

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT

England & Wales · Charity number 1132526

Details

Other names	PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, ST GILES THE ABBOT AND ST NICHOLAS, PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-11-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Giles Centre Church Road Farnborough Orpington BR6 7DB
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Activities

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

Activities: Religious Activities

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, 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	£399,233	£321,160	-	-
2024-12-31	£344,040	£323,690	-	-
2023-12-31	£334,142	£295,336	-	-
2022-12-31	£342,275	£281,614	-	-
2021-12-31	£347,638	£277,308	-	-
2020-12-31	£276,671	£256,981	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Matthew James Hughes	Chair	
Adele Cooke		2024-05-21
Andrew Thomas Bailey		2022-05-29
CLAIRE RUTH COULDRIDGE		2012-09-14
Carol A Stokes		2021-05-23
Carol Ann Fryer		2015-09-21
Christine Mary Hallett		
David John Stokes		2026-01-13
Diane Lesley Stiff		2024-07-31
Gill Knapp		2022-05-29
Irene J Dancer		2021-03-21
Jayne Anne Calvert		2023-04-30
John Charles Kelly		2021-09-26
Julia Marguerite Parker Hoadley		2024-04-29
Lynn Paula Kelly		2021-09-26
Matthew Paul Felstead		2026-01-13
Nicholas Jolliffe		2019-04-28
Rev Stephen Broadie		2016-07-19
Richard Butterworth		2020-11-02
Stewart Lee Hutson		2022-05-29

Accounts

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT and ST. NICHOLAS

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2026 - 4.30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYERS

May this meeting be in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING: James 1: 1-8, 17, 22, 25

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

PRAYERS

Leader: O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith: bless our Bishops Jonathan and Simon, and other clergy, and all your people. Grant that your word may be truly preached and truly heard, your sacraments be faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: God our Father, graciously hallow with your blessing our Parish churches of St. Giles and St. Nicholas. May they be places where the sorrowing find comfort and the tempted strength; where the lonely find fellowship and the sinner forgiveness; where the faithful find grace, and all offer you a holy worship; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on all who share in the life and work of the churches of St. Giles and St. Nicholas: in the ministry of word and sacrament, in teaching and pastoral care, in service to the diocese, the community, and those in need, in ecumenical fellowship and co-operation. We pray for all members of the congregations, that in their varied callings they may advance your kingdom and bear witness to your love, shown in you Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, as you have called the Church out of the world to bring the world to yourself, so we pray for your Churches in this Parish; that all may worship you with singleness of mind, that all may hold the faith in sincerity and love, and all may witness for you with courage and assurance for the glory of your name.

All: Amen.

Leader: Father, we seek the guidance of your Holy Spirit in all the business that lies before us. In planning for the future, give us vision; in matters of finance, give us responsibility; in dealing with people, give us love. Help us in all things to honour your name, to advance your kingdom, and to carry out your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS AND DEPUTIES

Churchwardens	Andrew Bailey	(St. Giles)
	Claire Couldridge	(St. Nicholas)
Deputy Wardens	Peter Russell	) St. Giles - 8.00 a.m.
	Sue Rennie	) St. Giles - 10.00 a.m.
	Sally Attwood	) St. Giles - 11.15 a.m.
	Sheila Munns	) St. Giles - Thursdays 10.00 a.m.
	Nick Jolliffe	) St. Nicholas

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 11th May 2025, *(pages 4-6)*
3. **Matters arising**
4. **Reports**
 - (a) Electoral Roll, *(page 6)*
 - (b) Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council, *(pages 6-8)*
 - (c) Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report, *(pages 8-12)*
 - (d) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2025 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas *(pages 12-16)*
5. **Safeguarding**
6. **St. Giles Centre**
7. **Election**

Members for the P.C.C.

St. Giles - The current St. Giles PCC Members have now completed their mandatory three year term on the Church Council but have requested to stand for a further term of one year so that they can continue to see the refurbishment of the St. Giles Centre to its completion. Therefore they will be offering themselves for re-election at this year's AGM. However, this does not preclude any new people from being proposed. If you would like to stand then please contact the Rector to obtain a Nomination Form.

