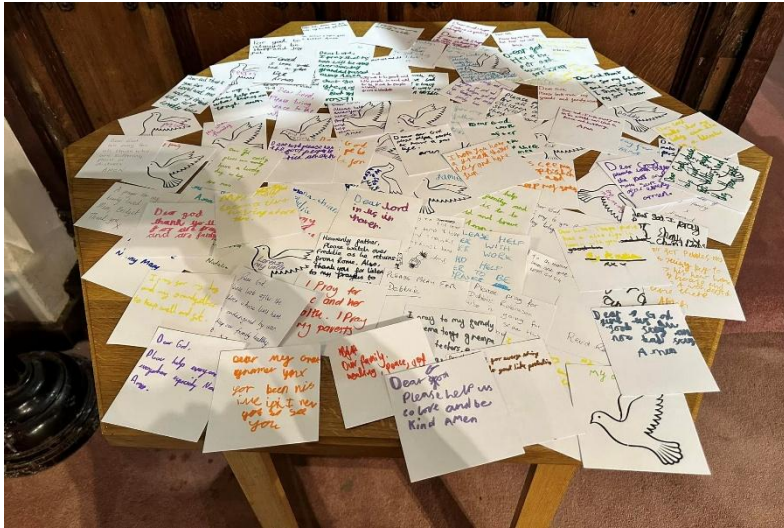


Bishop Simon



Holy Week and Easter





12 hour prayer event

**Rotary Summer Fair
Junior Church on Tour**

Ride & Stride

**June celebrating 30 years of
priesthood**





Chislehurst Creates



Christmas Fair



Confirmation Service with Bishop Jonathan





**Remembering
Sir Malcolm Campbell**



**St Nicks School
St Nicholas Day Celebrations**





Nativity Service





Christingle Service



9 Lessons & Carols



Nativity Tableau



Christmas Day

Pastoral Introduction from the Curate

The Rev'd Rachel Curley

It's always strange writing a review of the year, 3 months into a new year, especially with the start we have had in 2025, but this is about the year of our Lord 2024 and it is important that we focus there.

An eventful year with many highs and lows. I think for me one of the highlights was our Confirmation Service where 18 candidates were confirmed by Bishop Jonathan. It was such a privilege to lead each of them through their classes, and such a wonderful joy to be part of this step in each of their faith journeys. When Bishop Jonathan and I reflected on this service together, we both certainly did so with tears in our eyes.

It was equally a privilege to lead us in Bible Study in 2024, this year for Lent we looked at the Bible through the film A Kings Speech and then For Advent we worked through the film Bruce Almighty. Bible Study is such an important part of anyone's faith journey I do urge you all if you can to join one of our classes.

This year our Junior Church went on tour both to the Rotary Summer Fair and to St Nicks School Party in the Pit, such a perfect opportunity for Outreach.

In mid September I was required to go on an 8 week placement, where I joined Holy Redeemer Church in Lamorbey. I am grateful to all those who covered our services during this time, out of 33 services there was only one that we couldn't get covered!

I am grateful as always for the support of the Churchwardens and the worshipping community of St Nicholas for your support during my curacy. My official training curacy ended in November – who knows what comes next!

With my love and Blessings.

Rachel
Curate, St Nicholas Chislehurst

REVIEW of 2024 - Achievements and Performance (activities and ministries); Worship and the Household of Faith

Worship at St Nicholas has continued to grow during 2024, with an increase of 24% at our 9.30am services.

The weekly E-news is sent to over 450 email addresses.

We continued developing plans to re-envision our Village Hall facilities as a key part of our outreach and ministry resourcing, however we still await news from the Brough Council about planning permission.

We held a record-breaking Christmas Fair in support of our mission and charitable giving.

Delivered 44 Life Event services: baptisms, weddings, funerals, and burials / burial of cremated remains.

Welcomed over 120 people to our Service of Light memorial service for the bereaved and conducted services on behalf of local funeral directors for their Christmas memorial services.

Led Collective Worship in St Nicholas School as well as each year group coming into church for class Communion Services, plus leading a weekly lunchtime class "Leading Lights" and helping during RE lessons.

Bishop Simon led the Parish Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion Service and the Service at the War Memorial, with over 2000 people in attendance.

Welcomed children from Marjorie McClure school who joined us for Easter, and Christmas Services.

Welcomed children from the Midfield School in Orpington.

Junior Church on Tour at the Summer Fair and Party in the Pit School Event..

Home Communion services and Bible studies at Faulkner House, Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Fairlight Nursing Home, Cedarmore Court and Shepherds House.



Continued to be the lead church in the development of a district-wide befriending project (Two's Company) with Rachel working alongside the coordinator and being her point of contact.

Continued with the monthly Soup Lunch which has continued to grow each month.



"Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit."
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Every hour, on the hour we will share together in prayer, please come and go as you wish.

FRIDAY 14th JUNE 2024
St Nicholas, Chislehurst

- 9am Mattins - Morning Prayer
- 10am Lectio Davina
- 11am St Nicks Primary School Prayers
- 12pm Midday Prayers
- 1pm Prayers of Hospitality with Tea & Cake
- 2pm Community Prayers
- 3pm Musical Reflections
- 4pm Silent Prayer - Prayer Stations
- 5pm Healing Prayers and Laying of Hands
- 6pm Evening Prayer
- 7pm The Rosary
- 8pm Compline (BCP) - Night Prayer

Prayer stations are available throughout the church, please spend time at each station, praying, reflecting, and just being in the presence of God.

Hosted a 12-hour Prayer Event, at which over 150 people joined us throughout the 12 hours, including children from St Nicholas School and Marjorie McClure.

Maintained all services throughout the year as well as special services during the liturgical calendar.

Celebrated a special Mothers Union Members Communion Service.

Celebrated Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel, Nave and the High Altar (East Facing).

In June we celebrated 30 years of Women Priests in the Church of England, firstly at a special service at Rochester Cathedral where Rev'd Rachel was

invited to lead one of the Scripture Readings, and then we had our own celebration to celebrate Rev'd June's 30 years of Priesthood.



This was a wonderful Eucharist service led by June, assisted by Rachel with guest preacher the Rev'd Canon Gordon Oliver.

In the order of service, June wrote:

Dear People of St. Nicholas Church,

We arrived in Chislehurst in 1974 as a family, Bruce, myself, Rebecca, Diana, Timothy and Philippa and from then on, to the present day, through Sunday School, Youth Club, House Groups, PCCs, and countless Services and Celebrations, we have been loved and supported by the people of St. Nicholas Church.

I was encouraged by the Rector, John Allen and the PCC, to train for Ministry as a Deacon in 1987 at Canterbury School of Ministry, and Ordained non stipendiary in 1990 to assist in the Parish of St. Nicholas, Chislehurst.

In 1994, when it became possible for women to be Priests, I was Ordained Priest, on the 3rd of July, St. Thomas's Day, with both men and women.

Together, through the years, we have enjoyed the Ministry of 6 Rectors, and, with the devotion of Church Wardens, have managed 6 Interregnums. It has been a privilege for me to take the Services of Baptism, Weddings and Funerals and especially Holy Communion. I was pleased to be able to bridge the gaps between Incumbents.

My biggest support throughout all my ministry has been my husband Bruce.

I would like to say huge thank you to all the people of St. Nicks, past and present, for your welcome, your tolerance, your inspiration and your kindness to me for so many years in sad times and in happy times.

I have been truly Blessed.

With Love and Prayers, June

RIDE AND STRIDE – 14th September 2024

This was the fourteenth year of our participation in this charity event, whereby 50% of sponsorship money goes to the church or chapel chosen by the participant and the remaining 50% plus any gift aid, goes into a fund administered by the Friends of Kent Churches.



All of this fund is distributed in grants to Kent churches for purposes of restoration and repair.

This year the total Kent sponsorship rose to **£151,000** and we, **Revd Rachel and I raised £1011**. **St Nicholas has benefitted in the past: - just look at the hatchments in the Scadbury chapel.**

The event is open to everyone. Participants obtain sponsorship for every church on a list of about 7-800 churches they manage to visit on foot, horse or bicycle between 1000hrs and 1800hrs on the second Saturday in September every year.

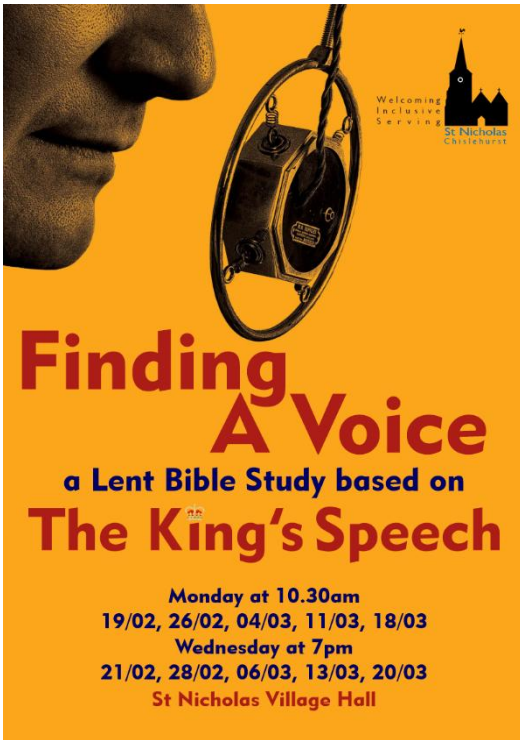
Some less agile can still gain sponsorship by acting as ‘welcomers’ to our incoming visitors.

I managed to ride to 28 churches and Revd Rachel walked to 3 - still continuing that day with her previously committed priestly duties.

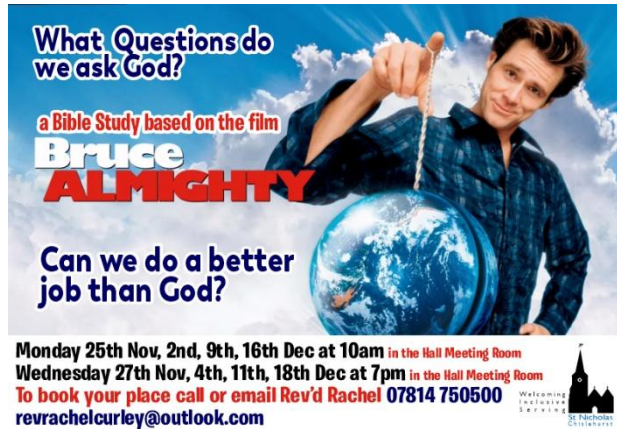
I do appeal each year for more people to participate because you can imagine that if 2 people can raise **£1100**, **how much could we raise if 10 people participated?** **(There is nothing stopping you taking a train to your start point and I can assure you that there are some breathtakingly beautiful churches in Kent).**

Do join us!

Peter Appleby. (Local and Area Organiser)



Bible Studies have thrived, with an average attendance of 30 people at both the Lent and Advent Courses.



Joined in local events with Chislehurst Creates,
and Chislehurst Summer Fair.

In September we again welcomed Fr Jonathan Beswick and others to our church for the 144th anniversary of the death of Father Charles Fuge Lowder.

Ministry through Life Events

Life events (baptisms, weddings, funerals) provide powerful opportunities for ministry and pastoral care to be exercised by our church.

In 2024 we conducted the following:

Marriages 4

Baptisms 14

Funerals 21

Burials of Ashes 7





Worship at St Nick's

All of our services have continued at St Nick's; with a few changes whilst Revd Rachel was away on placement. Unfortunately we was unable to hold our All Souls Service however we had a Service of Light Memorial Service in December which was well attended and well received.

Thanks to the technology of iKnow, we can continue to monitor the increase in our worship attendance at all our church services during the course of 2024, and have seen increased across our services ranging from 15 – 43%.

It has again been a real joy to welcome people who have not been to St Nicholas for a longtime and all those who are new to our church.

The task of keeping our services going throughout an interregnum is not an easy one, and the Churchwardens and PCC are grateful to Rev'd Rachel, Rev'd June and all those who have supported us during the interregnum.

We must also express our thanks to the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, the Venerable Allie Kerr for all of her help and support towards not only the church but to Rachel.

Again, Rev'd Rachel's personal mission statement is now embodied in the life of St Nicholas, Chislehurst.

***“The Church in the Community
and the community in the church”***



FABRIC REPORT

From the Churchwardens, Annie Hanifin and John Grant.

1. Introduction: This report gives an overview of the condition, maintenance requirements and necessary repairs or improvements for the church and other buildings in our care.
2. Description: St. Nicholas Church in Chislehurst, England, dates back to the 13th century, making it around 800 years old. This historic church showcases a blend of architectural styles, primarily exhibiting elements of Gothic architecture, particularly evident in its pointed arches and intricate stonework. Constructed mainly from local stone, the church's exterior presents a weathered, timeless charm.

Notable features of St. Nicholas Church include its impressive tower, adorned with pinnacles, and its striking stained glass windows, which depict biblical scenes and saints. Inside, visitors can marvel at the beautifully carved wooden pulpit and the elegant vaulted ceilings, which add to the grandeur of the space. Additionally, the church houses several memorials and monuments, offering glimpses into the area's rich history and heritage. Overall, St. Nicholas Church stands as a testament to centuries of worship and community in Chislehurst, inviting visitors to appreciate its architectural beauty and historical significance. The Church has a substantial churchyard. St. Nicholas Village Hall is a more modern construction compared to the Church. While its exact age may vary, it dates from the late 19th century. Architecturally, the hall is characterized by a blend of traditional and functional styles, often featuring elements of vernacular or utilitarian design rather than adhering strictly to a specific architectural movement.

The building caters to the needs of the local community for gatherings, events, and meetings. Notable features of the Village Hall include its spacious interior layout, flexible multipurpose rooms, and facilities such as kitchens and bathrooms to accommodate various events and activities.

Overall, St. Nicholas Village Hall serves as a vital hub for community engagement and social activities in Chislehurst, embodying the evolving needs and character of the area.

The Curates house (Southbeech) dates to the 1970s and is a terraced three storey modern house, constructed of brick, with a slate roof.

The Rectory is a similar age property, in the care of the Diocese.

3. Maintenance History: The church buildings maintenance requirements are looked after by a property committee, a hall committee and our Verger. The property committee and the Verger look after the church and

the committee look after the Curates house. External contractors are used for regular specialist maintenance (boiler, lightning conductors, organs etc). The churchyard team look after the churchyard.

4. Summary key points (refer to separate reports for full details):

The Church

- The organ has had extensive maintenance undertaken this year and is in good condition considering its age.
- The external floodlighting in the churchyard has been restored.
- Access to the belfry remains an action.
- The uncovered Sanctuary pavement needs to be fully restored. This is an ongoing action for the property team which has been rescheduled for 2025.
- The Quinquennial inspection is due in July 2025.

Churchyard

- The east fence was repaired in various places including replacement of 16 posts with concrete supports.
- The gardening team continue to provide essential monthly input to the general upkeep and maintenance of the grass, shrubs and trees.

Southbeech

- The rear garden fence has been repaired.
- A section of glazing in an upstairs window needs to be replaced. This will be undertaken in 2025.

The Rectory

The Rectory is the responsibility of the Diocese, as owner.

- In 2024, the property was maintained in a vacant condition. Water and heating have been isolated.
- The driveway has been resurfaced.
- Essential work in the gardens have been undertaken to ensure a reasonable condition is met when a new incumbent is in post.

Special thanks to Justine Grant, Anthony Faulkner, Steve Ripley, Peter Appleby and Alex Roeder for their input and commitment to the ongoing needs of our important buildings and surroundings.

5. Safety and Compliance: We believe that all of the buildings in our care are in compliance with safety regulations, building codes and fire codes.

6. Environmental Considerations: we have considered environmental factors such as energy efficiency, sustainability (new hall) and conservation measures in our maintenance activities.
7. Future Planning: We have a medium term goal to raise funds for the construction of the new village hall, and will actively seek and encourage community involvement, and partnerships with relevant organizations or agencies in the building and operation of the new hall.
8. Conclusion: The regular maintenance and stewardship of the church buildings is of great importance, as it provides a fabric and focal point of gathering for the congregation, further enhancing our work and ministry mission.

New Village Hall 2024

The PCC have committed to the development of a new 'village hall for all' scheme.

In February 2024, a second consultation was held at the village hall to review and discuss the final proposals.

On 28 March, the updated final plans and the design and access statement, updated to reflect comments received, were submitted to Bromley Council. We had formal acknowledgement of receipt from Bromley Council on 18 June 2024.

In July 2024, we had initial feedback on consultee comments on highways, environmental health and early years education which were dealt with by September through (free of charge) a plans update by the architect.

In December 2024, following a lengthy consultation process, we had further feedback from Bromley regarding the Montessori School space allocation and these queries were addressed with a paid minor amendment to the plans.

Our planning consultant, and our three local councilors continue to chase Bromley for a response.

Look ahead – we hope to receive a determination in Q2 2025. At that point, we can start to raise funds.



Churchwardens Report 2024

Annie Hanifin & John Grant

It is with great pleasure and with our gratitude for the support we have been given this year, that we present our report for 2024.

Being wardens in interregnum brings its own challenges, not least, that of hiring a new rector.



The year started with the finalising of the parish profile (the Rectors job advert) in January, and being passed to the Archdeacon to process and progress. After some time, we received feedback to make a few key changes and it was with this final version that we went to the PCC. The PCC agreed to pursue advertising of the role on the C of E website 'Pathways'. The copy was issued and the deadline set. We had a low response rate. At this time, our Curate was unable to apply as the training period was not complete. We sought guidance from the Archdeacon and the Bishop, and as a PCC we agreed to advertise nationally. The closing date for the second round did allow Curate Rachel to apply, and apply she did. Interviews were scheduled for January 2025.

During 2024, we were blessed to still have Rev Rachel and Rev June actively involved in Church life. They certainly sustained us a congregation, and gave Annie & I invaluable guidance in being Wardens. It was a true team effort.



St Nichols continued to foster spiritual growth and engagement with the community throughout the year, growing the links with St Nicholas Primary school and other schools in the parish, as well as reaching out to care homes, businesses and played an active part in the Churches together in Chislehurst & Bickley.

The Easter walk of witness was one such community event, as was Remembrance Sunday, where we had Bishop Simon preside, and the annual nativity which with the other services this year saw over 2,000 attendees over the Christmas period. Other notable service this year included the Easter service at sunrise, the Harvest Festival, the All Souls Service, Christingle and Nine Lessons & Carols.

Our congregation continues to grow and flourish. Numbers attending services have increased, especially in youth and younger children, and our thanks go to Rev Rachel and the Junior Church Team for this achievement.

Stewardship and financial income have been steady this year, however we would always welcome more support! We would like to extend our thanks to Jo Papa, our treasurer, and the finance committee for all their hard work. We also welcomed Ray Smith to the team.

The 'New Hall for All' plans were submitted in Q1 of this year. Bromley Council did commit to a resolution late in 2024, however at the end of 2024, a decision was still awaited. We are confident that a positive decision will be given, it's a matter of when not if! At that point, we as a congregation and community will have the next big task at hand!

This is our second year as Wardens, and we continue to learn new things and grow in confidence in the role. It is only possible to be Wardens with your support, and it is because of you our Church Family, that we all do what we do, so our thanks go out to you all. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev Rachel and Rev June for their brilliant ministry during the year. We thank June especially for supporting Rachel and us in maintaining the high standards we have come to love and enjoy over the years.



We would like to thank all the PCC members, and the Deanery Synod reps, for their input and support as Annie & I navigated our way through PCC meetings – thanks you!

St Nicholas has so many willing volunteers who keep all facets of the Church running smoothly – cleaning, catering, bell ringing, maintenance, vergers, chalice administrators young and old, sidespersons, choir, organist and the list goes on! Without you it would not function as it should, so we would like to thank you all, but it is the congregation, our Church Family that makes it what it is – thank you all!

John & Annie.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Weekly Notice Sheet

The single weekly notice sheet is printed each week and available in our church at worship. It continues to be a significant communication tool and liturgy resource for readings at the main Sunday worship. It is also circulated electronically each week via e-news.

E-news

To supplement the Notice Sheet we have also developed an on-line e-news system which allows us to circulate the weekly Notice Sheet ahead of each Sunday and to include a range of interesting articles and opportunities to respond to items of interest.

The e-news is currently sent out to 430 email recipients.

IT System

We continue to use our secure data services and will look in early 2025 to continue to improve our technology, ensuring we are future proof.

Website

Our website is proving to be a great resource for people, where they can find up-to-date information on our services, as well as life events and the many “extra’s” St Nick’s has to offer. The traffic increase of the website during 2024 is up by 29%



Welcome to St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst

We are a welcoming and inclusive church where everyone is embraced as part of our community. We celebrate the richness of our community through a variety of worship services designed to engage all ages and traditions.

Whether you are seeking a vibrant all age contemporary worship, traditional Holy Communion or the serene beauty of choral evensong, you will find a service that suits you. At St. Nick's, there's a place for everyone and everyone is welcome.

**Our Services for Sunday 6th April 2025
5th Sunday of Lent**

8am	Said Eucharist BCP
9.30am	All Age Breakfast Worship <i>in hall</i>
6pm	Choral Evensong
10am	Every Wednesday Said Eucharist BCP

Our usual Service Pattern

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is a key part of our life together – both within, and beyond, the congregation.

Both formally, and informally, St Nicholas' responds to human need and the needs of our members in a variety of ways:

- Pastoral visits, including the taking of Holy Communion to the housebound.
- Prayer ministry / intercessions / prayer lists.
- Informal visits by church members to other members.
- Taking services in local nursing homes and sheltered accommodation / retirement apartments.
- Sending monthly cards to those on our prayers lists, ensuring they know we pray for them regularly and offering opportunities to receive a visit and/or communion.
- Visits to local hospitals and hospices.
- Responding to requests from the community, especially those new to the area.
- Preparing the dying for their death.
- One-to-one bereavement support.
- Offering pastoral liturgies in response to need, including the Service of Light Memorial Service.
- Working with Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley to grow our Befriending Service for the lonely and isolated.
- The Community Soup lunch (2nd Thursday of the month in the Village Hall).

Mission and Evangelism and outreach

This includes:

- Mission / Giving to other charities, including Marylebone Project, Bromley Welcare, Compassion, MANUP? and Two's Company.
- Support for Christian Aid
- Practical support for Whitechapel Mission.

Each of our church members, too, are ambassadors of the church and representatives of Christ in their respective locations, communities, and relationships. Mission and ministry and outreach are not the reserve of 'the professionals', they are Gospel imperatives for all of us.

REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Baptism Helpers

Overseen by *Sarah Arnheim*

Group Aims *The aim is to help set up behind the scenes items needed for Rev Rachel to use during Baptisms, so that she can concentrate on the important bits!*



Since June last year, when I took on the role, Reverend Rachel has presided over twelve baptisms and has a further 13 booked in the coming months.



Bellringers

Tower Captain *Maralyn Evans*

Meets *Sunday service ringing - suspended at present due to lack of available ringers. Monthly Wednesday evening practice*



Group Aims *Support ringing for services and special events with main bells, Ellacombe chimes and handbells*

*Rang bells for 4 weddings with help of district members
Rang Ellacombe chimes for Nativity tableau Monthly practice night ringing for all levels has been well attended - our thanks to Peter and Colin for their teaching support
Stephanie, one of our learners, is now competent to ring unaided and has so gained membership of Lewisham District Ringers
Our other 2 learners continue to improve
2 new bell ropes fitted in May
Scheduled bell maintenance undertaken in November by external company and all found to be in good condition
Handbell practice with Junior Church*

Hopes and aspirations for the future

*Our 3 new ringers are continuing to improve and hopefully they will be able to support Sunday service ringing soon
Hopefully we can ring for Rev Rachel's installation as well as a quarter peal after the ceremony with help from district members*

When our learners are competent, I am hopeful that regular Sunday morning service ringing will continue.
Involvement of Junior Church and St Nicholas Primary School learning to ring the handbells.

CHLOE

“CHLOE”
(Chislehurst Ladies Over Eighteen)

Overseen by *Ann Dyer and Muriel Partridge*

Meets *Once a month in the afternoon from
September to July*



Group Aims *To share friendship, fun and refreshments*

CHLOE is a social group of ladies meeting in different houses once a month in the afternoon with the aim of having fun and time to chat. We have a planning meeting in September and decide what activities we would like to share.

There are popular choices, like a film showing, a time to share poetry, a walk, a meal in a restaurant, and a musical afternoon.

Some highlights from last year were a talk by Joanna Friel about the history of the Old Chapel, in the Old Chapel, now the home of the Chislehurst Society, and an enjoyable afternoon playing charades which was a new event. The book which was chosen for the book review was 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus which provoked a lively discussion about the status of women in society from the 1950s onwards.

Thank you to the generous hostesses of our meetings, and we look forward to meeting more people in the future.

*Look out for notices each month in eNews!
Please come along and join in!*



Churches Together in Chislehurst & Bickley

Represented by: *Rev'd Rachel Curley (Vice-Chair)*
Barbara Adie (CTCB Secretary)
Frances Foley (CTCB Social Media)
Philippa Robinson (CTCB Treasurer)



Meets *Spring and Autumn meetings*
Summer AGM

Group Aims *Churches Together consists of nine churches, of which St Nicholas is one.*

As representatives of all the 9 churches in the area, we aim to show those in Chislehurst and Bickley that our faith is relevant and active, and to share our faith with the people in our community.

Achievements this year

- Holding a Service for Christian Unity at Christ Church. The guest speaker was Mike Harrowing from Spinnaker Trust. The trust works with primary schools, delivering collective worship and RE lessons.
- Supporting the World Day of Prayer at St George's Church. The service had been prepared by Christian women of Palestine. Stories of individual women's experiences were told and the theme was 'bearing with all in love..'.
- Organising the Good Friday Walk of Witness along Chislehurst High Street, giving out hot cross buns and holding a short service in the Garden Room.
- Running a stall at Chislehurst Thrives – sharing our Christian faith and emphasising spiritual well-being.
- Celebrating 20 years of Chislehurst Youth for Christ (CYFC), which works collaboratively with other organisations to support young people: working in schools, holding knife crime awareness courses and running a youth club. CYFC is financially supported by the 2gether Charity Shop.
- Continuing to support our Two's Company Befriending Project and start the recruitment process for a new project coordinator. St Nicholas continues to lead the project.

- Spreading the Christmas message by distributing Christmas cards with information about services at all nine churches and re-establishing carol singing at Chislehurst and Bickley stations.

From St. Nicholas: Rev'd Rachel is the Vice-Chair, Barbara Adie continues as secretary and Philippa Robinson as Treasurer. Frances Follin has responsibility for social media posts.

Hopes and aspirations for the future

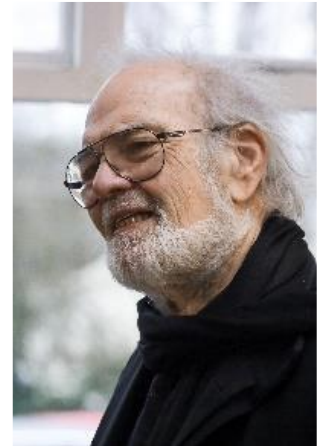
- To be an active and visible sign of our faith and God's love in Chislehurst and Bickley and look for more opportunities to do so.
- To recruit a new project coordinator and secure continued funding for the Two's Company Befriending Project to enable its further development and growth.



Church Choir

Overseen by *Michael Bell FRCO*

Meets *Rehearsals are now on Thursdays (7.30 – 9pm) in the vestry (and/or choir stalls). NEW RECRUITS are urgently welcome in all voices. **Please contact the Organist & Choirmaster for further details.***



Group Aims *To contribute, musically, to the enhancement of worship for the praise and glory of God.*

The Church Choir sings at Sunday services at 9.30am on the second, fourth and fifth Sunday of each month. On the first Sunday of the month the Church Choir sings at 6.00pm Choral Evensong. On the third Sunday of each month the Church Choir sings at 11.15am Choral Matins. Additional services on various week days (at 6pm usually) are on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Saturday and Ascension. A number of Weddings and Funeral Services also call upon the Choir.

It has been possible to field a four-part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) choir throughout the year. Our members are loyal, talented, experienced and conscientious singers, able together to sustain a high standard and a wide repertoire of music ranging from the effectively simple to the undeniably challenging.



My thanks yet again are due to them for maintaining this so apparently cheerfully throughout the year.



Churchyard Volunteers

Overseen by *Alex Roeder*

Meets *Second Saturday of the month.
(weather & numbers dependent).
9am-12 roughly*

Group Aims *To maintain the planting around
the churchyard, collection and
disposal of rubbish and keeping
an eye on what needs seeing to
in general*



Achievements this year:

With emphasis on reducing trees and bushes
Leaf vacuum has been particularly helpful.
Also have our first (non-relation) DoE volunteer.

LOOKING AHEAD

- We hope to get some more volunteers! And we all aspire to keeping the churchyard as neat and viable as possible for the future.



Community Soup Lunch

Overseen by *Rev Rachel Curley*
Rota co-ordinator: Barbara Adie



Meets *Monthly in the Village Hall*
12.45pm for 1.00pm every second Thursday (not August)

Group Aims *To provide an opportunity for members of the church and wider community to meet socially, find companionship and chat over a shared lunch; to meet up with old friends and make new ones.*

Achievements this year

A steady number of guests, between 32 – 40, attend soup lunch each month. Everyone appreciates the meal, with frequent compliments for the food and volunteers.

Christmas lunch was made special with crackers and mince pies, but the highlight was St Nicholas school choir coming to sing once again. We are very grateful to the new Head Teacher, Laura Williams and also Katie Harris for making this happen.

Since our last report, a number of things have been put in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of Environmental Health, Bromley. We had notes of our initial meeting with an action plan and this was supplemented with:

- a) Written procedures on running the Soup Lunch
- b) A food hygiene training plan for volunteers, including a quiz and printed handout
- c) A record of volunteers who have been trained
- d) Copies of the certificates of the 4 members of the team who have completed their Food Hygiene certificates (level 2)
- e) A chart recording the temperature of the soup before serving

At the inspection in September, we are pleased to report that we were awarded 5-stars, so all the hard work was worthwhile.

We continue to be grateful to Justine Grant, who makes both the soup and cakes for us each month, as well as providing printed allergy information, which is displayed on the welcome table.

We have a diligent team of 17 volunteers, from church and the local community, without whom this activity would not be possible. Both volunteers and guests help make things work smoothly on the day.

The soup lunches have a lovely friendly atmosphere and continue to provide a very welcome opportunity to meet and socialise in comfort, to relax and chat.

Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

Soup lunches are a valued community event, and we are hoping to encourage increasing numbers from the wider community to join us.



Deanery Synod

Report Submitted By: Charles Clark

The Area Dean and Synod Chair is the Rev'd Andrew McClellan (Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Bromley).

The Synod Lay Chair is Mrs Cath Johnston (Licensed Lay Minister from Christ Church, Chislehurst).

Deanery Synod is a meeting of clergy and laity from each PCC within the deanery and usually occurs thrice per annum. The main purpose is to act as an intermediary between PCCs and Diocesan Synod and to elect the Deanery's Lay Representatives to Diocesan Synod.

St Nicholas, Chislehurst is one of 13 churches in the Bromley Deanery, within the Archdeaconry of Bromley & Bexley and the Diocese of Rochester. The representatives from St Nicholas, Chislehurst are Charles Clark, Peter Ridge and Diane Moorman.

Tuesday 21st March 2023 @ Christ Church, Chislehurst

- Claire Boxall, Diocesan Strategic Framework Manager gave a presentation on mission: Change, Serve, Grow.

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 @ St Nicholas, Chislehurst

- We successfully hosted Deanery Synod for the first time in many years and whilst still in vacancy: 9 clergy and 15 laity were present as the Rev'd Rachel Curley led us in worship.
- It was announced that the Area Dean, the Rev'd Canon Victoria Pask, would become Associate Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley on 1st October. A new Area Dean would therefore be required.
- The Rev'd Canon Pamela Ive, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations gave a presentation on vocations across the C of E and in relation to parishes within the Deanery.
- Election results for the next triennial of Deanery Synod were announced as follows:
 - House of Clergy – The Rev'ds Dr Julie Bowen, Andrew McClellan, James Harratt & Matt Lloyd.
 - House of Laity – Cath Johnston, Richard Latteman & Angela Ivey.

- The Rev'd Julie Bowen was elected to the Diocesan Board of Education.

Thursday 7th November 2024 @ St Mary the Virgin, Hayes

- The Ven. Allie Kerr, Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley, formally commissioned the Rev'd Andrew McClellan as the new Area Dean of Bromley.
- The Archdeacon presented an update on the Diocesan strategy, which generated much discussion, in response to which, the Archdeacon explained there is a Leading Worship course to license capable lay persons to ministry roles and the Area Dean expressed his intention that Deanery Synod ought to be more practically useful for members to go back to their PCCs and parishes.

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Plans for 2025

- The Bishop of Rochester was planned to give a talk to a joint meeting of Bromley and Beckenham Deanery Synods at Christ Church, Chislehurst in March 2025 on the vision and strategy of the diocese.
- A new Deanery Synod Secretary is required.
- A renewed Deanery Website will be launched.

Electoral Roll

Overseen by *Giles Cordwell*

Aims *Maintaining an accurate record of Church membership.*



For the year 2024, running the Electoral Roll has been very straightforward, with relatively little maintenance needing to be undertaken.

This will be made up for in early 2025, however, when church rules require the existing roll to be scrapped and a completely new one to be created.

At the end of 2024, it had 282 members listed, with 12 new names added and 10 removed during the year 2024, either through moving away or because a member has died. The membership was made up of 89 (32%) who live in the parish, 102 (36%) in the rest of Chislehurst and 92 (32%) who live elsewhere. This demonstrates a diverse and inclusive congregation, which can only be positive for the Church.

I will be able to report on the progress of the new Electoral Roll at the APCM if needed.



Finance Committee

Overseen by Sarah Cordwell
Meets Quarterly
Group Aims Management and oversight of church finances

Management of church finances is a daily event, and we remain incredibly grateful for the work Jo Papa carries out on the finances of the church thus easing the work of the Committee.

During the last calendar year we managed to keep our expenditure low but we know there are increases coming again in 2025. Again, in 2024, we carried out no “Major Works” on the church. But the upcoming Quinquennial Review is likely to show works that need to be undertaken.

We continue to “manage” our offering to the Diocese (Parish Share), as we are no longer in a position to pay the additional amounts we used to compensate for those parishes less fortunate than us.

We managed to maintain our Away Giving to the same level as 2023, mainly due to the generosity of planned events – The Christmas Fair, The Tableau and Christingle Service – we are most grateful to everyone who manages these events and their success.

Whilst our Stewardship campaign in February 2024, highlighted concern for our finances., and a number of people either increased their contributions or started contributing for the first time (our thanks for that), but this wasn't enough.

There was only a 1 per cent increase on 2023 in income from planned giving and collections at services. we see a very slight increase on 2023, and planned giving in 2024 was still 28 per cent less than our planned giving in 2019. I know we can't keep looking back and we recognise that life is tough for everyone, but the Church receives no grants or monies from anyone else other than our congregation.

The card machine continues to help bring in additional monies that we wouldn't otherwise have.

We remain so very grateful to all those who contribute to the finances of our wonderful church.



Junior Church

Overseen by Sarah Armstrong and
Kate Murdock-Smith

Meets Twice a month (2nd and 4th Sunday)

Group Aims *To welcome families and children into the Church;
To bring the message of God to our younger members of
the congregation;
To form positive relationships between children and
families at St Nicks*



We have welcomed new families and helpers to our group this year including children learning the hand bells;

We have continued to bring the message of God and stories from the Bible to our younger children through craft, song, game and story;

We have, with the support of Rachel, led a lovely Nativity service at Christmas.

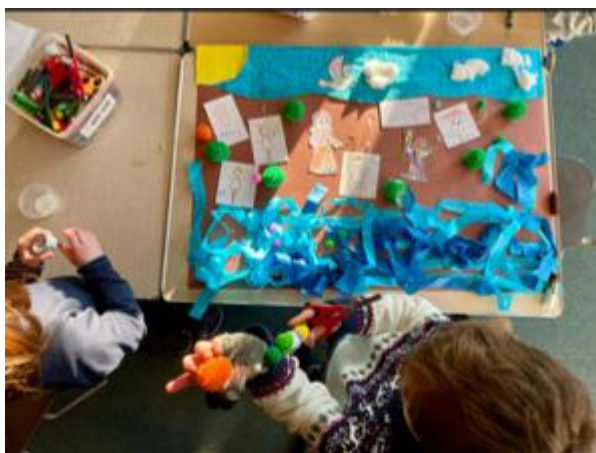


Hopes and aspirations for the future

To continue to welcome new families and their children to the St Nicks' family;

To expand and build upon making links to other areas of the Church community (e.g. bell ringing and the fantastic new Baby & Toddler group).

To bring new life and joy to our children through exciting activities.



Knitting Group

Overseen by *Barbara Adie and Carole Gray*

Meets *Tuesday's 10.30-12.00 in the Bulls Head.*

Group Aims *To provide an opportunity for those in the community interested in knitting or crochet to meet, share creative ideas and support each other.*



The knitting group is blossoming! We continue to grow in numbers, with 18 – 20 members each week.

A dynamic group - we have lost a few good friends this year, but continue to welcome new ones.

As always, we are grateful to The Bull for hosting the group. Due to the increased numbers, self-service coffee is now provided. Skills are varied, but all contribute to an amazing array of items. A range of goods have been provided to charities: Children in Distress, Whitechapel Mission, Shoe boxes and Refugees. We also had a splendid display at the Christmas Fair, raising over £1000. The group love to meet socially too. We had an afternoon tea in Barbara's garden in May, the annual Christmas lunch at the Bull and a lunch at Easter too.

Running for over 10 years, the knitting group is open to all members of the community and continues to provide a warm welcome to newcomers, so pop in one Tuesday morning 10.30-12.00 - join us for a chat and release your creative abilities!

Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

With new members, come new ideas and we already have projects planned and underway. The group plans to increase their social activities in the coming year.



Memorial Garden

Overseen by *Sue Thorogood*

The Memorial Garden is a special place in our Churchyard, and I have had the privilege of overseeing its care and maintenance for over 23 years. Like all gardens it requires constant care, and we are helped by a team of volunteers who work on a rota basis during the spring and summer months. However, due to the number of floral tributes that are left there a lot of extra time is spent through the week watering and clearing away dead flowers and plants and I appeal to those who leave them to help with this.



I am currently looking for someone to cut the small area of grass once a month and this shouldn't take more than about half an hour.

I am sure the garden is appreciated by all those whose loved ones rest there and I hope it will always be a place of peace and reflection.



Mothers' Union

Overseen by *Sally Hayhow and Dorothy Baldwin*

Meets *On the morning of the third
Thursday every month (except
August)*

Group Aims *To share friendship and fellowship*

The M.U. is a worldwide association where members within the Anglican communion find fellowship in an organisation which supports marriage and family life.

The branch here at St. Nicholas has more than 20 members and meets monthly in The Bull at 10.30am on the third Thursday of the month.



During the last 12 months we have held events during our meetings to raise funds for several of the many current M.U. initiatives including literacy programmes and projects to empower women, particularly in parts of Africa where the M.U. plays an important role. AFIA another vital project which we support, providing a much needed escape for families going through tough times with a chance to "Get Away From It All" and has blessed countless people with moments of respite, hope and joy.

Once a year in July, we take part in the Wave of Prayer in Church, a continuous act of praying by members starting in January in Eswatini, Tanzania, Nigeria, Norwich and India right through the year and ending in South Sudan, Kenya, Australia and India. This continuous act of prayer expresses our commitment to each other, in all the places we work and reside and where we can be part of something bigger than ourselves.

Our 24/25 programme has included a special communion service, an Advent meditation both led by Rachel and a visit to the Teapot Island and Museum in Yalding followed by a delicious lunch. We hold an annual Summer Supper bringing our favourite dishes to share while enjoying a warm evening in Philippa's garden. Gwen came to our meeting to describe how the Bromley FoodBank works and another given by Jette about the important work at The Primrose Centre at the PRU where she volunteers.

Additional funds are raised by providing refreshments at some of our Church events such as the Memorial Service and the Wedding Couples' Tea.

Rachel's support for our M.U. branch and its ethos of mutual support and fellowship is deeply appreciated and we are delighted to know that she will be our Rector in the years ahead.



Parish Administrator

In the Parish Office, Mon-Fri, 9am – 1pm.

Overseen by *Rev'd Rachel*

Report submitted by *Selina Lindsey*



2024-25 has been a very successful year in general for the Church and the office, even though for the past year being in an interregnum, with Rachel holding down the fort, we have been busier than ever.

We presented and baptised 23 children in 2024/25 and have 14 confirmed to be baptism from April 2025.

Nine Weddings are booked from April. A successfully attended new Toddler Group has started every month, the Junior Church is thriving, general attendance at the Sunday services have increased.

Hall bookings are increasing whereby we have to turn down bookings because I cannot accommodate all the enquiries. It has been an absolute pleasure to work for St Nicholas and work with Rachel.



PCC Secretary's Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) co-operates with the Parish Priest to promote the whole mission of the Church in the parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

Membership of the PCC is governed by the Church Representation Rules, amended in 2020. Members are either elected or ex-officio.

Most members are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for a three-year period. They may stand again (without a break) for a second successive term (so a maximum of 6 years). After this they are not eligible for re-election until at least one year has passed.

The PCC may also co-opt up to three additional members.

PCC membership during 2024 is set out on page 4 of this report.