St. Nicholas - there are **TWO** vacancies.
8. **Appointment**

Independent Financial Examiner.
9. Goodbyes and Thank-you's.
10. **Any other business and date of next A.G.M. 2027.**

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Rector, *(pages 17-19)*
Associate Rector including St. Nicholas Children's Report, *(pages 20-22)*
St. Giles Music, *(page 22)*
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 22-23)*
St. Giles Safeguarding Report, *(pages 23-24)*
St. Giles Flower Arrangers Report, *(pages 24-25)*
St. Giles Bell Ringers, *(pages 25-26)*
St. Giles Social Committee, *(pages 26-27)*
Mothers' Union, *(pages 27-29)*
St. Giles Website, *(page 29)*
Friends of St. Giles, *(page 29)*
Parish Magazine, *(pages 30)*

The Accounts are on the Notice Boards of both Churches.

2. MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 11th MAY 2025

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST.GILES THE ABBOT and ST. NICHOLAS

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens:
Churchwardens Andrew Bailey (St. Giles)
 Claire Couldridge (St. Nicholas)
Deputy Wardens Peter Russell) St. Giles - 8.00 a.m.
 Sue Rennie) St. Giles - 10.00 a.m.
 Sally Attwood) St. Giles - 11.15 a.m.
 TBA) St. Giles - 6.30 p.m.
 Sheila Munns) St. Giles - Thursdays 10.00 a.m.
 Nick Jolliffe) St. Nicholas

Thanks to Andrew and Claire for their continuance as Churchwardens.

Rector: Thanks to Andrew for his outstanding patience and diplomacy.
Vote of Confidence and thanks:

Associate Rector: Thanks to Claire.
Vote of Confidence and thanks:

Deputy Wardens are all continuing.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 11th May 2025 - 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT

The Revd. Matthew Hughes (Rector), The Revd. Stephen Broadie (Assoc. Rector), Andrew Bailey, Claire Couldridge, Roger Allard, Carol Fryer, Mary Compton, Helen Roberts, Edward Roberts, Sheila Munns, Sue Rennie, Pam Butcher, Irene Dancer, Alison Reynolds, Nick Reynolds, Gill Knapp, Richard Healey, Gail Low, Sylvia Addison, Chris Hallett, Lindsay Barnes, Paul Barnes, Julia Hoadley, Sally Attwood, Stewart Hutson, Jayne Calvert, Ralph Barlow.

Apologies for absence: Valerie Bailey, Paul Bailey.

2. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in St. Giles Centre on Sunday 28th April 2024.

Proposed: Irene Dancer
Seconded: Sheila Munns
Approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

4. **REPORTS**

- (a) Electoral Roll.
- (b) Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.
No comments.
- (c) Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report.
No comments.
- (d) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2024 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas.

Hon Treasurer, St. Giles, Carol Fryer:

All the information is in the report. It's been a difficult year with rising fuel prices and pressures on cost of living. We have seen a fall in income from funerals and in general giving. We need to concentrate on involving the community and hence income, and keep a hold on overall expenditure, especially with the Centre project now coming into focus. Ralph Barlow asked if we could borrow for the Centre project. Carol: It's possible but as charity our sources are limited and interest rates would be high. We shouldn't rule it out but it should not be high on the list.

Hon Treasurer, St. Nicholas, Roger Allard:

Referred to the Report, it is a good summary. Last year we reached rock bottom showing a deficit. Difficult decisions to make, i.e. Administrator and Family Worker redundant. The only way now is up. Going forward showing a surplus. Paul Barnes asked what is the situation of Diocese payment. Roer: About a third not paid, but hope to meet Diocese commitment in full in the future. Stephen Broadie (Assoc. Rector) said it was first year since Covid that a surplus is seen. Nick Reynolds asked if there were any other churches in same situation. Stephen: There are other churches in difficulties. Roger: Definitely a commitment to pay in full; previous outlays for roof, which may need more attention. Matthew Hughes (Rector): previous expenditure on concrete problem - £10,000 on repairs. Roger: Church House - worst condition in road; new fence and new fascia and guttering and brought attention to problems with the soakaway and drainage (covered by insurance). Matthew: Treasurers have an onerous task and responsibility.