Sub-Groups

The PCC has set up sub-groups to carry out particular functions on its behalf:

- **Standing Committee:** This is the only committee required by church law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.
- **Finance Committee:** Works with the Treasurer to ensure good financial management and effective stewardship of resources.
- **Property Committee:** Oversees the extensive work required to maintain our built heritage, properties and grounds
- **Safeguarding Team:** Embeds current good practice and legislation to make sure safeguarding training, awareness and practice is a top priority for everyone within St Nicholas Church

- Hall Development Team: Oversees the plans for the new Village Hall. To date this has involved submitting our proposals for planning permission.
- Village Hall Team: Maintains the hall and oversees its day-to-day running.
- Events Team: Planning and running church and community events.

PCC Meetings during 2024

The full PCC met 5 times during 2024, with good attendance on most occasions:

- 22 January 2024
- 11 March 2024

14 May 2024: Annual Meeting

- 3 June 2024
- 9 September 2024
- 4 November 2024

The Standing Committee and sub-groups met regularly. Where necessary, the PCC received and discussed reports of their activities.



Property Committee

Overseen by *Charles Clark*

Who we are: A number of lay members (some from outside of the PCC) who work together to assist the Churchwardens in maintaining (and in some cases improving!) our fifteenth century church.

There are a large number of routine maintenance tasks and urgent works that are overseen by those who do not sit on the team, in particular Peter Appleby and Anthony Faulkner, to whom a special thanks must go to for their unstinting work in ensuring the building remains in the condition it does.

Sanctuary Pavement

Over Christmastide we removed the blue carpet that was laid in 1983 which had completely covered the Sanctuary.

As was hoped for, we discovered a red and cream-coloured Italian marble pavement that was designed by the noted Gothic Revival architects Bodley and Garner in 1896.



This has received a very positive reaction from members of the church, the wider community in Chislehurst and across social media, with over 12.5k engagements on one post on X/Twitter alone.

Ongoing projects

- Attention required to the degradation of external masonry to the SW buttress.
- We are currently looking into the installation of a handrail to the pulpit steps, to ensure safe access and egress for all who preach/read from the pulpit.
- To improve the lighting in the chancel and also externally in the churchyard.
- To review access to the belfry.
- To fully restore the uncovered Sanctuary pavement.

Hopes and aspirations for the future: To welcome anybody with the skills, time or love to join or even lead our team to help care for the oldest and most beautiful building in Chislehurst



Safeguarding

Overseen by *Susie Hemming-Clark*

Meets *The committee meets every 6-8 weeks and may meet more frequently if there is a need.*

Group Aims *The committee regularly reviews its role and its constitution so that we continue to reflect the ever-changing landscape that safeguarding demands. Thus ensuring St Nicholas church is kept up to date with current safeguarding affairs.*



Rev Rachel Curley, Sally Hayhow and Sue Brandon continue to be committed members of the safeguarding group. The Team members continue to manage our safeguarding process and when appropriate, issues are escalated to our local Diocese safeguarding representative.

Digital Technology:- Safe storage of data & documents



We use a secure shared electronic filing system where the records are collated and stored. All the information is stored following GDPR guidance.

DBS Process - Resources



Sue Brandon and Sally Hayhow handle the DBS process. The Church of England determines which roles need DBS clearance as “anyone appointed/elected by or on behalf of the church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay/ volunteer (paid or unpaid)”.

All Parochial Church Council (PCC) members are aware of their DBS responsibilities.

We continue to support the Churches Together Two’s Company project by carrying out the DBS process for them.

Legal responsibility

Church officers are required to renew their DBS authorisation every 3 years.

Safeguarding Sunday 17.11.2024 – During the 9.30am Service



The purpose of this session was to remind the church community to continue to be aware and alert and to report any concerns where anyone's safety is at risk.

Safeguarding Communications



There are notices positioned in strategic places around the church and church hall with more detailed information on noticeboards.

We redesigned our safeguarding posters to simplify them and increase their impact.

The church website and e-news has a safeguarding poster. Safeguarding is also mentioned in the Notice Sheet.

Safeguarding Dashboard for the Diocese

We update the database as and when is required.



www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/safeguardingdashboards.php

Training: <http://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

The courses below are the 4 main areas of training that our staff and volunteers are required to complete:

- Basic Awareness.
- Foundation.
- Leadership and safer recruiter.
- Domestic abuse awareness.

The safeguarding team will inform the volunteers which courses they will need to complete when they take up their role so they are compliant with Church of England recommendation. The volunteers will be reminded when their next training is required: The Rochester Diocese have also now produced a simpler version to highlight who needs what training. This will be displayed on the notice board

The Junior Church Volunteers have completed their safeguarding training.

We still have three volunteers who need to complete the leadership course run by the diocese.

For further information: -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual> useful site for updates and policies.

Hopes

Our church community continues to be a safe place for all.

Aspirations:

- All of our church officers complete their training where required, and provide certificates, in a timely manner and the team's expectation going forward for the new calendar year is that all volunteers are assigned or booked onto training or have completed their training in the first month of being in post.
- The church officers and the congregation work hard to keep our church a safe place.
- That training and safeguarding processes will continue to be prioritised and carried out vigorously in all areas of our church management, and to evaluate our practices and responses regularly.
- At each PCC meeting, to discuss safeguarding scenarios to embed safeguarding further within our church community.
- To start DBS renewals and to book all training within 4 weeks of expiry
- To end lone volunteer working in church (particularly cleaners, flower arrangers and vergers).

- To adopt the new diocese safeguarding hub which will be a more comprehensive and robust system to keep track of safeguarding training and DBS's for our volunteers.
- To continue to embed National Standard for Safeguarding 2023 into our church community:

Standard 1	CULTURE, LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY Church bodies have safe and healthy cultures, effective leadership, resourcing and scrutiny arrangements necessary to deliver high quality safeguarding practices and outcomes.
Standard 2	PREVENTION Church bodies have in place a planned range of measures which together are effective in preventing abuse in their context.
Standard 3	RECOGNISING, ASSESSING AND MANAGING RISK Risk assessments, safety plans and associated processes are of a high quality and result in positive outcomes. The assessment and management of risk is underpinned by effective partnership working
Standard 4	VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS Victims and survivors experience the timeliness and quality of Church bodies' responses to disclosures, and their subsequent support, as positively meeting their needs, including their search for justice and helping their healing process.
Standard 5	LEARNING, SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT All those engaged in safeguarding related activity in Church bodies receive the type and level of learning, professional development, support and supervision necessary to respond to safeguarding situations, victims and survivors, and respondents, effectively.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/national-safeguarding-standards>

**“Safeguarding remains everybody’s business whatever the community setting“
(Working together to Safeguard Children 2023)**



Welcoming
Inclusive
Serving

Promoting

a safer church

at St Nicholas, Chislehurst



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

Susie and the team have the training and support to be resilient and confident regarding Safeguarding policy and practice.

If you or someone you are concerned about is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999. If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm, please contact one of our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers.



St Nicholas' Church School – Rev'd Rachel



ST NICHOLAS
CE Primary School
Part of the Aquinas Trust

I have continued to thoroughly enjoy my time in St Nicks School and am very grateful to the new headteacher Mrs Laura Williams for allow me to continue my classes.

It was sad saying goodbye to Sophie Sear who had been a great support to me, however Laura Williams has taken over with great enthusiasm and it is equally a joy to work alongside her.

In 2024 I became a trustee (Governor) of St Nicks as part of the Aquinas Advisory Council where my specific role is that of staff welfare.

My lunchtime class *Leading Lights* has continued to grow with the children helping out at various school services but equally during non-school church services.

Report by Laura Williams – Head teacher at St Nick's

In the summer, after I was appointed as the new head teacher to St Nicholas school, Rev'd Rachel was one of the first members of the community that I was introduced to by the previous head teacher - Mrs Sear. Rev'd Rachel welcomed me to the school and the church and from the very start, I knew we would work in great partnership with each other.

Rev'd Rachel is a core part of our school community and is with us regularly and in so many roles. She leads school worship at least once every six weeks enriching children 's spirituality within the school.

Additionally, Rev'd Rachel has led a number of services at the church including Eucharist, St Nicholas day service and the Christmas carol service. These services have deepened pupils' understanding of their faith and enabled them to share this faith with their families and class mates.

Rev'd Rachel is part of our Aquinas Advisory Council for St Nicks and here she has taken on the role of looking out for staff wellbeing. This was felt

especially when she sent words of support – and biscuits – when we had our recent Ofsted inspection in November.

Rev'd Rachel has continued to run the Leading Lights lunchtime group, where pupils feel supported in their spiritual and emotional growth. These children proudly read prayers during the St Nicholas day service and also took part in the Shrove Tuesday service – followed by pancakes - of course!

We also invited Rev'd Rachel to join us for World Book Day in which she read to the whole school. It is clear to see that our school and the church are strongly joined together and both Rev'd Rachel and I will continue to look at ways that we can do even more together in the future.



Third Sunday Singers

Overseen by *Muriel Partridge*

Meets *Every third Saturday and Sunday in the month*

Group Aims *To sing during communion and to lead the congregation hymns on the third Sunday in the month*



Achievements this year

Loyal attendance and commitment to helping worship on the third Sunday every month.

Singing at the Christmas Fair.

Adding new music to our repertoire.

Hopes and Aspirations for the future

To continue our service on the third Sundays.

To extend our repertoire of music.

To participate in special services if required.

We say goodbye to one of our singers, Steve, who is moving away and thank him for his loyalty and commitment.

We would be delighted to welcome new members. If you love singing and would like to be part of the group, please contact any of the members, or speak to us on the Third Sunday before or after the service



Verger's Report

From Peter Appleby – Verger (Philip Wilson, Deputy Verger)

(Definition of a Verger: - A church officer who takes care of the interior of the building and acts as an attendant during ceremonies).

Fulfilment of these duties has been as follows:-

1. The **clock** has been serviced and adjusted at seasonal time changes. It maintains high accuracy.
2. Some **11 grave sites** were selected and after liaison with grave diggers MDH, dug. **5 Burial of Remains (BOR) sites** were selected dug and closed after services. Some 11 Funeral and Memorial Services were **attended** and assistance rendered to the Priest. Proper **records** were entered into the **Registers** providing the ability to trace the location of each BURIAL. **Preparations for funerals(11)** were made.
3. Within the churchyard, the **water supply** was adjusted when icy conditions threatened.
4. The **Lightening Conductor** was checked regularly and received its tri-annual professional check.
5. **Gutters, down-pipes, gullies** and **drains** were serviced annually and also as required.
6. As a member of the churchyard working party **yew trees** were trimmed.
7. Within the church, the **heating system** was checked regularly and serviced.
8. The **cellar and loo drainage** were maintained by clearing mud intakes and rodding.
9. **Lighting** was maintained by replacement of bulbs. An inspection and Certification of the Church's electricity system was conducted. Flood lighting was installed to light both the tower, spire and the churchyard itself. _ Grateful thanks to The Chislehurst Society for its **Grant**.
10. Modification of the exterior Gas junction housing was made to provide more ventilation and thus safety.
11. The **Southern Porch Doors** were checked for functionality.



(For a more detailed listing of a Verger's duties, refer to **The Sacristan and Server** by the **Rev. S.E.B. Serle, Vicar of the Annunciation Church 1927**. Here, Sacristan can reasonably equate to Verger).



Village Hall team

Overseen by: *Steve Ripley*

Aims: *To keep the Village Hall premises running, safe, and used as much as possible, while a replacement is being prepared.*

Selina (Administrator) and Nadine (cleaner) do a great job in keeping the hall occupied.

The monthly All-age Breakfast Praise, held in the Hall, is particularly successful.

Spend on maintenance and improvements has been kept to a minimum. However, as the Hall will need to be available and suitable for hire for at least another 3 to 4 years some essential repairs and redecoration are necessary - these are currently being prioritised and costed.

The Hall remained operational and open for use throughout the year, with short exceptions when the heating failed:

- we entered into a new cheaper contract for a printer/copier, and purchased some new tables
- various repairs were made to lights, plumbing, and sockets
- we reviewed and updated our hire publicity, terms/conditions, and rates
- The large sycamore behind the sheds is unhealthy, we are awaiting a decision on an appeal - removal approval having been turned down
- safety checks were made on the fire precautions, emergency lighting, and the boiler
- New signage to identify the Hall is in place:

The Hall and Church continue to be Emergency Rest Centres for Bromley Council, if required.



Village Hall Development

The PCC have committed to the development of a new 'village hall for all' scheme. 2023 saw the production of plans and specialist reports required to submit to planning in 2024.



A VILLAGE HALL *for all*

A design and access statement will accompany the plans.

Five specialist surveyor reports are required to feed into the design & access statement, updates as below.

The Architect will need to update plans and proposals to reflect the report findings, and to produce the design & access statement accordingly, for this to be then issued for comment prior to planning submission.

Transport (Kronen Ltd)

Video survey complete. Recommendation for revised disabled bay and turning space to be included in the plans. Architect has incorporated the findings and has updated the plans.

Noise (Sharps Redmore)

Initial survey complete. Follow up survey also complete. Requirements discussed with the Architect and the plans/proposals have been updated by the Architect.

Ecology (Greenlink Ecology Ltd)

Updated report (the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal) issued to planning consultant and Architect. Positive commentary and feedback. The report states a low impact/risk to development.

Drainage

Report complete. The report concludes '...The proposed development is considered acceptable from a surface water drainage perspective...' but also recommends '...a surface water drainage strategy based on an attenuated discharge to the public sewer is recommended...' (a means of holding back rainwater and slowly releasing to the sewer).

Trees (Chartwell Tree Consultants)

Tree survey and findings are complete and incorporated into the proposals.

Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council

of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst (the Church) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



Christopher Archer

Date : 03.05.2025

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd
The Vicarage, Rose Lane, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 8DB

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £	2023 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Voluntary income	3(a)	107,938	1,202	-	109,140	117,303
Activities for generating funds	3(b)	35,860	4,296	-	40,156	34,292
Income from Church activities	3(c)	10,597	-	-	10,597	16,157
Income from investments	3(d)	4,231	-	9,987	14,218	12,936
Other income	3(e)	<u>11,623</u>	<u>3,640</u>	<u>-</u>	15,263	13,364
Total incoming resources		<u>170,249</u>	<u>9,138</u>	<u>9,987</u>	189,374	194,052
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>						
Church activities	4(a)	172,862	5,963	4,136	182,961	188,114
Exceptional costs	4(b)	-	5,885	-	5,885	2,125
Governance costs	4(c)	<u>657</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	657	769
Total resources expended		<u>173,519</u>	<u>11,848</u>	<u>4,136</u>	189,503	191,008
<u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES</u>		(3,270)	(2,710)	5,851	(129)	3,044
<u>NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS</u>	7(b)	<u>9,602</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,140</u>	21,742	59,846
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</u>		6,332	(2,710)	17,991	21,613	62,890
<u>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</u>		6,000		(6,000)	-	-
Balances brought forward 1 January 2024 (2023)		<u>344,968</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>619,526</u>	966,119	<u>903,229</u>
<u>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</u>						
31 DECEMBER 2024 (2023)		<u>357,300</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>631,517</u>	987,732	<u>966,119</u>

The notes on pages 68 to 74 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	funds	funds	Funds	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible	7(a)	60,260	-	232,500	292,760	292,760
Investments	7(b)	<u>230,586</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>391,329</u>	621,915	<u>600,173</u>
		<u>290,846</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>623,829</u>	914,675	<u>892,933</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors & prepayments	8	7,486	-	-	7,486	12,813
Short term deposits		45,651		7,688	53,339	52,624
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>32,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	32,228	<u>25,834</u>
		<u>85,365</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,688</u>	93,053	<u>91,271</u>
LIABILITIES due within one year	9	<u>(18,911)</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>-</u>	(19,996)	<u>(18,085)</u>
			=			
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>66,454</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>7,688</u>	73,057	<u>73,186</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>357,300</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>631,517</u>	987,732	<u>966,119</u>
FUNDS						
Unrestricted:						
General		96,096	-	-	96,096	103,013
Designated:						
Church Repair Fund	11(a)	120,758	-	-	120,758	95,758
Church Hall Building	11(b)	60,260	-	-	60,260	60,260
Village Hall Fund	11(c)	80,186	-	-	80,186	85,937
Restricted:	14	-	(1,085)	-	(1,085)	1,625
Endowment	12	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>631,517</u>	631,517	<u>619,526</u>
		<u>357,300</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>631,517</u>	987,732	<u>966,119</u>

Approved by the PCC on 2nd May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:-



Rev'd Rachel Curley

The notes on pages 68 to 74 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS *For the year ended 31 December 2024*

1. CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTRATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 September 2009, with Registered No. 1131855. It is required to file its annual report and accounts with the Commission and must also send these to the Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP FRS102 (second edition). The policies are set out in full on page 74 of this report.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	72,432	-	-	72,432	70,562
Tax recoverable	18,912	-	-	18,912	18,715
Collections at services	15,294	1,202	-	16,496	17,453
Donations/ Legacies	1,300	=	=	1,300	10,573
	<u>107,938</u>	<u>1,202</u>	=	<u>109,140</u>	<u>117,303</u>
(b) Activities for generating funds					
St Nicholas Fair	-	4,296	-	4,296	4,739
New Village Hall Projects	5,410	-	-	5,410	-
Church Hall hiring	30,450	-	-	30,450	29,553
	<u>35,860</u>	<u>4,296</u>	=	<u>40,156</u>	<u>34,292</u>
(c) Income from Church Activities					
Fees	8,167	-	-	8,167	13,033
Parish magazine	6	-	-	6	-
Social events	2,424	=	=	2,424	3,124
	<u>10,597</u>	=	=	<u>10,597</u>	<u>16,157</u>
(d) Income from investments					
Dividends & interest	4,231	-	9,987	14,218	12,936
	<u>4,231</u>	=	<u>9,987</u>	<u>14,218</u>	<u>12,936</u>
(e) Other incoming resources					
Curate Housing Grant	9,856	-	-	9,856	9,500
Southbeech Rental Income	-	-	-	-	-
LPOW VAT relief	1,767	-	-	1,767	994
Sequestration Income	-	3,474	-	3,474	2,588
Flower income	-	166	-	166	282
	<u>11,623</u>	<u>3,640</u>	=	<u>15,263</u>	<u>13,364</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>170,249</u>	<u>9,138</u>	<u>9,987</u>	<u>189,374</u>	<u>194,052</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2024 £	2023 £
(a) Church activities					
Mission and charitable giving	3,585	5,498	-	9,083	9,536
Ministry:					
Parish Offer to Diocese	76,550	-	-	76,550	74,000
Secular charities	72	-	-	72	-
Clergy working expenses	2,098	-	-	2,098	3,709
Clergy housing costs	2,930	-	-	2,930	5,325
Church services & music	16,582	-	-	16,582	13,055
Church:					
Insurance	3,476	-	-	3,476	3,349
Utility costs	5,548	-	-	5,548	8,985
Repairs & maintenance	4,042	-	265	4,307	7,988
Major works	-	-	-	-	-
Southbeech costs	-	-	1,519	1,519	11,053
Churchyard upkeep	3,391	-	2,352	5,743	3,931
Education & Training	24	-	-	24	114
Church Hall running costs	20,257	-	-	20,257	20,209
New Church Hall Planning	11,461	-	-	11,461	9,424
Cost of social events	2,169	-	-	2,169	2,313
Administration	20,677	-	-	20,677	14,680
Flower Expenses	-	465	-	465	443
	<u>172,862</u>	<u>5,963</u>	<u>4,136</u>	<u>182,961</u>	<u>188,114</u>
(b) Exceptional costs					
Sequestration costs	-	5,885	-	5,885	2,125
(c) Governance costs					
Independent examination	460	-	-	460	440
Bank charges	<u>197</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>329</u>
	<u>657</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>657</u>	<u>769</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>173,519</u>	<u>11,848</u>	<u>4,136</u>	<u>189,503</u>	<u>191,008</u>

5. STAFF COSTS (included in the above figures) for the Administrator, the Hall Cleaner and the Organist/Choir master amount to £25,627 (2023 - £23,885).
The stipends of the Rector and the Curate are paid by the diocese.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCC AND RELATED PARTIES

Note 4(a) shows the total of PCC payments to the Rector, Honorary Associate Priest and Curate towards their working expenses and housing costs. The total stewardship income from members of the PCC in 2024 was £9,363 (2023-£8,970). Groundforce1, a company closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £7,195 (2023-£3,920) for grass cutting and trimming at the Churchyard and Rectory. Toby Hurn-Torr, who is also closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £nil (2023-£575) for Gardening Services relating to the Village Hall.

7. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible assets used by the PCC

Freehold land and buildings: Cost at 1 January 2024 and at 31 December 2024

£292,760

The Curate's house at Southbeech, Old Perry Street, BR7 6PL was purchased in 2001 for £232,500.

St Nicholas Village Hall was given to the PCC in 1921, mostly rebuilt in 1977 and extended in 1987.

The total historic cost was £60,260. Neither sum is being depreciated.

(b) Investments – movements during the year: -

	£	Represented by shares in CBF Church of England Funds:	£
Market value on 1 January	600,173	Global Equities Investment Fund	83,340
Net gain on revaluation	<u>21,742</u>	Investment Fund (Equities)	<u>538,575</u>
	<u>621,915</u>		<u>621,915</u>

8. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	2,186	2,238
Tax recoverable	4,764	9,827
VAT recoverable	536	748
	<u>7,486</u>	<u>12,813</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

9. LIABILITIES due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Goods and services	10,358	8,978
Donations allocated out of 2024 (2023) income	8,553	9,107
Sequestration account deficit	<u>1,085</u>	=
	<u>19,996</u>	<u>18,085</u>

10. GIVING TO MISSIONS & CHARITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Welcare in Bromley	1,838	1,959
Children in Distress	250	-
Whitechapel Mission	579	604
Children's Society	43	62
Church Army, Marylebone Women's Hostel	1,838	1,959
Churches Together In Chislehurst & Bickley	150	150
Compassion UK	1,838	1,959
MANUP?	1,838	1,959
Salvation Army	579	604
Assistance to poorer parishes and other items	<u>130</u>	<u>280</u>
	<u>9,083</u>	<u>9,536</u>
Secular charities	<u>72</u>	=
Total	<u>9,155</u>	<u>9,536</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) *For the year ended 31 December 2024*

II. Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance £	Income in year £	Expenditure in year £	Inter Fund Transfers £	Investment Result £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted						
General	103,013	164,539	(162,058)	(19,000)	9,602	96,096
Designated						
Church Repair	95,758	-	-	25,000	-	120,758
Hall Building	60,260	-	-	-	-	60,260
New Village Hall	85,937	5,710	(11,461)	-	-	80,186
Restricted						
Minor funds	1,162	166	(465)	-	-	863
Sequestration	463	3,474	(5,885)	-	-	(1,948)
Away Giving	-	5,498	(5,498)	-	-	-
Endowments	<u>619,526</u>	<u>9,987</u>	<u>(4,136)</u>	<u>(6,000)</u>	<u>12,140</u>	<u>631,517</u>
Totals	<u>966,119</u>	<u>189,374</u>	<u>(189,503)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,742</u>	<u>987,732</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Financial provision is being made via designated funds for future non-annual repairs and renewal.

- (a) **Church Repair Fund** - The Fund stood at £95,758 at the start of the year. A further £25,000 has been transferred from General Fund to spread the burden of anticipated exceptional costs over a five-year cycle. As part of this the PCC makes regular deposits into diocesan accounts as recommended by the diocesan surveyor, for future quinquennial fabric repairs to the Church and the Curate's house. In the year to 31st December 2024 no money was spent on major repairs to the church. This leaves a balance of £120,758 in the fund at the end of the year.
- (b) **Church Hall** - The hall is run on a self-financing basis to generate sufficient funds to meet any major work on the fabric of the Hall. The annual income and expenditure and the resultant financial surplus or deficit from its operations is accounted for within the General Fund Statement of Financial Activities. The designated fund represents the historic book value of the building which as such is an illiquid asset.
- (c) **New Village Hall Fund** – The fund stood at £85,937 at the start of the year . Donations totalling £300 for the Re-building were received in the year and £5,410 was made from fundraising projects. A further £11,461 was spent on work towards the Planning Application. This leaves a balance of £80,186 in the fund at the end of the year.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

12. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Capital funds which the PCC has no power to expend (permanent), or which may be spent in certain circumstances (expendable). The income is available for specific purposes as follows:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Churchyard fund - to maintain 29 graves in St Nicholas churchyard (b) Fabric Trust - for repairs to the church fabric (c) Nussey Trust - for church maintenance | } | Permanent endowments
market value
£96,422 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (d) Clergy House Trust - an expendable endowment. It holds the curate's house (see note 7(a), investments of £281,958 and short-term deposits £7,688. The income arising is available to the PCC and the capital is available for ecclesiastical purposes in or near the parish under the oversight of the Diocese as custodian trustee. It has been decided by the PCC to transfer £6,000 from this fund into the General Fund. (e) Hawes Trust - it is agreed that the capital may be invested in an accumulating fund, provided that the two-family graves are maintained. The capital may be used after May 2059 (Market value £12,949). | | |

13. CONNECTED CHARITIES

Monies handled by the St Nicholas branch of the Mother's Union are not included in these accounts.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

- a) The church holds a fund of £603 available to meet the objects of 'Chislehurst Relief in Need' (2023 - £603)
- b) In the year the Flower Fund had income of £166 and expenses of £465, leaving a balance of £260 (2023 - £559)
- c) As St Nicholas is in an interregnum a Sequestration Account has been set up. This holds the fees for Weddings and Funerals that would normally be due to the parish less any expenses relating to visiting clergy and the upkeep of the Rectory. At the end of the year there was a balance of £(1,948); (2023 - £463) in the account. At the end of the interregnum if the account is in surplus the funds are due to the Diocese. If there is a deficit the PCC will have to meet the cost.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP FRS102 (second edition).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Fund Accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted, and the PCC may move any surplus to other general funds.

Resources expended

Donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with the s.10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. The Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Charities Act 2011

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £5,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

A sneak peek into 2025



**St Nicholas Parish Office
The Village Hall
Church Lane
Chislehurst
BR7 5PE**

0208467 0196



www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk



St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst



@stnickschislehurst

Accounts



The Parish Church of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

'An inclusive and welcoming community of faith seeking to know and share the love of God'

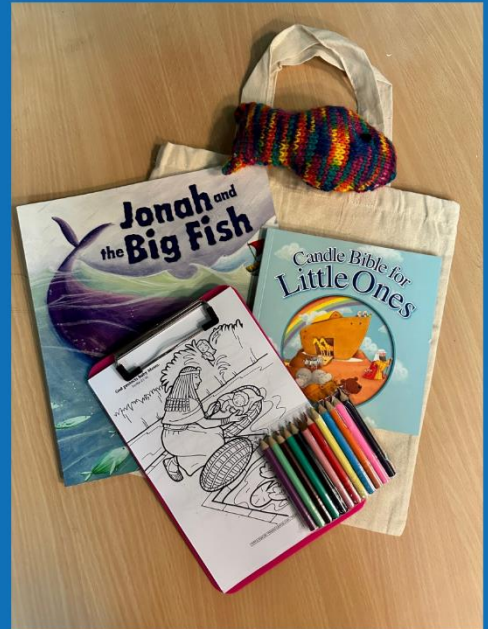
ANNUAL REPORT

2023

For Year Ended Dec '23



Seeking to Know and Share the Love of God



bringing **People & God** together
Parish Office • Village Hall • Church Lane • Chislehurst • BR7 5PE
www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk
0208 467 0196
stnicholaschislehurst@outlook.com



St Nicholas' Parish Church, Chislehurst
Registered Charity No. 1131855

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Rector – In Vacancy

Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Bauer (term ended July 2023)

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

John Grant (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

Licensed Ordained Minister

The Rev'd Rachel Curley

Parish Office

St Nicholas Village Hall

Church Lane

Chislehurst BR7 5PE

Banks

Barclays Bank plc

and

CAF Bank Ltd

Independent Examiner

Christopher Archer FCA

Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd

BACKGROUND

St Nicholas' Church is situated within the London Borough of Bromley, and historically within the county of Kent. There has been a place of worship on this site for over a thousand years.

The current building dates back to the 15th century but was significantly enlarged in the 19th century in response to pressing need as well as perceived opportunities for growth and outreach.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this parish church has a powerful history connecting it to stories of exploration, invention, achievement, and devotion both to God and to people.

Today we are still committed to that ongoing journey of evolution and growth – it is a pilgrimage of faith, to which our built heritage stands witness. Upon the firm foundations of the past, we rededicate ourselves and our church (the building and the people) as a focus of inclusion, welcome, faith, and loving service.

The Parish of Chislehurst St Nicholas is part of the Bromley Deanery, in the Diocese of Rochester, in the Province of Canterbury, within the Church of England - a member church of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number: 1131855



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the maintenance of St Nicholas Church and Churchyard, Southbeech in Old Perry Street, and the Village Hall in Church Lane.

Rector & Chair of the PCC: *In Vacancy*

Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Bauer (term ended July 2023)

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

John Grant (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

Curate

The Rev'd Rachel Curley

Hon Associate Priest

The Rev'd June Hurn

Licenced Lay Ministers

Theodora Chamberlain

Lynton Karmock-Golds

Reader

Peter Ridge

Members of the PCC:

NAME	Year of Office <i>(Term of 3 years)</i>	ELIGIBLE TO STAND FOR RE-ELECTION in 2024
Barbara Russell	3rd <i>(ends at APCM 2024)</i>	yes
Justine Grant	3rd <i>(ends at APCM 2024)</i>	yes
Carole Grey	3rd <i>(ends at APCM 2024)</i>	yes
Sarah Arnheim	3rd <i>(ends at APCM 2024)</i>	yes
John Bernays	2nd <i>(ends at APCM 2025)</i>	N/A
Susan Brandon	2nd <i>(ends at APCM 2025)</i>	N/A
Sabina Oakes	2nd <i>(ends at APCM 2025)</i>	N/A
Sheila Brittain	2nd <i>(ends at APCM 2025)</i>	N/A
Philip Wilson	1st <i>(ends at APCM 2026)</i>	N/A
Jenifer Wilson	1st <i>(ends at APCM 2026)</i>	N/A
Mark Wilson	1st <i>(ends at APCM 2026)</i>	N/A
Lloyd Anderson	1st <i>(ends at APCM 2026)</i>	N/A
Michaela Davies	1st <i>(ends at APCM 2026)</i>	N/A

The following members served their term (unless otherwise indicated) until the APCM on 14 May 2023: Diane Moorman (re-appointed as Representative on Deanery Synod) and Hannah White.

5 places up for election in 2024

There are up to a maximum of 3 places available for co-opted (1-year term) members:

1. The Rev'd June Hurn
2. Nicola Smith (from 25th September 2023)
3. Joanne Papa

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF PCC

Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Bauer (term ended July 2023)
Rev'd Rachel Curley – Curate

Churchwardens

serve ONE year terms of office up to a maximum of SIX consecutive years:

Sarah Cordwell (term ended 6th July 2023)
Wendy Lowdon (term ended 6th July 2023)
Annie Hanifin (from 6th July 2023)
John Grant (from 6th July 2023)

Representatives on Bromley Deanery Synod

Theodora Chamberlain (term ended 14 May 2023)
Mary Williams (term ended 14 May 2023)
Peter Ridge (until 2025)
Charlie Clark (until 2025)
Diane Moorman (from 14 May 2023, until 2026)
Vacant

Aims and Purposes

St Nicholas' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, and in the case of a vacancy the Churchwardens, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Churchyard, and the Village Hall complex and grounds.

The Parish

The parish has a population of approximately 4000, across 1,500 households.

The parish also has a Church of England Primary School (St Nicholas), part of the Aquinas Trust Academy of which The Reverend Rachel Curley is a member of the AAC (Aquinas Advisory Council).

Risk Management

The PCC has budgetary disciplines in place to reduce financial risk and endeavours to identify other risks which may prejudice the work of the church. Insurance policies are maintained with Aviva to cover insurable risks, and their advice is followed to reduce risks. The PCC oversees the Safeguarding Policy for children and vulnerable adults. Arrangements have been put in place to carry out checks on people working with these groups, in line with Diocesan guidelines. Like all Church of England churches, safeguarding and safer recruitment are paramount. The PCC is committed to ensuring that our church and hall are safe places for all who use them. For more detailed information and guidance see the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, <https://www.rochester.anglican.org> and click on safeguarding. Produced by the National Safeguarding Team, it is a comprehensive guide, summarising the key areas a parish need to address with regards to safeguarding. All PCC members as well as all church leaders undertake the Safeguarding training appropriate to their level of responsibility and activity as set out in the House of Bishops Practice Guidance for Safeguarding Training. During the year we ensured that General Data Protection Regulations were followed in accordance with their introduction in 2018.

Our General Fund stands at £103,013 which approximates to our target of 50% of our average annual expenditure. The Church Repair Fund was increased to £95,758 (2022: £70,758) to help spread the costs of maintaining the church building over a five-year cycle.

The PCC notes the £59,846 gain on investments (2022: loss of £68,743) but is cognisant of the fact that investments rise and fall and are a long-term commitment.

OUR VISION, VALUES, AND MISSION

VISION *what kind of future are we working towards?*

This is ultimately God's vision, placed on our hearts:

"God's kingdom come, God's will be done."



VALUES *the behaviours and attitudes that characterise us;*

how we conduct ourselves to achieve our mission and vision

- Welcoming
- Inclusive
- Desire to serve
- Every member is encouraged to be in ministry
- All are cherished and nurtured
- Be a people of vision: *Proverbs 29:18 "without a vision, the people perish"*

MISSION *what we are trying to accomplish / the impact we want to achieve*

We are committed to working hard to be:

AN INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

SEEKING TO KNOW & SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD

Structure, Governance, and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Nicholas, the membership of the PCC consists of the Parish Priest, churchwardens, Deanery Synods representatives, and up to a maximum of 15 members (the maximum number allowed in any C of E church) elected by those members of the congregation **who are on the electoral roll of the church**. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC usually meets 6 times during the year.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of subgroups or Committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These committees/teams are:

1. Standing Committee (statutory)
2. Finance Committee
3. Property Committee
4. Safeguarding Committee
5. Events Committee
6. Village Hall Development Committee
7. Village Hall Committee
8. Churchyard Team

Each is responsible to the PCC and each report back to it regularly with minutes or a summary of their decisions, being received by the full PCC and discussed / ratified as necessary.

Public Benefit

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

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

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its adherents and for everyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers
- Promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.
- Maintaining the historic fabric and architectural heritage of the St Nicholas Church building and grounds.
- Providing a quiet space that is available daily to all members of the public.

2023 in Photos

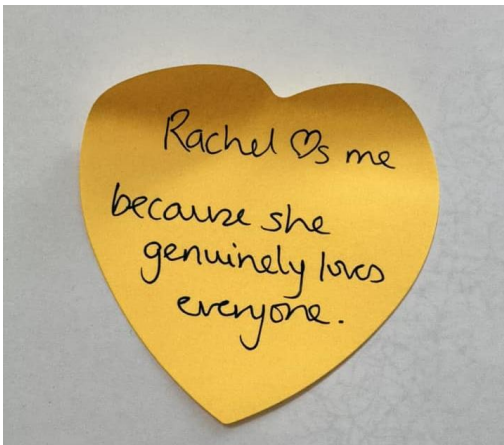


Nativity Tableau Audience



Christingle Apples!





Some of our St Nick's Bellringers!



Dear Lord,
We pray for Rachel. We love her and we ask you to take care of her because she is a good person and is very kind. Help her to do her job looking after all of us at St. Nicks,
♥️✝️😊♥️✝️🕌 Amen
A prayer written by Junior Church 01/10/23





Churchwardens services of Admittance



Pastoral Introduction from the Curate

The Rev'd Rachel Curley

What a year 2023 was. Following our Rector's departure in June, we have been in an Interregnum (again) for the rest of 2023 and into 2024.

I am so grateful for the love and care from the churchwardens (old and new) and many others in our wonderful church as we together grapple with the protocols and inevitable administration surrounding an Interregnum.

Jonathan wasn't with us at St Nick's for very long, but his impact on the church and parish has been considerable. We give thanks for all that he has done.

However, since his departure, I have had to learn and grow quickly into the role of Priest and am very grateful for those ministers who supported us prior to my Ordination to the Priesthood at the end of September.

I often reflect on my curacy, and how it isn't how it should be, however the opportunities afforded to me have been remarkable and lifechanging and I truly believe I will grow into a better Priest than I might have been, had I been given a more protected curacy.

It's hard to focus solely on 2023 when I am writing this report having just led our church through Holy Week and Easter, but this is our report on the past year, and it is important that we focus on the achievements of that year of which there have been so many.

At the end of June I said to our new wardens we need to survive July and August as that's how it felt at the time, we were in survival mode, and survive we have, as a church I am proud to see how during an Interregnum we have grown. Churches are struggling to grow and it is common for churches to lose people during a vacancy, however it is testament to all at St Nick's that each week someone new joins our community of faith, people from near and far are hearing about our church and what we do, and they want to join us, and to be part of our family, and I thank God daily for that.

So having survived the summer, we found ourselves in Autumn, at my Ordination, how proud I was when I turned around in the Cathedral and saw my church family smiling back at me. The support you all gave me it did not go unnoticed by the Bishops, and I am truly grateful for that.

Since that first time presiding at the Eucharist on the 1st October, first of all at our 9.30am service and then at BCP service where I Presided at the High Altar we haven't looked back.

It was wonderful to welcome the Rev'd Canon Tim Hatwell to St Nick's to preach on that first Sunday and to welcome my new training Incumbent Rev'd Dave Johnston, the Vicar of Christchurch, Chislehurst who came to "Watch" on week two!

Late autumn saw us heading into our Advent Bible Study, this year based on the film A Christmas Carol, and what a journey that was, I was very nervous about leading Bible Study when I started here in 2022, however they really are a wonderful experience for all who attend, myself included, and if you haven't joined one yet, I urge you to do so, you may just enjoy it!

Christmas was remarkable, our church was full, in the two weeks surrounding Christmas over 2500 people came through our doors, with over 1000 people listening to the greatest story ever told, the birth of Jesus at the Nativity Tableau. And I am not sure I or you will ever forget our Christmas Day Karaoke sermon! And that was our year, a hard year, not the one I expected when I went to bed on New Year's Eve 2022. But I do believe everything happens for a reason, and God has a plan, what that plan is I don't know; however, I will trust in Him that He will do what is right for St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst and for my future ministry, wherever that may be.

As we delve deeper into 2024, it is hard to believe that my curacy will soon finish, my time here has been the absolute privilege of my life. I knew when I first walked through the doors at St Nick's that it was special, I felt that within seconds, little did I know just how special it is and you are.

My brothers and sisters, I think you for everything, with God by our side, all will be well, and remember, if we have Faith, Hope and Love, we do not need anything else.

With my love and Blessings.

Rachel



Churchwardens Report

Annie Hanifin and John Grant

It is with great joy and gratitude that we present to you the annual report of St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst for 2023.

We are thrilled to share with you the wonderful achievements and milestones that the church has accomplished in the past year.

Having been nominated and voted in as your Wardens at last year's APCM, we were somewhat surprised when Jonathan announced he was leaving, however we were determined to ensure Rachel had (and has) our full support, needed through the difficult times that we faced together, and in sharing the joyous occasion of her Ordination.



Our church has been dedicated to fostering spiritual growth and engaging with the community throughout the year. It has been a privilege to witness the outreach to not only our church community but our community in Chislehurst, strengthening the faith of our church and reaching out to those in need.

The church has been actively involved in various mission and outreach programmes, both locally and nationally. We have supported missions in underprivileged communities, provided aid to those affected by natural disasters, and spread the message of love and compassion to all.

Our youth and children's ministry have flourished in the past year, with engaging programmes and activities that have nurtured the faith of our younger members.

We are pleased to report that the church's financial stewardship campaign was well received, and we are grateful to the Finance Committee and especially to our Treasurer Jo for all their hard work.

Whilst it has been a challenging first year as churchwardens, it has been a privilege to lead our church congregation and support our Curate and ministry team during the Interregnum.

Whilst there are many people to thank, first we have to thank Rachel for her amazing ministry, leadership, commitment and dedication in her curacy, ably supported and guided by Rev June Hurn – we thank June for her support and continued participation at services. We also thank Rev'd Dave Johnston for stepping in as Rachel's Training Incumbent.

We'd like to thank all the PCC members and Deanery Synod Reps for their hard work and dedication in supporting Rachel, and us as churchwardens.

St Nicholas has many dedicated volunteers who keep St Nick's thriving, looking good, running well and functioning. We must especially thank all of our Congregations, across our many services, it is all of you that have ensured St Nick's is the welcoming community of faith that it should be - it has been a rewarding experience getting to know more of you better.



REVIEW of 2023 - Achievements and Performance (activities and ministries); Worship and the Household of Faith

Worship at St Nicholas has continued and thrived during 2023, our All Age Breakfast Service has continued to grow, with the youth taking a greater role within the service.

The weekly E-news is sent to over 400 email addresses.

We continued developing plans to re-envision our Village Hall facilities as a key part of our outreach and ministry resourcing.

Had a record-breaking Christmas Fair in support of our mission / charitable giving.

Delivered 57 Life Event services: baptisms, weddings, funerals, and burials / burial of cremated remains.

Welcomed over 100 people to our All-Souls' memorial service for the bereaved and conducted two services on behalf of local funeral directors for their Christmas memorial services.



Led Collective Worship in St Nicholas School as well as each year group coming into church for class Communion Services, plus leading a weekly lunchtime class "Leading Lights" and helping during RE lessons.

Led the Parish Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion Service and the Service at the War Memorial, with over 2000 people in attendance.

Welcomed children from Marjorie McClure school who joined us for Easter, Harvest and Christmas Services.

Welcomed children from the Midfield School in Orpington.

Took the lead on offering free games and crafts for children at the Chislehurst Summer Fair, also handing out leaflets and offering pastoral support.



Home Communion services and Bible studies at Faulkner House, Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Fairlight Nursing Home, Cedarmore Court and Shepherds House.

Continued to be the lead church in the development of a district-wide befriending project (Two's Company) with Rachel working alongside the coordinator and being her point of contact.

Continued with the monthly Soup Lunch which has continued to grow each month.



"Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit."
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Every hour, on the hour we will share together in prayer, please come and go as you wish. In between these prayers, prayers will be said or the businesses, homes and the people of Chislehurst.

Rev'd Rachel
Curate, St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst

- 9am Mattins - Morning Prayer
- 10am Marjorie McClure School Prayers
- 11am St Nicks Primary School Prayers
- 12pm Midday Prayers
- 1pm Community Prayers
- 2pm Prayers of Hospitality with Tea & Cake
- 3pm Lectio Davina
- 4pm Silent Prayer - Prayer Stations
- 5pm Healing Prayers and Laying of Hands
- 6pm Evening Prayer
- 7pm The Rosary
- 8pm St Nicholas Church Choir
- 9pm Compline (BCP) - Night Prayer

Prayer stations are available throughout the church, please spend time at each station, praying, reflecting, and just being in the presence of God.

Hosted a 12-hour Prayer Event, at which over 150 people joined us throughout the 12 hours, including children from St Nicholas School and Marjorie McClure.

Maintained all services throughout the year as well as special services during the liturgical calendar.

Celebrated a special Mothers Union Members Communion Service.

Celebrated Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel, Nave and the High Altar (East Facing).

Took part in the Kent Churches Ride and Stride event.



STILL STANDING
 A Lent course based on the Elton John movie **ROCKETMAN**
 Wednesday Evenings
 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March 2023
 St Nicholas Village Hall
 7.30pm

Welcoming Inclusive Serving
 St Nicholas Church

Contact: Rev'd Rachel to book
 revrachelcurley@outlook.com

Bible Studies have thrived, with an average attendance of 30 people at both the Lent and Advent Courses.

Faith Will...

Rev'd Rachel Curley, Curate at St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst

Jane Panemond in her field of maize, Zimbabwe.

...create lasting change near and far

When we're united, our faith is powerful. We can help both our local church community and global neighbours to flourish. That's why Christian Aid, UK churches and Quaker meetings are coming together this September to discover the power of gifts in Wills and the difference they can make. Your faith is powerful, and so is your Will.

To find out more, join our Faith Will event

Time: _____
 Date: _____
 Place: _____

Eng and Wales charity no. 1038851 Scot charity no. SC030950. Company no. 517525. © Christian Aid, May 2023 Photos: David Brooker/Robin Prime/Christian Aid.



Charles Dickens tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas past, present and yet to come is a familiar one to most people. But have you ever paused to wonder where Jesus is in this story, and what God might want you to learn through it about living unselfishly, about repentance, forgiveness, and restoration?

Why don't you join us and we can find out together.

Monday's
 27 Nov, 4 Dec, 11 Dec, 18 Dec at 11am
 in the meeting room
Wednesday's
 29 Nov, 6 Dec, 13 Dec, 20 Dec at 7pm
 in the hall



Supporting Christian Aid with their Faith Wills campaign.

Joined in local events with Chislehurst Creates, and Chislehurst Summer Fair.

Guest Preachers from Christian Aid, CompassionUK and Two's Company were welcomed to our services.



In September we welcomed the rector (Fr Jonathan Beswick, SSC), parishioners and friends of St Peter, London Docks to our church for the 143rd anniversary of the death of Father Charles Fuge Lowder.

Known in Wapping and Chislehurst as Lowder Day, this was the first time that Lowder Day had been marked in Chislehurst for some years.

Charlie Clark gave a talk on the history of the church and the connection of Father Lowder and St Peter, London Docks with St Nicholas, Chislehurst and how he came to be buried here. This was followed by a short service led by Fr Jonathan at the graveside.



Chislehurst Summer Fair

Ministry through Life Events

Life events (baptisms, weddings, funerals) provide powerful opportunities for ministry and pastoral care to be exercised by our church.

In 2023 we conducted the following:

Marriages 8

Blessings 3

Baptisms 12

Funerals 23

Burials of Ashes 14



Worship at St Nick's

All of our services have continued at St Nick's; We have even managed to add extra services throughout the year.

Thanks to the technology of iKnow, we can monitor the increase in our worship attendance at all our church services during the course of 2023.

It has been a real joy to welcome people who have not been to St Nicholas for a longtime and all those who are new to our church.

The task of keeping our services going throughout an interregnum is not an easy one, and the Churchwardens and PCC are grateful to Rev'd Rachel, Rev'd June and all those who have supported us during the interregnum.

We must also express our thanks to the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, the Venerable Allie Kerr for all of her help and support towards not only the church but to Rachel.

We strongly believe that Rev'd Rachel's personal ministry mission statement has become that of St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst.

“The Church in the Community and the community in the church”



FABRIC REPORT

From the Churchwardens, Annie Hanifin and John Grant.

1. **Introduction:** This report is intended to give an overview of the condition, maintenance requirements and necessary repairs or improvements for the church and other buildings in our care.
2. **Description:** St. Nicholas Church in Chislehurst, England, dates back to the 15th century. This historic church showcases a blend of architectural styles, primarily exhibiting elements of Gothic architecture, particularly evident in its pointed arches and intricate stonework. Constructed mainly from local stone, the church's exterior presents a weathered, timeless charm.

Notable features of St. Nicholas Church include its impressive tower, adorned with pinnacles, and its striking stained glass windows, which depict biblical scenes and saints. Inside, visitors can marvel at the beautifully carved wooden pulpit and the elegant vaulted ceilings, which add to the grandeur of the space. Additionally, the church houses several memorials and monuments, offering glimpses into the area's rich history and heritage. Overall, St. Nicholas Church stands as a testament to centuries of worship and community in Chislehurst, inviting visitors to appreciate its architectural beauty and historical significance. The Church has a substantial churchyard. St. Nicholas Village Hall is a more modern construction compared to the Church. There has been a hall here since the late 19th century with the current hall being over 50 years old. Architecturally, the hall is characterized by a blend of traditional and functional styles, often featuring elements of vernacular or utilitarian design rather than adhering strictly to a specific architectural movement.

The building caters to the needs of the local community for gatherings, events, and meetings. Notable features of the Village Hall include its spacious interior layout, flexible multipurpose rooms, and facilities such as kitchens and bathrooms to accommodate various events and activities.

Overall, St. Nicholas Village Hall serves as a vital hub for community engagement and social activities in Chislehurst, embodying the evolving needs and character of the area.

The Curate's house (Southbeech) dates to the 1970s and is a terraced three storey modern house, constructed of brick, with a slate roof.

The Rectory is a similar age property, in the care of the Diocese.

3. **Maintenance History:** The church buildings maintenance requirements are looked after by a property committee, a hall committee and our Verger. The Property Committee and the Verger look after the church

and the Committee look after the Curate's house. External contractors are used for regular specialist maintenance (boiler, lightning conductors, organs etc). The churchyard team look after the churchyard.

4. Summary key points :

The Church

- Attention required to the degradation of external masonry to the SW buttress.
- We are currently looking into the installation of a handrail to the pulpit steps, to ensure safe access and egress for all who preach/read from the pulpit.
- To improve the lighting in the chancel and also externally in the churchyard.
- To review access to the belfry.
- To aim to fully restore the uncovered Sanctuary pavement.

Churchyard

- A new powered leaf vacuum has been purchased, greatly improving and assisting the effectiveness of the Churchyard team.
- The east fence will need to be repaired in the next financial year.

Village Hall

- Spending has been kept to a minimum as we embark on a new 'Village hall for all' project.
- We entered into new cheaper contracts for energy (green), phone and broadband supplies
- Safety checks were made on the fire precautions, emergency lighting, and the boiler

Southbeech

- A new porch, doorstep and handrail were fitted.
- The rear garden fence will need to be repaired in the next financial year.

The Rectory

The Rectory is the responsibility of the Diocese, as owner.

- The driveway has been resurfaced.
- The property is being maintained in a vacant condition. Water and heating have been isolated.

Special thanks to Charlie Clarke, Anthony Faulkner, Steve Ripley, Peter Appleby and Alex Roeder for their input and commitment to the ongoing needs of our important buildings and surroundings.

5. **Safety and Compliance:** We believe that all of the buildings in our care are in compliance with safety regulations, building codes and fire codes.
6. **Environmental Considerations:** we have considered environmental factors such as energy efficiency, sustainability (new hall) and conservation measures in our maintenance activities.
7. **Future Planning:** We have a medium term goal to raise funds for the construction of the new village hall, and will actively seek and encourage community involvement, and partnerships with relevant organizations or agencies in the building and operation of the new hall.
8. **Conclusion:** The regular maintenance and stewardship of the church buildings is of great importance, as it provides a fabric and focal point of gathering for the congregation, further enhancing our work and ministry mission.

The Property Committee, the Churchyard Team, the New Hall Committee and the Village Hall Committee have all produced reports, which are contained in the overall annual report.



PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Weekly Notice Sheet

The single weekly notice sheet is printed each week and available in our church at worship. It continues to be a significant communication tool and liturgy resource for readings at the main Sunday worship. It is also circulated electronically each week via e-news.

E-news

To supplement the Notice Sheet we have also developed an on-line e-news system which allows us to circulate the weekly Notice Sheet ahead of each Sunday and to include a range of interesting articles and opportunities to respond to items of interest.

The e-news is currently sent out to 400 email recipients.

IT System

Rev'd Rachel managed to use her previous contacts to secure us a charity contract with Microsoft, which has enabled us to move over to a new, free online storage system, allowing Rachel and Parish Administrator Selina the use of shared folders, as well as all those who chair the many committees at St Nick's.

Website

Our website is proving to be a great resource for people, where they can find up-to-date information on our services, as well as life events and the many "extra's" St Nick's has to offer.

The screenshot shows the website for St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst. At the top left is a logo with the text "Welcoming Inclusive Serving" and "St Nicholas Chislehurst" next to a silhouette of a church. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Groups, About Us, Giving, Hall Hire, Life Events, Two's Company, and Safeguarding. On the right is the "iKnowChurch" logo with the tagline "Click for church diary". The main content area has a blue background and contains the following text:

Welcome to St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst

We believe in an inclusive Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

The Church is open for you to visit between 9am and 5pm every day.

If you wish to get in touch with us, you can either click **here** for more details, call the parish office direct on: 020 8467 0196 or contact the office via email stnicholaschislehurst@outlook.com.

Please note, hall bookings can only be made via the Parish Office.

Our Services for Sunday 14th April

8am	Said Eucharist BCP
9.30am	Parish Communion
10am	Wednesday 10th Said Eucharist BCP

Our usual Service Pattern

Sunday	
8am	Said Eucharist (BCP)
9.30am	Main Parish Communion (Common Worship) 2nd & 4th Sunday
9.30am	All Age Breakfast Worship in the Village Hall

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is a key part of our life together – both within, and beyond, the congregation.

Both formally, and informally, St Nicholas' responds to human need and the needs of our members in a variety of ways:

- Pastoral visits by the clergy, including the taking of Holy Communion to the housebound.
- Prayer ministry / intercessions / prayer lists.
- Informal visits by church members to other members.
- Taking services in local nursing homes and sheltered accommodation / retirement apartments.
- Sending monthly cards to those on our prayers lists, ensuring they know we pray for them regularly and offering opportunities to receive a visit and/or communion.
- Visits to local hospitals and hospices.
- Responding to requests from the community, especially those new to the area.
- Preparing the dying for their death.
- One-to-one bereavement support.
- Offering pastoral liturgies in response to need, including the All Soul's Memorial Service.
- Working with Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley to explore the development of a Befriending Service for the lonely and isolated.
- The Community Soup lunch (2nd Thursday of the month in the Village Hall).

Mission and Evangelism and outreach

This includes:

- Mission / Giving to other charities, including Marylebone Project, Bromley Welfare, Compassion, MANUP? and Two's Company.
- Support for Christian Aid
- Practical support for Whitechapel Mission which we aim to increase during 2024

Each of our church members, too, are ambassadors of the church and representatives of Christ in their respective locations, communities, and relationships.

Mission and ministry and outreach are not the reserve of 'the professionals', they are Gospel imperatives for all of us.

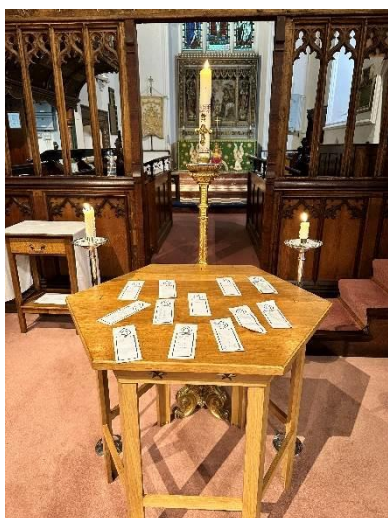
REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Baptism Helpers

Overseen by
Group Aims

Sarah Arnheim

The aim is to help set up behind the scenes items needed for Rev Rachel to use during Baptisms, so that she can concentrate on the important bits!



After several years in charge, Jackie White has passed the baton to Sarah Arnheim. Thank you Jackie, for all that you did.

We are reminded of our vibrant Baptism activity by the socks under the font, we ask each family to provide us with a memento of that wonderful day when their child joined our growing church family.

12 Baptisms were held at St Nick's this year and again a wonderful Baptism Tea (catered superbly by our Mothers' Union) preceded by a short service (see photo) allowed the families to get to know each other and exchange experiences, love and laughter.



Bellringers

Tower Captain *Maralyn Evans*
Meets *Sunday Service ringing*
Wednesday evening
practice

Group Aims *Support ringing for*
services and special
events with main bells,
Ellacombe chimes and
handbells



Achievements this year

After sudden decrease in membership in 2020 we have now returned to a healthier number of 7 ringers. In addition, following a recruitment drive this year we have 3 new learners who are progressing well.

Lewisham District Practice hosted here in April during which the peal board in memory of Mark Jones was blessed and a dedicated touch rang.

Ellacombe chimes were rung on 6 May as part of the Ringing for the King celebrations.

Rang quarter peal for Rev Rachel's ordination.

Rang bells for nine weddings.

Handbells displayed and rung for Open House Sunday.



All 8 bells were rung half muffled on Remembrance Sunday.

Rang Ellacombe chimes for Nativity tableau.

We have joined the Junior Church team where members are being taught to ring 'baby bells' in advance of learning to ring the historic handbells when they are older.

Hopes and Aspirations for the future

To increase attendance at service ringing.

When our learners are competent, I am hopeful that regular Sunday morning service ringing will continue.

Involvement of Junior Church and St Nicholas Primary School learning to ring the handbells.

CHLOE

Overseen by *Ann Dyer and Muriel Partridge*
Meets *Once a month in the afternoon from
September to July*
Group Aims *To share friendship, fun and
refreshments*

“CHLOE”
(Chislehurst Ladies Over Eighteen)



Chislehurst Ladies Over Eighteen. A group of ladies who meet together. There is no membership – you can just come along to whatever you fancy.

In September we have a planning meeting and ideas are put forward for the year, with offers of hospitality and dates.

There are some regular suggestions like a film, a musical event, games, poetry, a meal in a restaurant, and an afternoon tea at Hall Place Bexley but we would like some different ideas too.

During 2023 we enjoyed all of these plus a London Walk on a hot day, a cheese tasting, and a Beetle drive. We enjoy tea, coffee and cake together along with lively conversation.

Our aims are to encourage more ladies to come and join in – there are usually between 10 and 20 people but there is room for more.

*Look out for notices each month in eNews!
Please come along and join in!*



Churches Together in Chislehurst & Bickley

Represented by: *Rev'd Rachel Curley*
Barbara Adie (CTCB Secretary)
Frances Foley (CTCB Social Media)
Philippa Robinson (CTCB Treasurer)
Meets *Spring and Autumn meetings*
Summer AGM
Group Aims *Churches Together consists of nine
churches, of which St Nicholas is one.*



As representatives of all the 9 churches in the area, we aim to show those in Chislehurst and Bickley that our faith is relevant and active, and to share our faith with the people in our community.

Achievements this year

Churches Together:

- Successfully launched The Two's Company Project and Project Lead, Danielle Francis has made amazing progress. There are now 9 active volunteers providing support to a number of service users. She has also sourced outside funding to support the project from the National Lottery, Chislehurst Rotary and The Chislehurst Society. Danielle has been invited to St.Nicholas Church and Christ Church to talk about the project, encouraging people to volunteer. Rev Rachel Curley oversees the project now.
- Continues to financially support the Chislehurst Debt Advisory Service.
- Benefits from the 2gether shop, which funds Chislehurst Youth for Christ and actively supports the group.
- Promotes churches through a presence at the Chislehurst Summer Fair, Walk of Witness on Good Friday and distribution of an annual Christmas card



Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

To be an active and visible sign of our faith and God's love in Chislehurst and Bickley and look for more opportunities to do so. To secure continued funding for the Two's Company Befriending Project to enable its further development and growth.



Church Choir

Overseen by

Michael Bell FRCO

Meets

every Thursday, 7.30pm-9pm for rehearsal (in vestry)

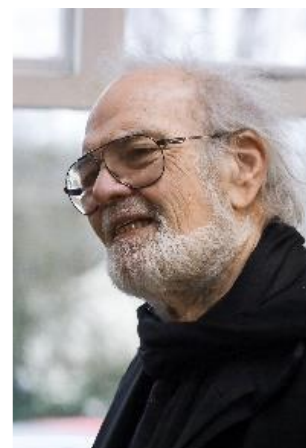
Sings on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays at 9.30am

and also on 1st Sunday at 6pm, and 3rd Sunday at 11.15am

Occasionally at weekday services

Group Aims

To contribute, musically, to the enhancement of worship for the praise and glory of God.



The Choir of St Nicholas maintains a tradition established by many Parish Churches in the early nineteenth century; a four-part ensemble (i.e. Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) singing hymns, psalms, anthems and other settings at main services Sunday by Sunday. Additionally on the first Sunday evening of each month they sing 'Prayer Book' Evensong and likewise on the third Sunday morning Matins is still sung.

The 'top line' (boy Trebles until around the start of the present century) is maintained by sopranos now and the male Altos of yesteryear tend to be female "Contraltos" nowadays. We have managed to 'field' all four parts every Sunday this year, sometimes by skin of teeth it must be said.

Many other church choirs are somewhat less fortunate, but it highlights a pressing need for new recruits to share the workload. My total admiration of present members' continuous and remarkable dedication and enthusiasm is here recorded once again. Practice is now held usually on Thursdays – 7.30-9.00pm in the vestry. New members would certainly be very welcome to join us.

There have been even fewer Weddings this year. More couples now choose to supply their own groups/soloists than previously. However there seems to have been an increase in the number of Funerals requesting the church choir.



Churchyard Volunteers

Overseen by *Alex Roeder*
Meets *Second Saturday of the month.
(weather & numbers dependent).
9am-12 roughly*
Group Aims *To maintain the planting around
the churchyard, collection and
disposal of rubbish and keeping
an eye on what needs seeing to
in general*



Achievements this year:

- Devised a system of disposing of green waste, which allows it to be removed more easily and slightly more cost effectively. This involves filling tonne bags and placing in the tip. Thus reducing the hours of shovelling up waste at irregular intervals required to dispose of it in the past. Replacing the large bin by the tip with 2 smaller, has made rubbish disposal much easier.
- The mortuary shed has had a general clear out of broken/irrelevant tools and accumulated general rubbish. We have put up shelves to help with keeping the clutter under control.
- There is still the ongoing battle with ivy, brambles and leaves.
- We now, thanks to the PCC, have a petrol powered leaf vacuum. This works well and means that some of our less youthful volunteers can help with leaf collection. Also, the purchase of decent brooms and another wheelbarrow is much appreciated.
- We continue to work on our removal of bushes/trees growing out of and damaging graves, tree thinning and crown raising in consultation with council, Diocese and PCC.
- Clearing a grave of a relative has led to a new volunteer joining us. We also have the son of St. Nick's head teacher helping us now, along with a passing volunteer who is also now helping us.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Basically, as per last year, I would hope to get some more younger volunteers! And we all aspire to keeping the churchyard as neat and viable as possible for the future.

- We are considering building compost bins in the NW corner, with parishioners being able to “ help themselves” under guidance.
- We have a few trees to trim back this year so will be doing that once we get some new chainsaw blades.
- Our biggest concern in the churchyard is the east fence along Church Lane, where the existing posts need extra support.
- And finally, as always, new volunteers would be well received.



Community Soup Lunch

Overseen by *Rev Rachel Curley*

Rota co-ordinator: Barbara Adie

Meets *Monthly in the Village Hall*

12.45pm for 1.00pm every second

Thursday (not August)

Group Aims

To provide an opportunity for members of the church and wider community to meet socially, find companionship and chat over a shared lunch; to meet up with old friends and make new ones.



Achievements this year

Guests now look forward to our monthly soup lunches, with a regular attendance of 32 - 40 people.

Christmas was made special with seasonal table decorations, crackers, but the highlight was St Nicholas school choir coming to sing once again.

Following advice from Environmental Health, Bromley, our procedures have changed slightly this year. Three members of the team have completed their Food Hygiene certificates (level 2) and basic training will be provided for all our volunteers.

We are truly grateful to Justine Grant, who now makes both the soup and cakes for us each month, as well as providing printed allergy information, which is displayed on the welcome table.

We have a diligent team of 16 volunteers, welcoming 4 new helpers this year. This activity would not be possible without their support.

The soup lunches have a lovely atmosphere and continue to provide a very welcome opportunity to meet and socialise in comfort, to relax and chat.

Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

Soup lunches are a valued community event and we are hoping to encourage increasing numbers from the wider community to join us.



Deanery Synod

Representatives: Charles Clark, Diane Moorman and Peter Ridge.

Meets *Usually three times a year.*

Group Aims *The main purpose is to act as an intermediary between PCCs and Diocesan Synod and to elect the Deanery's Lay Representatives to Diocesan Synod. Further information about the deanery, including full minutes of each synod can be accessed on <https://bromleydeanery.simdif.com>.*

St Nicholas, Chislehurst is one of 13 churches in the Bromley Deanery, within the Archdeaconry of Bromley & Bexley and the Diocese of Rochester.

Tuesday 21st March 2023 @ St Mary's, Plaistow

- Received a talk on how to be a family friendly church, followed by a Q+A session, from Laura Webster, Diocesan Children and Young People Mission & Ministry Advisor Bromley & Bexley.
- Received updates from recent Diocesan Synod and the Living in Love and Faith process.

Tuesday 16th May 2023 @ Christ Church, Chislehurst

- Extra meeting to meet the new Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, the Ven. Allie Kerr. This was a very open and frank meeting for Synod members to 'get to know' our new archdeacon.

Wednesday 12th July 2023 @ St John the Evangelist, Bromley (first meeting of the new Deanery Triennial)

- Agreed by the House of Laity that Cath Johnston (Christ Church, Chislehurst) is to continue as Deanery Lay Chair. House of Laity also

agreed for Jonathan Hutton (St Peter & St Paul, Bromley) to continue as Secretary and Richard Latteman (Christ Church, Bromley) as Treasurer. Charles Clark (St Nicholas, Chislehurst) to also join the Standing Committee.

- Agreed by the House of Clergy that to join the Rev'd Victoria Pask (St Mark's Bromley) and the Rev'd Andrew McClellan (St John the Evangelist, Bromley) on the Standing Committee would be: the Rev'd Steve Spencer (St Augustine & St Luke, Bromley Common) and the Rev'd Paul Farthing (The Annunciation, Chislehurst).
- The Rev'd Andrew McClellan (Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Bromley & Inter-Faith Advisor for the Archdeaconry of Bromley and Bexley) gave a talk on inter-faith relations, followed by an engaging Q+A session.

Thursday 16th November 2023 @ Christ Church, Bromley

- Mike Harrowing, CEO of Spinnaker Trust, gave an engaging presentation on their work in teaching schoolchildren the Holy Bible. This was followed by an open discussion on how best we can engage with those outside of the church and in particular children.
- Received updates from Diocesan Synod.

St Nicholas, Chislehurst is to host Deanery Synod for the first time in a number of years on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 in the Village Hall. We look forward to welcoming our brothers and sisters in Christ from our neighbouring parishes and the three reps from our church could certainly do with some assistance in providing tea, coffee and biscuits to all of those who are attending!

Electoral Roll

Overseen by

Giles Cordwell

Aims

Maintaining an accurate record of Church membership.



This has been a slightly more active year for the Electoral Roll. It is the fifth year since the most recent creation of a new roll in 2019, so it has been a case of keeping my head down and trying to keep things ticking over before the next major task – creating the next roll – next year.

Improved communication has helped greatly with maintaining an accurate record this year.

At present, the Electoral Roll has **281** members listed, with 26 new names added and 14 removed, either through moving away or because a member has died.

The membership is made up of 89 (32%) who live in the parish, 101 (36%) in the rest of Chislehurst and 91 (32%) who live elsewhere.

The number on the Church Electoral Roll determines the numbers we are permitted on the Deanery Synod and also determines the number of lay members on the PCC. As we have more than 200 on our Roll, we are allowed 4 Deanery representatives and up to the maximum of 15 members lay representatives on the PCC.

Church Electoral Roll Application Forms are available from the Parish Office.



Finance Committee

Overseen by Sarah Cordwell
Meets Quarterly
Group Aims Management and oversight of church finances

Management of church finances is a daily event and we remain incredibly grateful for the work Jo Papa carries out on the finances of the church thus easing the work of the Committee.

Our accounts show some stark facts. Income from voluntary donations in 2023 was 25% less than in a pre-Covid 2019. We therefore have less to spend on our church than we need.

Utilities costs were £9,000, which was less than the forecast £12,000 due to further cost cutting, including severe restrictions on church heating. Changing church insurers to Aviva in 2022 resulted in a saving of £3,000.

For the first time in many years, we carried out no “Major Works” on the church.

Further cuts were to our offering to the Diocese. We have always paid a bit extra than our share to compensate for those parishes less fortunate than us. This year we were not able to pay this bit extra, saving us £15,000 compared to 2019. Our “Away Giving” to charities was unfortunately less than half the sum we gave in 2019.

We hope the 2024 Stewardship campaign will be successful and help towards restoring our finances.

Once a suitable machine came on the market we installed a contactless card reader in April 2022. It was envisaged that the main source of donations using the machine would be from Funerals and Baptisms. The use of the machine is, however, from all services plus casual visitors and has now taken £10,000 since it was installed. Far more than expected.

We remain so very grateful to all those who contribute to the finances of our wonderful church.



Junior Church

Overseen by *Sarah Armstrong and Kate Murdock-Smith*

Meets *Twice a month (2nd and 4th Sunday)*

Group Aims *To bring the message of God to our younger members of the Church; For young people to feel a sense of community with others; To engage the younger generation in the message and values of our Church community*



JUNIOR CHURCH
LEARNING & GROWING

We have had a busy year in Junior Church. We have been delighted to welcome several families with young children join us throughout the year as well as several new volunteers to our teaching team.



We have continued to follow the 'Roots on the web' programme which supports the stories of the Bible with activities, games and crafts alongside important events in our calendar including Mothering Sunday.

We have been blessed with Bernadette coming along to teach some of our older children the hand bells and over the weeks, they are getting much more confident and fluent in following the music! Our children have really looked forward to her visits- thank you, Bernadette! We look forward to continuing to include music and the joy it brings to our sessions.

We continue to be very grateful to Rachel and the team for their unwavering support for our group; our children are confident and proud to share their efforts in Church each week and we hope that this will encourage more youngsters to come along and join in the fun.



We are always looking for more ways to bring the joy of faith to our young people and would welcome any ideas and support from our wider community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the team who make Junior Church possible; your enthusiasm and commitment to our young people is so valued and we really look forward to building on our foundations in the coming year to spread the word of our group and welcome more young people.

Hopes and aspirations for the future:

- To build more of a community of young people to our sessions;
- To give opportunities for our older children to get involved in the sessions with the younger ones
- To spread the word of our Junior Church to our wider community, raising the profile of our group



Knitting Group

Overseen by *Barbara Adie and Carole Gray*
Meets *Tuesday's 10.30-12.00 in the Bulls Head.*

Group Aims *To provide an opportunity for those in the community interested in knitting or crochet to meet, share creative ideas and support each other.*



Achievements this year

The knitting group is blossoming! We continue to grow in numbers, with 18 – 20 members each week.

A dynamic group - we have lost a few good friends this year, but continue to welcome new ones.

As always, we are grateful to The Bull for hosting the group. Due to the increased numbers, self-service coffee is now provided. Skills are varied, but all contribute to an amazing array of items. A range of goods have been provided to charities: Children in Distress, Whitechapel Mission, Shoe boxes and Refugees. We also had a splendid display at the Christmas Fair, raising over £1000.

The group love to meet socially too. We had an afternoon tea in Barbara's garden in May, the annual Christmas lunch at the Bull and a lunch at Easter too.

Running for over 10 years, the knitting group is open to all members of the community and continues to provide a warm welcome to newcomers, so pop in one Tuesday morning 10.30-12.00 - join us for a chat and release your creative abilities!

Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

With new members, come new ideas and we already have projects planned and underway. The group plans to increase their social activities in the coming year.



Memorial Garden

Overseen by *Sue Thorogood*

The Memorial Garden is a special place in our Churchyard and we endeavour to maintain it to a high standard.



We do have a rota of helpers in the summer months but there is also a lot of work involved in the autumn and winter when copious amounts of leaves fall on and around the garden.

Many people leave flowers and plants over the year which have to be cleared away as they die off and it would really help if those leaving them could come and clear them .

I would like to thank those of you who help to look after the Memorial Garden and would love to hear from anyone who would like to join us.



Mothers' Union

Overseen by *Sally Hayhow and Dorothy Baldwin*

Meets *On the morning of the third Thursday every month (except August)*

Group Aims *To share friendship and fellowship*



Our meetings take place in The Bull's Head where the coffee is very good indeed. In the better weather we reserve one of the pods in their garden.

We value the unique opportunities for friendship and fellowship that belonging to the Mothers' Union affords in what has been a difficult time for many and we continue to feel grateful that we can meet together. We support each other especially when illness or accidents have happened and we pray for them, send cards and share news of their progress.

We have held meetings every month, apart from August, and have enrolled 2 new members. Our Advent Meditation, attended by 18 members, was led by Rev'd Rachel to whom we are most grateful for her continuing support and commitment to thrive and develop. She also celebrated a special and well attended M.U. communion service for us in October.

We raise funds for M.U. projects by holding raffles, sales tables and by providing cakes and refreshments for church events. At our most recent meeting there was a sales table and £73 was raised which was donated to an M.U. initiative celebrating Mothers' Day. This project "Empowering Women" funds small businesses started by women in developing countries helping them to survive, feed their families and supporting them in getting their children to school more easily.

We look forward to another year of getting together every month and please know that you would be very welcome if you would like to join us.

Parish Administrator

*In the Parish Office, Mon-Fri, 9am – 1pm.
Overseen by Rev'd Curley & Churchwardens
Report submitted by Selina Lindsey*



2023 being in an interregnum for the past 6 months, I can say that the office and all administrative work have continued to run smoothly under the care of our Curate Rev Rachel Curley.

The bookings for parties in the hall have continued to increase, most Saturday and Sunday afternoons every month.

12 baptisms were held from May-November 2023 and currently 8 scheduled from April to July 2024. e-News, and iKnow is still working well, enabling many people to access information and news about St Nicholas online, subscriptions to e-News increase steadily.



PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Members are elected for a three-year period and may stand again. The PCC may also co-opt up to THREE additional members, as set out in the Church Representation Rules as amended in 2020.

Details of the membership of the PCC during 2023 are set out elsewhere in this report.

Sub-Groups

The PCC has set up various sub-groups which carry out particular functions on behalf of the PCC:

Standing Committee

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

Finance Committee

Works with the Treasurer to ensure good financial management and effective stewardship of resources.

Property Committee

Oversees the extensive work required to maintain our built heritage, properties and grounds.

Safeguarding Committee

To ensure that current good practice and legislation is adhered to ensure Safeguarding training and awareness is of first concern for everyone in the community of St Nicholas' Church.

Events Committee

Involved in the planning and smooth running of church and community events.

Hall Development Team

Oversees the development of the new Village Hall, involved in initially submitting plans and then grant applications, fundraising and project management.

Village Hall Committee

Committee that works on the maintenance of the hall and the smooth running of all aspects of the village hall life.

Churchyard Team

Oversees the general good maintenance of the churchyard and Memorial Garden.

PCC Meetings during 2023

The full PCC met 6 times during 2023 (dates below) with good attendance on most occasions. The Standing Committee and Teams met regularly, and reports of their activities were received and discussed where necessary by the PCC.

23 January 2023

13 March 2023

14 May 2023 – Annual Meetings

12 June 2023

17 July 2023

25 September 2023

13 November 2023



Property Committee

Overseen by *Charles Clark*

Who we are: A number of lay members (some from outside of the PCC) who work together to assist the Churchwardens in maintaining (and in some cases improving!) our fifteenth century church.

There are a large number of routine maintenance tasks and urgent works that are overseen by those who do not sit on the team, in particular Peter Appleby and Anthony Faulkner, to whom a special thanks must go to for their unstinting work in ensuring the building remains in the condition it does.

Sanctuary Pavement

Over Christmastide we removed the blue carpet that was laid in 1983 which had completely covered the Sanctuary.

As was hoped for, we discovered a red and cream-coloured Italian marble pavement that was designed by the noted Gothic Revival architects Bodley and Garner in 1896.



This has received a very positive reaction from members of the church, the wider community in Chislehurst and across social media, with over 12.5k engagements on one post on X/Twitter alone.

Ongoing projects

- Attention required to the degradation of external masonry to the SW buttress.
- We are currently looking into the installation of a handrail to the pulpit steps, to ensure safe access and egress for all who preach/read from the pulpit.
- To improve the lighting in the chancel and also externally in the churchyard.
- To review access to the belfry.
- To fully restore the uncovered Sanctuary pavement.

Hopes and aspirations for the future: To welcome anybody with the skills, time or love to join or even lead our team to help care for the oldest and most beautiful building in Chislehurst



Safeguarding

Overseen by

Susie Hemming-Clark

Meets

Regular meetings to continue 6-8 weekly, these may be more frequent according to the need

Group Aims

To ensure sustainable management of all safeguarding issues at St Nicholas Church



Rev Rachel Curley, Sally Hayhow and Sue Brandon continue to be committed members of the safeguarding group. The Team members continue to manage our safeguarding process and where appropriate any issues that have arisen escalate to our local Diocese safeguarding representative:

Digital Technology:- Safe storage of data & documents



We use a secure shared electronic filing system where the records are collated and stored. All the information is stored following GDPR guidance.

DBS Process - Resources



Sue Brandon and Sally Hayhow handle the DBS process. The Church of England determines which roles need DBS clearance as “anyone appointed/elected by or on behalf of the church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay/ volunteer (paid or unpaid)”

All Parochial Church Council (PCC) members are currently up to date.

We support the Churches Together Two’s Company project by carrying out the DBS process for them.

Legal responsibility

Church officers are required to renew their DBS authorization every 3 years.

Safeguarding Sunday 26.11.2023 – During the 9.30am Service



The purpose of this session was to remind the church community to continue to be aware and alert and to report any concerns where anyone's safety is at risk.

Safeguarding Communications



There are notices positioned in strategic places around the church and village hall with more detailed information on noticeboards.

We are currently looking at redesigning the posters to simplify them and increase their impact.

The weekly eNews and pew leaflets, display poster as reminders, as well as our church website.

Safeguarding Dashboard for the Diocese

We update the database as and when is required.

www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/safeguardingdashboards.php

Training: <http://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>



The courses below are the 4 main areas of training that our staff and volunteers are required to complete:-

Basic Awareness

Foundation
Leadership and safer recruiter
Domestic abuse awareness.

The safeguarding team will inform you of what courses you need to complete when the volunteer takes up their role and will remind the volunteer when their next training is required:

The Junior Church Volunteers have completed their safeguarding training. We still have three volunteers who need to complete the leadership course run by the diocese.

For further information: -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual> useful site for updates and policies.

Hopes

Our church community continues to be a safe place for all.

Aspirations:

All of our church officers complete their training where required.

The church officers and the congregation work hard to keep our church a safe place.

That training and safeguarding processes will continue to be prioritised and carried out vigorously in all areas of our church management, and to evaluate our practices and responses regularly.

To embed National Standard for Safeguarding 2023 into our church community

Standard 1	CULTURE, LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY Church bodies have safe and healthy cultures, effective leadership, resourcing and scrutiny arrangements necessary to deliver high quality safeguarding practices and outcomes.
Standard 2	PREVENTION Church bodies have in place a planned range of measures which together are effective in preventing abuse in their context.
Standard 3	RECOGNISING, ASSESSING AND MANAGING RISK Risk assessments, safety plans and associated processes are of a high quality and result in positive outcomes. The assessment and management of risk is underpinned by effective partnership working
Standard 4	VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS Victims and survivors experience the timeliness and quality of Church bodies' responses to disclosures, and their subsequent support, as positively meeting their needs, including their search for justice and helping their healing process.
Standard 5	LEARNING, SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT All those engaged in safeguarding related activity in Church bodies receive the type and level of learning, professional development, support and supervision necessary to respond to safeguarding situations, victims and survivors, and respondents, effectively.

“Safeguarding remains everybody's business whatever community setting you are in“



Welcoming Inclusive Serving St Nicholas Chislehurst

Promoting a safer church

Safeguarding at St Nicholas, Chislehurst

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

Susie and the team have the training and support to be resilient and confident regarding Safeguarding policy and practice.

If you or someone you are concerned about is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999. If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm, please contact one of our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers.



St Nicholas' Church School – Rev'd Rachel



ST NICHOLAS
CE Primary School
Part of the Aquinas Trust

I have been extremely lucky since my arrival here that the head teacher at St Nick's School, Sophie Sear, has welcomed me with open arms and allowed me to spend as much time as I wish at school. I regularly lead school collective worship (assembly), and we have welcomed the children into church for various services and celebrations, including their Leavers' Service, class Communions, Carol Concerts, and the school participating during our 12 hour prayer event.

Report by Sophie Sear – Head teacher at St Nick’s

Rev'd Rachel has been a consistent presence in leading worship sessions at St. Nicholas School. Her engaging and uplifting presentations have inspired both pupils and staff, fostering a sense of community and spirituality within the school. Additionally, Rev'd Rachel has led Eucharist services with individual year groups, providing pupils with the opportunity to participate in this important sacrament in a meaningful and age-appropriate manner. These services have not only deepened pupils' understanding of their faith but have also encouraged reflection and introspection.



Beyond her role in leading worship, Rev'd Rachel has actively engaged with pupils in the classroom, teaching in various year groups. Her expertise in theological concepts has been invaluable in supporting teachers with challenging topics, ensuring that pupils receive a comprehensive religious education. Rev'd Rachel's approachable nature and ability to simplify complex ideas have made her an asset in the educational development

of the pupils.

Rev'd Rachel has demonstrated a strong commitment to the St. Nicholas School community by actively participating in school events. She has been a visible and supportive presence. Her involvement has helped strengthen the bond between the school and the local church, fostering a sense of unity and belonging among pupils, staff, and parents.

One of Rev'd Rachel's key contributions has been her proactive efforts in developing the school chaplaincy programme. Recognising the importance of providing pastoral care and support to pupils, she has worked closely with school leaders to establish and expand chaplaincy services. This includes establishing Leading Lights, which has created a nurturing group where pupils feel supported in their spiritual and emotional growth.



As the academic year progresses, it is evident that Rev'd Rachel's dedication and passion for her role continue to enrich the lives of those within the school community.

Third Sunday Singers

Overseen by *Muriel Partridge*
Meets *Every third Saturday and Sunday in the month*
Group Aims *To sing during communion and to lead the congregation hymns on the third Sunday in the month*



Achievements this year

Loyal attendance and commitment to helping worship on the third Sunday every month.

Singing at the Christmas Fair.

Singing the Coronation anthem composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber for the coronation of King Charles

Hopes and Aspirations for the future

To continue our service on the third Sundays.

To extend our repertoire of music
To participate in special services if required.

To attract new members



If you love singing and would like to be part of the group, please contact any of the members, or speak to us on the Third Sunday before or after the service.



Verger's Report

From Peter Appleby – Verger (Philip Wilson, Deputy Verger)

(Definition of a Verger: - A church officer who takes care of the interior of the building and acts as an attendant during ceremonies).