Thanks to Carol, Roger and the St. Giles and St. Nicholas Finance Teams.

Adoption of the Accounts:

Proposed: Stewart Hutson

Seconded: Julia Hoadley.

5. **SAFEGUARDING**

Irene Dancer, Parish Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter.

6. **ST. GILES CENTRE**

The Rector met with four contractors. Variety of trades in project. Cost to date - £12,000 approx. Cheapest quote £186,000 including VAT - comes with good references. Everything is signed off and ready to go. Anticipate start in May 2026 which gives a year to maximise fundraising. Looking at grants and maybe loans.

7. ELECTIONS

- (a) Members for the Parochial Church Council:
St. Giles: David Stokes.
Proposed: Julia Hoadley
Seconded: Ralph Barlow
Approved.

St. Nicholas: Assoc Rector will co-opt someone during the year.

Thanks for all current members with special thanks to the late Rosemary Fordyce who served the Church and the PCC for many years.

- (b) Deanery Synod Members - vacancies for St. Giles and St. Nicholas

8. APPOINTMENTS

Independent Financial Examiner.
Chris Jones of Baxter's to continue
Proposed: Mary Compton
Seconded: Chris Hallett
Approved.

9. Goodbyes and Thank-you's.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT AGM 2026

Provisionally second Sunday in May (10th) 2026.

12. CLOSING PRAYERS

3. MATTERS ARISING

4. REPORTS

ELECTORAL ROLL

The figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 322 (St. Giles - 262, St. Nicholas - 60). Our Electoral Roll membership continues to offer a solid base for the ongoing life of the Parish.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

ST. GILES THE ABBOT, FARNBOROUGH With ST. NICHOLAS, ORPINGTON

OBJECTIVES

The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Matthew Hughes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Centre complexes of St. Giles at Church Road, Farnborough and St. Nicholas at Leamington Avenue, Orpington.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") in accordance with Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC who served from 11 May 2025 until the date that this report was approved by the PCC were: -

Ex-Officio:

<u>Rector</u>	The Revd. Matthew Hughes	Chairman	
<u>Associate Rector</u>	The Revd. Stephen Broadie		
<u>Assistant Priest</u>	Archdeacon Paul Wright		
<u>Reader</u>	Mrs. Chris Hallett		
<u>Wardens</u>	Mr. Andrew Bailey	until APCM 2026	St Giles
	Miss Claire Couldridge	until ACPM 2026	St Nicholas
<u>Verger</u>	Mr. Peter Russell		
<u>Deputy Wardens</u>	Mr. Peter Russell	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mrs. Susan Rennie	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mrs. Sheila Munns	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Miss Sally Attwood	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mr. Nick Jolliffe	Not on PCC	St Nicholas

Elected:

Hon. Secretary

<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mr. Roger Allard	St. Nicholas
<u>Deputy Treasurer</u>	Mr. Richard Butterworth	St. Nicholas

<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mrs. Carol Fryer	St. Giles
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<u>Gift Aid Secretary</u>	Mrs. Carol Fryer
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Members

Mr. Stewart Hutson	until ACPM 2026	St Giles
Mrs. Gill Knapp	until ACPM 2026	St Giles
Mrs. Lynn Kelly	until ACPM 2026	St Giles
Mr. John Kelly	until ACPM 2026	St Giles
Mrs. Irene Dancer	until APCM 2026	St Giles
Mrs. Carol Stokes	until ACPM 2026	St Giles
Miss Julia Hoadley	until ACPM 2026	St Giles
Mrs Jayne Calvert	until APCM 2026	St Nicholas
Mrs Adele Cooke	until APCM 2027	St Nicholas
Mrs Diane Stiff	until APCM 2027	St Nicholas

The United PCC met 2 during the year with an attendance of 65 per cent. In addition, the members representing St. Giles met 6 times (with an average attendance of 75 per cent) and those representing St. Nicholas met 6 times (average attendance 79.2 per cent).

COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between meetings of the PCC:

- Standing & Finance Committee – this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC
- St. Giles' Fabric Group
- St. Giles' Churchyard Group
- Ad hoc groups.

CHURCH ATTENDANCES

There were 322 names on the Church Electoral Roll for the Parish as at 31st December 2025.

As a Parish, we are available at times of birth, marriage and death. In 2025, the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

7	Baptisms
3	Weddings
35	Funeral services held in Church followed by burial in the churchyard or Cremation
13	Funeral services held at a crematorium
34	Burials of ashes.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Aggregated parish income for the year was £399,232 (2024-£344,040) and aggregated resources used were £318,862 (2024-£323,690). Net incoming resources amounted to £80,371 (2024-£20,350). St. Giles recorded net incoming resources of £69,847 (2024-£27,239) and St. Nicholas recorded net incoming resources of £10,523 (2024 £-6,889).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (less fixed assets) which equates approximately to six months unrestricted expenditure. This was achieved as at 31st December 2025.

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS

ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD REPORT

This is my fourth and last report for my second 'tour' as Churchwarden for St. Giles, something that I see as both a privilege and a great responsibility.

This has once more been another busy year at St. Giles.

As Churchwarden I have enjoyed a good working relationship with Matthew. I believe that is part of my role to have a good relationship with the incumbent of St. Giles in order to advise and support him in the exercise of his ministry. The Churchwarden is there to bring to the attention of the Rector any issues raised by the congregation, and to represent the interests of the Parish to him and the PCC. I enjoy working with Matthew and appreciate the mutually supporting roles that we share together.

In 2025 we again had a full set of services across the whole year. The Parish observed the seasons of Lent and Easter. At Easter we held the usual services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday - both inside and outside the Church (where my brother once again was able to toast prestigious quantities of hot-cross buns for the congregations in the Churchyard). We held the full set of services for Harvest, the Pets Blessing and Remembrance Sunday, with lots of flowers (courtesy of the Flower Ladies) and singing (courtesy of the Choir). We also commemorated the fiftieth anniversaries of both 'VE Day' & 'VJ Day' with special services and a Flower Festival at St. Giles, where members of the Parish were able to remember the contributions of loved ones with photographs and narratives of their experiences during the war.

This year at Christmas we once again did the (now usual) three Nativity services on Christmas Eve. This appears to be the optimum number as we still have 'room in the inn' for everyone who wished to attend. Numbers in attendance were roughly the same as in previous years, it also makes it easier to organise logistically. We also had the Advent Carol and 9-Lessons & Carols services beforehand, the 'Midnight Mass' and the Epiphany Carol service in January.

We continue to enjoy a full calendar of Parish events. June saw the Parish Fete, which was well attended and (unlike last year) not plagued with. Everybody enjoyed themselves (thanks in no small part to the small army of volunteers who helped organise it). We once more had a good range of individuals and organisation who contributed to the day to make it a great day for all. This is always an excellent opportunity where the wider Parish 'family' was able to get together and participate in an event outside the Church. The following month we had the Seaside Coach excursion to Broadstairs in July. The coach was full and once more I would like to thank Carol Fryer and her team in organising this and all the other events across the year.

In October we held our usual Churchyard Saturday Morning where members of the congregation of the Parish turn up with a whole array of gardening tools to scarify the grass, rake up the moss and seed the lawn. This year it was very well attended.

In terms of goods and ornaments we have purchased new items for both inside and outside the Church. Over the past year we have obtained a new Processional Book for use in church services. We have also replaced (and updated) the lighting over the Altar in the Sanctuary and for the Pulpit. This is stored by the new cupboard in the Clergy Vestry above the safe, which is being used to store items used in Holy Communion. The 'big' purchases for new items are as a result of the Fire Inspection in December 2025 (for more see below). This has resulted in an additional water fire extinguisher by the Organ, and a fire blanket by the Font. We are also purchasing a large number of fireproof bags and larger cases to safely store the combustible items held in the church. This will drastically reduce the chance of them catching alight in the unlikely event of a fire occurring.

2025 saw the continuation of the rolling program of 'deep cleaning' within the Church. A common theme is monitoring the use and distribution of storage space around the Church, what is located where and who is using it. This has been a recurring issue in previous years as we only have a finite resource in space, and we need to use it in the most efficient way.