Fulfillment of these duties has been as follows:-

- The **clock** has been serviced and adjusted at summer-time changes. It maintains high accuracy.
- Some 12 **grave sites** were selected and after liaison with grave diggers MDH, dug. 12 **Burial of Remains (BOR) sites** were selected dug and closed after services. Services were **attended** and assistance rendered to the Priest.
- Proper **records** were entered into the **Registers** providing the ability to trace the location of each **BURIAL OF ASHES**.
- Preparations for funerals(13) and weddings (5) were made by stationing road cones to facilitate **parking of cars and grave-digging machines**. The 'Resting Gate' (under the Lych Gate) was opened for each funeral.
- Within the churchyard, the **water supply** was adjusted when icy conditions threatened.
- The **Lightening Conductor** was checked regularly.
- **Gutters, down-pipes, gullies and drains** were serviced annually and as required.
- As a member of the churchyard working party **yew trees** were trimmed.
- Within the church, the **heating system** was checked regularly and serviced.
- The **cellar and loo drainage** were maintained by clearing mud intakes and rodding
- **Lighting** was maintained by replacement of bulbs.
- The **Southern Porch Doors** were serviced under contract.





Village Hall team

Overseen by: *Steve Ripley*

Aims: *To keep the Village Hall premises running, safe, and used as much as possible, while a replacement is being prepared.*



Spend on maintenance and improvements has been kept to a minimum. The Hall remained operational and open for use throughout the year, with short exceptions when the heating failed:

- we entered into new cheaper contracts for energy (green), phone and broadband supplies
- various repairs were made to lights, plumbing, sockets, curtains, and the Committee Room trolley
- Rev'd Jonathan donated a wall heater (see pic above) which was installed in the Committee Room.
- We reviewed and updated our hire publicity, terms/conditions, and rates.
- A tree with ash dieback was removed; a neighbour kindly shared the cost.
- The large sycamore behind the sheds (see pic.) also needs removing, and we are awaiting Council approval
- we dealt successfully with visits by wasps and rodents
- safety checks were made on the fire precautions, emergency lighting, and the boiler



The Hall and Church continue to be Emergency Rest Centres for Bromley Council, if required.

Hopes and aspirations for the future: We look forward to the building of a new hall, with hope and faith.



Village Hall Development

The PCC have committed to the development of a new 'village hall for all' scheme. 2023 saw the production of plans and specialist reports required to submit to planning in 2024.



A VILLAGE HALL *for all*

A design and access statement will accompany the plans.

Five specialist surveyor reports are required to feed into the design & access statement, updates as below.

The Architect will need to update plans and proposals to reflect the report findings, and to produce the design & access statement accordingly, for this to be then issued for comment prior to planning submission.

Transport (Kronen Ltd)

Video survey complete. Recommendation for revised disabled bay and turning space to be included in the plans. Architect has incorporated the findings and has updated the plans.

Noise (Sharps Redmore)

Initial survey complete. Follow up survey also complete. Requirements discussed with the Architect and the plans/proposals have been updated by the Architect.

Ecology (Greenlink Ecology Ltd)

Updated report (the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal) issued to planning consultant and Architect. Positive commentary and feedback. The report states a low impact/risk to development.

Drainage

Report complete. The report concludes '...The proposed development is considered acceptable from a surface water drainage perspective...' but also recommends '...a surface water drainage strategy based on an attenuated discharge to the public sewer is recommended...' (a means of holding back rainwater and slowly releasing to the sewer).

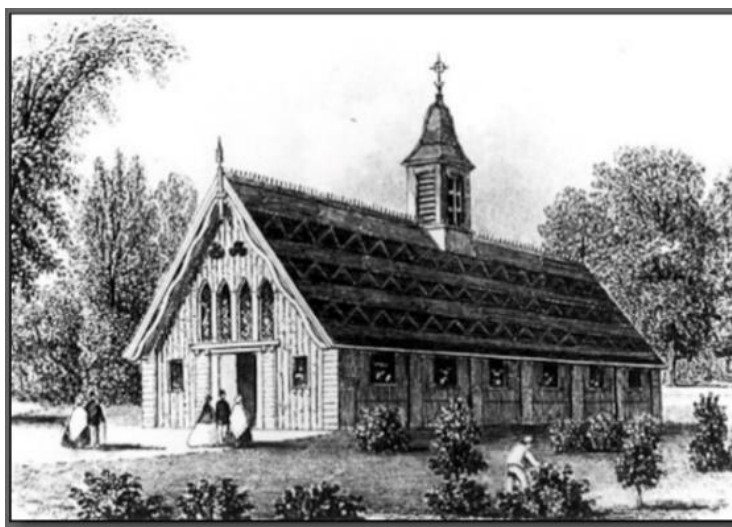
Trees (Chartwell Tree Consultants)

Tree survey and findings are complete and incorporated into the proposals.

Next Steps (2024)

Revise plans, elevations and the Design & Access statement.
Hold a second public consultation meeting.
Submit application in Q1 2024.

Start to raise funds.



A previous Village Hall

Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council

of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst (the Church) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Christopher Archer

Date : 30 April 2024

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd
The Vicarage, Rose Lane, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 8DB

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2023 £	2022 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Voluntary income	3(a)	116,033	1,270	-	117,303	122,775
Activities for generating funds	3(b)	29,553	4,739	-	34,292	29,860
Income from Church activities	3(c)	16,157	-	-	16,157	13,752
Income from investments	3(d)	3,111	-	9,825	12,936	11,633
Other income	3(e)	<u>10,494</u>	<u>2,870</u>	-	13,364	<u>18,155</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>175,348</u>	<u>8,879</u>	<u>9,825</u>	194,052	<u>196,175</u>
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>						
Church activities	4(a)	171,837	6,452	9,825	188,114	210,841
Exceptional costs	4(b)	-	2,125	-	2,125	-
Governance costs	4(c)	<u>769</u>	-	-	769	<u>626</u>
Total resources expended		<u>172,606</u>	<u>8,577</u>	<u>9,825</u>	191,008	<u>211,467</u>
<u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Before other recognised gains & losses		2,742	302	-	3,044	(15,292)
<u>NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS</u>	7(b)	<u>23,288</u>	-	<u>36,558</u>	59,846	<u>(68,743)</u>
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</u>		26,030	302	36,558	62,890	(84,035)
<u>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</u>		6,000		(6,000)	-	-
Balances brought forward 1 January 2023 (2022)		<u>312,938</u>	<u>1,323</u>	<u>588,968</u>	903,229	<u>987,264</u>
<u>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</u>						
31 DECEMBER 2023 (2022)		<u>344,968</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>619,526</u>	966,119	<u>903,229</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	funds	funds	Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Tangible	7(a)	60,260	-	232,500	292,760	292,760
Investments	7(b)	<u>220,984</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>379,189</u>	600,173	<u>540,327</u>
		<u>281,244</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>611,689</u>	892,933	<u>833,087</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Debtors & prepayments	8	12,813	-	-	12,813	14,072
Short term deposits		43,162	1,625	7,837	52,624	43,267
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>25,834</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	25,834	<u>31,953</u>
		<u>81,809</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>7,837</u>	91,271	<u>89,292</u>
LIABILITIES due within one year	9	<u>(18,085)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	(18,085)	<u>(19,150)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>63,724</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>7,837</u>	73,186	<u>70,142</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>344,968</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>619,526</u>	966,119	<u>903,229</u>
<u>FUNDS</u>						
<u>Unrestricted:</u>						
General		103,013	-	-	103,013	181,920
Designated:						
Church Repair Fund	11(a)	95,758	-	-	95,758	70,758
Church Hall Building	11(b)	60,260	-	-	60,260	60,260
Village Hall Fund	11(c)	85,937	-	-	85,937	-
Restricted:	14	-	1,625	-	1,625	1,323
Endowment	12	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>619,526</u>	619,526	<u>588,968</u>
		<u>344,968</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>619,526</u>	966,119	<u>903,229</u>

Approved by the PCC on 28th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by :-

John Grant

The notes on pages 61 to 67 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS *For the year ended 31 December 2023*

1. CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTRATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 September 2009, with Registered No. 1131855. It is required to file its annual report and accounts with the Commission and must also send these to the Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP FRS102 (second edition). The policies are set out in full on page 67 of this report.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	2023 £	2022 £
(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	70,562	-	-	70,562	71,051
Tax recoverable	18,715	-	-	18,715	19,754
Collections at services	16,183	1,270	-	17,453	21,389
Donations/ Legacies	10,573	-	-	10,573	10,581
	<u>116,033</u>	<u>1,270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,303</u>	<u>122,775</u>
(b) Activities for generating funds					
St Nicholas Fair	-	4,739	-	4,739	3,353
Church Hall hiring	29,553	-	-	29,553	26,507
	<u>29,553</u>	<u>4,739</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,292</u>	<u>29,860</u>
(c) Income from Church Activities					
Fees	13,033	-	-	13,033	8,976
Parish magazine	-	-	-	-	11
Social events	3,124	-	-	3,124	4,765
	<u>16,157</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,157</u>	<u>13,752</u>
(d) Income from investments					
Dividends & interest	3,111	-	9,825	12,936	11,633
	<u>3,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,825</u>	<u>12,936</u>	<u>11,633</u>
(e) Other incoming resources					
Curate Housing Grant	9,500	-	-	9,500	4,750
Southbeech Rental Income	-	-	-	-	6,586
LPOW VAT relief	994	-	-	994	6,644
Sequestration Income	-	2,588	-	2,588	-
Flower income	-	282	-	282	175
	<u>10,494</u>	<u>2,870</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,364</u>	<u>18,155</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	175,348	8,879	9,825	194,052	196,175

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2023 £	2022 £
(a) Church activities					
Mission and charitable giving	3,527	6,009	-	9,536	10,589
Ministry:					
Parish Offer to Diocese	74,000	-	-	74,000	75,000
Clergy working expenses	3,709	-	-	3,709	2,349
Clergy housing costs	5,325	-	-	5,325	4,467
Church services & music	13,055	-	-	13,055	13,989
Church:					
Insurance	3,349	-	-	3,349	3,043
Utility costs	8,985	-	-	8,985	5,733
Repairs & maintenance	7,728	-	260	7,988	6,597
Major works	-	-	-	-	34,283
Southbeech costs	3,804	-	7,249	11,053	1,254
Churchyard upkeep	1,615	-	2,316	3,931	5,394
Education & Training	114	-	-	114	-
Church Hall running costs	20,209	-	-	20,209	16,084
New Church Hall Planning	9,424	-	-	9,424	13,838
Cost of social events	2,313	-	-	2,313	2,319
Administration	14,680	-	-	14,680	15,523
Flower Expenses	-	<u>443</u>	-	443	<u>379</u>
	<u>171,837</u>	<u>6,452</u>	<u>9,825</u>	188,114	<u>210,841</u>
(b) Exceptional costs					
Sequestration costs	-	2,125	-	2,125	-
(c) Governance costs					
Independent examination	440	-	-	440	420
Bank charges	<u>329</u>	-	-	329	<u>206</u>
	<u>769</u>	-	-	769	<u>626</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	172,606	8,577	9,825	191,008	211,467

5. STAFF COSTS (included in the above figures) for the Administrator, the Hall Cleaner and the Organist/Choir master amount to £23,885 (2022 - £23,370).
The stipends of the Rector and the Curate are paid by the diocese.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2023

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCC AND RELATED PARTIES

Note 4(a) shows the total of PCC payments to the Rector, Honorary Associate Priest and Curate towards their working expenses and housing costs. The total stewardship income from members of the PCC in 2023 was £8,970 (2022-£8,779). Groundforce1, a company closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £3,920 (2022-£3,115) for grass cutting and trimming at the Churchyard. Toby Hurn-Torr, who is also closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £575 (2022-£nil) for Gardening Services relating to the Village Hall.

7. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible assets used by the PCC

Freehold land and buildings: Cost at 1 January 2023 and at 31 December 2023
£292,760

The Curate's house at Southbeech, Old Perry Street, BR7 6PL was purchased in 2001 for £232,500.

St Nicholas Village Hall was given to the PCC in 1921, mostly rebuilt in 1977 and extended in 1987.

The total historic cost was £60,260. Neither sum is being depreciated.

(b) Investments – movements during the year: -

	£	Represented by shares in CBF Church of England Funds:	£
Market value on 1 January	540,327	Global Equities Investment Fund	78,431
Net gain on revaluation	<u>59,846</u>	Investment Fund (Equities)	<u>521,742</u>
	<u>600,173</u>		<u>600,173</u>

8. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	2,238	2,556
Tax recoverable	9,827	10,169
VAT recoverable	748	1,347
	<u>12,813</u>	<u>14,072</u>

9. LIABILITIES due within one year

Goods and services	8,978	9,236
Donations allocated out of 2023 (2022) income	<u>9,107</u>	<u>9,914</u>
	<u>18,085</u>	<u>19,150</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2023

10. GIVING TO MISSIONS & CHARITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Welcare in Bromley	1,959	1,308
Children in Distress	-	1,000
Whitechapel Mission	604	729
Children's Society	62	1,889
Church Army, Marylebone Women's Hostel	1,959	1,308
DEC Ukraine Appeal	-	590
Churches Together In Chislehurst & Bickley	150	300
Compassion UK	1,959	1,308
His Charity	-	1,308
MANUP?	1,959	-
Salvation Army	604	669
Poverty & Hope	-	100
Assistance to poorer parishes and other items	280	80
Total	<u>9,536</u>	<u>10,589</u>

11. Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance	Income in year	Expenditure in year	Inter Fund Transfers	Investment Result	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted						
General	181,920	174,348	(163,182)	(113,361)	23,288	103,013
Designated						
Church Repair	70,758	-	-	25,000	-	95,758
Hall Building	60,260	-	-	-	-	60,260
New Village Hall	-	1,000	(9,424)	94,361	-	85,937
Restricted						
Minor funds	1,323	282	(443)	-	-	1,162
Sequestration		2,588	(2,125)			463
Away Giving		6,009	(6,009)	-	-	-
Endowments	<u>588,968</u>	<u>9,825</u>	<u>(9,825)</u>	<u>(6,000)</u>	<u>36,558</u>	<u>619,526</u>
Totals	<u>903,229</u>	<u>194,052</u>	<u>(191,008)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,846</u>	<u>966,119</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) *For the year ended 31 December 2023*

DESIGNATED FUNDS FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Financial provision is being made via designated funds for future non-annual repairs and renewal.

- (a) **Church Repair Fund** - The Fund stood at £70,758 at the start of the year. A further £25,000 has been transferred from General Fund to spread the burden of anticipated exceptional costs over a five-year cycle. As part of this the PCC makes regular deposits into diocesan accounts as recommended by the diocesan surveyor, for future quinquennial fabric repairs to the Church and the Curate's house. In the year to 31st December 2023 no money was spent on major repairs to the church. This leaves a balance of £95,758 in the fund at the end of the year.
- (b) **Church Hall** - The hall is run on a self-financing basis to generate sufficient funds to meet any major work on the fabric of the Hall. The annual income and expenditure and the resultant financial surplus or deficit from its operations is accounted for within the General Fund Statement of Financial Activities. The designated fund represents the historic book value of the building which as such is an illiquid asset.
- (c) **New Village Hall Fund** – It has been decided by the PCC that the monies from the Church Refurbishment Fund which were put back into the General Fund in 2022 should now be used for the New Village Hall. Therefore, this amount £94,361 (£108,199 less amounts spent on the Village Hall Planning in 2022 £13,838) has been transferred out of the General Fund into the New Village Hall Fund. A donation of £1,000 for the Re-building was received in the year and a further £9,424 was spent on work towards the Planning Application. This leaves a balance of £85,937 in the fund at the end of the year.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) *For the year ended 31 December 2023*

12. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Capital funds which the PCC has no power to expend (permanent), or which may be spent in certain circumstances (expendable). The income is available for specific purposes as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| (a) Churchyard fund - to maintain 29 graves in St Nicholas churchyard | } | Permanent endowments |
| (b) Fabric Trust - for repairs to the church fabric | | market value |
| (c) Nussey Trust - for church maintenance | | £94,264 |
| (d) Clergy House Trust - an expendable endowment. It holds the curate's house (see note 7(a), investments of £272,605 and short-term deposits £7,837 . The income arising is available to the PCC and the capital is available for ecclesiastical purposes in or near the parish under the oversight of the Diocese as custodian trustee. It has been decided by the PCC to transfer £6,000 from this fund into the General Fund. | | |
| (e) Hawes Trust - it is agreed that the capital may be invested in an accumulating fund, provided that the two family graves are maintained. The capital may be used after May 2059 (Market value £10,936). | | |

13. CONNECTED CHARITIES

Monies handled by the St Nicholas branch of the Mother's Union are not included in these accounts.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

- The church holds a fund of £603 available to meet the objects of 'Chislehurst Relief in Need' (2022 - £603)
- In the year the Flower Fund had income of £282 and expenses of £443, leaving a balance of £559 (2022 - £720)
- As St Nicholas is in an interregnum a Sequestration Account has been set up. This holds the fees for Weddings and Funerals that would normally be due to the parish less any expenses relating to visiting clergy and the upkeep of the Rectory. At the end of the year there was a balance of £463 in the account. At the end of the interregnum if the account is in surplus the funds are due to the Diocese. If there is a deficit the PCC will have to meet the cost.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For the year ended 31 December 2023

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP FRS102 (second edition).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Fund Accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted, and the PCC may move any surplus to other general funds.

Resources expended

Donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with the s.10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. The Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Charities Act 2011

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £5,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.



**St Nicholas Parish Office
The Village Hall
Church Lane
Chislehurst
BR7 5PE**

0208 467 0196

Accounts

The Parish of
St Nicholas
Chislehurst

in the Diocese of
Rochester



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Welcoming
Inclusive
Serving



St Nicholas
Chislehurst

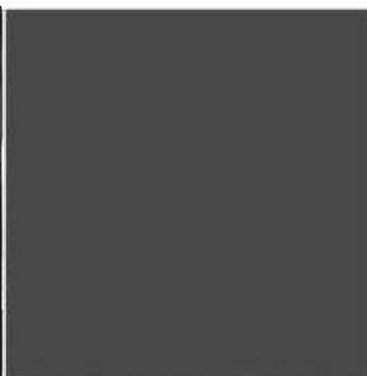
ANNUAL REPORT

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For Year Ended 31 Dec 2022

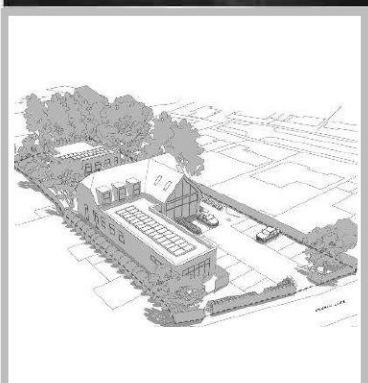
bringing **People & God** together

AN INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH SEEKING TO KNOW & SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD



Welcoming
Inclusive
Serving
St Nicholas
Chislehurst

A VILLAGE HALL
for all



SEEKING TO KNOW & SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD

St Nicholas' Parish Church, Chislehurst
Registered Charity No. 1131855

Annual Report and Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2022



Rector (*installed as Rector in February 2022; previously Priest-in-Charge*)

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer
The Rectory
2 Cardinal Close
Chislehurst BR7 6SA

Parish Office

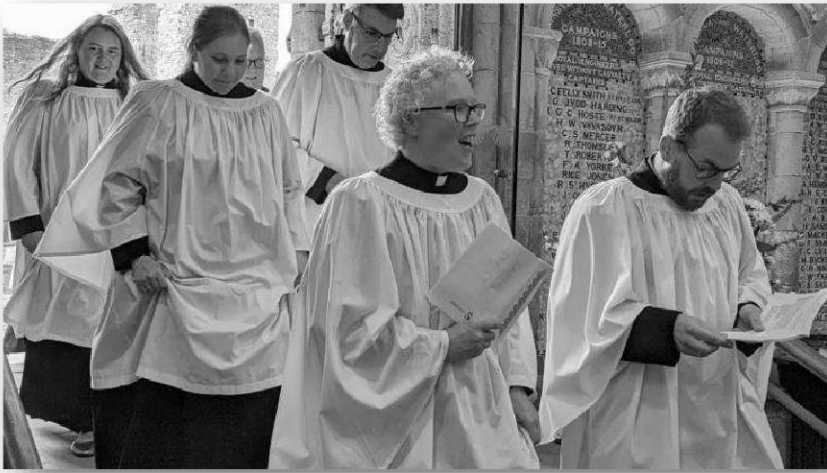
St Nicholas Village Hall
Church Lane
Chislehurst BR7 5PE

Banks

Barclays Bank plc
and
CAF Bank Ltd

Independent Examiner

Christopher Archer FCA
Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd



Rachel's ordination (Sept 2022)



The Knitted Nativity used at the Annual Christingle Service



The ever-popular B1 Breakfast Praise



Annual Baptism Service at Candlemas



Rachel beginning her ministry of baptism!



The long-awaited return of the Nativity Tableau

BACKGROUND

St Nicholas' Church is situated within the London Borough of Bromley, and historically within the county of Kent. There has been a place of worship on this site for over a thousand years.

The current building dates back to the 15th century, but was significantly enlarged in the 19th century in response to pressing need as well as perceived opportunities for growth and outreach.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this parish church has a powerful history connecting it to stories of exploration, invention, achievement, and devotion both to God and to people.

Today we are still committed to that ongoing journey of evolution and growth – it is a pilgrimage of faith, to which our built heritage stands witness. Upon the firm foundations of the past, we rededicate ourselves and our church (the building *and* the people) as a focus of inclusion, welcome, faith, and loving service.

The Parish of Chislehurst St Nicholas is part of the Bromley Deanery, in the Diocese of Rochester, in the Province of Canterbury, within the Church of England - a member church of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number: 1131855

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the maintenance of St Nicholas Church and Churchyard, Southbeech in Old Perry Street (housing for a Curate let out until June 2022 at a commercial rent), and the Village Hall in Church Lane.

Rector & Chair of the PCC:

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer

Church Wardens Sarah Cordwell (Vice Chair of PCC)
Wendy Lowdon

Hon Associate Priest

The Rev'd June Hurn

Assistant Curate The Revd Deacon Rachel Curley (*since July 2022*)

Licenced Lay Ministers

Theodora Chamberlain
Lynton Karmock-Golds

Lay Reader Peter Ridge

Members of the PCC:

Elected members serve for three years and can be re-elected for a further 3-year term after which they CANNOT be re-elected until a further year has elapsed (Church Representation Rules 2001)

NAME	Year of Office (Term of 3 years)	ELIGIBLE TO STAND FOR RE-ELECTION in 2023
Hannah White	3 rd (ends at APCM 2023)	yes
Michaela Davies*	1 st (ends at APCM 2023)	yes
Diane Moorman*	1 st (ends at APCM 2023)	yes
Vacancy		} 5 places up for election in 2023
Vacancy		

* mid-term appointments filling casual vacancies filled by mutual consent at the elections at the APCM in 2022

Barbara Russell	2 nd (ends at APCM 2024)	N/A
Annie Hannifin	2 nd (ends at APCM 2024)	N/A
Justine Grant	2 nd (ends at APCM 2024)	N/A
Carole Gray	2 nd (ends at APCM 2024)	N/A
Sarah Arnheim	2 nd (ends at APCM 2024)	N/A

John Bernays	1 st (ends at APCM 2025)	N/A
John Grant	1 st (ends at APCM 2025)	N/A
Sue Brandon	1 st (ends at APCM 2025)	N/A
Sabina Oakes	1 st (ends at APCM 2025)	N/A
Sheila Brittain	1 st (ends at APCM 2025)	N/A

The following members served their term (unless otherwise indicated) until the APCM in 2022:

Lucy Diamond (resigned), Andrew Wilton, Sabina Oakes, Sue Brandon, Lloyd Anderson, Wendy Lowdon (elected Churchwarden at APCM in 2022)

There are up to a maximum of 3 places available for co-opted (1-year term) members:

1. The Rev'd June Hurn
2. Jo Papa (PCC Treasurer)
3. Vacant

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF PCC:

Churchwardens

serve ONE year terms of office up to a maximum of SIX consecutive years:

Anthony Faulkner (term ended at APCM 2022)

Sarah Cordwell (from 8 May 2022 – term ends at APCM 2023)

Wendy Lowdon (from 8 May 2022 – term ends at APCM 2023)

Representatives on Bromley Deanery Synod (until APCM 2023)

Theodora Chamberlain

Mary Williams

Peter Ridge

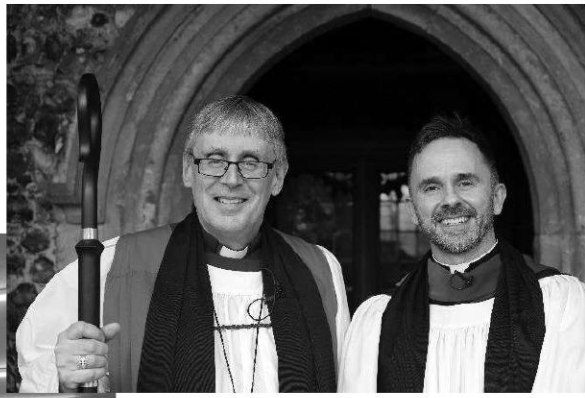
Charlie Clark

Licensed Clergy

The Rector

The Curate

2022



JONATHAN'S INSTALLATION as Rector

On Saturday 19th February 2022, Rev'd Jonathan was Installed as the 53rd Rector of St Nick's (the first being Adam de Bromleigh in 1260).

It was a wonderful occasion with 150 people joining Jonathan in the church. Once again we were delighted to see people return to church for the first time in two years. What a day to choose to return!

It was so very different from Jonathan's Licencing as "Priest-in-Charge" via Zoom the previous January.

The bells of St Nick's rang out before the formal but friendly service led by Bishop Simon and the Area Dean Victoria. Readings by Fiona Lewington representing the church and Tom Allen representing the Chislehurst community were accompanied by formal greetings and gifts from other church members and community leaders. In his sermon Bishop Simon reminded us to take time out to say "thank you" to people more often.



The Area Dean and Churchwardens led Jonathan round the church where he was presented with the keys to the church, tolled a bell and then firmly Installed in his stall. The congregation sang heartily three of Jonathan's favourite hymns and prayed for Jonathan's continued ministry amongst us. As befits St Nicholas, there was plenty of cake, laughter and a tremendous positive atmosphere in the Village Hall afterwards.



Aims and Purposes

St Nicholas' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Dr Jonathan Bauer, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Churchyard, and the Village Hall complex and grounds.

The Parish

The parish has a population of approximately 4000, across 1,500 households. The parish also has a Church of England Primary School (St Nicholas), part of the Aquinas Trust Academy.

Risk Management

The PCC has budgetary disciplines in place to reduce financial risk and endeavours to identify other risks which may prejudice the work of the church. Our Insurance policy is maintained with Aviva to cover insurable risks, and their advice is followed to reduce risks. The PCC oversees the Safeguarding Policy for children and vulnerable adults. Arrangements have been put in place to carry out checks on people working with these groups, in line with Diocesan guidelines. Like all Church of England churches, safeguarding and safer recruitment are paramount. The PCC is committed to ensuring that our church and hall are safe places for all who use them. For more detailed information and guidance see the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. <https://www.rochester.anglican.org> and click on safeguarding. Produced by the National Safeguarding Team, it is a comprehensive guide, summarising the key areas a parish need to address with regards to safeguarding. All PCC members as well as all church leaders have undertaken the Safeguarding training appropriate to their level of responsibility and activity as set out in the House of Bishops Practice Guidance for Safeguarding Training. During the year we ensured that General Data Protection Regulations were followed in accordance with their introduction in 2018.

Our General Fund stands at £181,920 (which includes the transfer of £108,199 from the Refurbishment Fund). This year the Church Repair Fund remains constant at £70,758 (2021: £74,232) to help spread the costs of maintaining the church building over a five-year cycle. The PCC is disappointed with the £68,743 losses on investments, but is cognisant of the fact that investments rise and fall and are a long-term commitment.

Public Benefit

The Trustees (members of the PCC) take account of the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the PCC's purpose and in considering how planned activities will meet that aim. The Trustees believe that St Nicholas' Church promotes the whole mission of the Church of England in the Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst and beyond its boundaries, including its pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical aspects, and that in so doing provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its adherents and for everyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers
- Promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole
- Maintaining the historic fabric and architectural heritage of the St Nicholas Church building and grounds
- Providing a quiet space that is available daily to all members of the public

OUR VISION, VALUES, AND MISSION

VISION *what kind of future are we working towards?*

This is ultimately God's vision, placed on our hearts:
"God's kingdom come, God's will be done."



VALUES *the behaviours and attitudes that characterise us;
how we conduct ourselves to achieve our mission and vision*

- **Welcoming**
 - **Inclusive**
 - **Desire to serve**
- } reflected in our new logo
- Every member is encouraged to be in ministry
 - All are cherished and nurtured
 - Be a people of vision: *Proverbs 29:18 "without a vision, the people perish"*
 - In the words of the prophet Micah 6:8
 - Do justly
 - Love mercy
 - Walk humbly with God

MISSION *what we are trying to accomplish / the impact we want to achieve*

We are committed to working hard to be:

**AN INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH
SEEKING TO KNOW & SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD**

Structure, Governance, and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Nicholas, the membership of the PCC consists of the Parish Priest, churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, and up to a maximum of 15 members (the maximum number allowed in any C of E church) elected by those members of the congregation **who are on the electoral roll of the church**. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC usually meets 6 times during the year.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of subgroups or 'teams', each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These committees/teams are:

1. Standing Committee (statutory)
2. Hall Team
3. Property Team
4. Finance Team
5. Churchyard Team
6. Safeguarding Team

Each is responsible to the PCC and each report back to it regularly with minutes or a summary of their decisions, being received by the full PCC and discussed / ratified as necessary.

Pastoral Introduction from the Parish Priest

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer, RECTOR

The **Annual Report** (with all its officially and legally required reports, including accounts), as well as our **Review of 2022** makes for a celebration and expression of gratitude for all that we have achieved together, under God, over the last calendar year.

Reporting on the year past is always both a privilege and humbling honour. Having completed two years among you as your priest, I could not be more proud of the way in which everyone has played their part in so many ways in supporting the work of faith in our parish, in our part of Chislehurst.

There is SO much to be thankful for.

Here's a summary of the key moments that come to mind:



In 2022:

- We continued our journey into our new 'normal' – with **church attendances steadily growing** once more
- We grew our **church database to almost 1000 contacts**
- The weekly **E-news sent to 385 email addresses**
- We continued developing **plans to re-envision our Village Hall facilities** as a key part of our outreach and ministry resourcing, and submitted a pre-planning application to Bromley Borough Council – thanks to an incredible gifted and committed team of professionals from among our church household and beyond
- Significant **work on the roof and stonework of church**, including interior redecoration and damp repairs
- Continued to develop a comprehensive **PCC Handbook** and updated all our policies
- Continued to **grow our monthly parish Breakfast Praise** and reconnected with our young families and attracted new ones
- Installed a **contactless card reader and introduced Giving by Text**
- **Given over £11,000 to support work with local Ukrainian refugees** (through local partnerships with St John's, Sidcup and the Ukrainian School in Chislehurst) as a result of the Bruce Hurn Art Sale
- Had a hugely **successful Christmas Fair** in support of our mission / charitable giving
- **Delivered 56 "Life Event" services**: baptisms, weddings, funerals and burials / burial of cremated remains) with 11 marriage services already booked for 2023
- **Welcomed over 100 guests at our special All Souls' memorial service** for the bereaved
- Children from St Nick's school have been fully welcomed back into church for **Class Eucharists, celebrations throughout the year, and Carol Services**
- **Home communions** and services at Faulkner House, Duke of Kent Court, Fairlight Nursing Home continued and developed further
- St Nicholas' become the lead church in the **development of a district-wide befriending project (Two's Company)** and a Coordinator appointed
- Continued with the **monthly parish meal (Soup Lunch)**
- **Launched the St Nick's CATs (Carers and Toddlers) Group**
- A rigorous **pattern of worship maintained** in order to ensure breadth and sustainability across a very wide range of liturgies and traditions
- **Admitted 13 children and young people to communion**
- Completed a very successful **Alpha Course**
- Re-branded our Sunday School as **"Junior Church"**
- **Received and installed Rev Rachel, our new Curate**, for a three-year training post under the direction of the Rector as her Training Incumbent

This is, across another year, an incredible amount of work, ministry and life together, as a church, and I (and all of us) owe a debt of thanks and appreciation to those who have given so sacrificially of their time and resources to “make church happen”: not least our Ministry Team and, in particular, for the wonderful support of Rev June, our long-serving honorary assistant priest, our churchwardens and PCC members, our Parish Administrator, Director of Music, and all whose ministry and work goes on largely unseen, but very is much appreciated.

The Annual Report is our chance to tell everyone what God has been doing in our church. The various and interesting reports which make up this Annual Report are a celebration and honouring of that work. So, on behalf of us all, and in Christ’s name, **thank you** to all who have taken time out of their busy schedules to offer reports and, more especially, to all who continue to worship, pray, serve, and share leadership with me at St Nicholas.

“The Annual Report is our chance to tell everyone what God has been doing in our church.”

It is also important, to take a moment, to look back, remember, and give thanks for the members and friends of our church household who have died. In this reporting year, we pray particularly for the repose of the souls of:

Daphne Sloan, Anita Anderson, Brenda Pocha, Leslie Priestly, Ron Drew, Maureen Fricker, Elizabeth Heath, Paul Slowey,

May they, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through God’s love and mercy, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

So, may we, together, commit to making our world a better place as we seek to be Christ’s people in this place, but reaching out far beyond. There is much to do.

The Annual Report is an opportunity to publicise to you, the congregation, and to the parish as a whole, all the challenges and opportunities of the previous year. It is also a chance for me to **encourage** all of you for whom your relationship with Christ is a foundation and a rock on which to build, as we continue to grow a church that is welcoming, inclusive and serves humbly.

I am deeply honoured, proud, and humbled to be your Rector.

Jonathan+

From the Assistant Curate

The Rev’d Deacon Rachel Curley

“Deacons are called to serve the community in which they are set.” Before I started my curacy at St Nicholas church I thought I understood the role in which a Deacon in the Church of England was called for, how wrong I was, it is bigger, wider, and even more of a privilege than I thought it would be. In the six months since I started as a lay minister way back in July 2022, leading up to my ordination in September I have lived and breathed the role of a Deacon, serving the community in which I came to minister among. My first tasks here among you was a Commitment Prayer Service for a couple due to marry abroad, that was on day minus one when Jonathan+ had tested positive for Covid, that was a great initiation on how to unlock church and where the lights were, and of course how the sound system plugs in and works! Day one was writing and leading the July breakfast praise, and what a welcome I received from you all, everywhere I looked a face was smiling back at me!



My Ordination in September was one of the most amazing experiences in my life, albeit one that is hard to put into words, and I really can't wait for my ordination to the Priesthood which, God willing, will be on 30th September, followed by the first time I shall Preside at the Eucharist.

During these past months I have walked alongside the happy, and the blessed, I have married those in love, I have ministered to the broken hearted. I have Baptised children, I have sat with the dying, comforted their loved ones, and helped guide the grief stricken through funerals.

I have encouraged children to follow Jesus through ministry in school assemblies, teaching in the school twice a month with a Leading Lights Course, and I have worked closely with our Junior Church team. I have helped our children to understand Holy Communion, and what it means to share in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during our Admitting Children to Holy Communion classes, and I look forward to running this course again later on in the year.

Leading Choral Mattins and Evensong for the first time was terrifying, having never sung solo anywhere, expect for bad karaoke, but with Michael and the choir's support, I have gained confidence and enjoy these services.

One of the biggest privileges of my ministry is sharing in pastoral visits, home Communion and Administering to the sick at home or in hospital.

In September I led my first Alpha course, with on average 12 people attending weekly, this was an amazing experience for all of us, and has led to the group continuing to meet monthly for Bible Study. I look forward to running another Alpha session later on in the year and hopefully also a Youth Alpha as well.

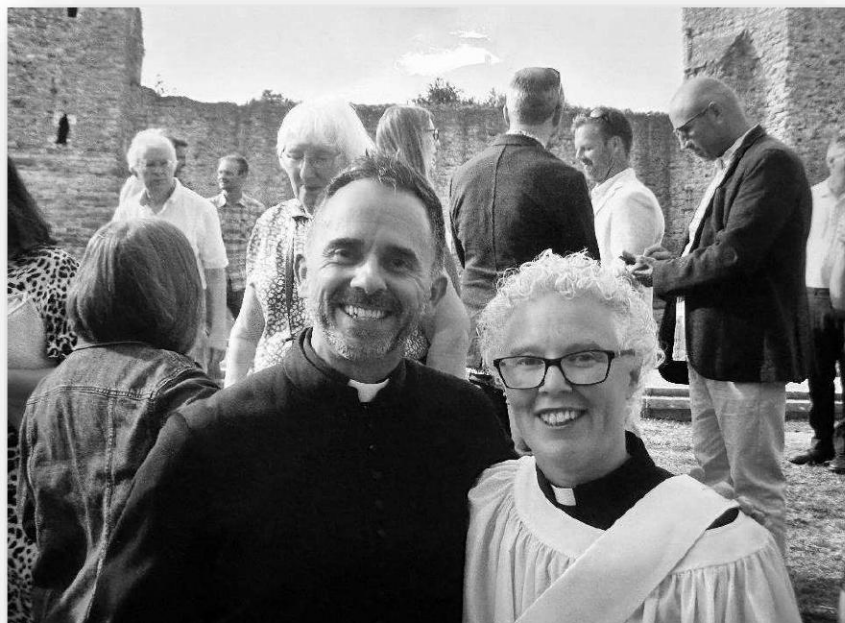
The next project I am planning is a Lent Bible Study which I am going to base around the Book *Still Standing* by Rachel Mann, which was inspired by the film *Rocketman* based on the life of Sir Elton John.

Each one of you deserves my grateful thanks for every kindness shown to me and my Mum, Pamela since we joined you. However a special mention must go to our Churchwarden's Sarah and Wendy for their love and support, and also to Anthony who along with Jonathan+ and Sarah agreed that I should indeed be offered the position of Curate here at St Nicks.

Rev'd June has walked by my side offering advice, wisdom, and friendship, for this I am extremely grateful, and to our Rector, what a privilege it is to minister alongside Jonathan+ the faith he shows in me, and his encouragement is unwavering, which is enabling me to learn so much from someone who is so experienced and a genuinely kind, caring and quite amazing Priest, I could not ask for a better start to my ministry than the one I have here with you all.

God bless

Rachel+



Electoral Roll Report *submitted by Giles Cordwell*

Every six years, a completely new Electoral Roll is produced - and this last happened in **2019** (so the preparation of a completely new Roll is not due until 2025).

In the intervening years, the Roll is revised to take account of those who have either died, moved out of the parish or new people, who are qualified, joining the Church Electoral Roll.

In 2022 this resulted in 265 names on the Roll:

- 8 new names were added
- 12 were removed (either as a result of death or there ceasing to be a qualifying eligibility to remain on the Roll)
- 87 (33%) are resident in the parish
- a further 94 (35%) in the rest of Chislehurst
- 84 (32%) are non-resident in the parish but actively worship at St Nicholas' Parish Church



The number on the Church Electoral Roll determines the numbers we are permitted on the Deanery Synod and also determines the number of lay members on the PCC. As we have more than 200 on our Roll, we are allowed 4 Deanery representatives and up to the maximum of 15 members lay representatives on the PCC.

Church Electoral Roll Application Forms are available from the Parish Office.

The challenge for the year ahead is to ensure a single, accurate copy of the Roll and to ensure that new members understand their eligibility to apply (and are encouraged to do so).



PCC Secretary's Report

Submitted by Annie Hanifin

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Members are elected for a three-year period, and may stand again (without break) for a second successive term (and therefore a maximum of 6 years), after which they are not eligible for re-election until at least one year has passed. The PCC may also co-opt up to THREE additional members, as set out in the Church Representation Rules as amended in 2020.

Details of the membership of the PCC during 2022 are set out elsewhere in this report.

Sub-Groups

The PCC has set up various sub-groups which carry out particular functions on behalf of the PCC:

Standing Committee

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



Finance Team

Works with the Treasurer to ensure good financial management and effective stewardship of resources.

Property Team

Oversees the extensive work required to maintain our built heritage, properties and grounds.

Safeguarding Team

To ensure that current good practice and legislation is adhered to ensure Safeguarding training and awareness is of first concern for everyone in the community of St Nicholas' Church.

Events Team

Involved in the planning and smooth running of church and community events.

Hall Development Team

A new team set up to oversee the development of the new Village Hall, involved in initially submitting plans and then grant applications, fundraising and project management.

Village Hall Team

Committee that works on the maintenance of the hall and the smooth running of all aspects of the village hall life.

Churchyard Team

Oversees the general good maintenance of the churchyard and Memorial Garden.

PCC Meetings during 2022

The full PCC met 6 times during 2022 (dates below) with good attendance on most occasions. The Standing Committee and Teams met regularly and reports of their activities were received and discussed where necessary by the PCC.

24th January 2022

14th March 2022

8th May 2022 – Annual Meetings

23rd May 2022 – attendance 75%

18th July 2022 – attendance 77%

12th September 2022 – attendance 77%

14th November 2022 – attendance 73%

SAFEGUARDING

The parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst is committed to implementing the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and good practice guidance. A formal statement under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) to adopt the House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement" has been agreed by the Parochial Church Council.