As part of this, the Rector and Churchwarden continue to monitor the North Aisle where there was a fungal buildup that was treated in 2024. So far we have not seen a return of the fungus, although further treatments will be applied in the future as and when necessary.

We also took the opportunity in December to re-hang the 'decorative' ball in the Organ Chamber which had fallen off the guiding wheel causing it to jam, making it increasingly difficult to hoist up and down. This involved sending the Churchwarden up the ladders to manually re-set the line back onto the wheel (with 3 volunteers and a Rector holding onto the bottom of the ladder). I must personally thank everybody involved in the operation.

I can report that all the Church's goods and ornaments are in a good state of repair.

We had the Quinquennial Inspection in May 2025, which luckily did not find any new major maintenance tasks for us to do. We also had a Fire Assessment carried out in December, which has identified a number of issues that need addressing. These are being acted upon, and we hope to complete this mid year.

The (really) big challenge for 2026 will be the refurbishment of the St. Giles Centre. A note for your diaries is Saturday 16th May when we will be doing a 'Skip Out'. We will need to empty the building of its contents, and for that all volunteers are most welcome. I am confident that we will rise to the challenge, and that eventually we'll have a decent place for us to use for parish meetings and activities.

I am always grateful for my fellow Churchwardens/Verger and their total commitment and support over the last year. We would not be able to do what we do without their efforts. I thank them for their time and for the kind support they have shown me. As Churchwardens you have to do lots of things behind the scenes which the congregation do not always see. However, I do have to say that being a Churchwarden is a most satisfying undertaking, and I have enjoyed being one in 2025.

Andrew Bailey
St. Giles Churchwarden

ST. GILES CHURCHYARD REPORT AS PART OF THE CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

The St. Giles Churchyard Volunteers continued to meet regularly on Tuesdays throughout the year, concentrating upon general and routine care and maintenance throughout the Churchyard. Although no major projects were undertaken, a replacement water standpipe was installed and minor brickwork repairs were performed both to the Garden of Remembrance walls and the War Memorial. The summer "drought" also meant that many additional visits were required for several weeks to maintain and water the rose beds and planters. An Annual Work Programme was drafted and circulated to all volunteers to regulate some of the works that are conducted periodically on a yearly basis.

PRO continued as the main works contractor during 2025. They provide grass cutting, some strimming and hedge cutting, waste removal, supply of woodchip and other occasional services as required. They make 20 visits per year between March and October. In October, our neighbouring farmer kindly assisted by cutting the long hedge bordering Church Fields.

Volunteer staffing and resources became problematic during the year. For a variety of reasons, the number of regular volunteers had diminished markedly by mid-year. This situation improved during the second half of 2025, with one returning volunteer and four new recruits. However, the biggest issue impacting the ongoing maintenance of the Churchyard remains the retention and recruitment of sufficient volunteers to fulfil current standards of delivery.

Additionally, it is with great sadness to report that Paul Raison passed away during 2025. Paul was a long standing, respected and stalwart member of the Tuesday Volunteers' Group and is sorely missed. RIP.

In July 2025, Eddie Bellamy and Bob Kimber took on the duties of 'foreman' of the Tuesday Volunteers' Group.

In September, there was a re-organisation of the “St. Giles Churchyard and Fabric Committee”. It was expanded to include Andrew Bailey (Churchwarden) and Peter Radburn (PRO Contractor) with the aim of widening the involvement of ‘stake holders’ and improving efficiency of the Committee’s work. The Committee will meet twice yearly and focus upon strategic issues. Additional meetings may be convened on an ad hoc or specialist basis with additional members, if required (e.g. The redevelopment of the St. Giles Centre).

There were 56 burials of all types during 2025, 3 more than in 2024. Of these, 28 were in the Garden of Remembrance, the remaining 28 being in the graveyard. These totals are both below long term yearly average.

8 new adult graves were used, which compares with 4 last year and the long-term average of 12 per year and with a high of 22 graves in 2020. Circa 245 grave spaces are available, excluding the area used for outdoor services and the potential for small-scale infilling of spaces and paths. Based on long term annual usage, potential capacity should last around 22 years but, as the number of new graves required is usually now lower than in previous years, the actual capacity in years is likely to be longer than this.