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

Our Commitments, as a PCC:

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



Churchwardens' Fabric Report including the Property Team Report

*Submitted by Sarah Cordwell and Wendy Lowdon
and Anthony Faulkner*



CHURCH

- Plaster work behind the pulpit and part of the Lady Chapel wall was repaired along with roof repairs. Luckily good dry weather enabled this work to be finished well ahead of schedule and didn't impact Jonathan's Installation service in February 2022.
- Internal ceiling repairs were undertaken following a plaster fall.
- A ramp for safe evacuation of wheelchair users was acquired and training given to the Welcomers.
- Jonathan's name as our Rector was engraved on the appropriate tablet.
- New vestments (in memory of Colin Saxby) were received and blessed.
- A silver pyx (in memory of Sheila Brittain's Father) was received and blessed, to be used for the gluten-free communion wafers.
- Sound system enhancements now enable us to play music from mobile phones which is particularly useful at weddings and funerals. A new sound mixer, microphones and speakers were installed.
- Our Best Practice Maintenance Schedule continues to keep track of regular maintenance items.
- We are grateful to the Property Team for their hard work during the year.

VILLAGE HALL

- A hive heating monitor was installed to enable better control of the heating, given the increase in costs.
- Hiring of the hall has seen an uptake in bookings, especially ad-hoc parties. The bridge club has not returned to the hall, but other users are now in situ.

SOUTHBEECH

- The quinquennial inspection took place before Rachel and Pam moved in.
- A program of repairs was noted, and work continues in this area. Unfortunately, due to a number of circumstances there is still work that needs to be completed.

CHURCHYARD

- A planned programme of work by our churchyard team continues when possible.
- Some tree work has been completed.
- New contractors for the grass mowing of the Churchyard were appointed.
- The restoration of the Janson drinking fountain in the corner of the churchyard has been completed and is well used by the community.
- Plans continue to replace the noticeboards in the Churchyard.

RECTORY

- The Rectory is the responsibility of the Diocese, as owner. No major works took place in 2022.

The Churchwardens wish to thank the numerous volunteers for their time and expertise in helping to maintain the Church, the Hall, Southbeech and Churchyard to a high standard.



Bromley Deanery Synod Report 2022

submitted by Charles Clark and Peter Ridge

St Nicholas Chislehurst is one of 13 churches in the Bromley Deanery. Deanery Synod is a meeting of clergy and laity from each PCC within the deanery and usually occurs thrice per annum. It acts as an intermediary between PCCs and Diocesan Synod. It also elects the Deanery's Lay Representatives to Diocesan Synod. The Area Dean and Synod Chair is *the Rev'd Canon Victoria Pask* (Vicar of St. Mark's Bromley), and the Synod Lay Chair is *Mrs Cath Johnston* (Licensed Lay Minister from Christ Church Chislehurst). Further information about the deanery including minutes of each synod can be accessed on <https://bromleydeanery.simdif.com/index.html>.



In addition to the Rector, St. Nicholas Chislehurst's Representatives to Deanery Synod are Peter Ridge, Theodora Chamberlain, Mary Williams, and Charles Clark. Their term of office ends at the 2023 APCM.

Summary of Meetings throughout 2022:

Wednesday 30th March at Christ Church Chislehurst

- Presentation from the Diocesan Called Together Manager Claire Boxall.
- 'Save The Parish' leaflet handed out to all.
- The Venerable Katrina Barnes appointed interim Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley until a new archdeacon is appointed in late 2022 / early 2023

Tuesday 5th July at Christ Church Chislehurst

- Excellent presentation from the CEO of Welcare, Anna Khan on the history, background and work of Welcare. She thanked the Bromley churches for the considerable financial support they give to the charity. Welcare are looking for a suitable Trustee to represent the Bromley area and another with Social Work experience.
- Cath Johnston gave an update on Diocesan Synod.
- Noted that General Synod met in York 8-12 July.
- Revd Henry Everett, previously Vicar of Paddington: St Mary Magdalen and St Peter; now Vicar of St George's, Bickley. Fr Henry's induction and installation took place at St George's on Monday 25 July at 7pm.
- Revd Amanda Spence, as Priest-in-Charge (Rector-designate) of St Mary the Virgin. Amanda recently completed her curacy in St Paulinus, Crayford. Licensing date tba
- Our daughter church, Christ Church celebrated its 150th Anniversary.

Thursday 24 November: *a joint meeting led by the Bishop of Rochester also with the Deaneries of Orpington and Beckenham*

- This last meeting of the Bromley synod was a joint affair with the other deaneries to welcome the Rt Rev Dr Jonathan Gibbs in person as the new Bishop of Rochester. Jonathan is a gifted speaker with an engaging manner. His journey to faith began in chapel Sunday School, it wavered in his teens but started to blossom at university when he heard a talk by an evangelist. After university he worked in Paris with young people, which led to the call to become a minister. After a brief biography of his first parishes he spoke of his spell in Europe for the Intercontinental Church Society as Chaplain when no doubt his fluency in French was a great asset. He returned to England to be incumbent at Heswall, a town on the Wirral before being elevated to Bishop of Huddersfield.
- After his work in the North which he enjoyed, he is now excited to come South as our Bishop. He understands that this is large diocese with a wide variety of situations from rural to urban and from rich to poor. He is an evangelist at heart and wants to share in the growth of God's people, reaching out to those who need to have Jesus in their life.
- Jonathan's three-year stint as Lead Bishop for Safeguarding will finish this March 2023. He shared with us his own experience of abuse as a nine-year-old. Its impact on him contributed to his ability to empathise with other victims where Safeguarding had failed. He was aware that there had been some very serious cases in parts of Kent but he complimented the diocese for the current Safeguarding regime, its management and the education they provide.
- At the end there was an opportunity to ask questions. Inevitably they were all about the forthcoming General Synod. Jonathan was wholly supportive of the motion that would enable same-sex couples to come to church after a civil marriage or civil partnership to give thanks, dedicate their relationship to God and receive God's blessing. But he made clear that he shared the position of those whose understanding of the Scriptures would **not** allow them to support marriage services in church for same-sex couples.

Safeguarding Report submitted by Susie Hemming-Clark (PSO)

It is a formal legal obligation for the PCC in its report to the APCM to state whether or not the PCC “has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)”.

With the combined hard work of all in the Safeguarding Team, we have complied with the above.



Responsibilities of the Incumbent and PCC

The Incumbent and PCC have a duty of care to ensure the well-being of the vulnerable in the church community and within this are required to:

- Adopt and implement the House of Bishops’ Policy on safeguarding children or the Joint Safeguarding Principles and a Parish Policy and procedure on safeguarding children and adults who may be vulnerable. A dated copy must be sent by email to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
- Adopt a Parish Safeguarding Officer(s) (the ‘Designated Person’ with special responsibility for safeguarding children and adults), to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Ensure that the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and anyone having regular contact with children and vulnerable adults is appointed according to Diocesan Safer Recruitment Guidelines, is trained and supported, provided with a copy of the parish safeguarding policy and code of practice for church workers.
- Deal promptly with allegations or suspicions of abuse in accordance with the Disclosures and Allegations policy in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
- Display the Diocesan and Parish Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, the contact details of the PSO(s) named person on church premises and wherever possible on the church website.
- Ensure that known offenders or others who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
- During an interregnum ensure that information about all safeguarding matters is securely stored before passing on to the new incumbent. The departing incumbent should give the information to the PSO(s) who will inform the new incumbent when they take up post.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Review the implementation of safeguarding children and adults’ policy, procedures and good practice, at least annually

ITEM	Topic/Project - Aims	Impact	Notes/Highlights
<p>Team Membership</p>	<p>Expand the committee to ensure sustainable management of all safeguarding issues at St Nicholas' Parish Church (St Nicks)</p> <p>Regular meetings to continue 6 weekly, these may be more frequent according to the need.</p>	<p>Continuity Safety Sustainability Clarity</p>	<p>Rev Rachel Curley joined the committee last year and is a welcomed new member Sadly Samantha Johnson resigned from her role as Deputy PSO. The team currently meets every 6 to 8 weeks. The Team members continue to oversee our safeguarding process and any issues that have arisen that as a safeguarding team we may need to address and to escalate to our local Diocese safeguarding adviser.</p>
<p>Digital focus</p>	<p>Safe storage of data & documents The shared file system (Cloud based) is up and running and was the Aim for 2022 to ensure there is shared safe space for working on policies and documents. The database for recording training and DBS records has been completed. The aim is to continue to use this database so there is robust oversight of volunteers who have or have not completed their DBS renewal and training</p>	<p>GDPR Time Saving Collaborative working encouraged Safe storage</p>	<p>All information is now stored securely and safely in the shared Drive. This has allowed the team to have easy overview with spread sheets in the drive. All the information is stored following GDPR guidance.</p>
<p>DBS Process</p>	<p>Process / Resources Senior management team contact Sue Wilkinson who then initiates the DBS process. Sally is the lead for processing the DBS, who then clarifies the volunteer's documents as the final part of the process.</p> <p>Eligibility Requirements The roles that are required to have DBS checks are laid out clearly by the Church of England Safeguarding policy. Not all roles require a DBS check. Since last Annual report we have completed all the PCC members DBS are up to date except for one member (in process)</p>	<p>Legal responsibility Sustainability</p>	<p>Having a full safeguarding team up allows the DBS checks to be completed as required. All volunteers should have checks and training renewed on a 3 yearly basis. The team have worked hard to ensure new DBS and renewals are being completed in a timely manner. Engaging some of our volunteers has been a challenge at times.</p>

<p>Safeguarding Sunday</p>	<p>Present the Safeguarding Team and process in church</p> <p>This occurred in November 2022 using the resources from 31:8</p>	<p>Congregation engagement Awareness</p>	<p>This reminds our church community about our individual and community responsibility to keep everyone safe. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This has been promoted by government and the church of England safeguarding polices. This year's Safeguarding Sunday coincided with the admission of children to communion which enabled us to reach out across the community further with presence of not only our own church members but visitors to the church.</p>
<p>Safeguarding Communications</p>	<p>Promote the safeguarding statement & process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Church - Throughout community - Online 	<p>Awareness Communication Approachable</p>	<p>We continue promote this through the various formats below -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weekly Notice Sheets - Website - Leaflets - Social Media - Poster throughout the church buildings
<p>Safeguarding Training</p>	<p><i>Training:</i> The aim is to ensure all the volunteers who require training have completed in a timely manner and complete their three yearly update if they remain in their role.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Team advises volunteers and role-holders of what courses need to be completed when the volunteer takes up their role and will remind the volunteer when their next training is required: Training currently includes: Basic Awareness Foundation Leadership and safer recruitment Domestic abuse awareness.</p>	<p>Development Legal</p>	

I am extremely grateful to the Team who supports me in my role as Parish Safeguarding Officer. Without their work and support – often behind the scenes – we would not be able to manage, process and oversee the many DBS checks and training that must be completed by many of our volunteers. To continue to be compliant we ask that our volunteers respond in a timely way to all requests from the Safeguarding Team regarding training and DBS checks. Thank you.

TEAM REPORTS *if not covered elsewhere in this Report*

Finance Team *meets quarterly*
Overseen by *Sarah Cordwell*
Group Aims *Management and oversight of church finances*

We were delighted to welcome Joanne Papa as our new treasurer this year and remain deeply grateful for Peter Ridge's time as Treasurer. Thankfully, like Peter, Jo has a good sense of humour!

Whilst the church's assets overall are the same as before Covid, income from donations is a worrying 12% down and shows no sign of improving unless we all contribute a bit more to our church.

We continue to look for ways of saving money at a time when energy bills could increase by as much as £12,000. New heating controls have been installed in the hall and the heating in the church is on for far fewer hours.

Our contribution to the Diocese remains in excess of that required but the excess is now smaller. Similarly our donations to charities have been reduced; which is very disappointing.

We are greeted when we enter church, not just with a warm smile from our Welcomers, but the new Contactless Card Reader. This was installed as fewer and fewer of us carry cash and we were concerned that we might be losing donations without an easy way to take card/phone payments. Since it was installed on 2nd April, we have received over £3,000 in donations via the machine, exceeding all expectations.

Counting cash remains an issue, with the closure of HSBC in Sidcup and the forthcoming closure of Barclays in Chislehurst. Not only do we have to pay higher amounts for banking cash and cheques, but there remains the inconvenience and risk of travelling greater distances to pay these into a bank. We repeat our appeal for those who donate cash to consider giving via Planned Giving or via the Contactless Card Reader



Churchyard Team *meets monthly (usually), 1st Saturday of the month*
Overseen by *Alex Roeder*
Group Aims *To keep the churchyard clear of rubbish and maintain the trees and plants, so that the churchyard remains accessible and safe for public use.*

Achievements of 2022

- Dying conifer by vestry and another diseased tree removed
- Magnolia reduced in height and taken away from church structure
- Most trees are being trimmed below the 6' mark, so that there is more visibility across the churchyard
- Various rambling roses cut back to nothing.
- Exposed more graves by removing excessive planting.



Hopes and Aspirations for 2023 and beyond!

I would hope to get some younger volunteers!

And aspire to keeping the churchyard as neat and viable as possible for the future.

The mortuary shed is in need of some shelving and a clear out.

We would like to get some form of wheeled leaf Collector, so that any of the volunteers can use it, thus reducing the physical manual raking, which monopolises our time all year round, and only the younger helpers can do.

There are a few fence posts that need supporting and we'd like to see that happening this year.

We'd also like to remove more of the inappropriate trees and bushes growing out of and damaging graves, but this is dependant on more person power.

Do get in touch (via the Parish Office) if you can help with the work of this important Team!

Village Hall Team *meets quarterly / as needed*

Overseen by *Steve Ripley*

Group Aims *To keep the Church Hall premises running, safe, and used as much as possible, while plans for the new Hall are being developed*

Achievements of 2022

Costs of maintenance and improvements have generally been kept to a minimum; unfortunately this has not been the case for energy, where expenditure over the three months to January '23 increased by some 150% compared to the previous year.

The Hall has remained operational and open for use throughout the year; in particular....

- the sheds were tidied and their use reviewed
- a remote control heating device (Hive) was installed
- various repairs were made to doors, lights, plumbing, fencing, and parking lines;
- hire publicity, terms/conditions, and rates were reviewed and updated
- Barbara Russell helped with gardening
- John Bernays was instrumental in obtaining a replacement piano
- safety checks were made on the fire precautions, emergency lighting, and the boiler
- after relying on voluntary holiday cover for the cleaner for more than a year, Selina has found someone to take on this role

Hopes and aspirations for 2023

We look forward to the building of a new hall, with hope and faith.

REVIEW of 2022

Achievements and Performance (activities and ministries)

Worship and the Household of Faith

2022 has been a full 'normal year' of accessible worship. We discontinued, completely, our streaming of live services and pre-recording of others. Although many appreciated these online services, despite repeated calls for assistance with the technology and people-power required to continue this, none came forward and it was agreed that we bring our online provision to an end. YouTube has continued to be used as a way of enhancing our worship provision and this has been appreciated by many.



Attendances at worship continued to increase steadily and this has been positive and encouraging. Several new members have joined the church, including new families.

Our worship 'diet' has remained varied and, we hope, connects with people from a wide spectrum of traditions. Although the 'worship of worship' is to be avoided at all costs, we take seriously that not all people worship in the same way through the same liturgies. Our worship should be as varied as we are, while being cognisant of the ministry resources we have.

I am particularly grateful to the teams who help enhance our worship across our many services: the Choir and Director of Music, the Third Sunday Singers, our small but faithful team of servers, Eucharistic Assistants, the Breakfast Praise Team – and all who share in making our worship a genuine sacrifice of prayer and praise. We can rightly be proud of the way in which the musical skills and talents, as well as the creative thinking of many, really blesses us as a worshipping community.

In 2022 we were also blessed to have the Rev Rachel Curley join us as our Curate. Her presence and growing ministry have made a significant impact on the worshipping life of the parish, our mission and ministry among children and young people, as well as in the wider community we serve. It is a joy to have her as a ministerial colleague.

B1 Breakfast Praise (1st Sunday) and Worship for All (3rd Sunday)

Breakfast Praise continues to be one of our major successes.

The reference to 'B1' is a nudge to us to think about the prayer of Jesus (in John 17:21) that his followers should "**be one**", just as Jesus and the Father are one. Our two child-centred acts of worship in the month are Breakfast Praise and the Worship for All Eucharist on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

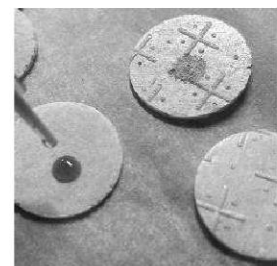
We take a rest from *Breakfast Praise* and *Worship for All* in August.



Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Assistants are authorised by the parish priest (on behalf of the Bishop) to assist with the administration of Communion at the Eucharist. They can administer **both** the bread **and** the wine (under normal circumstances).

We have now restored the sharing of the common cup, and continued with the use of pre-intincted wafers ('dipping' is no longer allowed)



Those currently authorised for this ministry are:

Alex Holtom
 Caroline Soars
 David Turnbull
 Mary Williams
 Pippa Jinks

Peter Appleby
 Philippa Robinson
 John Grant
 Tris Barker

Annie Hanifin
 Mark Wilson
 Susan Wilson
 Sheila Brittain

Retired / withdrawn

Julian Heal
 Ruth Cox
 Ann Dyer
 Margaret Brown

Moved away

Mark Currans
 Luke Sehmer

Worship statistics

TOTAL ATTENDANCES AT ALL WORSHIP IN 2022

...at ALL main acts of worship (not including baptisms, weddings, funerals)

ADULTS 6,813

CHILDREN 1,685

Total Sunday attendances (adult) in 2022 (with comparisons)

2019	2020 <i>Covid-19 pandemic closed the church from 23rd March – 11th July</i>	2021 <i>In-person worship resumed on Easter Day (4th April), with some online services continuing</i>	2022
8,369	1 st Jan – 15 th March 1,582 (<i>one fifth of the year</i>) 12 th July – 1 st Nov 589 <i>in-person attendances</i> 7,980 <i>projected</i>	3,679 (actual, based on 9 months) <i>Projected for 12 months:</i> 4,599 54% <i>of where we were pre-pandemic</i>	5,296

2021

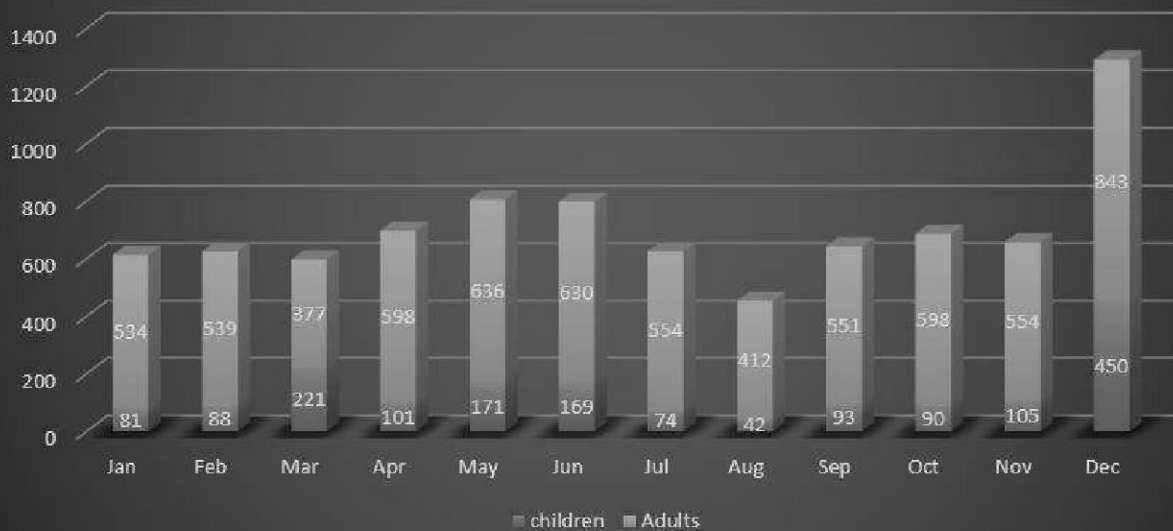


2022

Attendances of Adults and Children Apr - Dec 2021



Attendances of Adults and children Jan - Dec 2022



Attendances are notoriously difficult to fully capture, and 'special' services sometimes skew the figures. Nevertheless, the above graphics show a healthy picture of attendance across the church year.



St Nicholas' Church School

The Rector works closely with the Head Teacher, Mrs Sophie Sear, at our Church School, ensuring that there is good representation from the church in the school. Our Curate, Rachel, and the Rector regularly take school assembly and lead worship, and we have welcomed the children into church for various services and celebrations including a Leavers' Service, class Eucharists, Carol Concerts and so on.



ST NICHOLAS
CE Primary School
Part of the Aquinas Trust

The Rector also spends time with the staff and senior leadership team consulting and advising on matters concerning religious and spiritual formation and maintaining ongoing links between St Nicholas' Parish church and its school.

We are blessed with representation from our church on the Governing body of our school—these are vital links for which we are very grateful.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

At the core of our church's life, its mission and its ministry is an effective system of administration and communication. In this parish (as in many Church of England Parishes) we use the iKnow Church suite of administration and communication.

It is absolutely crucial that all our church members with basic computer skills and internet connectivity maintain their profiles – including a photograph. We are so grateful to all those who have taken the time to do this – it has made such a difference in welcoming new clergy to the church (ie both the Rector and the Curate) in helping us to match faces to names. With over 980 contacts, this is invaluable!

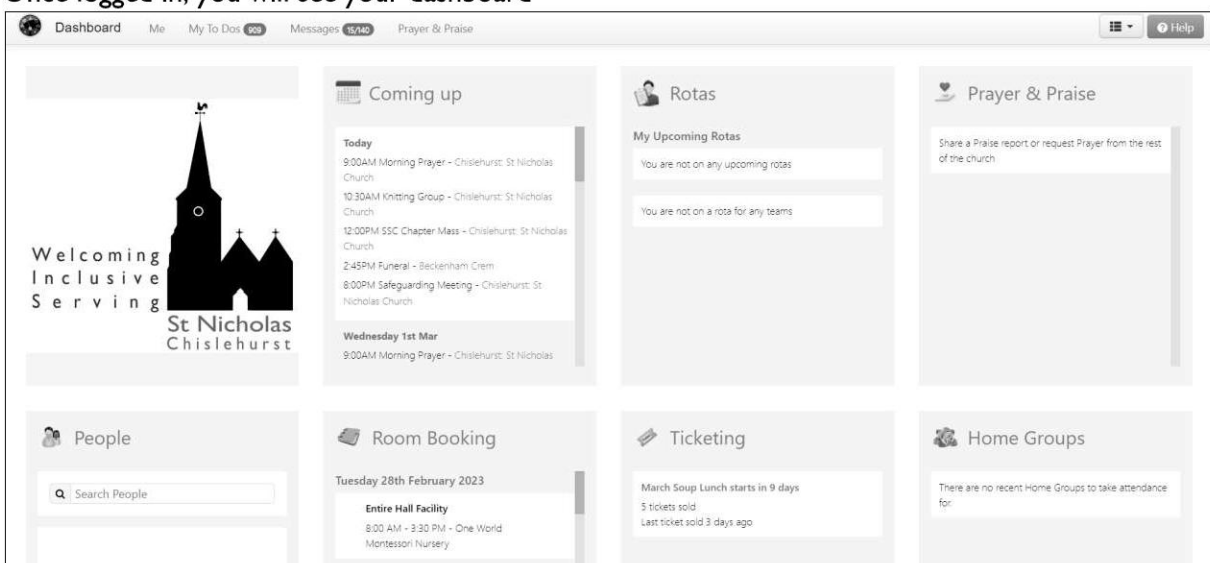
Access to our iKnow system is through the following:
<https://stnicholaschislehurst.myknowchurch.co.uk/>



Log in screen

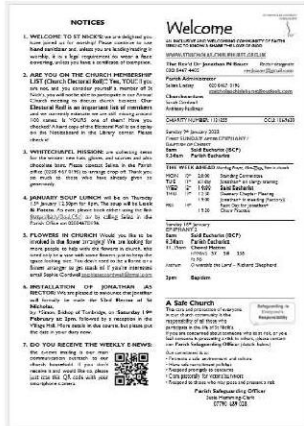
Once at the login screen, simply enter you email address (if you are registered with us), and enter your password. If you've forgotten it or don't have one, just click on "Forgot your password?"

Once logged in, you will see your dashboard



Every registered person on our system can manage their profile, details, and contact preferences through this screen. It couldn't be easier. Our iKnow system automatically generates rota reminders, and is a useful communication hub. We encourage EVERYONE to sign up and sign in! There is also a free app for smartphone users (just search for iKnow church).

Weekly Notice Sheet

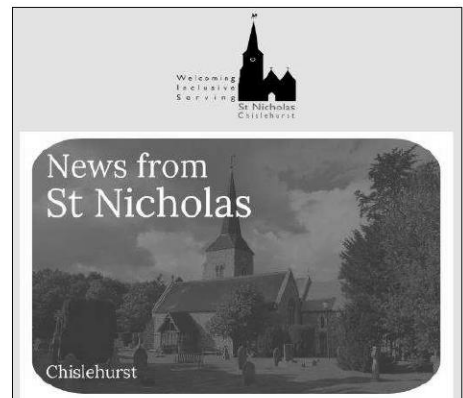


The Notice Sheet is printed each week and available in our church at worship. It continues to be a significant communication tool and liturgy resource for readings at the main Sunday worship. It is also circulated electronically each week via e-news.

E-news

To supplement the Notice Sheet we have also developed an on-line e-news system which allows us to circulate the weekly Notice Sheet ahead of each Sunday and to include a range of interesting articles and opportunities to respond to items of interest.

The e-news is currently sent out to 392 email recipients. Due to the technology embedded within the e-news system we are able to track who has been sent what communications and, more importantly who has opened (and hopefully read!) each e-news edition!



Final remarks

The ongoing task ahead of us is to offer our worship space (our church), and St Nicholas Village Hall as resources to our community, and for us to serve as an **open, welcoming, and inclusive** community of faith. When we are clear in our **vision, values, and mission** we will grow in confidence and the ability and desire to share what we have with others who have yet to know the joy of worship and fellowship in the gathered household of faith.

I hope you feel, as I do, that our parish is continuing to go from strength to strength, and that you will want to play your part in continuing to welcome one another and new members / guests among us with generosity of spirit, warmth of welcome, and openness of heart:

'All who arrive as guests are to be welcomed as Christ, for he is going to say, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' (Rule of St Benedict)

As we build on 2022, 2023 will be a year of vision-building and parish development as we look towards the future and our place within our local community. **If we do what we've always done, we will get what we've always got...**there is still much more goodness to come if we will grow the vision and dream the dream.

Researchers have concluded that, while there is no single recipe, there are common ingredients strongly associated with growth in churches **of any size, place or context**.

These are:

- Good **leadership**
- A clear **mission and purpose**
- Willingness to self-reflect, to **change and adapt** according to context
- **Involvement** of lay members
- Being intentional in **prioritising growth**
- Being intentional in chosen **style of worship**
- Being intentional in **nurturing disciples**.

All of the above are linked to growing churches

I hope you'll want to be part of helping us to continue to grow, not only in number but in depth of spirituality too.

The PCC and I are extremely grateful to all those parishioners and friends of St Nicholas' Parish Church who contribute in so many different ways to enhance the life and ministry of our church, especially all those whose work is faithful, but often goes unnoticed: ***you are very much appreciated***.

For all that has been, "thank you", and for all that will be, let's say a resounding "yes"!

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer

A PRAYER

My church....I will help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to worthy causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith,

and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is,

am filled with these same things.

So Lord, with your help, I will dedicate myself
to the task of being the things that you call our church to be.

Amen.

Ministry through Life Events

56 Life Events took place during 2022

+ wedding blessings, + memorial services

Life events (baptisms, weddings, funerals) provide powerful opportunities for ministry and pastoral care to be exercised by our church. Chiefly, the Rev'd Rachel Curley, the Rev'd June Hurn and the Rector exercise this ministry on behalf of the whole Church. Due to the nature of the pandemic, many life events were cancelled, and/or attendance curtailed. This caused significant distress to many; the resumption of Life Events, without restriction, has enabled us to minister fully, once again, to those at key moments in their life journey.

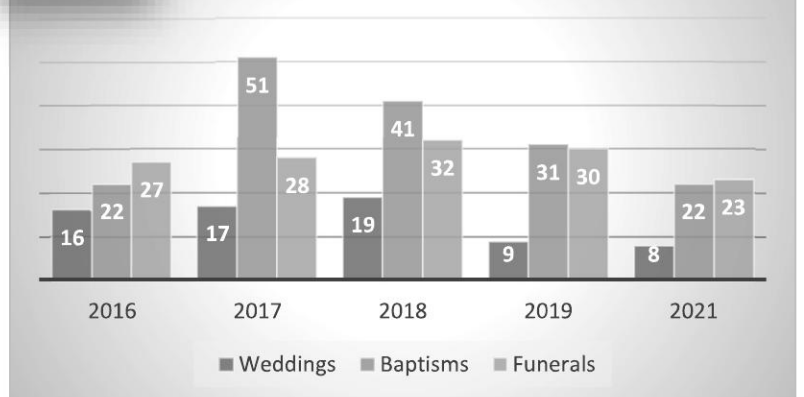


In 2022 we conducted the following:

Marriages	11
Blessings / re-affirmations	3
Baptisms	22
Funerals	14
Burials of Ashes	9



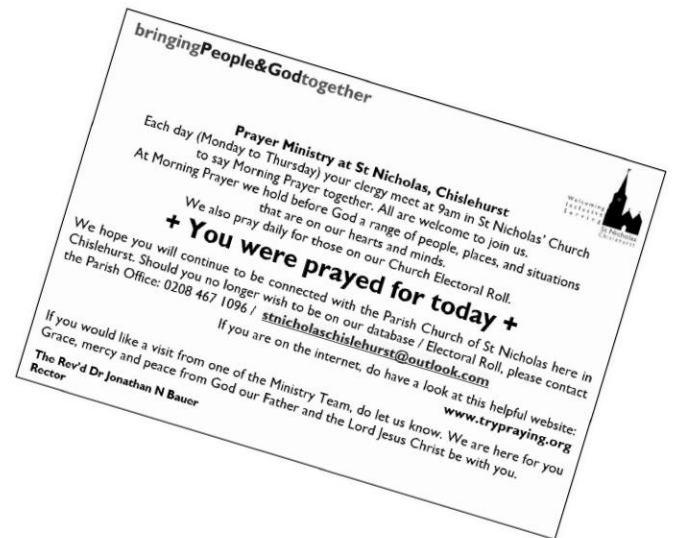
Life Events: 2016-2021



Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is a key part of our life together – both within, and beyond, the congregation. Both formally, and informally, St Nicholas' responds to human need and the needs of our members in a variety of ways:

- Pastoral visits by the clergy, including the taking of Holy Communion to the housebound
- Prayer ministry / intercessions / prayer lists
- Informal visits by church members to other members
- Taking services in local nursing homes and sheltered accommodation / retirement apartments including:
 - Cedarmore Court
 - Faulkner House
 - Shepherd's House
 - Fairlight & Fallowfield
 - Duke of Kent Court
- Sending monthly cards to those on our prayers lists, ensuring they know we pray for them regularly and offering opportunities to receive a visit and/or communion (thanks to Sheila Brittain for overseeing this monthly task)
- Visits to local hospitals and hospices
- Responding to requests from the community, especially those new to the area
- Preparing the dying for their death
- One-to-one bereavement support (the Rector is a qualified and experienced Bereavement Support worker and therapist)
- Offering pastoral liturgies in response to need, including the All Soul's Memorial Service.
- Working with Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley to explore the development of a Befriending Service for the lonely and isolated
- The Community Soup lunch (2nd Thursday of the month in the Village Hall)



Mission and Evangelism and outreach

It has been said by a former Archbishop of Canterbury that “the Church of England exists primarily for those who don't belong to it.” It's a powerful reminder to us of our calling to **serve**.

At St Nicholas' we are growing in confidence as we continue to look beyond ourselves and ensure our support of people with a wide range of needs, beyond our own church community.

This includes:

- Mission / Giving to other charities
- Support for Christian Aid
- Practical support for Whitechapel Mission

Each of our church members, too, are ambassadors of the church and representatives of Christ in their respective locations, communities, and relationships. Mission and ministry and outreach are not the reserve of 'the professionals', they are **Gospel imperatives for all of us**.



St Nick's CATs

St Nicholas
Chislehurst

Carers and Toddlers Group

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month
in the Village Hall (term-time only)



Overseen by *Filomena Dunstane*

In the Autumn of 2022, after a long hiatus, St Nick's Toddler Group was re-launched as the St Nick's CATs (**C**arers **A**nd **T**oddlers) Group.

This group had always been popular (prior to the pandemic) and we were keen to re-establish its presence and to serve younger families in the community.

We have re-used many of our current resources and toys and it has proved to be increasingly popular.

Light refreshments are offered and the opportunity to meet with other carers, offer space for children (babies to school age) to play and socialise together appears to be very much appreciated.

Since launching, £195 has been accumulated (after costs) and this will be re-invested in the group to ensure its ongoing support and development.

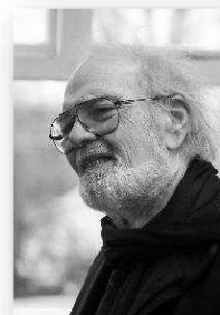
In the coming months we aim to keep growing, introduce other people from community, maybe a health visitor, a breast-feeding expert, a sleep expert, and even some dancing!



Choir & Director of Music

meets every Friday, 7.30pm-9pm for rehearsal (in church)
Sings on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays at 9.30am
and also on 1st Sunday at 6pm, and 3rd Sunday at 11.15am
Occasionally at weekday services

Overseen by *Michael Bell – Organist and Director of Music*
Aims of the Group *To contribute, musically, to the enhancement of worship
for the praise and glory of God.*
Report submitted by *Michael Bell BA FRCO*



It comes as some relief to be able to write that St Nicholas Church Choir can still be heard on at least two Sunday mornings per month at the 9.30am Parish Eucharist Service. This follows the prolonged silence of the various previous lockdowns. On the third Sunday of the month the choir sings instead at 11.15am for Choral Matins. Also on the first Sunday of the month Choral Evensong is at 6pm. Otherwise weekday evening services on Feast days (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day, Easter Eve and Christmas Eve) are also usually 'choral'. During this year the Choir has sung at far fewer weddings and funerals than had been the case in the previous three decades. We acknowledge with gratitude the assistance at this year's Remembrance Sunday services of a number of the 'Third Sunday Singers' members. Nonetheless the loyal enthusiasm and musical ability of the present members remains undiminished and the performance of traditional four-part singing for soprano/alto/tenor/bass in hymns, psalms and anthems to a high standard has fortunately been just possible to maintain over the past year. Grateful thanks in recognition of their considerable contribution to worship is readily recorded here.

Rehearsals are on Fridays (7.30 - 9pm, in church). **NEW RECRUITS** are urgently welcome in all voices. Please contact the Organist & Director of Music for further details.

Michael Bell



Parish Administrator *In the Parish Office, Mon-Fri, 9am – 1pm.*
Overseen by *The Rector*
Report submitted by *Selina Lindsey*



2022 has been another year of challenges to keep our administrative standards high, hopefully.

With the arrival our new curate Rachel+, this has been a massive help and support to Jonathan+ and she has mirrored his enthusiasm by generating new and old pastoral care for St Nicholas and a lot more printing and folding for me.

The bookings for parties in the hall have increased tenfold and the hall is booked out most Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The news of a possible new hall has generated a positive buzz around Chislehurst with calls to the office trying to pre-book a space for meetings, art clubs, dance, singing etc. A new Community Village Hall will benefit a lot of people and will pay for itself in the end.

We have now caught up with all outstanding baptisms (pre-Covid) and from July 2021 - December 2022 we baptised 42 children.

Mailchimp is a fabulous system enabling everyone to click and see everything that is happening at St Nicholas, with a total of 392 subscribers.

Third Sunday Singers

Overseen by
Aims of the Group

Report submitted by

meets every 3rd Sunday of the month
Muriel Partridge
To sing during communion and to lead the
congregation hymns on the third Sunday in the month
Muriel Partridge



Achievements this year

Loyal attendance and commitment to helping worship on the third Sunday every month.

Singing at the Christmas Fair.

We rehearse each month, in advance of the 3rd Sunday, and we welcome all potential new members.

Comments from members

“We’re all about sharing joy in and through music.”

“We’re supportive, encouraging and we enjoy our singing.”

“We love being part of the Third Sunday singers, such a friendly group, we enjoy the informality.”

“I enjoy the friendship, fellowship, the variety of music and the joy of making music together.”

“I like the informality from choosing our music through to our practices. It is simply fun.”

“It’s an opportunity for a group who particularly enjoy singing to contribute to our service on Worship for All Sunday.”



Hopes and Aspirations for the future

To continue our service on the third Sundays. To extend our repertoire of music

To participate in special services if required.



Ecumenical Relationships

St Nicholas’ church is a member of Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley (CTCB)



The following people serve as representatives from St Nicholas’:

1. The Parish Priest
2. Barbara Adie (CTCB Secretary)
3. Frances Follin
4. Philippa Robinson (CTCB Treasurer)



Barbara Adie



Philippa Robinson



Frances Follin

Aims

As representatives of all the churches in the area, we aim to show those in Chislehurst and Bickley that our faith is relevant and active, and to share our faith with the people in our community.

Achievements in 2022

Churches Together:

- has a Facebook page and Twitter account so churches can advertise services and events, etc
- continues to financially support the Chislehurst Debt Advisory Service
- benefits from the 2gether shop, which funds Chislehurst Youth for Christ and actively supports the group
- promotes churches through a presence at the Chislehurst Summer Fair, Walk of Witness on Good Friday and production of an annual Christmas card



Thanks to Rev. Dr Jonathan Bauer and a small steering group, the Two's Company befriending project got off the ground this year. A Project Coordinator, Danielle Francis, was appointed and the project should go live with its first volunteers in 2023.

At the June AGM, Anthony Faulkner stood down from the committee. Barbara Adie took over the role of secretary and Frances Follin became our additional representative. Our other representatives are Rev. Dr Jonathan Bauer (Church Leader) and Philippa Robinson (Treasurer).

Hopes for the Future

To be an active and visible sign of our faith and God's love in Chislehurst and Bickley. To secure funding for the Two's Company Befriending Project to enable its further development and growth.



Knitting Group

Overseen by
Group Aims

meets every Tuesday, 10.30am – 12noon, in the Bull's Head Pub

Barbara Adie and Carol Gray

To provide a warm welcome and an opportunity for those in the community interested in knitting to meet, share creative ideas and support each other.

The knitting group continues to attract new members and reached 22 by the end of 2022. Each new member receives a warm welcome and soon finds a shared interest. Those who haven't knitted for a while make a start on squares for blankets and soon move on the scarves, hats and toys. A member of our group has set up a knitting group in Shepherd's House, providing an enjoyable community activity, producing blankets for refugees living in a deprived area of SE London.

Full of enthusiasm, projects for the Christmas Fair started in February. The result was a wonderful display of goods for sale. We continue to support Children in Distress and Whitechapel Mission, providing blankets, hats and scarves. In December, we were able to provide 'Pew' blankets to help members of the congregation keep warm in church.

Social get togethers are also important and we met for a soup lunch in August and ended the year with our annual Christmas lunch at the Bull - a wonderful way to celebrate our achievements. Our thanks go to the Bull for continuing to host this vibrant and chatty group.



Hopes for the Future

To diversify our products and develop some eco-friendly projects, making the best of the skills in the group.



Junior Church and Creche

Overseen by

Report submitted by

2nd and 4th Sunday's of the month,

9.30am in the Village Hall

Sarah Armstrong and the Team

Sarah Armstrong



Intro

Junior Church takes place every 2nd, 4th and occasionally on the 5th Sunday of the month, in the Village Hall; the Junior Church team meet approximately four times a year

We use ROOTS to support the planning of our sessions which include songs, prayers, crafts and games.

We listen to the Bible story or message that is being heard in the main church and we adapt it for our youngest members to understand.

We discuss the key messages being shared and think about how this relates to our own lives.

The children are encouraged to reflect on how they can best follow the word of God and the messages of Jesus.

We then share our creations with the main body of the Church towards the end of the service, once we have re-joined our families.

Some of our creations are displayed for others to see at the back of the church where the bell ringers practice.

Aims of the Group

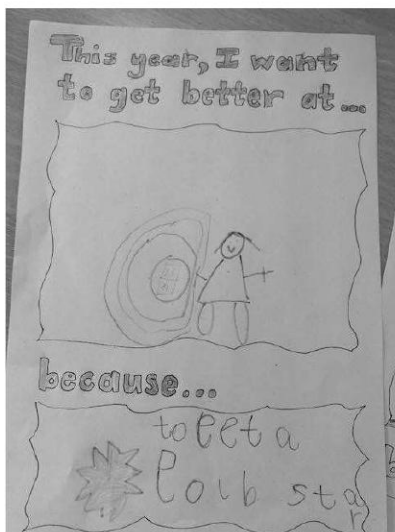
- To bring the word of God to our youngest members of the Church
- To support young people and families to form positive relationships with other members of the parish
- To encourage young people to think about the stories and messages from the Bible and reflect on how this relates to their own lives

Achievements of 2022

- Bringing new and established members of our Junior Church (previously known as Sunday School) back together post-pandemic



We share stories from the Bible together



We think about how to relate the stories to our own lives;



We talk about how our world is important to us;



We work on bigger creations together sometimes;

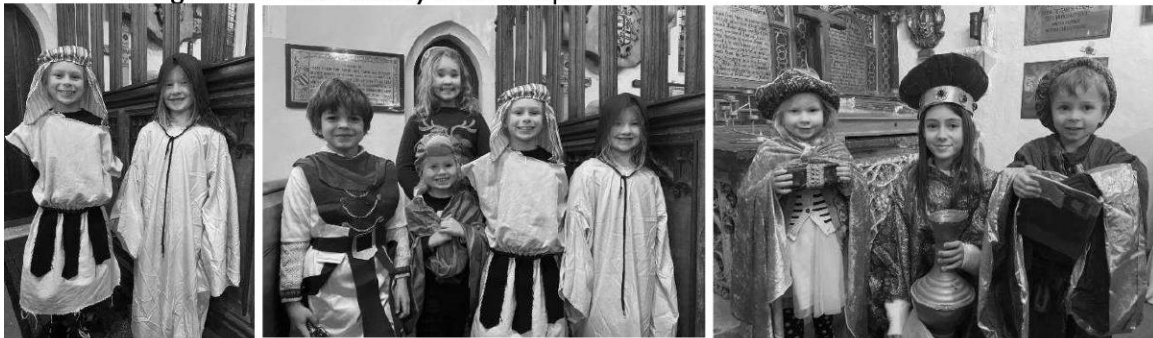


We play games and have lots of discussions around the stories and passages we learn about;



We all help putting everything away too!

- Putting on our first Nativity since the pandemic



- Having clear systems in terms of registration forms and registers to ensure we can monitor attendance and keep our young people safe

Hopes and aspirations for the future

- To build a strong team of volunteers to lead our sessions each month so we can have a consistent offer of separate sessions for younger and older children- we currently have to amalgamate the groups on the 4th Sunday as we do not have sufficient volunteers consistently to lead each group
- To continue to share the word of God with our youngest members of the Church through stories, games, songs and activities
- For our children to continue with us into young adulthood and to build on the foundations of faith shared in Junior Church
- To have a healthy, regular attendance of young people coming to our sessions, building strong relationships within our community.

Soup Lunch

Overseen by
Report submitted by
Group Aims

every 2nd Thursday of the month, 12.45pm for 1pm in St Nicholas Village Hall (not during August)
The Rector; Rota managed by Barbara Adie
Barbara Adie
To provide an opportunity for members of the church and wider community to meet socially, find companionship and chat over a shared lunch; to meet up with old friends and make new ones



Achievements of 2022

The Community Soup Lunches are now a firm fixture in the calendar and continue to attract a core clientele. With the Covid virus still circulating numbers fluctuate, but are creeping up as more people feel able to mix again.

Dates and types of soup are advertised in advance for the year and attendees are encouraged to book tickets online or phone into the Parish office to book their place.

We now have a core team of willing volunteers making soup, cakes and helping on the day. Service flows smoothly and engaging with guests is a key element of the lunch.

We aim to create a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere with guests often helping out when they arrive and everyone sitting and chatting together over the meal.

A special effort was made in December, with a Christmas theme, including table decorations, crackers and mince pies. The highlight however was having 40 children from St. Nicholas Primary School coming to sing Carols. Emotions ran high, tears were shed as everyone joined in with 'Hark the Herald Angels sing'.

Our thanks go to Head Teacher, Sophie Sears (who helps at the lunches in school holidays) and Katie Harris (the music lead) for supporting our request and allowing us to end the year on a high.

Hopes and Aspirations for the Future

To advertise more widely and to encourage more of the local community to attend the lunches, which offer friendship, support and a warm space.



Baptism Helpers

Coordinated by
Aims of the Team

Baptisms are usually held at 3pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

One Baptism Helper is present to assist at each baptism.

Jackie White

To assist the clergy in preparing for and welcoming baptism families into the church. They provide not only practical help, but also a ministry of welcome, representing the wider congregation

Report submitted by

Jackie White



22 baptisms were held at St Nicholas Church during 2022. Baptism services are joyful occasions uniting family and friends and baptism parties range in size from around 20 to 100. During the baptism each child receives a baptism shell, inscribed with name and date of baptism, and a baptism candle. A memento sock is donated and these are hung around the bottom of the font.

The team of 8 helpers is comprised of mothers and grandmothers within the church.

Baptisms services are always uplifting and it is a pleasure and privilege to help.

Mothers' Union *submitted by Dorothy Baldwin and Sally Hayhow*
Overseen by *Dorothy Baldwin and Sally Hayhow*

We have met every month during 2022, either inside the The Bull's Head or in their Garden during the good weather. Our numbers have remained consistently at a dozen at every meeting.

We decided to keep the programme more informal for the time being, having realised that fellowship was our greatest priority.

We have enjoyed a variety of talks, notably one from our Curate, Rev Rachel, who also led our Advent Meditation. We had an outing to Otford for lunch, a quiz from Lynton, another based on the Christmas story from Dorothy and most importantly, we have spent time together. Two new members have joined us and more are always welcome.



Memorial Garden

Overseen by *Sue Thorogood*
Report submitted by *Sue Thorogood*

The Memorial Garden is a special place in our Churchyard and a place of solace for the families whose loved ones are interred there.

To maintain it to a high standard involves a lot of work and during the summer months I am assisted by a wonderful team of volunteers. However, it can be very high maintenance in the autumn and winter when a copious amount of leaves fall on the garden so we would really appreciate extra help at that time of the year. I would therefore be pleased to hear from anyone who can give an hour or so of their time now and again. Please let us know via the Parish Office.

We also have a rota for cutting the grass in the spring and summer months and this takes each volunteer about 30/40 minutes once a month. John (my husband) has been doing this for twenty years but following an accident he cannot continue so PLEASE can someone come forward to replace him? We do really hope so.

Finally it would assist us considerably if those who leave floral tributes in the garden could clear them away when they die. This garden is a special place for many of you so please help us to keep it neat and tidy for all who come and appreciate its beauty and tranquillity.

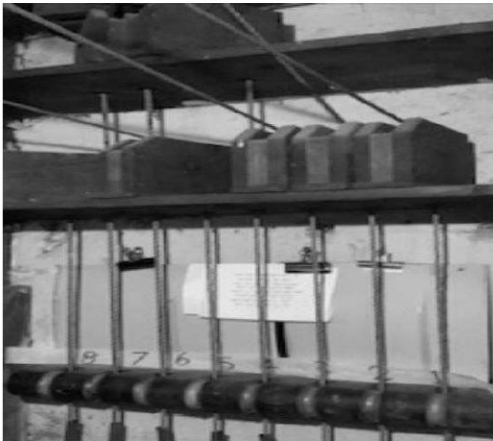


Bell Ringers *report submitted by Maralyn Evans*

Overseen by *Maralyn Evans*
Meets *Ringing for some Sunday mornings and (hopefully) on Wednesday evenings*
Group Aims *To support ringing for services and special events with main bells, Ellacombe chimes and handbells.*

- Kent Association AGM held at St Nicholas.
- Bells inspected by Taylor's and deemed to be in good condition. Next inspection due November 2024.
- Rang for 10 weddings.
- Tolloed muffled bell for the late Queen's funeral.
- Quarter Peal rung by visiting Bromley Tower.
- Discovery of a set of historic hand bells in the clock tower. Paper submitted to PCC resulting in confirmation of church ownership. Peter Appleby researched church records see image of Warden's Account (entry 1887).

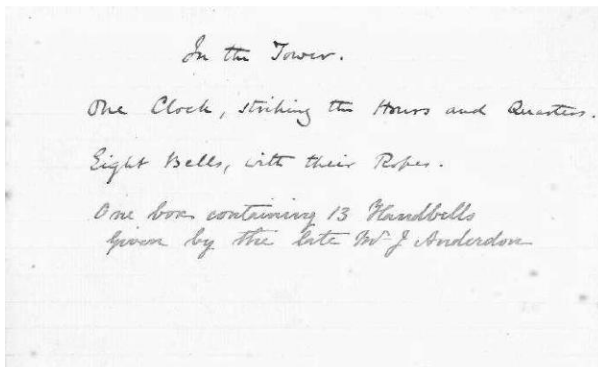
- Rang Ellacombe chimes for Nativity Tableau.



Ellacombe chimes



St Nicholas' Handbells



Hopes and Aspirations

Lewisham District Practice to be held at St Nicholas on 1st April.

We now have 4 committed ringers with 2 new learners at Eltham so hopefully soon we will again be able to ring 6 bells on a Sunday morning.

In celebration of the King's Coronation on 6 May if sufficient ringers are available, we plan to 'Ring for the King' on the main bells as well as joining an international simultaneous ringing of the Ellacombe Chimes.

Plans to ring muffled bells for Remembrance Sunday 2023

We are in the process of having the handbells valued with a view to them being included in the church insurance cover then obtaining funds to have them restored/repared.

We would like to involve the Junior Church and possibly St Nicholas' Primary School in learning to ring these.

Consider a school visit for Year 5 and 6 pupils to raise awareness of bell ringing as a hobby.

We are planning a practice session for all the team to be able to ring the Ellacombe Chimes.

CHLOE *report submitted by Ann Dyer and Muriel Partridge*
Overseen by *Ann Dyer and Muriel Partridge*
Meets *once a month, Sept-July, 2.30pm in various members' homes*
Group Aims *to share friendship, fun, and refreshments*

“CHLOE”
(Chislehurst Ladies Over Eighteen)



Every September we have a planning meeting to consider suggestions for activities which the members would like to attend.

Regular events are:

- Poetry
- a film
- a London walk
- a musical afternoon

These are popular and will be repeated but new ideas are added each year.

Hopes and aspirations

To increase our membership and continue with similar activities



New Village Hall Development Project

report submitted by the Rector



A VILLAGE HALL
for all

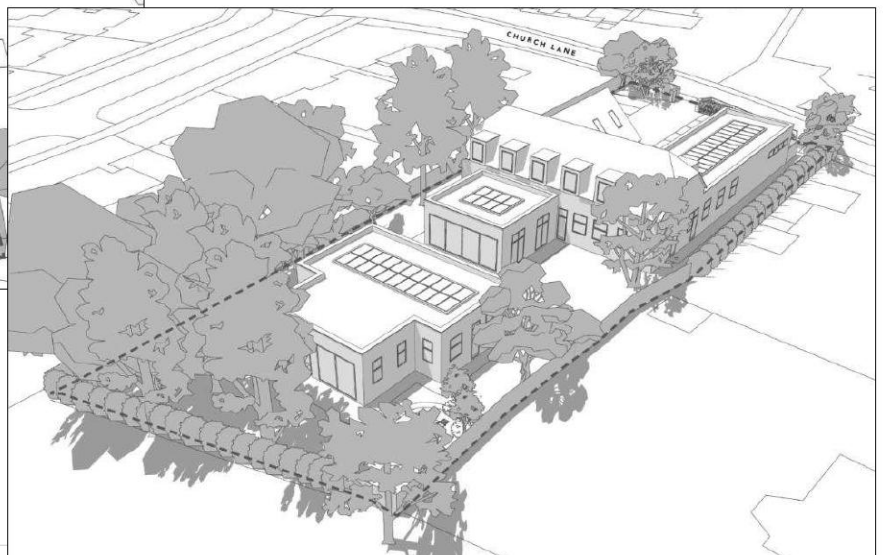
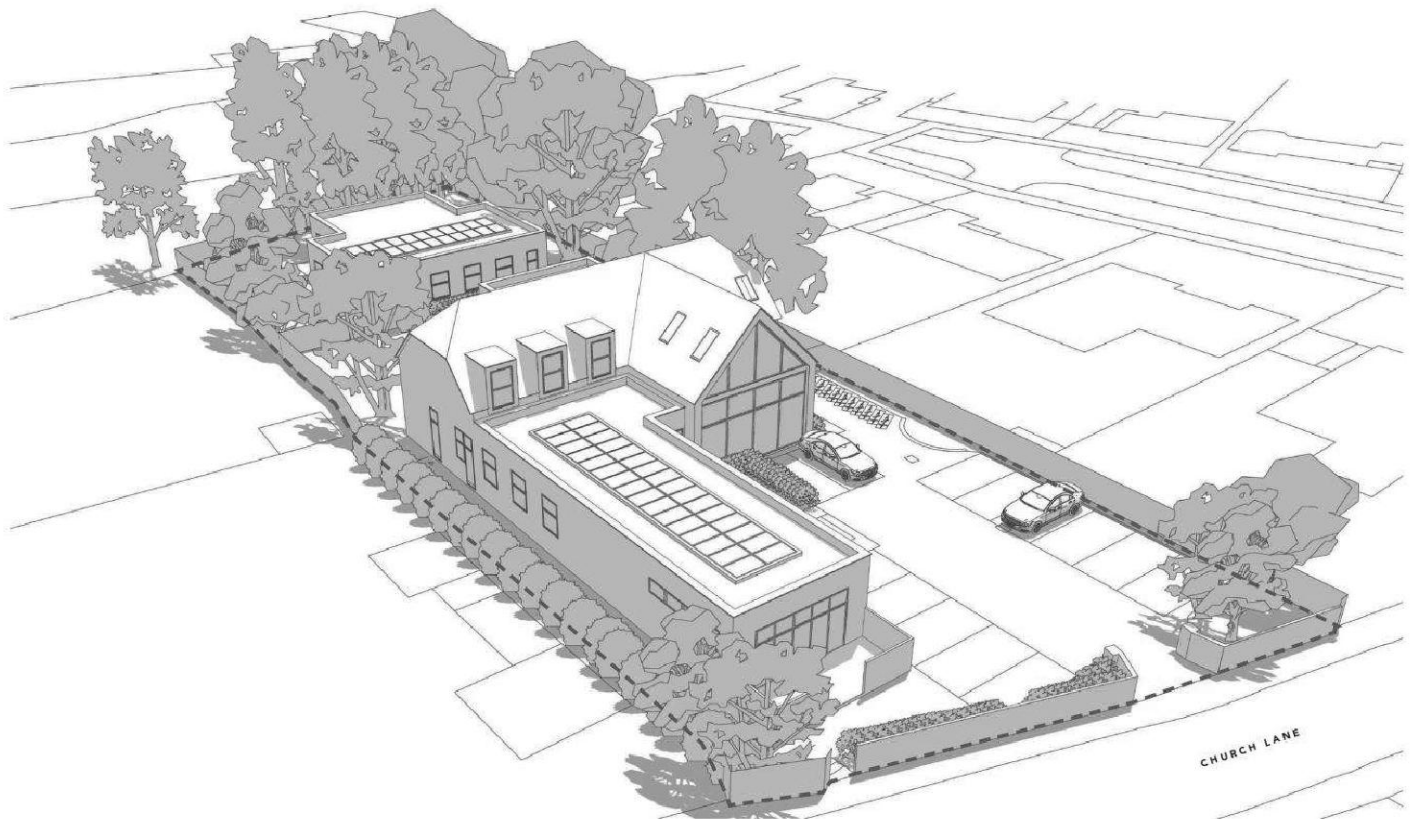
Redeveloping St Nicholas' Village Hall is long overdue. There have been ideas of redevelopment for at least 25 years but none have come to fruition.

Since introducing the concept at the Annual Meetings in 2022, there has been overwhelming and unanimous support from the PCC and the church community, and wider community at large.

Our current Hall is incredibly popular and is a valued space serving the community of Chislehurst (and sometime beyond). Due to its popularity and its limited space and functionality, its high usage means that the Hall is often unavailable to us a church for significant parish events or hospitality. For this, we very often have to rely on the goodwill of our valued and long-standing users who work with us to be as flexible as possible – when they can. This makes it a challenge to offer times when we can plan events like a fellowship lunch on Sundays, evening group meetings in the main hall space, midweek community lunches and coffee mornings, etc.

To that end, plans have been drawn up which maximise the plot of land, incorporating both a small hall and a main hall facility with offices and meeting rooms, and kitchen. As careful stewards of what we have, the plans also include provision for two apartments on the first floor of the complex to provide well-needed supplemental income. It is important that, going forward, we seek to maximise the potential income from the built resources we have to ensure we secure a strong future for our church and its outreach to the community.

Preliminary 'Concepts'





The outline concept drawings have been on display, in church, for the most part of 2022 (since May 2022). Almost all the feedback has been incredibly positive.









Two consultation meetings have already been held:

- Sunday 18th September – invited guests from the local community, inc local councillors, MP, senior diocesan clergy, representatives from local organisations ‘with an interest’
- Sunday 9th October – for all interested parties

As a result of these, the Hall Development Team (pictured below), finalised our initial proposals and moved towards the submission of pre-planning to Bromley Council. There is also a dedicated page on our church website regarding our Hall plans:

<https://www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk/stnicholasvillagehall>

The Hall Development Team

			
Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Bauer Rector	Sarah Cordwell Churchwarden	Wendy Lowdon Churchwarden	Andrew Stone Team Member
			
John Grant Team Member	Manos Adoniadis Team Member	Adam Baskett Team Member	

Feedback from pre-planning (once received) will be shared and the next steps taken toward establishing a funding programme / funding team. The overseeing of the project and its development over the next few years will be a major part of our shared life together.

Throughout 2022 there have had to be a large number of surveys and professional consultations which come at cost. The PCC budgeted £14k for this. At the end of 2022, we had spent just over £13,838 – ie a little under budget.

I would like to pay tribute to the incredible Hall Development Team with their many and varied skills, interests and professional backgrounds who have helped push the project forward in such a wonderful, creative, and impassioned way. On behalf of us all, “Thank you”.

This will be a significant and major focus of the life of St Nick’s throughout the coming years – but one, I hope, which will make clear our desire to **serve** our local community, to **welcome** ALL, and to offer **hospitality** with generosity and love.

We really hope our new hall will be a **Village Hall for All**

The Rev’d Dr Jonathan Bauer

CHAIR

Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council

of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst (the Church) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



Christopher Archer

Date 14 March 2023

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd
The Vicarage, Rose Lane, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 8BD

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2022 £	2021 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Voluntary income	3(a)	119,092	3,683	-	122,775	109,956
Activities for generating funds	3(b)	26,507	3,353	-	29,860	22,041
Income from Church activities	3(c)	13,752	-	-	13,752	11,350
Income from investments	3(d)	1,869	-	9,764	11,633	10,646
Other income	3(e)	<u>17,980</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,155</u>	<u>26,152</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>179,200</u>	<u>7,211</u>	<u>9,764</u>	<u>196,175</u>	<u>180,145</u>
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>						
Church activities	4(a)	199,610	7,415	3,816	210,841	177,601
Exceptional costs	4(b)	-	-	-	-	4,031
Governance costs	4(c)	<u>626</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>626</u>	<u>602</u>
Total resources expended		<u>200,236</u>	<u>7,415</u>	<u>3,816</u>	<u>211,467</u>	<u>182,234</u>
<u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Before other recognised gains & losses		(21,036)	(204)	5,948	(15,292)	(2,089)
<u>NET (LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENTS</u>	7(b)	<u>(21,592)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(47,151)</u>	<u>(68,743)</u>	<u>80,671</u>
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</u>		(42,628)	(204)	(41,203)	(84,035)	78,582
<u>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</u>		6,000		(6,000)	-	-
Balances brought forward 1 January 2022 (2021)		<u>349,566</u>	<u>1,527</u>	<u>636,171</u>	<u>987,264</u>	<u>908,682</u>
<u>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</u>						
31 DECEMBER 2022 (2021)		<u>312,938</u>	<u>1,323</u>	<u>588,968</u>	<u>903,229</u>	<u>987,264</u>

The notes on pages 49 to 55 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	£	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible	7(a)	60,260	-	232,500	292,760	292,760
Investments	7(b)	<u>197,696</u>	-	<u>342,631</u>	540,327	609,070
		<u>257,956</u>	-	<u>575,131</u>	833,087	901,830
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors & prepayments	8	14,072	-	-	14,072	5,455
Short term deposits		28,107	1,323	13,837	43,267	58,670
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>31,953</u>	-	-	31,953	36,146
		<u>74,132</u>	<u>1,323</u>	<u>13,837</u>	89,292	100,271
LIABILITIES due within one year	9	(19,150)	-	-	(19,150)	(14,837)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>54,982</u>	<u>1,323</u>	<u>13,837</u>	70,142	85,434
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>312,938</u>	<u>1,323</u>	<u>588,968</u>	903,229	987,264
FUNDS						
Unrestricted:						
General		181,920	-	-	181,920	106,875
Designated:						
Church Repair Fund	11(a)	70,758	-	-	70,758	74,232
Church Hall Building	11(b)	60,260	-	-	60,260	60,260
Refurbishment Fund	11(c)	-	-	-	-	108,199
Restricted:	14	-	1,323	-	1,323	1,527
Endowment	12	-	-	588,968	588,968	636,171
		<u>312,938</u>	<u>1,323</u>	<u>588,968</u>	903,229	987,264

Approved by the PCC on 13th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by,



The Revd Dr Jonathan N Bauer (Rector)

The notes on pages 49 to 55 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS *For the year ended 31 December 2022*

1. CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTRATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 September 2009, with Registered No. 1131855. It is required to file its annual report and accounts with the Commission and must also send these to the Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP FRS102 (2016). The policies are set out in full on page 55 of this report.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2022 £	2021 £
(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	71,051	-	-	71,051	72,012
Tax recoverable	19,754	-	-	19,754	18,271
Collections at services	17,741	3,648	-	21,389	7,212
Donations	10,546	35	-	10,581	6,461
Legacies	-	-	-	-	6,000
	<u>119,092</u>	<u>3,683</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>122,775</u>	<u>109,956</u>
(b) Activities for generating funds					
St Nicholas Fair	-	3,353	-	3,353	3,895
Church Hall hiring	26,507	-	-	26,507	18,146
	<u>26,507</u>	<u>3,353</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,860</u>	<u>22,041</u>
(c) Income from Church Activities					
Fees	8,976	-	-	8,976	11,056
Parish magazine	11	-	-	11	39
Social events	4,765	-	-	4,765	255
	<u>13,752</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,752</u>	<u>11,350</u>
(d) Income from investments					
Dividends & interest	1,869	-	9,764	11,633	10,646
	<u>1,869</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,764</u>	<u>11,633</u>	<u>10,646</u>
(e) Other incoming resources					
Curate Housing Grant	4,750	-	-	4,750	-
Southbeech rental income	6,586	-	-	6,586	23,400
LPOW VAT relief	6,644	-	-	6,644	2,446
Flower income	-	175	-	175	306
	<u>17,980</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,155</u>	<u>26,152</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>179,200</u>	<u>7,211</u>	<u>9,764</u>	<u>196,175</u>	<u>180,145</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2022

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2022 £	2021 £
(a) Church activities					
Mission and charitable giving	3,553	7,036	-	10,589	12,400
Ministry:					
Parish Offer to Diocese	75,000	-	-	75,000	83,700
Clergy working expenses	2,349	-	-	2,349	1,183
Clergy housing costs	4,467	-	-	4,467	3,325
	-	-	-	-	-
Church services & music	13,989	-	-	13,989	10,427
Church:					
Insurance	3,043	-	-	3,043	6,359
Utility costs	5,733	-	-	5,733	3,589
Repairs & maintenance	6,338	-	259	6,597	5,879
Major works	34,283	-	-	34,283	6,665
Southbeech costs	-	-	1,254	1,254	1,089
Churchyard upkeep	3,091	-	2,303	5,394	8,191
Parish magazine	-	-	-	-	150
Church Hall running costs	16,084	-	-	16,084	19,045
New Church Hall Planning costs	13,838	-	-	13,838	-
Cost of social events	2,319	-	-	2,319	183
Administration	15,523	-	-	15,523	15,236
Flower Expenses	-	379	-	379	180
	<u>199,610</u>	<u>7,415</u>	<u>3,816</u>	<u>210,841</u>	<u>177,601</u>
(b) Exceptional costs					
Sequestration costs	-	-	-	-	586
Costs of letting Southbeech	-	-	-	-	3,445
	-	-	-	-	4,031
(c) Governance costs					
Independent examination	420	-	-	420	400
Bank charges	206	-	-	206	202
	<u>626</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>626</u>	<u>602</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>200,236</u>	<u>7,415</u>	<u>3,816</u>	<u>211,467</u>	<u>182,234</u>

5. STAFF COSTS (included in the above figures) for the administrator, the hall cleaner and the organist/choir master amount to £23,370 (2021 - £20,145). The stipends of the Rector and the Curate are paid by the diocese.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2022

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCC AND RELATED PARTIES

Note 4(a) shows the total of PCC payments for the Rector and Assistant Curate towards their working expenses and housing costs. The total stewardship income from members of the PCC in 2022 was £8,779 (2021 - £9,094). Groundforce1, a company closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £3,115 for grass cutting and trimming at the Churchyard.

7. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible assets used by the PCC

Freehold land and buildings: Cost at 1 January 2022 and at 31 December 2022

£292,760

The Curate's house at Southbeech, Old Perry Street, BR7 6PL was purchased in 2001 for £232,500.

St Nicholas Village Hall was given to the PCC in 1921, mostly rebuilt in 1977 and extended in 1987.

The total historic cost was £60,260. Neither sum is being depreciated.

(b) Investments – movements during the year: -

	£	Represented by shares in CBF Church of England Funds:	£
Market value on 1 January	609,070	Global Equities Investment Fund	68,258
Net loss on revaluation	(68,743)	Investment Fund (Equities)	472,069
	<u>540,327</u>		<u>540,327</u>

8. DEBTORS	2022	2021
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	2,556	-
Tax recoverable	10,169	4,655
VAT recoverable	1,347	800
	<u>14,072</u>	<u>5,455</u>
9. LIABILITIES due within one year		
Goods and services	9,236	4,687
Donations allocated out of 2022 (2021) income	<u>9,914</u>	<u>10,150</u>
	<u>19,150</u>	<u>14,837</u>
10. GIVING TO MISSIONS & CHARITIES		
Church Mission Society	-	2,000
Welcare in Bromley	1,308	1,000
Children in Distress	1,000	2,000
Whitechapel Mission	729	2,100
Association of Christian Resource Organisations serving Sudan (UK)	-	1,250
Children's Society	1,889	2,000
Church Army, Marylebone Women's Hostel	1,308	2,000
DEC Ukraine Appeal	590	-
Churches Together In Chislehurst & Bickley	300	-
Compassion UK	1,308	-
His Charity	1,308	-
Salvation Army	669	-
Poverty & Hope	100	-
Assistance to poorer parishes and other items	<u>80</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	<u>10,589</u>	<u>12,400</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2022

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Opening Balance £	Income in year £	Expenditure in year £	Inter Fund Transfers £	Investment Result £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted						
General	106,875	173,390	(165,952)	89,199	(21,592)	181,920
Designated						
Church Repair	74,232	5,810	(34,284)	25,000	-	70,758
Hall Building	60,260	-	-	-	-	60,260
Refurbishment	108,199	-	-	(108,199)	-	-
Restricted						
Minor funds	1,527	175	(379)	-	-	1,323
Away Giving		7,036	(7,036)	-	-	-
Endowments	<u>636,171</u>	<u>9,764</u>	<u>(3,816)</u>	<u>(6,000)</u>	<u>(47,151)</u>	<u>588,968</u>
Totals	<u>987,264</u>	<u>196,175</u>	<u>(211,467)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(68,743)</u>	<u>903,229</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Financial provision is being made via designated funds for future non-annual repairs and renewal.

- (a) **Church Repair Fund** - The Fund stood at £74,232 at the start of the year. A further £25,000 has been transferred from General Fund to spread the burden of anticipated exceptional costs over a five-year cycle. As part of this the PCC makes regular deposits into diocesan accounts as recommended by the diocesan surveyor, for future quinquennial fabric repairs to the Church and the Curate's house. In the year to 31st December 2022 £28,474 was spent on major repairs to the church which has been taken out of the fund. This leaves a balance of £70,758 in the fund at the end of the year.
- (b) **Church Hall** - The hall is run on a self-financing basis to generate sufficient funds to meet any major work on the fabric of the Hall. The annual income and expenditure and the resultant financial surplus or deficit from its operations is accounted for within the General Fund Statement of Financial Activities. The designated fund represents the historic book value of the building which as such is an illiquid asset.
- (c) **Church Refurbishment Fund** - The fund stood at £108,199 on 1st January 2022. This money was put aside for a particular project which has now been overtaken by plans for the new church hall. It has been decided by the PCC to move these funds back into the General Fund.

12. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Capital funds which the PCC has no power to expend (permanent), or which may be spent in certain circumstances (expendable). The income is available for specific purposes as follows:

- (a) Churchyard fund - to maintain 26 graves in St Nicholas churchyard
- (b) Fabric Trust - for repairs to the church fabric
- (c) Nussey Trust - for church maintenance
- (d) Clergy House Trust - an expendable endowment. It holds the curate's house (see note 7(a), investments of £245,601 and short term deposits £13,837. The income arising is available to the PCC and the capital is available for ecclesiastical purposes in or near the parish under the oversight of the Diocese as custodian trustee. It has been decided by the PCC to transfer £6,000 from this fund into the General Fund.
- (e) Hawes Trust - it is agreed that the capital may be invested in an accumulating fund, provided that the two family graves are maintained. The capital may be used after May 2059 (Market value £10,936).
- (f) Also included in the Endowment Funds total is the Curate's House at Southbeech (see note 7 – £232,500)

Permanent endowments
market value
£86,093

13. CONNECTED CHARITIES

Monies handled by the St Nicholas branch of the Mother's Union are not included in these accounts.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

- a) The church holds a fund of £603 available to meet the objects of 'Chislehurst Relief in Need' (2021 - £603)
- b) In the year the Flower Fund had income of £175 and expenses of £379, leaving a balance of £720 (2021 - £924)

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For the year ended 31 December 2022

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP FRS102 (2016). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Fund Accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted, and the PCC may move any surplus to other general funds.

Resources expended

Donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with the s.10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. The Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Charities Act 2011

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £5,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

**St Nicholas' Parish Office
The Village Hall
Church Lane
Chislehurst
BR7 5PE**

0208467 0196



www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk



St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst



@stnickschislehurst

Accounts

The Parish of
St Nicholas
Chislehurst

in the Diocese of
Rochester



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



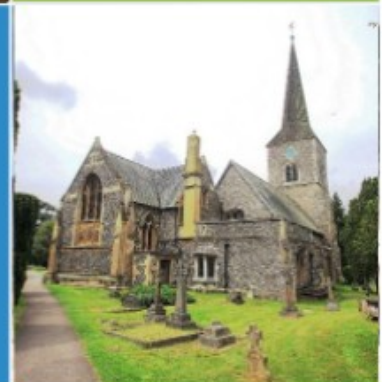
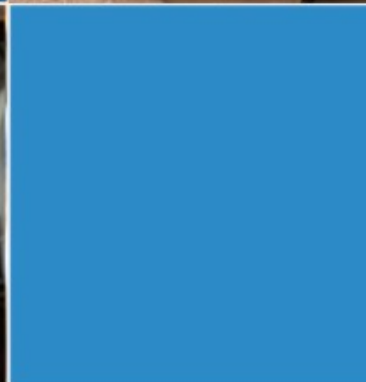
ANNUAL REPORT

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For Year Ended 31 Dec 2021

bringing **People & God** together

AN INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH SEEKING TO KNOW & SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD



SEEKING TO KNOW & SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD

Annual Report and Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2021



Lent in a Bag

Christmas Fair



Mini Paschal Candles



*St Nicholas Wristbands
"Bringing **People & God** together"*



ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Priest-in-Charge / Rector-designate (licenced via Zoom 19 January 2021)

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer
The Rectory
2 Cardinal Close
Chislehurst BR7 6SA

Parish Office

St Nicholas Village Hall
Church Lane
Chislehurst BR7 5PE

Banks

Barclays Bank plc
and
CAF Bank Ltd

Independent Examiner

Christopher Archer FCA
Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd

BACKGROUND

St Nicholas' Church is situated within the London Borough of Bromley, and historically within the county of Kent. There has been a place of worship on this site for over a thousand years.

The current building dates back to the 15th century, but was significantly enlarged in the 19th century in response to pressing need as well as perceived opportunities for growth and outreach.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this parish church has a powerful history connecting it to stories of exploration, invention, achievement, and devotion both to God and to people.

Today we are still committed to that ongoing journey of evolution and growth – it is a pilgrimage of faith, to which our built heritage stands witness. Upon the firm foundations of the past, we rededicate ourselves and our church (the building *and* the people) as a focus of inclusion, welcome, faith, and loving service.

The Parish of Chislehurst St Nicholas is part of the Bromley Deanery, in the Diocese of Rochester, in the Province of Canterbury, within the Church of England - a member church of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number: 1131855

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the maintenance of St Nicholas Church and Churchyard, Southbeech in Old Perry Street (housing for a Curate currently let out at a commercial rent), and the Village Hall in Church Lane.

Priest-in-Charge (Incumbent Status) & Chair of the PCC:

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer

Church Wardens Sarah Cordwell (Vice Chair of PCC)
Anthony Faulkner

Hon Associate Priest

The Rev'd June Hurn

Assistant Curate Vacant

Licenced Lay Ministers

Theodora Chamberlain

Lynton Karmock-Golds

Reader Peter Ridge

Members of the PCC:

Elected members serve for three years and can be re-elected for a further 3-year term after which they CANNOT be re-elected until a further year has elapsed (Church Representation Rules 2001)

NAME STAND FOR	Year of Office <i>(Term of 3 years)</i>	ELIGIBLE TO RE-ELECTION in 2022
Andrew Wilton	3 rd (ends at APCM 2022)	} yes yes 5 places up for } yes
Sabina Oakes	3 rd (ends at APCM 2022)	
Susan Brandon	3 rd (ends at APCM 2022)	
<i>election in 2022</i>		
Lloyd Anderson	3 rd (ends at APCM 2022)	
<i>Vacancy</i>		
Lucy Diamond	2 nd (ends at APCM 2023) N/A	
Hannah White (née Cordwell)	2 nd (ends at APCM 2023) N/A	
Elizabeth Martine	2 nd (resigned Aug 2021)	N/A
<i>Vacancy</i>		
<i>Vacancy</i>		
Wendy Lowdon	1 st (ends at APCM 2024)	N/A
Barbara Russell	1 st (ends at APCM 2024)	N/A
Justine Grant	1 st (ends at APCM 2024)	N/A
<i>Vacancy</i>		
<i>Vacancy</i>		

The following members served up to the APCM in 2021:

Susie Hemming-Clarke, Steve Ripley, David Sharpe, John Grant, John Bernays, Simon Elliot, Zoe Warren, and Bradley Weston.

Judy Peebles died in early 2021.

There are up to a maximum of 3 places available for co-opted (1-year term) members:

1. The Rev'd June Hurn
2. Vacant
3. Vacant

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF PCC

Churchwardens

serve ONE year terms of office up to a maximum of SIX consecutive years:

Sarah Cordwell
Anthony Faulkner (retiring at APCM 2022)

Representatives on Bromley Deanery Synod (until 2023)

Theodora Chamberlain
Mary Williams
Peter Ridge (PCC Treasurer)
Charlie Clark

Aims and Purposes

St Nicholas' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Dr Jonathan Bauer, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Churchyard, and the Village Hall complex and grounds.

The Parish

The parish has a population of approximately 4000, across 1,500 households.

The parish also has a Church of England Primary School (St Nicholas), part of the Aquinas Trust Academy.

Risk Management

The PCC has budgetary disciplines in place to reduce financial risk and endeavours to identify other risks which may prejudice the work of the church. Insurance policies are maintained with Ecclesiastical Insurance to cover insurable risks, and their advice is followed to reduce risks. The PCC oversees the Safeguarding Policy for children and vulnerable adults. Arrangements have been put in place to carry out checks on people working with these groups, in line with Diocesan guidelines. Like all Church of England churches, safeguarding and safer recruitment are paramount. The PCC are committed to ensuring that our church and hall are safe places for all who use them. For more detailed information and guidance see the Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org> and click on safeguarding. Produced by the National Safeguarding Team, it is a comprehensive guide, summarising the key areas a parish need to address with regards to safeguarding. All PCC members as well as all church leaders have undertaken the Safeguarding training appropriate to their level of responsibility and activity as set out in the House of Bishops Practice Guidance for Safeguarding Training. During the year we ensured that

General Data Protection Regulations were followed in accordance with their introduction in 2018.

Our General Fund stands at £106,875 which approximates to our target of 50% of our average annual expenditure. This year we have increased our Repair Fund to £74,232 to help spread the costs of maintaining the church building over a five-year cycle.

The Refurbishment Fund remains at £108,199.

OUR VISION, VALUES, AND MISSION

VISION *what kind of future are we working towards?*

This is ultimately God's vision, placed on our hearts:
"God's kingdom come, God's will be done."

VALUES *the behaviours and attitudes that characterise how we conduct ourselves to achieve our mission*

- Welcoming
- Inclusive
- Desire to serve
- Every member is encouraged to be in ministry
- All are cherished and nurtured
- Be a people of vision: *Proverbs 29:18 "without a vision, the people perish"*
- In the words of the prophet Micah 6:8
 - o Do justly
 - o Love mercy
 - o Walk humbly with God



MISSION *what we are trying to accomplish / the impact we want to achieve*

We are committed to working hard to be:

**AN INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH
SEEKING TO KNOW & SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD**

Structure, Governance, and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Nicholas, the membership of the PCC consists of the Parish Priest, churchwardens, Deanery Synods representatives, and up to a maximum of 15 members (the maximum number allowed in any C of E church) elected by those members of the congregation **who are on the electoral roll of the church**. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC usually meets 6 times during the year.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of subgroups or 'teams', each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These committees/teams are:

1. Standing Committee (statutory)
2. Hall Team
3. Property Team
4. Finance Team
5. Churchyard Team
6. Safeguarding Team

Each is responsible to the PCC and each report back to it regularly with minutes or a summary of their decisions, being received by the full PCC and discussed / ratified as necessary.

Public Benefit

The Trustees (members of the PCC) take account of the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the PCC's purpose and in considering how planned activities will meet that aim. The Trustees believe that St Nicholas' Church promotes the whole mission of the Church of England in the Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst and beyond its boundaries, including its pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical aspects, and that in so doing provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its adherents and for everyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers

- Promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole
- Maintaining the historic fabric and architectural heritage of the St Nicholas Church building and grounds
- Providing a quiet space that is available daily to all members of the public

Pastoral Introduction from the Parish Priest

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer

2021 has been another year of challenge and renewed opportunity. We began the year drawing the interregnum to an end. On January 19th 2021, I was licenced as your parish priest via Zoom (it was not possible for me to be installed as Rector due to the impossibility of us meeting together, in-person, in church – this is a requirement for an installation). The ongoing pandemic brought significant challenges for me as your Rector-designate, both in leading our church, getting to know our household of faith, linking with groups, and starting a new job in a new place, and establishing a new home at the Rectory.



Despite not being able to physically gather, there were plenty of opportunities for ministry and forward thinking, adjusting administrative processes and making the most of the opportunity to review and develop our parish administration, organisation and governance.

Looking back on the year, as we eventually emerged from yet another lockdown, we have worked hard to re-establish patterns of worship and make necessary adjustments. While most changes and growth points have been welcomed by nearly everyone, some difficult decisions had to be made about creating a sustainable pattern of worship, bearing in mind our ministry resources.

In summary:

- Online worship was maintained and developed further
- Launched our YouTube and Instagram accounts alongside our Facebook presence
- Parish database of over 800 contacts updated and new software adopted to enhance communication (iKnow)
- Weekly e-news sent out to around 360 email accounts
- We marked Lent in innovative ways and celebrated Easter despite the many challenges
- Individual Paschal candles made from the last 2 years' candles and distributed to those unable to be present with us
- Developed a comprehensive PCC Handbook and updated almost all our policies
- Developed a monthly parish Breakfast Praise and reconnected with our young families and attracted new ones
- Re-started daily prayer in church at 9am, Monday through Thursday
- Had a hugely successful Christmas Fair in support of our mission / charitable giving
- Started making plans to re-envision our Village Hall facilities as a key part of our outreach and ministry resourcing
- 8 weddings, 21 baptisms, 22 funerals, and 4 memorial / thanksgiving services, 23 burials of ashes
- Welcomed 90 guests at our special All Souls' memorial service for the bereaved
- Our children from St Nick's school welcomed back into church for Class Eucharists, and a Carol Service
- Home communions and services at Faulkner House, Duke of Kent Court, Fairlight Nursing Home re-started
- Employed a new Hall cleaner

- Re-started the monthly parish meal (Soup Lunch)
- A rigorous pattern of worship established and reviewed in order to maintain breadth and sustainability across a very wide range of liturgies and traditions
- Started to put plans in place for a Curate to be licensed with us in 2022

This is an incredible amount of work, ministry and life together, as a church, and I (and all of us) owe a debt of thanks and appreciation to those who have given so sacrificially of their time and resources to “make church happen”: not least our Ministry Team (June+, Peter, Lynton, Theodora), our churchwardens and PCC members, our Parish Administrator, Director of Music, and all whose ministry and work – largely hidden – goes on unseen, but very much appreciated.

The Annual Report is our chance to tell everyone what God has been doing in our church. The various and interesting reports which make up this Annual Report are a celebration and honouring of that work. So, on behalf of us all, and in Christ’s name, **thank you** to all who have taken time out of their busy schedules to offer reports and, more especially, to all who continue to worship, pray, serve, and share leadership with me at St Nicholas.

“The Annual Report is our chance to tell everyone what God has been doing in our church.”

As I write this pastoral letter, I am surrounded by the news of war in Ukraine and the unfolding humanitarian crisis. Just as we have responded in time of pandemic, I know – building all that has been good, and of God – we will face a new year of challenge and opportunity, mission and ministry. May we, together, commit to making our world a better place as we seek to be Christ’s people in this place, but reaching out far beyond. There is much to do.