During the past calendar year 31 new inscribed plaques have been ordered and installed, as well as 8 new blanks, a decrease on the previous year totals of 43 and 18 respectively. 7 blanks were removed and replaced with incised plaques. The Garden of Remembrance Memorial Walls have space for a further 388 plaques. A yearly average of 46 plaques will give the Memorial Walls approximately 8 years and five months remaining life span. The annual spring cleaning of plaques was completed by the end of March.

The maintenance of the Church and Churchyard to its current standards has only been achieved by the dedication, diligence and service of all our volunteers. Heartfelt thanks must be expressed to everyone who has contributed during 2025. Our volunteers do what they do because they care and make a difference 52 weeks a year. They seek no reward nor praise, but are simply there looking after all attended or unattended graves, whilst presenting the Churchyard at its best. The Gardens of Remembrance continued to be kept impeccably by our small team of ladies with work that goes largely unnoticed. Thank you everyone for all you do.

***For and on behalf of the St Giles Tuesday Volunteer Team:
Eddie Bellamy, Bob Kimber & Nick Reynolds***

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN’S REPORT

It has been another busy year at St. Nicholas. Croissant and Crafts continues to be popular with our young families, with new families joining us usually by word of mouth which is encouraging. To this we have now added a small communion service at the end in the Leamington room. This is also much appreciated

Our other groups continue to thrive especially our tea and chat and our community larder.

Another thing we can now offer our community is a defibrillator which was donated by a very generous donation by one of our congregation and has now been placed on a wall in the kitchen. We hope that it never has to be used, but it could be a life saver to someone.

Services continue to hold their numbers. We have now gone back to our usual 10.00 am service after holding a survey with our congregation

With Easter fast approaching, we will be holding our usual range of services and Easter events which will include our Passover meal and our Easter activity morning. It is always a busy time but one we always enjoy.

As with all families we have experienced our losses, each one unique and will be missed by us all.

My thanks to everyone for their encouragement and support especially the PCC, Nick and Stephen

Claire Couldridge
St. Nicholas Churchwarden

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2025, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS

ST. GILES

2025 has been a demanding year, with much of our energy focused on fundraising for the renovation of the St Giles Centre. The response has been tremendously encouraging, and we are now well on course for our anticipated start date of June 2026. We look forward to the creation of a well-appointed, purposeful building that will enable us to serve our community in more meaningful and creative ways.

In 2025, our total income was £292,906.41 (2024: £234,861.73), which exceeded our total expenditure of £223,058.99 (2024: £207,622.71), resulting in a surplus of £69,847.42 (2024: £27,239.02).

St Giles continues to benefit from the generous support of a wide range of donors and sponsors, both large and small, as well as the dedication of hard-working volunteers whose commitment helps us to keep expenditure under careful control. Donations and legacies received in previous years also continue to provide valuable security against future costs and unforeseen expenses.

We are grateful for the support we receive against the backdrop of continuing cost-of-living pressures. That our community continues to give so generously of both time and money, despite these challenges, is a testament to the shared commitment to St Giles and its future.

Income

General giving such as standing orders and envelopes is down slightly on last year but we should bear in mind the generosity of our donors to the centre renovation fund as this may have changed a donor's mode of giving temporarily.

Gift Aid provides a valuable additional boost to our income, enabling us to increase the value of eligible donations at no extra cost to the donor. Even the smallest amount from a taxpayer enables us to claim 25% of the donation directly from HMRC.

Expenditure

We try to keep firm control over expenditure, but cost of living increases are hard to balance especially those for heating. We are lucky to have good financial support from many givers.

The Diocesan share in 2024 was £70,600 as opposed to £67,948 in 2023. Our offer for 2025 being £70,600. In the coming year our offer has been reduced to £60,883 allowing us to allocate the £10,000 saving to our Centre Renovation Fund.

St Giles Centre Renovation

The decision to renovate the Centre will significantly enhance the quality and flexibility of space available for church activities. These activities will help foster connection, comfort, and a sense of belonging for people of all ages. We aim to offer a warm, welcoming environment to combat loneliness and social isolation, and to foster opportunities for young people to gather and thrive. It will also enable us to provide much needed and modern toilet facilities for all who use the Church.