The Annual Report is an opportunity to publicise to you, the congregation, and to the parish as a whole, all the challenges and opportunities of the previous year. It is also a chance for me to **encourage** all of you for whom your relationship with Christ is a foundation and a rock on which to build, as we continue to grow a church that is welcoming, inclusive and serves.

I am deeply honoured, proud, and humbled to be your Rector.

Jonathan+

Electoral Roll Report *submitted by Giles Cordwell*

Every six years, a completely new Electoral Roll is produced - and this last happened in **2019** (so the preparation of a completely new Roll is not due until 2025).

In the intervening years, the Roll is revised to take account of those who have either died, moved out of the parish or new people, who are qualified, joining the Church Electoral Roll.

In 2021 this resulted in 223 names on the Roll of which

- 71 are resident in the parish
- a further 77 in Chislehurst
- 75 are non-resident.

In 2019, when a completely new roll was produced, there were 228 names on the roll; this was a considerable reduction from the previous years of 327 in 2018 and 337 in 2017.

The number on the Church Electoral Roll determines the numbers we are permitted on the Deanery Synod and also determines the number of lay members on the PCC. As we have more than 200 on our Roll, we are allowed 4 Deanery representatives and up to the maximum of 15 members lay representatives on the PCC.

Church Electoral Roll Application Forms are available from the Parish Office.

PCC Secretary's Report

Submitted by Lucy Diamond

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.



Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Members are elected for a three-year period, and may stand again (without break) for a second successive term (and therefore a maximum of 6 years), after which they are not eligible for re-election until at least one year has passed. The PCC may also co-opt up to THREE additional members, as set out in the Church Representation Rules as amended in 2020.

Details of the membership of the PCC during 2021 are set out elsewhere in this report on pages 3 and 4.

Sub-Groups

The PCC has sets up various sub-groups which carry out particular functions on behalf of the PCC:

Standing Committee

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

Finance Team

Works with the Treasurer to ensure good financial management and effective stewardship of resources.

Property Team

Oversees the extensive work required to maintain our built heritage, properties and grounds.

PCC Meetings during 2021

The full PCC met 6 times during 2021 (January, March, May, July, Sept, Nov) with good attendance on most occasions. The Standing Committee and Teams met regularly and reports of their activities were received and discussed where necessary by the PCC.

Churchwardens' Report

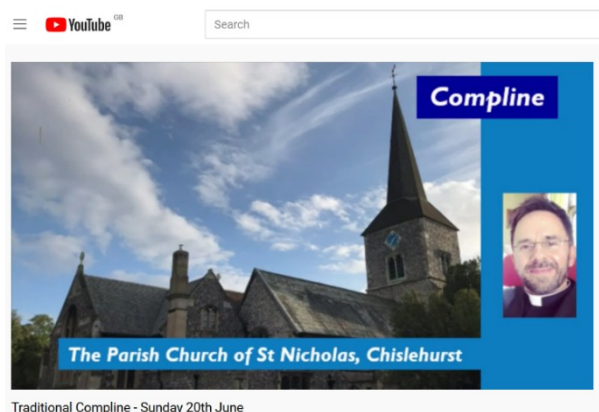
What a year.

It was wonderful to welcome Jonathan and Aftab to Chislehurst at the start of the year. Jonathan was licenced by Bishop James in January via Zoom as in-person Installation was not permitted.



Covid-19 continued to dominate our preparation for services. Services were livestreamed from an empty church, with just the priest, churchwardens and Michael Bell in the building and we had some very

high viewing figures. Many found much comfort in joining in Compline, which can still be found on our YouTube channel.



Once the church re-opened, we had to book seats for the 9.30am Sunday service and at times we were at full capacity.

Keeping on top of the changing guidance from the government and the Church kept us on our toes, and it was difficult to operate with everyone behind masks and many people not yet feeling comfortable to come into our well-ventilated church.

We hope our successors will look back in the years to come and feel St Nick's continued to thrive during the pandemic. We kept in touch with those who we didn't see, and Jonathan's launch of e-news was a great success. Recognising not everyone could get on-line we continued to arrange for the (sanitised) hand delivery of the Notice Sheet to some members of the church family.

When we were able to worship together in church, it seemed very strange for much of the year to sit and listen to Michael playing the hymns and not being able to sing along. We were comforted that many people were singing at home, joining us via our Facebook page!

As the year ended, we were all full of hope and overjoyed as more and more of the church family felt able to once again join us in church, now able to sing, albeit behind masks.

We recognise life will never be quite the same and we will continue to enable St Nick's to adapt to the new order; whatever that may be.

We were so incredibly grateful for the many messages of support we received from church members throughout the year.

Throughout the pandemic, we shared a saying "Alleluia and on we go". It was as relevant at the end of 2021 as it was at the start.

Sarah Cordwell
Anthony Faulkner

Fabric Report

*Report completed by Sarah Cordwell and Anthony Faulkner,
Churchwardens, St Nicholas Church*

CHURCH

- A new downpipe was installed with fittings which should enable the parish to clear any future blockages.

- A full programme of maintenance was undertaken.
- Work is underway to plan repairs to the North Aisle Roof and we will then plan the work recommended by the Quinquennial Inspection.
- We were blessed to receive silverware from Ven. Dr. Paul Wright on his retirement as Archdeacon: a small silver cruet, and a silver ciborium



VILLAGE HALL

- Regular maintenance took place.
- Tree work was undertaken on advice from our Arboricultural Contractors.
- Pre-School resumed after lockdown. Other regular hirers have not returned.

SOUTHBEECH

- The house has been let to a commercial tenant.

CHURCHYARD

- During the lockdown caused by the Pandemic, the churchyard proved a very popular place for exercise by the local community. It was well used and much appreciated.
- A planned programme of work by our churchyard team continued when possible.
- The restoration of the Janson drinking fountain in the corner of the churchyard has been delayed due to the Pandemic, but we hope for completion in 2022.
- The public benefit of St Nick's is not only the lovely church building but also, and very importantly, the grounds which provide hundreds of people each week a place to walk in peace and tranquility. This has been appreciated even more during pandemic lockdowns.

The churchyard is kept in wonderful condition by the unstinting efforts of the churchyard team, who (usually) meet on the first Saturday of each month under the guidance of Alex Roeder.

RECTORY

- We welcomed Jonathan and Aftab in January 2021.
- The Rectory is the responsibility of the Diocese, as owner.

The Churchwardens wish to thank the numerous volunteers for their time and expertise in helping to maintain the Church, the Hall, Southbeech and Churchyard to a high standard.

Sarah Cordwell
Anthony Faulkner

Bromley Deanery Synod Report 2021 *submitted by Charles Clark*



St Nicholas Chislehurst is one of thirteen churches in the Bromley Deanery. Deanery Synod is a meeting of clergy and laity from each PCC within the deanery and usually occurs thrice per annum. It acts as an intermediary between PCCs and Diocesan Synod. It also elects the Deanery's Lay Representatives to Diocesan Synod. The Area Dean and Synod Chair is *the Rev'd Canon Victoria Pask* (Vicar of St. Mark's Bromley), and the Synod Lay Chair is *Mrs Cath Johnston* (Licensed Lay Minister from Christ Church Chislehurst). Further information about the deanery including minutes of each synod can be accessed on <https://bromleydeanery.simdif.com/index.html>.

In addition to the Rector, St Nicholas Chislehurst's Representatives to Deanery Synod are Peter Ridge, Theodora Chamberlain, Mary Williams, and Charles Clark. Their term of office ends at the 2023 APCM.

Since the last APCM, there have only been two synods. A report from each is outlined below.

Thursday 8th July 2021 via Zoom

- It was announced that our archdeacon, the Ven. Dr. Paul Wright would be retiring in March 2022. It was also announced that the outgoing Archdeacon of Tonbridge, The Ven. Julie Conalty was to be consecrated as the new Bishop of Birkenhead at York Minster on 19th July 2021.
- The deanery is allowed to nominate one person for election to the Diocesan Board of Education. Only one person will be selected per archdeaconry (There are five deaneries in total within our archdeaconry).
- Angela Scott (Christ Church Chislehurst) encouraged those interested to stand for General Synod and also advised that the Vacancy in See Committee had met regarding the search for a new Bishop of Rochester. Mrs. Scott, who is part of the Engagement Group responsible for collating information about the diocese and the collective vision for a new Bishop through vox-pops and questionnaires, explained in detail the process of how the new bishop would be appointed in 2022.
- The Area Dean expressed her intention to run a deanery course on Living in Love & Faith. The Lay Chair spoke about the 'Five Marks of Mission/Called to Grow'. The Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Bauer explained about our own five-session course on the Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together at St. Nicholas. It was then agreed that the deanery should run a five-session course of an amalgam of Living in Love & Faith and the Pastoral Principles, and it was hoped that one Deanery Synod Representative from each church would attend and they in turn could feed back to their respective PCCs.

Tuesday 9th November 2021 at St. John the Evangelist, Bromley

- The first in-person Deanery Synod since February 2020.
- Important and informative presentation about financial giving to churches by Liz Mullins, Diocesan Generous Giving Adviser. This was discussed at some length by all that attended.
- The new General Synod commenced in November. Our new diocesan representatives are; Billy-jo O'Leary, Andrew Smith, Jane Rosam and Martin Sewell. Candidates from our deanery were unsuccessful.

- An update on the Vacancy in See was given. It was explained that the Crown Nomination Committee would have a shortlist by January 2022 and it was hoped that the new bishop would be announced in April.
- It was announced that the Reverend Sharon Copestake (previously vicar of St Francis, Strood) would be licensed as Archdeacon of Tonbridge at St Stephen's, Tonbridge on Sunday 16 January 2022.
- It was anticipated that a new Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley would not be appointed until the third quarter of 2022.

Safeguarding Report submitted by Susie Hemming-Clark (PSO) and Samantha Johnson (Deputy PSO)

It is a formal legal obligation for the PCC in its report to the APCM to state whether or not the PCC *“has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)”*.



Responsibilities of the Incumbent and PCC

The Incumbent and PCC have a duty of care to ensure the well-being of the vulnerable in the church community and within this are required to:

- Adopt and implement the House of Bishops' Policy on safeguarding children or the Joint Safeguarding Principles and a Parish Policy and procedure on safeguarding children and adults who may be vulnerable. A dated copy must be sent by email to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
- Adopt a Parish Safeguarding Officer(s) (the 'Designated Person' with special responsibility for safeguarding children and adults), to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Ensure that the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and anyone having regular contact with children and vulnerable adults is appointed according to Diocesan Safer Recruitment Guidelines, is trained and supported, provided with a copy of the parish safeguarding policy and code of practice for church workers.
- Deal promptly with allegations or suspicions of abuse in accordance with the Disclosures and Allegations policy in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
- Display the Diocesan and Parish Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, the contact details of the PSO(s) named person on church premises and wherever possible on the church website.
- Ensure that known offenders or others who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
- During an interregnum ensure that information about all safeguarding matters is securely stored before passing on to the new incumbent. The departing incumbent should give the information to the PSO(s) who will inform the new incumbent when they take up post.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Review the implementation of safeguarding children and adults' policy, procedures and good practice, at least annually

Project	Topic/Project - Aims	Impact	Notes/Highlights
Safeguarding Team	<p>Expand the committee to ensure sustainable management of all safeguarding issues at St Nicholas Church (St Nicks)</p> <p>Develop regular meetings & recording process</p> <p>Train and develop committee members</p> <p>Establish clear roles</p>	<p>Continuity</p> <p>Safety</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>Clarity</p>	<p>Recruited & welcomed additional member of the safeguarding committee - Samantha Johnson</p> <p>Jonathan (Rector) joins, in his role is Parish Priest</p> <p>Our committee currently meet every 6 weeks with recorded confidential action notes</p> <p>Committee members to ensure training and development opportunities are embraced to upkeep skills and knowledge</p> <p>Currently ongoing, aim to develop clear responsibility areas to provide support amongst the committee and react to any safeguarding issues quickly and professionally</p>
Digital focus	<p>Safe storage of data & documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce shared file system (Cloud based) - Provide shares space for working and policy documents - Develop database of training and DBS records <p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Tab "Safeguarding" to be visible on homepage and every page of website - New safeguarding page to include committee information, safeguarding policy, local and national organisations who can help - Links to safeguarding policy's to be checked as some are not working. - Bring safeguarding to the fore of our website 	<p>GDPR</p> <p>Time Saving</p> <p>Collaborative working encouraged</p> <p>Safe storage</p>	<p>NAS Folder installed and ready to use, this will be populated in the coming months and put to work, so far the IT company have been responsive, quick and the system is working for those who have installed it.</p> <p>Committee member commented "Feels safer that I don't need to email documents or store them on my own PC"</p> <p>Plan to align safeguarding message with other popular pages on the website, to review the current use of personal data on the website (phone/emails) and to</p>

- Further discussions will take place on the committee around what personal contact information needs to be on the site and how best to safeguard volunteers

understand the steps someone would take to find our safeguarding information. We will provide a clear pathway for anyone raising a concern to be able to contact someone, know who to speak to and know what the response will be.

Working closely with Hannah White (née Cordwell)

Having back up allows the committee to function when people are unavailable.

DBS checks can happen when needed
Helpful document

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/dbs-faq-february-2017.pdf>

Currently we have no pending DBS applications and will be reaching out to volunteers to ensure they are up to date.

Developing a spreadsheet on the shared drive will make this easier moving forward.

DBS Process

Process- Resources Three committee members can process DBS

Sally, Sam & Jonathan as back up

Eligibility Requirement

- Tougher restrictions on who can be DBS checked will help us to review who has opportunity to build relationships with children or vulnerable adults

- Some roles will always require a DBS check, and when they do the process is established and ready for new or existing volunteers/staff- other roles can be complex and whilst we review which will not apply we will discuss and review on a case by case basis with regular contact with 31:8 - the company with whom the diocese works in the processing of DBS's

Update on checks carried out

Number of DBS-checked individuals at St Nick's is:

45

Our history

2 DBS checks applied for in 2021, deemed "not required"

Legal responsibility
Sustainability

Covid had a significant impact on every aspect of church life, including the updating of lists of volunteers (some of whom have not returned), as well as keeping on top of Safeguarding updates and training -

DBS applications throughout 2021

often involving a migration to online. This proved significantly challenging for some.

Safeguarding Sunday 10th Oct 2021	Present the Safeguarding Team and process in church - Around 60 people were present - Resources from 31:8 very helpful	Congregation engagement Awareness	Open conversations about safeguarding and our individual responsibility to keep everyone safe was encouraging and the committee will work towards increasing the opportunity next year
Safeguarding Communications	Promote the safeguarding statement & process - In Church - Throughout community - Online	Awareness Communication Approachable	Currently we have produced a new flyer with contact details plus ensure safeguarding included on: - Notice sheets - Website - Leaflets - Social Media
Safeguarding Training	Training 100% of the PCC have completed their basic awareness training 3 people needed in-person support Some Sunday's Cool Team members still need to update / renew	Development Legal	Some church volunteers expressed the need for face-to-face training The plan for the next year is to continue to update training and records, as well as move to a rolling programme of 3-year renewals for DBS certificates..

What is going well and what is not: highlights of successes and achievements or lowlights?

We are pleased that all members of the PCC have responded to training and DBS requirements and volunteers within the church are moving forward with the process. The challenge, post-covid, is rebuilding a face-to-face or online process that is robust and clear.

Highlights

The Safeguarding Team are building positive working relationships that in time will lead to developing the safeguarding Team.
 The Introduction of NAZ storage solution means that all members of the team have secure access to folders and files online, remotely, without the need for multiple copies of documents and records being circulated.

Lowlights

Lack of shared IT caused some delays with sharing historic work and documents & managing process coming out of pandemic.
Restarting groups, updating training and checks, putting renewed procedures in place for recruitment

Where will the Safeguarding Team be in 12 months?

Using shared storage solution, removing need for storing personal data.
A clearer referral pathway for anyone raising a safeguarding concern.

Issues on the horizon that may impact this plan positively or negatively and how likely they are to turn into major risks, changes, opportunities, and challenges.

Sunday's Cool recruitment and the fluid nature of volunteering will need some focus from the Safeguarding Team.

TEAM REPORTS *if not covered elsewhere in this Report*

Property Team *meets quarterly*

Overseen by *Anthony Faulkner*
Group Aims *Care and Maintenance of Church and Southbeech*



Care and Maintenance of a 15th century church could be complex but when supported by a willing team of volunteers and a robust maintenance programme, sleepless nights tend to be avoided.

Like all areas of church life, the team and its volunteers has had to adapt to Covid-19 restrictions during 2021.

We replaced a downpipe which had been blocked and caused staining on wall round pulpit following damp penetration.

The West Door to the church has gathered grime over many years and has now received some TLC and regained its former glory.



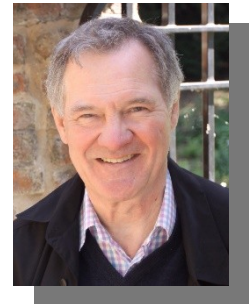
Inside, we had our microphones repaired to the relief of many, and our “best practice” maintenance schedule was kept to. Small repairs were also required during the year. Almost all our lights are now LEDs, providing

lower fuel costs and a better planet. Paper and single use coffee cups are separated out and recycled.

Towards the end of the year we launched a tendering process for roof work and some internal decoration, to be carried out in 2022.

Southbeech, our house in Old Perry Street, is currently occupied by tenants providing some useful income as we await the arrival of our new curate in 2022.

Finance Team *meets quarterly*
Overseen by *Peter Ridge*
Group Aims *Management and oversight of church finances*



It needed all our good humour to see us through 2021, as voluntary income fell.

During the year, we finalised the 2020 accounts and looked at management accounts each quarter, noting with concern the falling level of Planned Giving from the church family as some members passed away, moved or saw family finances constrained.

Part of our remit is to recommend the level of Away (Mission) Giving for the year and we reluctantly accepted this must reduce.

We decided that another campaign to increase giving would need to wait until the numbers worshipping each week increased, to have maximum impact.

Churchyard Team *meets monthly (usually), 1st Saturday of the month*
Overseen by *Alex Roeder*
Group Aims *to help maintain and care for our historic churchyard*



Volunteers are keeping the greenery at bay... just about. We are very grateful to those who give so generously of their time. It all makes a difference.

We would make a plea that no further roses or rambling roses are planted in the churchyard. They soon become a problem to cope with and, in many cases, soon become untended by those who plant them. In any case, such additions to the churchyard require permission from the Rector before planting takes place.

We are mindful of a (second) conifer by vestry entrance which may be dying – an expert opinion is being sought.

There have been a couple of new helpers, but we could always do with more... please do let Selina know, in the Parish Office, if you can help out and we will get you connected and active!

REVIEW of 2021

Achievements and Performance (activities and ministries)

Worship and the Household of Faith

As we re-emerged from another lockdown in 2021, it has been extremely encouraging that the number of people returning to worship is a strength we can celebrate. Given what we have endured as a faith community of the last 2 years, we have managed to return to 54% of where we were before. However, this is a stark statistic, and while it does not, perhaps, portray the fullest picture (there were many ‘attendances’ achieved through online and streamed worship), it tells us we have MUCH work to do as we re-shape and re-form together. This task cannot be achieved by the Rector alone – it requires a concerted effort from all of us to reach out and encourage / invite people back to faith-full worship.

Our first calling is to offer weekly worship in our parish church for our locally gathered communities of faith—and to offer it faithfully and to the highest standard. We know there is a challenge to review the sustainability of our worship schedules – especially bearing in mind the reduced level of staffing and ministry support here at St Nick’s. There is good research that suggests complex and fluctuating patterns of worship do not make it easy for guests / visitors to attend or access worship. We have begun to simplify our worship pattern, but maintain a broad and deep range of worship across a wide range of liturgical traditions.

I am particularly grateful to the teams who help enhance our worship across our many services: the Choir and Director of Music, the Third Sunday Singers, our small but faithful team of servers, Eucharistic Assistants, the Breakfast Praise Team – and all who share in making our worship a genuine sacrifice of prayer and praise. We can rightly be proud of the way in which the musical skills and talents, as well as the creative thinking of many, really blesses us as a worshipping community.

B1 Breakfast Praise (1st Sunday) and Worship for All (3rd Sunday)

Re-branding and redeveloping our liturgies and worship with our youngest members and their families has been one key focus of 2021 as we returned to our worshipping life together.

The re-branding was focused upon the prayer of Jesus (in John 17:21) that his followers should “be one”, just as Jesus and the Father are one. Our two child-centred acts of worship in the month are our Parish Breakfast and the Worship for All Eucharist.



Breakfast Praise has been a particular strength as we have welcomed families back to church and welcome new ones too.

Sharing breakfast together as well as worshipping has really been very positively received and is a

truly intergenerational act of worship and fellowship



We have retained an informal style on the 3rd Sunday of month at our Eucharistic liturgy - enhanced by the Third Sunday Singers. We take a rest from *Breakfast Praise* and *Worship for All* in August.

Eucharistic Ministers

We used to call these ‘Chalice Assistants’ but this does not do justice to their role and ministry. Eucharistic Assistants are authorised by the parish priest (on behalf of the Bishop) to assist with the administration of Communion at the Eucharist. They can administer **both** the bread **and** the wine (under normal circumstances), but we have continued to suspend the sharing of the common cup, and continued with the use of pre-intincted wafers.



Those currently authorised for this ministry are:

Alex Holtom
Caroline Soars
David Turnbull
Mary Williams

Margaret Brown
Mark Currans
John Grant
Tris Parker

Ann Dyer
Peter Appleby
Luke Sehmer
Philippa Robinson

Pippa Jinks
Ruth Cox

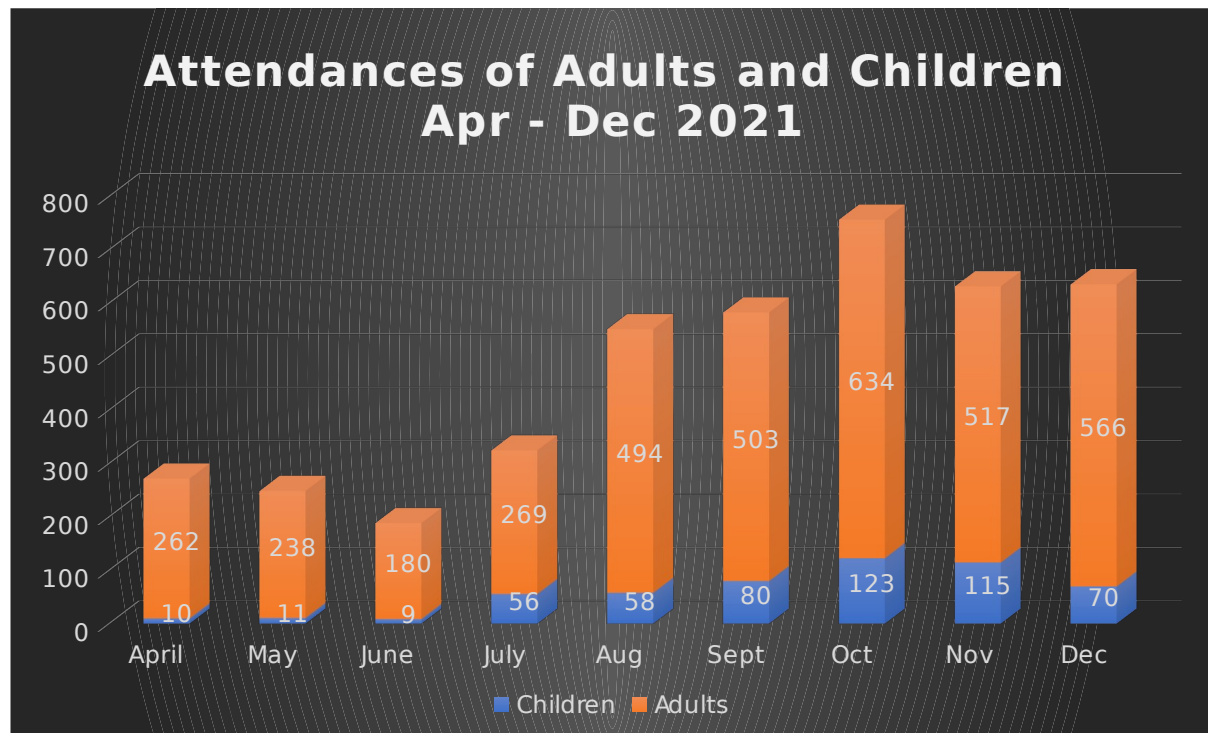
Sheila Brittain
Julian Heal

Susan Wilson

Worship statistics

Total Sunday attendances (adult) in 2021 (with comparisons)

2019	2020 <i>Covid-19 pandemic closed the church from 23rd March - 11th July</i>	2021 <i>In-person worship resumed on Easter Day (4th April), with some online services continuing</i>
8,369	1 st Jan - 15 th March 1,582 (<i>one fifth of the year</i>) 12 th July - 1 st Nov 589 <i>in-person attendances</i> 7,980 <i>projected</i>	3,679 (actual, based on 9 months) <i>Projected for 12 months:</i> 4,599 54% <i>of where we were pre-pandemic</i>



MONTHLY OVERVIEW of life at St Nick's

SUNDAY	MONDAYs	TUESDAYs	WEDNESDAYs	THURSDAYs	FRIDAYs	SATURDAYs
Week 1 8am Said Eucharist (BCP) 9.30am B1 Breakfast Praise (Hall) <i>(not during August)</i> 9.30am Parish Eucharist (CW) Aug only 6pm Choral Evensong	9am Morning Prayer House Group During Lent/Advent	9am Morning Prayer 10.30am-12pm Knitting Club <i>(Meet at the Bull)</i> 11am Service (Duke of Kent Court) - 1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays	9am Morning Prayer 10am Eucharist (BCP) Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Study Group <i>In the Hall</i>	9am Morning Prayer House Group During Lent/Advent 12noon Village Hall Soup Lunch	Rector rest day 7.30pm – 9pm Choir Practice	9am Churchyard Working Party Weddings
Week 2 8am Said Eucharist (BCP) 9.30am Parish Eucharist (CW) + Sunday's Cool <i>(not during August)</i> 3pm Baptisms	9am Morning Prayer	9am Morning Prayer 10.30am-12pm Knitting Club <i>(Meet at the Bull)</i>	9am Morning Prayer 10am Eucharist (BCP) Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Study Group <i>In the Hall</i>	9am Morning Prayer House Group During Lent/Advent 2.30pm Service at Fairlight Home	Rector rest day 7.30pm – 9pm Choir Practice	Weddings
Week 3 8am Said Eucharist (BCP) 9.30am Parish Eucharist with 3 rd Sunday Singers and presentation of families preparing for baptism of a child 11.15am Choral Matins	9am Morning Prayer	9am Morning Prayer 10.30am-12pm Knitting Club <i>(Meet at the Bull)</i> 11am Service (Duke of Kent Court) - 1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays	9am Morning Prayer 10am Eucharist (BCP) Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Study Group <i>In the Hall</i>	9am Morning Prayer House Group During Lent/Advent 2.30pm Service at Fairlight Home	Rector rest day 7.30pm – 9pm Choir Practice	Weddings
Week 4 8am Said Eucharist (BCP) 9.30am Parish Eucharist + Sunday's Cool <i>(not during August)</i> 3pm Baptisms	9am Morning Prayer	9am Morning Prayer 10.30am-12pm Knitting Club <i>(Meet at the Bull)</i>	9am Morning Prayer 10am Eucharist (BCP) 10.45am/11am Wednesday Circle <i>(Prince George Duke of Kent Court)</i> Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Study Group <i>In the Hall</i>	9am Morning Prayer House Group During Lent/Advent	Rector rest day 7.30pm – 9pm Choir Practice	Weddings
Week 5 9.30am Parish Eucharist or alternative, as advertised	9am Morning Prayer	9am Morning Prayer 10.30am-12pm Knitting Club <i>(Meet at the Bull)</i>	9am Morning Prayer 10am Eucharist (BCP) Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Study Group <i>In the Hall</i>	9am Morning Prayer House Group During Lent/Advent	Rector rest day 7.30pm – 9pm Choir Practice	Weddings

St Nicholas' Church School

I have endeavoured to work closely with the Head Teacher, Sophie Sear, at our Church School, ensuring that there is good representation from the church in the school. I regularly take school



ST NICHOLAS
CE Primary School
Part of the Aquinas Trust

assembly and lead worship, and we have welcomed the children into church for various services and celebrations since the easing of covid-restrictions, including a Leavers' Service, class Eucharists, Carol Concert. We are blessed with representation from our church on the Governing body of our school—these are vital links for which we are very grateful.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Weekly Notice Sheet

The single weekly notice sheet is printed each week and available in our church at worship. It continues to be a significant communication tool and liturgy resource for readings at the main Sunday worship. It is also circulated electronically each week via e-news.

E-news

To supplement the Notice Sheet we have also developed an on-line e-news system which allows us to circulate the weekly Notice Sheet ahead of each Sunday and to include a range of interesting articles and opportunities to respond to items of interest.

The e-news is currently sent out to 357 email recipients.

Parish Magazine

LOOKOUT started as a Parish Magazine in the 19th century and evolved into an award-winning, colourful publication. As with many printed magazines, readership numbers dwindled, and it required considerable

subsidy to support it. The conversion to digital format was a success but the retirement (twice delayed) of the long-serving editor, Margaret Drew, saw the end of LOOKOUT. We will be encouraging articles for inclusion in our weekly e-news, which is sent to several hundred people. Our thanks go to Margaret and her production for their incredible hard work, creativity, and dedication.

Final remarks

The task ahead of us is to offer our worship space (our church), and St Nicholas Village Hall as resources to our community, and for us to serve as 'open', welcoming, and inclusive community of faith. When we are clear in our vision, values, and mission we will grow in confidence and the ability and desire to share what we have with others who have yet to know the joy of worship and fellowship in the gathered household of faith.

I hope you feel, as I do, that our parish is continuing to go from strength to strength, and that you will want to play your part in continuing to welcome one another and new members / guests among us with generosity of spirit, warmth of welcome, and openness of heart:

'All who arrive as guests are to be welcomed as Christ,

for he is going to say, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'

(Rule of St Benedict)

2022 will be a year of review, planning and vision-building for the future. If we do what we've always done, we will get what we've always got...and I think there is still much more goodness to come if we will grow the vision and dream the dream. I hope you will want to participate in shaping that dream and vision for the future.

Researchers have concluded that, while there is no single recipe, there are common ingredients strongly associated with growth in churches **of any size, place or context**. These are:

- Good **leadership**
- A clear **mission and purpose**
- Willingness to self-reflect, to **change and adapt** according to context
- **Involvement** of lay members
- Being intentional in **prioritising growth**
- Being intentional in chosen **style of worship**
- Being intentional in **nurturing disciples**.

All of the above are linked to growing churches

I hope you'll want to be part of helping us to continue to grow, not only in number but in depth of spirituality too.

The PCC and I are extremely grateful to all those parishioners and friends of St Nick's who contribute in so many different ways to enhance the life and ministry of our church, especially all those whose work is faithful, but often goes unnoticed: ***you are very much appreciated.***

For all that has been, "thank you", and for all that will be, let's say a resounding "yes"!

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer

A PRAYER

My church....I will help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to worthy causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

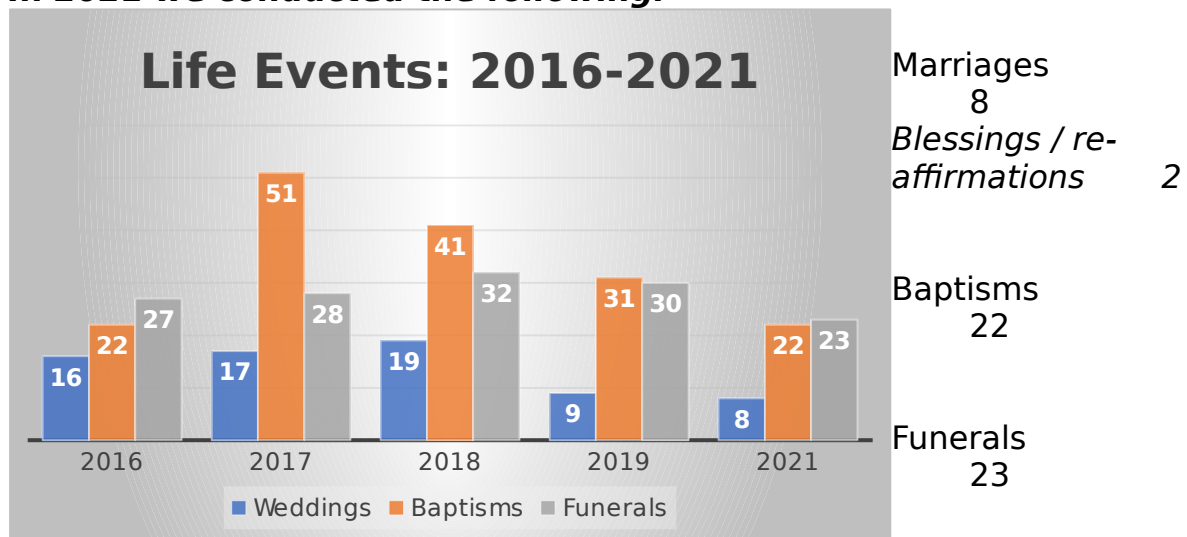
So Lord, with your help, I will dedicate myself to the task of being the things that you call our church to be.

Amen.

Ministry through Life Events

Life events (baptisms, weddings, funerals) provide powerful opportunities for ministry and pastoral care to be exercised by our church. Chiefly, the Rev'd June Hurn and the Rector exercise this ministry on behalf of the whole Church. Due to the nature of the pandemic, many life events were cancelled, and/or attendance curtailed. This caused significant distress to many; the resumption of Life Events, without restriction, has enabled us to minister fully, once again, to those at key moments in their life journey.

In 2021 we conducted the following:



Burials of Ashes 21

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is a key part of our life together – both within, and beyond, the congregation.

Both formally, and informally, St Nick's responds to human need and the needs of our members in a variety of ways:

- Pastoral visits by the clergy, including the taking of Holy Communion to the housebound
- Prayer ministry / intercessions / prayer lists
- Informal visits by church members to other members
- Taking services in local nursing homes and sheltered accommodation / retirement apartments
- Sending monthly cards to those on our prayers lists, ensuring they know we pray for them regularly and offering opportunities to receive a visit and/or communion
- Visits to local hospitals and hospices
- Responding to requests from the community, especially those new to the area
- Preparing the dying for their death
- One-to-one bereavement support (the Rector is a qualified and experienced Bereavement Support worker and therapist)
- Offering pastoral liturgies in response to need, including the All Soul's Memorial Service.
- Working with Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley to explore the development of a Befriending Service for the lonely and isolated
- The Community Soup lunch (2nd Thursday of the month in the Village Hall)

Mission and Evangelism and outreach

It has been said by a former Archbishop of Canterbury that "the Church of England exists primarily for those who don't belong to it." It's a powerful reminder to us of our calling to **serve**. At St Nick's we are growing in confidence as we continue to look beyond ourselves and ensure our support of people with a wide range of needs, beyond our own church community.

This includes:

- Mission / Giving to other charities
- Support for Christian Aid
- Practical support for Whitechapel Mission

Each of our church members, too, are ambassadors of the church and representatives of Christ in their respective locations, communities, and relationships. Mission and ministry and outreach are not the reserve of 'the professionals', they are Gospel imperatives for all of us.

The pandemic inevitably curtailed much of this aspect of our church life; but there are signs of new growth and fresh drive.



Parish Administrator *Selina Lindsay*
9am - 1pm in the Parish Office,
Village Hall

Overseen by *The Rector*
 Report submitted by *Selina*



After welcoming Jonathan+ as the new Rector of St Nicholas, January 2021, this came with excitement and new, challenging administrative work for the parish office. In just one year, we have changed, overhauled, and streamlined the work we do for the church and in the office.

The main change was computerising the system and doing away with a lot of paperwork. The iCloud now holds all our delicate information and at a touch of button, we can access virtually any information we need. The two new database systems which were implemented, St Nicholas iKnow Church and Mailchimp, these were new to me but I quickly got the hang of them and whizz through the two with ease, now.

I have been very busy, in the last year, handling the postponed and baptisms due to Covid, which I am happy to say have all now been carried out and the increase in hall bookings for parties every Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

The 'Life of A Parish Administrator', well at least this one, is not a quiet one, telephone enquiries, hall bookings, weddings and baptisms, church matters, pew sheet notices, also the occasional drop in from a parishioner for a quiet chat. Keeping Jonathan+ and June+ equipped to do their ministry work, keeps me out of trouble and busy.

Hopes for the Future

My hope for the future is that my administrative work, will see the Church grow and that my work with Jonathan+ and June+ will help to do to this, smoothly and efficiently.



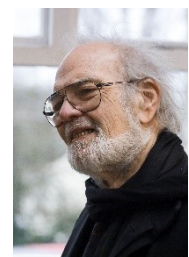
Choir & Director of Music *meets every Friday, 7.30pm-9pm*
for rehearsal (in church)

Sings on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays at
9.30am

and also on 1st Sunday at 6pm, and 3rd
Sunday at 11.15am

Occasionally at weekday services

Overseen by *Michael Bell - Organist and Director of Music*



Aims of the Group *To contribute, musically, to the enhancement of
worship for the praise and glory of God.*
Report submitted by *Michael Bell BA FRCO*

There have been a number of lengthy interruptions to the regular pattern of our music for worship due to church and government regulations relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. Choirs nationally have, of course, suffered similarly. This has had the cumulative effect on our performance of making it difficult to maintain the previous high standard of contribution to worship. However, all members have striven magnificently to re-establish the former consistency and we have managed to give good account of ourselves at such occasions as the Service of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday, the Festival of Nine Readings and Carols, Advent Carol Service and the new Rector's Institution and Installation (in 2022).

Morale remains amazingly gratifying, thanks to everyone's patient work and dedicated enthusiasm for which I remain immensely thankful.

We have been recently much heartened by the return to our numbers of Kate Murdock-Smith. Glad, too, that John and Sally Hayhow have now 'nailed their colours to the mast' a little more firmly. We welcome Barbara Russell as a new soprano, having previously sung in the Third Sunday Singers (as she still does). We feel the loss of Desmond and Valerie Watson very strongly after so many years of distinguished service to the choir. However, it must be obvious to all that we are currently in serious need of new members to 'share the load', and even enjoy singing!

Future Hopes

I very much hope we can recruit new members in all voice parts. Do please consider joining the choir! It is now time to expand our repertoire as we have somewhat settle down after the 'return'.



Third Sunday Singers *meets every 3rd Sunday of the month*
Overseen by *Muriel Partridge*
Aims of the Group *To sing during communion and to lead the
congregation hymns on the third Sunday in the
month*
Report submitted by *Muriel Partridge*

Achievements this year

Loyal attendance and commitment to helping worship on the third Sunday every month.
Singing at the Christmas Fair.
We rehearse each month, in advance of the 3rd Sunday, and we welcome all potential new members.

Comments from members

"We're all about sharing joy in and through music."

"We're supportive, encouraging and we enjoy our singing."

"We love being part of the Third Sunday singers, such a friendly group, we enjoy the informality."

"I enjoy the friendship, fellowship, the variety of music and the joy of making music together."

"I like the informality from choosing our music through to our practices. It is simply fun."

"It's an opportunity for a group who particularly enjoy singing to contribute to our service on Worship for All Sunday."



Hopes and Aspirations for the future

To continue our service on the third Sundays. To extend our repertoire of music
To participate in special services if required.

Ecumenical Relationships

St Nicholas' church is a member of Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley (CTCB)

The following people serve as representatives from St Nicholas':

1. The Parish Priest
2. Barbara Adie
3. Philippa Robinson



Useful outreach, visibility and ministry was found through participation in the Chislehurst Summer Fair and the Christmas Market. CTCB are continuing to explore the development of a Befriending Project for the isolated and the lonely.



Knitting Group *meets every Tuesday, 10.30am - 12noon, in the Bull's Head Pub*

Overseen by *Barbara Adie and Carol Peet*

Group Aims *To provide an opportunity for those in the community interested in knitting to meet, share creative ideas and support each other*

Not discouraged by lockdown, the 18 members of the knitting group were determined to keep in touch via Zoom, telephone, meeting in gardens (weather permitting) and delivering wool to those who were shielding. Returning to The Bull's Head in May was wonderful – the joy of being together again - just the motivation needed to start new projects and produce a fabulous range of knitted and crocheted items. Not only blankets, hats and scarves for Children in Distress and the homeless at Whitechapel, but also a splendid display for the Christmas Fair, raising much needed funds for Charity. The year ended with lunch at the Bull - a wonderful way to celebrate our achievements.

Running for over 8 years, the knitting group is open to all members of the community and continues to provide a warm welcome to newcomers, so pop in one Tuesday morning 10.30-12noon - join us for a chat and release your creative abilities!



Knitting Group at the Christmas Fair

2021

Future Hopes

New projects are already underway, patterns shared and we hope to be even more productive this year!



Sunday's Cool and Creche 2nd and 4th Sunday's of the month,
 Overseen by Sarah Armstrong and the Team
 Report submitted by Sarah Armstrong



Group Aims *To share the word of the Gospel through age-appropriate activities, stories, songs and games;
 For children to make friends and connections within the church community;
 For families to feel they have a valid place within the church community and that their children are welcome and make a valued contribution to church life.*

Major achievements



- Returning after the pandemic;
- Welcoming new children and adults to our group;
- Re-connecting with families who were with us before the pandemic;
- Relaunching with a new scheme to follow, which matches the focus of the gospel in church, allowing children to make connections with what their parents hear in the main service

Future Hopes



- Continue to build in numbers, both of adult helpers and children attending regularly;
- Make more links with the main church including taking part in services
e.g. at Easter and Christmas;
- Re-establish the crèche as an active, friendly, supportive group of families with young children;
- For our older children to engage with the group in a supportive and active manner, having a say in what we offer



Soup Lunch

every 2nd Thursday of the month, 12.45pm in St Nicholas Village Hall

Overseen by

The Rector; Rota managed by Barbara Adie

Report submitted by
Taylor

Barbara Adie, Jackie White, Frances Newman

Group Aims

To provide an opportunity for members of the church and wider community to

meet socially, find companionship and chat over a shared lunch; to meet up with old friends and make new ones

Wow – Soup Lunches have really taken off!

Since early beginnings in October, when Jonathan and a small team set things in motion, the lunches have proved very popular and we now cater for approx. 40 people.

Homemade vegetarian soup and rolls are served to the table, followed by cake, tea or coffee and chocolates.

Lovely comments and appreciation flow – along with the option of second helpings!

The numbers volunteering to help make soup and cake and serve on the day has been hugely encouraging, as has the number of guests lending a hand too.

Following the isolation of the last 2 years, the Soup Lunch has provided a very welcome opportunity to meet and socialise in comfort, to relax and

chat. Time to spend together with old friends and the chance to meet up and make new ones.

Future Hopes

We can now set up a rota to share the commitment of helpers and ensure the future of Community Soup Lunches is sustainable. This should encourage increasing numbers from the wider community to join us. Happy Days!



Baptism Helpers *Baptisms are usually held at 3pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.*

One Baptism Helper is present to assist at each baptism.

Coordinated by *Jackie White*

Aims of the Team *To assist the clergy in preparing for and welcoming baptism families into the church. They provide not only practical help, but also a ministry of welcome, representing the wider congregation*

Report submitted by *Jackie White*

The Baptism helper arrives at the church in time to fill the font with warm water; place a purificator and the Oils of Baptism and Chrism ready for use; light the Paschal Candle and put a Baptism Candle for each child on the Nave Altar; distribute orders of service and welcome guests. At the end of the service the church is left tidy and ready for the next service.

Following the postponement of many baptisms during 2020 and 2021 St Nicholas Church has been very busy with baptisms. Since July 2021 and the end of February there have been 24 baptisms. During the service each child is presented with a Baptism Candle and a shell inscribed with name and date of baptism. Each child presents the church with one memento sock, and these can be seen strung around the bottom of the font. They are reminder to us of the newly made members of Christ's Church here at St Nick's.

The team of 10 Baptism Helpers consist of mothers and grandmothers within the church. Baptisms are always uplifting services and it is a pleasure and privilege to assist.



Mothers' Union *submitted by Dorothy Baldwin and Sally Hayhow*

Overseen by *Dorothy Baldwin and Sally Hayhow*

After two years of not being able to meet together, the MU group at St Nicholas is finally back and in just as good shape as it ever was. It's been a difficult time for everyone, but we've hung on in there. It felt very special to be together again after so long apart



and we're grateful for the friendship and support we can offer to each other. Sally Hayhow and Dorothy Baldwin now run the branch jointly, following in the wonderful footsteps of Margaret Stephenson and Margaret Brown who ran the branch for many successful years. We are so grateful to them for all the work they did. Thankfully, both are still members.

As many of you will know, Mothers' Union is a worldwide organization, set up by Mary Sumner in 1876 to support families in Christian Family Life and the organization is active in 84 countries

St Nicholas branch are now meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month, mainly in The Bull's Head, either outside in one of their cozy pods, or, when it's a bit chilly, in the main bar, and The Bull's Head staff make us very welcome. We have coffee and enjoy each other's company and companionship and either have an easy quiz, a speaker, or chat about current affairs and fundraising.

But it's not all coffee and chat - not at all. We've been very busy helping with the refreshments at several church events:

- in December we provided tea and cakes for the All Souls' remembrance service in the church for about 100 people;
- then in January we did the same in the hall for the 100 people who attended the Baptism Service in the church;
- and latterly, for the wedding tea when 10 couples came to the hall for an afternoon of information and chat led by Jonathan.

We hope there are lots more similar events to come. We are busy, active and we'd love you to join us.

Memorial Garden

Overseen by *Sue Thorogood*
Report submitted by *Sue Thorogood*

I have overseen the care of the Memorial Garden for over 20 years and with a team of loyal helpers for nine months of the year we endeavour to maintain it to a high standard and make it a very special place for everyone, especially the bereaved, to visit.

During the winter months there is a lot of extra work due to the falling leaves in the north west corner of the Churchyard. Extra is always needed and welcomed for this task. Do please let me know, via the Parish Office, if you can help.

We do have a top of the range leaf blower, which I raised the money for a few years ago, but the Churchyard working party is small and can't do everything. Extra help is always appreciated.

Bell Ringers *report submitted by Anne Townsend*

Those who are able to ring bells at St Nicholas' are presently only meeting when occasion demands.

Key moments from a challenging year:

MAY: Risk assessment for the bells and bell ringing completed

JUNE: Chiming of the Ellacombe chimes to participate in the 200th Anniversary (picture shows Bernadette - a student of the chimes)

WEDDINGS:



The bells rang out for 8 weddings in 2021 – with the help of bands from St Paulinus, Crayford and St John’s, Eltham

PEAL: there was a peal attempt by a visiting band of ringers in memory of a local ringer

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS:

Tidying up of the clock room with help from Peter Appleby

Hopes and Aspirations

- to increase the number of bellringers from the current 3; then it might be possible, once more, to ring the bells for Sunday worship and weddings
- to find a Tower Captain and Ringing Master for the tower



CHLOE *report submitted by Ann Dyer and Muriel Partridge*

Overseen by *Ann Dyer and Muriel Partridge*

Meets *once a month, Sept-July, 2.30pm in various members’ homes*

Group Aims *to share friendship, fun, and refreshments*

“CHLOE”
(Chislehurst Ladies Over Eighteen)



During 2021 we have enjoyed sharing in lunch, poetry, films, quizzes and look forward, up ahead, to book discussions, illustrated talk on Dulwich Picture Gallery, a musical afternoon, London Walk, and Summer picnic.

CHLOE is a popular group, welcoming ladies from Chislehurst (over 18), and we are always open to new ideas!

Independent Examiner’s Report to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst (the Church) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Christopher Archer

12 April 2022

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd
7 Keymer Close, Biggin Hill, Kent TN16 3DF

**ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Not e	Unrestric ted funds £	Restrict ed funds £	Endowm ent funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2021 £	2020 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Voluntary income	3(a)	108,050	1,906	-	109,956	122,842
Activities for generating funds	3(b)	18,146	3,895	-	22,041	14,111
Income from Church activities	3(c)	11,350	-	-	11,350	11,788
Income from investments	3(d)	1,637	-	9,009	10,646	10,921
Other income	3(e)	<u>25,846</u>	<u>306</u>	-	<u>26,152</u>	<u>20,474</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>165,029</u>	<u>6,107</u>	<u>9,009</u>	<u>180,145</u>	<u>180,136</u>
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>						
Church activities	4(a)	168,053	5,981	3,567	177,601	184,503
Exceptional costs	4(b)	4,031	-	-	4,031	11,353
Governance costs	4(c)	<u>602</u>	-	-	<u>602</u>	<u>511</u>
Total resources expended		<u>172,686</u>	<u>5,981</u>	<u>3,567</u>	<u>182,234</u>	<u>196,367</u>
<u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Before other recognised gains & losses		(7,657)	126	5,442	(2,089)	(16,231)
<u>NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS</u>	7(b)	<u>30,900</u>	-	<u>49,771</u>	<u>80,671</u>	<u>44,612</u>
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</u>		23,243	126	55,213	78,582	28,381
Balances brought forward 1 January 2021 (2020)		<u>326,323</u>	<u>1,401</u>	<u>580,958</u>	<u>908,682</u>	<u>880,301</u>
<u>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</u>						
31 DECEMBER 2021 (2020)		<u>349,566</u>	<u>1,527</u>	<u>636,171</u>	<u>987,264</u>	<u>908,682</u>

The notes on pages 35 to 39 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2021

		Unrestric ted funds	Restrict ed funds	Endowm ent Fund s	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Not e	£	£	£	2021 £	2020 £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Tangible	7(a)	60,260	-	232,500	292,760	292,760
Investments	7(b)	<u>219,288</u>	-	<u>389,782</u>	609,070	528,399
		<u>279,548</u>	-	<u>622,282</u>	901,830	821,159
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Debtors & prepayments	8	5,455	-	-	5,455	11,251
Short term deposits		43,254	1,527	13,889	58,670	64,943
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>36,146</u>	-	-	36,146	29,052
		<u>84,855</u>	<u>1,527</u>	<u>13,889</u>	100,271	105,246
<u>LIABILITIES</u> due within one year	9	<u>(14,837)</u>	-	-	(14,837)	(17,723)
)	
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>		<u>70,018</u>	<u>1,527</u>	<u>13,889</u>	85,434	87,523
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>		<u>349,566</u>	<u>1,527</u>	<u>636,171</u>	987,264	908,682
<u>FUNDS</u>						
<u>Unrestricted:</u>						
General		106,875	-	-	106,875	108,632
Designated:						
Church Repair Fund	11(a)	74,232	-	-	74,232	49,232
Church Hall Building Refurbishment Fund	11(b)	60,260	-	-	60,260	60,260
	11(c)	108,199	-	-	108,199	108,199
<u>Restricted:</u>	14	-	1,527	-	1,527	1,401
<u>Endowment</u>	12	-	-	636,171	636,171	580,958

Approved by the PCC on 14th March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:-



The Revd Dr Jonathan N Bauer (Rector)

The notes on pages 35 to 39 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS *For the year ended 31 December 2021*

1. CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTRATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 September 2009, with Registered No. 1131855. It is required to file its annual report and accounts with the Commission and must also send these to the Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP FRS102 (2016). The policies are set out in full on page 39 of this report.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestric ted funds £	Restrict ed funds £	Endowm ent funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2021 £	2020 £
(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	72,012	-	-	72,012	85,743
Tax recoverable	18,271	-		18,271	21,943
Collections at	5,556	1,656	-	7,212	3,860
services					
Donations	6,211	250	-	6,461	9,296
Legacies	<u>6,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>108,050</u>	<u>1,906</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,956</u>	<u>122,842</u>
(b) Activities for					

generating funds					
St Nicholas Fair	-	3,895	-	3,895	-
Church Hall hiring	<u>18,146</u>	-	-	18,146	<u>14,111</u>
	<u>18,146</u>	<u>3,895</u>	-	22,041	<u>14,111</u>
					<u>1</u>
(c) Income from Church Activities					
Fees	11,056	-	-	11,056	9,801
Parish magazine	39	-	-	39	840
Social events	<u>255</u>	-	-	255	<u>1,147</u>
	<u>11,350</u>	-	-	11,350	<u>11,788</u>
					<u>8</u>
(d) Income from investments					
Dividends & interest	<u>1,637</u>	-	<u>9,009</u>	10,646	<u>10,921</u>
	<u>1,637</u>	-	<u>9,009</u>	10,646	<u>10,921</u>
					<u>1</u>
(e) Other incoming resources					
Curate Housing Grant	23,400	-	-	23,400	5,743
Southbeech rental	-	-	-	-	284
income	-	-	-	-	350
Insurance Claim etc	-	-	-	-	-
Filming in church	-	-	-	-	-
LPOW VAT relief	2,446	-	-	2,446	1,195
Flower income	-	306	-	306	348
Furlough recovery	-	-	-	-	2,080
Sequestration income	-	-	-	-	<u>4,624</u>
	<u>25,846</u>	<u>306</u>	-	26,152	<u>20,474</u>
					<u>74</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>165,029</u>	<u>6,107</u>	<u>9,009</u>	180,145	<u>180,136</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2021

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestrict ed funds £	Restrict ed funds £	Endowm ent funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2021 £	2020 £
(a) Church activities					
giving					
Mission and charitable	6,599	5,801	-	12,400	17,221
Ministry:					
Parish Offer to Diocese	83,700	-	-	83,700	83,700
Clergy working expenses	1,183	-	-	1,183	1,580

	Clergy housing costs	3,325	-	-	3,325	1,739
		-	-	-	-	
	Church services & music	10,427	-	-	10,427	10,073
	Church:					
	Insurance	6,359	-	-	6,359	6,416
	Utility costs	3,589	-	-	3,589	3,467
	Repairs & maintenance	5,628	-	251	5,879	4,785
	Major works	6,665	-	-	6,665	2,758
	Southbeech costs		-	1,089	1,089	7,439
	Churchyard upkeep	5,964	-	2,227	8,191	6,315
	Parish magazine	150	-	-	150	305
	Education & training	-	-	-	-	-
	Church Hall running	19,045	-	-	19,045	16,644
costs	Church Hall major	-	-	-	-	8,487
repairs		183	-	-	183	564
	Cost of social events	15,236	-	-	15,236	12,720
	Administration	-	<u>180</u>	-	180	<u>290</u>
	Flower Expenses					
		<u>168,053</u>	<u>5,981</u>	<u>3,567</u>	<u>177,601</u>	<u>184,503</u>
						<u>3</u>
	(b) Exceptional costs					
	Sequestration costs	586	-	-	586	8,857
	Costs of letting	<u>3,445</u>	-	-	<u>3,445</u>	<u>2,496</u>
Southbeech						
		<u>4,031</u>	-	-	<u>4,031</u>	<u>11,353</u>
	(c) Governance costs					
	Independent examination	400	-	-	400	400
	Bank charges	<u>202</u>	-	-	<u>202</u>	<u>111</u>
		<u>602</u>	-	-	<u>602</u>	<u>511</u>
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>172,686</u>	<u>5,981</u>	<u>3,567</u>	<u>182,234</u>	<u>196,367</u>

5. STAFF COSTS (included in the above figures) for the administrator, the hall cleaner and the organist/choir master amount to £20,145 (2020 - £22,704). The stipend of the Rector is paid by the diocese.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) *For the year ended 31 December 2021*

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCC AND RELATED PARTIES

Note 4(a) shows the total of PCC payments for the Rector and Assistant Curate towards their working expenses and housing costs. The total stewardship income from members of the PCC in 2021 was £9,094 (2020 - £11,949). Groundforce1, a company closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £502 for gardening at the vacant Rectory,

£240 for emptying the Churchyard tip and won the competitive tender for releveling the patio at the Church Hall, £1,752.

7. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible assets used by the PCC

Freehold land and buildings: Cost at 1 January 2021 and at 31

December 2021 **£292,760**

The Curate's house at Southbeech, Old Perry Street, BR7 6PL was purchased in 2001 for £232,500.

St Nicholas Church Hall was given to the PCC in 1921, mostly rebuilt in 1977 and extended in 1987.

The total historic cost was £60,260. Neither sum is being depreciated.

(b) **Investments - movements during the year: -**

	£	Represented by shares in CBF Church of England Funds:	£
Market value on 1	528,3	Global Equities	79,3
January	99	Investment Fund	41
Net gain on	80,6	Investment Fund	529,7
revaluation	71	(Equities)	29
	609,0		609,0
	70		70

8 8. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	-	268
Tax recoverable	4,655	10,983
VAT recoverable	800	-
	5,455	11,251

9. LIABILITIES due within one year

Goods and services	4,687	12,273
Donations allocated out of 2021 (2020) income	10,150	5,450
	14,837	17,723

10. GIVING TO MISSIONS & CHARITIES

Church Mission Society	2,000	4,000
Welcare in Bromley	1,000	1,000
Children in Distress	2,000	2,750
Whitechapel Mission	2,100	1,900
Association of Christian Resource Organisations serving Sudan (UK)	1,250	250
Children's Society	2,000	1,800

Church Army, Marylebone Women's Hostel	2,000	1,750
Bromley youth charities	-	1,240
Assistance to poorer parishes and other items	<u>50</u>	<u>2,531</u>
Total	<u>12,400</u>	<u>17,221</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31
December 2021

11. Movement in Funds

	Openin g Balance £	Income in year £	Expenditur e in year £	Inter Fund Transfers £	Investm ent Result £	Closing Balanc e £
Unrestricted						
General	108,632	165,029	(172,686)	(25,000)	30,900	106,875
Designated						
Church Repair	49,232	-	-	25,000	-	74,232
Hall Building	60,260	-	-	-	-	60,260
						108,199
Refurbishment	108,199	-	-	-	-	9
Restricted						
Minor funds	1,401	306	(180)	-	-	1,527
Away Giving	-	5,801	(5,801)	-	-	-
			(3,567)			
Endowments	<u>580,958</u>	<u>9,009</u>	<u>67</u>	-	<u>49,771</u>	<u>636,171</u>
Totals	<u>908,682</u>	<u>180,145</u>	<u>(182,234)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,671</u>	<u>987,264</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Financial provision is being made via designated funds for future non-annual repairs and renewal.

- (a) **Church Repair Fund** - The PCC makes regular deposits into diocesan accounts as recommended by the Church architect and the diocesan surveyor, for future quinquennial fabric repairs to the Church and the Curate's house. The Fund stood at £49,232 at the start of the year. A further £25,000 has been transferred from General Fund to spread the burden of anticipated exceptional costs over a five-year cycle.
- (b) **Church Hall** - The hall is run on a self-financing basis to generate sufficient funds to meet any major work on the fabric of the Hall. The annual income and expenditure and the resultant financial surplus or deficit from its operations is accounted for within the General Fund Statement of Financial Activities. The designated fund represents the historic book value of the building which as such is an illiquid asset.
- (c) **Church Refurbishment Fund** - The fund stood at £108,199 on 1st January and remains the same at 31st December 2021.

12. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Capital funds which the PCC has no power to expend (permanent), or which may be spent in certain circumstances (expendable). The income is available for specific purposes as follows:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Churchyard fund - to maintain 26 graves in St Nicholas churchyard (Fabric Trust - for repairs to the church fabric | } | Permanent endowments
market value
£97,522 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b (c) Nussey Trust - for church maintenance (Clergy House Trust - an expendable endowment. It holds the curate's house (see note 7(a), investments of £280,227 and short term deposits £13,889. The income arising is available to the PCC and the capital is available for ecclesiastical purposes in or near the parish under the oversight of the Diocese as custodian trustee. d (e) Hawes Trust - it is agreed that the capital may be invested in an accumulating fund, provided that the two-family graves are maintained. The capital may be used after May 2059 (Market value £12,033). | | |

13. CONNECTED CHARITIES

Monies handled by the St Nicholas branch of the Mother's Union are not included in these accounts.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

- a) The church holds a fund of £603 available to meet the objects of 'Chislehurst Relief in Need' (£603 2020)
- b) In the year the Flower Fund had income of £306 and expenses of £180, leaving a balance of £924 (2020 - £798)

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For the year ended 31 December 2021

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP FRS102 (2016).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Fund Accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted, and the PCC may move any surplus to

other general funds.

Resources expended

Donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with the s.10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. The Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Charities Act 2011

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £5,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

**St Nicholas Parish Office
The Village Hall
Church Lane
Chislehurst
BR75PE**

0208467 0196



www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst

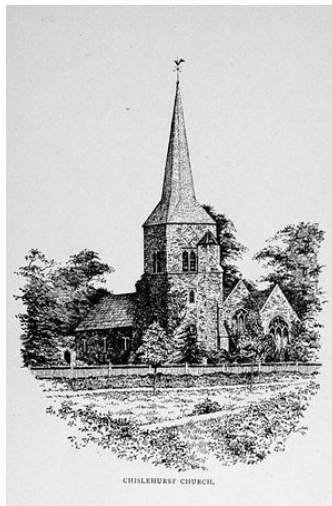


@stnickschislehurst

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, CHISLEHU

England & Wales - Charity number 1131855

Accounts



St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst

Registered Charity No. 1131855

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020

Rector:

Rev'd Canon Alan Mustoe (retired 31 January 2020)
The Rectory
2 Cardinal Close
Chislehurst
BR7 6SA

Parish Office:

St Nicholas Church Hall
Church Lane
Chislehurst
BR7 5PE

Banks:

Barclays Bank plc and CAF Bank Ltd
Chislehurst West Malling

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31 December 2020

Rector: The Rev'd Canon Alan Mustoe, The Rectory, 2 Cardinal Close, BR7 6SA
(Retired 31 January 2020)

Parish Office: St Nicholas Church Hall, Church Lane, Chislehurst, BR7 5PE

Banks: Barclays Bank plc, Chislehurst and CAF Bank Ltd, West Malling

Independent Examiner: Christopher Archer FCA,
Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd, Biggin Hill

Reference and administrative information The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the maintenance of St Nicholas Church and churchyard in Church Row, Southbeech in Old Perry Street (housing for a curate currently let out at a commercial rent), and the Church (Village) Hall in Church Lane. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Rector (& Chair): Rev'd Canon Alan Mustoe (Retired 31 January 2020)

Church Wardens: Sarah Cordwell (Vice Chair) and Anthony Faulkner to 2021 APCM

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Dr Tim Boniface (to August 2020)

Co-opted by PCC: Rev'd June Hurn (Assistant Priest) Hannah Cordwell, Elizabeth Martine and Lucy Diamond

Representatives on Bromley Deanery Synod:

Theodora Chamberlain, Mary Williams, Anthony Faulkner (to 2020 APCM), Peter Ridge (Treasurer) and Charlie Clark

Elected Members

From 2019 APCM until 2022 APCM: Andrew Wilton, Sabina Oakes, Sue Brandon, Lloyd Anderson, and Lynton Golds (resigned in January 2020)

From 2019 APCM until 2021 APCM: Wendy Lowden, Susie Hemming-Clarke

From 2018 APCM until 2021 APCM: Steve Ripley, David Sharpe, John Grant

From 2017 APCM until 2020 APCM: John Bernays, Simon Elliott, Judy Peebles, Zoe Warren, Bradley Weston (all were extended to APCM 2021 as no elections took place in 2020).

We are sad to report that Judy Peebles died in early 2021. We shall miss her joyful enthusiasm.

Aims and Purposes: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas Chislehurst is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, and is registered with the Charity Commission, Registered Number 1131855. PCC members, who are the Charity Trustees, are appointed in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The full PCC met four times during the year, receiving reports from the main committees (which met as required between PCC meetings) and on the work of the Diocesan and Deanery Synods. The structure of committees continued to operate throughout 2020. The committees, which reflect the vision of St Nicholas in terms of worship, the church family and outreach, are made up of members of the PCC and other members who may be co-opted. Each committee is responsible for a few relevant groups ensuring representation for all areas of church life.

Objectives: The primary object of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practices of the Church of England. It is responsible for co-operating with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, social, evangelistic, and ecumenical. It achieves its object by provision of regular public worship open to all; by provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation; through pastoral work and the teaching of Christianity; through promotion of the whole mission of the church by provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers, children and young people and other additional need groups; and through support of other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas (see note 10 of the accounts).

Review of the Year Services: 2020 was a very different year as the Coronavirus Pandemic swept the country, and the Interregnum lasted from February until the end of the year (and into January 2021). We had “normal” in-person services until mid-March 2020 and then everything went on-line as the government closed everything (including all Churches). One nominated person only was allowed to visit the church from time to time to check its condition.

To begin with our Curate, Rev'd Dr Tim Boniface, streamed services from his study at home, we then moved to videoing services so that you could “see” more people. When allowed Tim streamed live from inside the Church. At the beginning of July, when churches re-opened for physically distanced worship, we held our first “in-person” ticketed services on 12th July. This became the normal pattern alternating between BCP and Common Worship with up to 36 in church at any service. In addition to this the church was open for two hours three times a week for private prayer. All this in marked contrast to pre-Coronavirus times when the church building was open from 6am to dusk each day.

The joy of being together again was wonderful, but as we moved into Autumn things began to take a different turn, masks were needed, then no mingling, and eventually church was closed again for in-person services, but with the wonderful help of Rev'd's June Hurn and Harriet Johnson and a live-streaming director (usually Anthony or Sarah), we maintained our weekly services on-line. We re-opened for 2 weeks before we went into Lockdown3 and made the very heart-wrenching decision to follow the majority of places of worship to close for in-person worship from 20th December until such time as it was deemed safe to re-open. Live streaming from the closed church each Sunday continued.

Each week, a Newsletter from the Churchwardens together with the Order of Service for the live-streamed service and the written sermon was emailed to over 400 addresses. Our Parish Magazine, Lookout, also moved into the digital age, and reached a much wider and appreciative audience this way. All these publications were also placed on our website which was kept up to date with all the changes as the Pandemic changed life in the Parish. We were moved by the messages of support received from the church family.

We have been blessed to be able to live-stream, we have had some ups and downs with this, and we are continually learning this new task – rest assured that live-streaming will continue for the

foreseeable future. Normally this report would confirm the number of people attending church and the services, but unfortunately, we can report very little this year. We had an average of 33 people attending in-person services and then there would be up to 300 viewing the streamed service over the following week. There were 2 baptisms (2019-31), 6 weddings (2019-9) and 28 funerals (2019-30), some of which were live streamed with one funeral being viewed over 1,000 times.

There was a live-streamed Act of Remembrance from inside Church, we shared a virtual Nativity Tableau which received over 400 views and the 3rd Sunday Choir shared a video of carols they sung in church (physically distanced of course). The restrictions meant that there were no school events in the church this year.

Activities: In January we said farewell to our Rector of ten years, as Rev'd Canon Alan Mustoe retired and we entered an Interregnum which was to last 51 weeks. We held a wonderful concert for Alan and Kathleen's retirement in mid-January 2020. This was attended by nearly 250 people from all parishes that Alan served at during his time as a Rector within the Rochester diocese. This was a fund-raising event that raised £1,200 to Bromley Brighter Beginnings a local charity close to Alan and Kathleen's hearts. It was a resounding success and thanks go to the organisers and participants for making this such a memorable occasion.

Throughout the period when the church was closed from time to time and when non-essential movements were not permitted, we were very conscious that many groups in our church family were missing out on church life. Whilst we all missed "normal" church, this was particularly acute for our young families and those without internet capabilities. The PCC was supported by a fantastic group of people who kept in touch with the housebound by phone and who posted our weekly Newsletter (sanitised of course) through the letterboxes of the twenty or so people who had no internet capabilities.

Financial review and Reserves policy:

Considering that 2020 was such a difficult year for everyone (both personally and professionally), the fact that our finances remained relatively stable is an amazing result, and we are grateful to everyone who continued to support the church through their regular planned giving, and extra donations. As we couldn't hold our normal events during 2020, we held a campaign (prior to Christmas) to raise funds for our four charities who would normally benefit from our fundraising from the Christmas Fair, Tableau and Christingle Service (Whitechapel Mission, Children in Distress, Children's Society and the Church Army Marylebone Project). Each charity received a cheque for £1,500 in December which was a fantastic achievement – our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who donated to this very important campaign.

Once again in a very volatile year for global finances, our investments showed an extraordinary rise during the year which has offset the loss on the General Fund and once again enhanced the value of our endowment funds.

Our General Fund stands at £109,000 which approximates to our target of 50% of our average annual expenditure. This year we have increased our Repair Fund to £49,000 to help spread the costs of maintaining the church building over a five-year cycle. The Refurbishment Fund remains at £108,000. Plans to use this money in providing enhanced facilities in church have stalled during the pandemic.

Risk Management:

The PCC has budgetary disciplines in place to reduce financial risk and endeavours to identify other risks which may prejudice the work of the church. Insurance policies are maintained with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office to cover insurable risks, and their advice is followed to reduce risks. The PCC oversees the protection policy for children and vulnerable adults. Arrangements have been put in place to carry out checks on people working with these groups, in line with Diocesan guidelines.

Like all Church of England churches, safeguarding and safer recruitment are paramount. The PCC are committed to ensuring that our church and hall are safe places for all who use them. For more detailed information and guidance see the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. <https://www.rochester.anglican.org> and click on safeguarding. Produced by the National Safeguarding Team, it is a comprehensive guide, summarising the key areas a parish need to address with regards to safeguarding.

All PCC members as well as all church leaders have undertaken the Safeguarding training appropriate to their level of responsibility and activity as set out in the House of Bishops Practice Guidance for Safeguarding Training.

During the year we ensured that General Data Protection Regulations were followed in accordance with their introduction in 2018.

The PCC is very aware of the hard work and effort that goes into maintaining our worship and outreach here at St Nicholas. This report provides the opportunity to say “thank you” to all the organisations and volunteers for their continuing commitment and help, which is greatly valued.

Anthony and I, as Churchwardens, knew that an Interregnum would be busy, but we had no idea how things would drastically change for us – we were kept on our toes with the ever-changing rules and regulations, managing for the most part to stay one-step ahead of the government! Our thanks go to everyone who supported us and sent messages during this period. Our specific thanks go to Rev’d June Hurn, Rev’d Harriet Johnson, Rev’d Beth Lewis, Rev’d George Baisley and to Rev’d Dr Tim Boniface for all their hard work leading services in a most “odd” situation in 2020.

The state of the Pandemic eventually permitted a recruitment process for a new Rector to take place and we were delighted to be able to appoint Rev’d Dr Jonathan Bauer to join us as Priest in Charge from January 2021. His induction as Rector will follow as soon as circumstances allow.

Approved by the PCC 17th March 2021 and signed on their behalf by Sarah Cordwell, PCC Vice Chair during 2020.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst (the Church) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Christopher Archer

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd

7 Keymer Close, Biggin Hill, Kent TN16 3DF

18th March 2021

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2020 £	2019 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Voluntary income	3(a)	115,321	7,521	-	122,842	155,933
Activities for generating funds	3(b)	14,111	-	-	14,111	30,974
Income from Church activities	3(c)	10,641	1,147	-	11,788	17,521
Income from investments	3(d)	1,747	-	9,174	10,921	10,698
Other income	3(e)	<u>15,502</u>	<u>4,972</u>	-	<u>20,474</u>	<u>20,500</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>157,322</u>	<u>13,640</u>	<u>9,174</u>	<u>180,136</u>	<u>235,626</u>
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>						
Church activities	4(a)	165,713	8,958	9,832	184,503	289,986
Exceptional costs	4(b)	6,729	4,624	-	11,353	-
Governance costs	4(c)	<u>511</u>	-	-	<u>511</u>	<u>1,369</u>
Total resources expended		<u>172,953</u>	<u>13,582</u>	<u>9,832</u>	<u>196,367</u>	<u>291,355</u>
<u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Before other recognised gains & losses		(15,631)	58	(658)	(16,231)	(55,729)
<u>NET GAINS (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS</u>	7(b)	<u>15,913</u>	-	<u>28,699</u>	<u>44,612</u>	<u>81,362</u>
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</u>		282	58	28,041	28,381	25,633
Balances brought forward						
1 January 2020 (2019)		<u>326,041</u>	<u>1,343</u>	<u>552,917</u>	<u>880,301</u>	<u>854,668</u>
<u>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</u>						
31 DECEMBER 2020 (2019)		<u>326,323</u>	<u>1,401</u>	<u>580,958</u>	<u>908,682</u>	<u>880,301</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible	7(a)	60,260	-	232,500	292,760	292,760
Investments	7(b)	<u>188,388</u>	-	<u>340,011</u>	528,399	483,787
		<u>248,648</u>	-	<u>572,511</u>	821,159	776,547
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors & prepayments	8	11,251	-	-	11,251	13,592
Short term deposits		55,095	1,401	8,447	64,943	67,099
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>29,052</u>	-	-	29,052	59,648
		<u>95,398</u>	<u>1,401</u>	<u>8,447</u>	105,246	140,339
LIABILITIES due within one year	9	<u>(17,723)</u>	-	-	(17,723)	(36,585)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>77,675</u>	<u>1,401</u>	<u>8,447</u>	87,523	103,754
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>326,323</u>	<u>1,401</u>	<u>580,958</u>	908,682	880,301
FUNDS						
Unrestricted:						
General		108,632	-	-	108,632	133,350
Designated:						
Church Repair Fund	11(a)	49,232	-	-	49,232	24,232
Church Hall Building	11(b)	60,260	-	-	60,260	60,260
Refurbishment Fund	11(c)	108,199	-	-	108,199	108,199
Restricted:	14	-	1,401	-	1,401	1,343
Endowment	12	-	-	<u>580,958</u>	580,958	552,917
		<u>326,323</u>	<u>1,401</u>	<u>580,958</u>	908,682	880,301

Approved by the PCC on 17th March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:-

Sarah Cordwell (Vice Chair)

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1. CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTRATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 September 2009, with Registered No. 1131855. It is required to file its annual report and accounts with the Commission and must also send these to the Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP FRS102 (2016). The policies are set out in full on page 13 of these accounts.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2020 £	2019 £
(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	85,743	-	-	85,743	101,267
Tax recoverable	20,667	1,276	-	21,943	24,690
Collections at services	3,594	266	-	3,860	17,753
Donations	3,317	5,979	-	9,296	2,223
Legacies	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>115,321</u>	<u>7,521</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>122,842</u>	<u>155,933</u>
(b) Activities for generating funds					
St Nicholas Fair	-	-	-	-	3,580
Church Hall hiring	<u>14,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,111</u>	<u>27,394</u>
	<u>14,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,111</u>	<u>30,974</u>
(c) Income from Church Activities					
Fees	9,801	-	-	9,801	14,185
Parish magazine	840	-	-	840	1,268
Social events	<u>-</u>	<u>1,147</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,147</u>	<u>2,068</u>
	<u>10,641</u>	<u>1,147</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,788</u>	<u>17,521</u>
(d) Income from investments					
Dividends & interest	<u>1,747</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,174</u>	<u>10,921</u>	<u>10,698</u>
	<u>1,747</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,174</u>	<u>10,921</u>	<u>10,698</u>
(e) Other incoming resources					
Curate Housing Grant	5,743	-	-	5,743	8,400
Southbeech rental income	5,850	-	-	5,850	0
Insurance Claim etc	284	-	-	284	1,077
Filming in church	350	-	-	350	0
LPOW VAT relief	1,195	-	-	1,195	10,544
Flower income	-	348	-	348	479
Furlough recovery	2,080	-	-	2,080	0
Sequestration income	<u>-</u>	<u>4,624</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,624</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>15,502</u>	<u>4,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,474</u>	<u>20,500</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>157,322</u>	<u>13,640</u>	<u>9,174</u>	<u>180,136</u>	<u>235,626</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2020

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2020 £	2019 £
(a) Church activities					
Mission and charitable giving	8,553	8,668	-	17,221	22,192
Ministry:					
Parish Offer to Diocese	83,700	-	-	83,700	89,700
Clergy working expenses	1,580	-	-	1,580	4,121
Clergy housing costs	1,739	-	-	1,739	5,605
Assistant staff	-	-	-	-	855
Church services & music	10,073	-	-	10,073	13,294
Church:					
Insurance	6,416	-	-	6,416	6,268
Utility costs	3,467	-	-	3,467	4,458
Repairs & maintenance	4,543	-	242	4,785	4,744
Major works	2,758	-	-	2,758	66,602
Southbeech costs	-	-	7,439	7,439	3,688
Churchyard upkeep	4,164	-	2,151	6,315	23,200
Parish magazine	305	-	-	305	4,440
Education & training	0	-	-	0	593
Church Hall running costs	16,644	-	-	16,644	15,733
Church Hall major repairs	8,487	-	-	8,487	9,817
Cost of social events	564	-	-	564	1,126
Administration	12,720	-	-	12,720	12,890
Flower Expenses	-	290	-	290	660
	<u>165,713</u>	<u>8,958</u>	<u>9,832</u>	<u>184,503</u>	<u>289,986</u>
(b) Sequestration costs	4,233	4,624	-	8,857	0
Costs of letting Southbeech	<u>2,496</u>	-	-	<u>2,496</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>6,729</u>	<u>4,624</u>	-	<u>11,353</u>	-
(c) Governance costs					
Independent examination	400	-	-	400	1,200
Bank charges	<u>111</u>	-	-	<u>111</u>	<u>169</u>
	<u>511</u>	-	-	<u>511</u>	<u>1,369</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>172,953</u>	<u>13,582</u>	<u>9,832</u>	<u>196,367</u>	<u>291,355</u>

5. STAFF COSTS (included in the above figures) for the administrator, the hall cleaner and the organist/choir master amount to £22,704 (2019 - £21,594). The stipends of the rector and assistant curate are paid by the diocese.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCC AND RELATED PARTIES

Note 4(a) shows the total of PCC payments for the Rector and Assistant Curate towards their working expenses and housing costs. The total stewardship income from members of the PCC in 2020 was £11,949 (2019 - £13,637). Groundforce1, a company closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £79 during the year for lawn mowing at the Church Hall and £537 for essential gardening at the Rectory during the Interregnum.

7. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible assets used by the PCC

Freehold land and buildings: Cost at 1 January 2020 and at 31 December 2020 **£292,760**
The Curate's house at Southbeech, Old Perry Street, BR7 6PL was purchased in 2001 for £232,500. St Nicholas Church Hall was given to the PCC in 1921, mostly rebuilt in 1977 and extended in 1987. The total historic cost was £60,260. Neither sum is being depreciated.

(b) Investments – movements during the year: -

	£	Represented by shares in CBF Church of England Funds:	£
Market value on 1 January	483,787	Global Equities Investment Fund	68,341
Net gain on revaluation	<u>44,612</u>	Investment Fund (Equities)	<u>460,058</u>
	<u>528,399</u>		<u>528,399</u>

8. DEBTORS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	268	-
Tax recoverable	10,983	5,592
VAT recoverable	-	8,000
	<u>11,251</u>	<u>13,592</u>

9. LIABILITIES due within one year

Goods and services	12,273	17,638
Donations allocated out of 2019 income	<u>5,450</u>	<u>18,947</u>
	<u>17,723</u>	<u>36,585</u>

10. GIVING TO MISSIONS & CHARITIES

Church Mission Society	4,000	4,000
Welcare in Bromley	1,000	2,230
Children in Distress	2,750	4,000
Whitechapel Mission	1,900	3,000
The Association of Christian Resource Organisations serving Sudan (UK)	250	2,500
Children's Society	1,800	1,500
Church Army, Marylebone Women's Hostel	1,750	3,000
Salvation Army	-	600
Bromley youth charities	1,240	1,000
Assistance to poorer parishes and other items	<u>2,531</u>	<u>362</u>
Total	<u>17,221</u>	<u>22,192</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2020

11. Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance £	Income in year £	Expenditure in year £	Inter Fund Transfers £	Investment Result £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted						
General	133,350	157,322	(172,953)	(25,000)	15,913	108,632
Designated						
Church Repair	24,232	-	-	25,000	-	49,232
Hall Building	60,260	-	-	-	-	60,260
Refurbishment	108,199	-	-	-	-	108,199
Restricted						
Minor funds	1,343	348	(290)	-	-	1,401
Sequestration	-	4,624	(4,624)	-	-	-
Away Giving	-	8,668	(8,668)	-	-	-
Church Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowments	<u>552,917</u>	<u>9,174</u>	<u>(9,832)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,699</u>	<u>580,958</u>
Totals	<u>880,301</u>	<u>180,136</u>	<u>(196,367)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,612</u>	<u>908,682</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Financial provision is being made via designated funds for future non-annual repairs and renewal.

- (a) **Church Repair Fund** - The PCC makes regular deposits into diocesan accounts as recommended by the Church architect and the diocesan surveyor, for future quinquennial fabric repairs to the Church and the Curate's house. The Fund stood at £24,232 at the start of the year. A further £25,000 has been transferred from General Fund to spread the burden of anticipated exceptional costs over a five-year cycle.
- (b) **Church Hall** - The hall is run on a self-financing basis to generate sufficient funds to meet any major work on the fabric of the Hall. The annual income and expenditure and the resultant financial surplus or deficit from its operations is accounted for within the General Fund Statement of Financial Activities. The designated fund represents the historic book value of the building which as such is an illiquid asset.
- (c) **Church Refurbishment Fund** - The fund stood at £108,199 on 1st January and remains the same at 31st December 2020.

12. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Capital funds which the PCC has no power to expend (permanent), or which may be spent in certain circumstances (expendable). The income is available for specific purposes as follows:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Churchyard fund - to maintain 26 graves in St Nicholas churchyard (b) Fabric Trust - for repairs to the church fabric (c) Nussey Trust - for church maintenance | } | Permanent endowments
market value
£85,432 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (d) Clergy House Trust - an expendable endowment. The curate's house is held in this Trust and its cost is reported in Note 7 (a). The remaining capital and income are available to provide towards the cost of insuring and repairing the curate's house (Market value of Clergy House Trust investments (£244,322)). (e) Hawes Trust - it is agreed that the capital may be invested in an accumulating fund, provided that the two-family graves are maintained. The capital may be used after May 2059 (Market value £10,257). | | |

13. CONNECTED CHARTIES

Monies handled by the St Nicholas branch of the Mother's Union are not included in these accounts.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

- a) The church holds a fund of £603 available to meet the objects of 'Chislehurst Relief in Need' (£603 2019)
- b) In the year the Flower Fund had income of £348 and expenses of £290, leaving a balance of £798 (2019 - £740)
- c) The sequestration income and expenditure of £4,624 are diocesan fees retained to meet interregnum costs.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For the year ended 31 December 2020

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP FRS102 (2016).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Fund Accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC may move any surplus to other general funds.

Resources expended

Donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with the s.10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. The Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Charities Act 2011

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £5,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.