As at 31.12.25 the funds raised for the Centre Renovation are:

£91,094.95 from various sources
plus
£19,500 from the National Lottery
£11,000 from the Benefact Trust.
Totalling:
£121,594.95

In addition, we have committed funds to be received on completion of the work from:
£15,000 Congregational & General Trust
£10,000 Bernard Sunley Foundation

Further donations are in the pipeline. To date £15,000 has already been spent on plans and fees.

We are looking at low carbon alternatives for the centre, such as an air heat source pump and solar panels, so consideration will need to be given to finding additional sources of funds for this purpose.

Summer Fete

The Summer Fête is a highlight of community life at St Giles and remains one of our most successful fundraising events. With the continued generosity of our sponsors and donors, together with the hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers, we were delighted to raise £6,222.

We are truly fortunate to have so many people willing to give their time and energy in support of St Giles. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who contributed, helped on the day, and came along to enjoy the occasion.

Wentworth property

The Wentworth property, acquired through a past legacy, has provided St. Giles with a dependable source of income. In 2025, however, we lost a tenant who had occupied the property for many years. As relatively little had been invested in maintenance during that time, it was decided that substantial renovation works should be undertaken before arranging a new letting.

As a result, income from the property in 2025 fell to £10,844.53 (2024: £21,417.57), while expenditure rose to £21,584.83 (2024: £4,784), reflecting the necessary improvement works.

We are pleased to report that a new tenant has now been secured and installed, and we look forward to the resumption of a steady and reliable income stream.

Weddings, Funerals & Plaques

We continue to see a decline in wedding bookings, reflecting what appears to be an ongoing trend. The number of funerals has also decreased, which may be due in part to increased competition from alternative providers and, regrettably, a growing preference among some families for more secular services.

In 2025, we conducted 19 burials, 20 cremations, and 34 burials of ashes.

The number of memorial plaques has continued to rise albeit slowly, increasing from 643 in 2023 to 692 in 2024 and 723 in 2025, of which 160 remain blank.

Many people comment positively on the appearance of the Remembrance Garden, and our dedicated churchyard team of volunteers deserves great credit for the care and commitment they show in maintaining it so beautifully.

Choir

At present, we have one Organ Scholar but no Choral Scholars. We were delighted to receive a grant of £4,000 from the Ousley Trust to strengthen and develop our choir, and to encourage new members.

Both our Junior and Senior Choirs continue to play a valued role in supporting our choral services, maintaining a strong musical tradition at St Giles.

Magazine fund

Advertising	£1,888.75	£2,557 L/Year
Hard copy	£3530.80	£4,400.50 L/Year
Email	£66	£59 L/Year
One off sales	£409.50	£520 L/Year
Total Income	£5,895.05	£7,536 L/Year
Total Expenditure	£6,721	£6,822 L/Year
Profit/Loss	£825.95	££714 L/Year

Funds held:	£13,565.85	£14,391.80 L/Year
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Magazine subscriptions have declined slightly; a trend which inevitably affects advertising revenue. Reduced circulation makes it harder to grow our advertising base, but Gill Knapp continues to work tirelessly to counter this and seek new opportunities.

In previous years, the magazine generated healthy profits, reflected in the funds still held in reserve. We are fortunate to have an excellent editor in Gail Low, who maintains the consistently high standard of our Parish Magazine. However, public attitudes towards printed magazines appear to be changing, and this presents an ongoing challenge.

We are also extremely grateful to our delivery team, whose dedication keeps postal costs to a minimum by hand-delivering the magazine each month. Our thanks go to Paul Barnes, Lee Bellamy, Nick and Jenny Wilkins, Eddie and Helen Roberts, Danielle Carle, Catriona Lee, Angela Leake, and Margaret Haffenden.

There is no immediate threat to the magazine's future, but it may be prudent to review its long-term direction. If we view the magazine as an important part of our outreach, the existing reserves will sustain it for some time. Nevertheless, increasing subscriptions must be a priority, and we would welcome someone with the time and enthusiasm to help grow our readership.

Flower fund

Income	£5,058.92	£4,110
Expenses	£3,250.76	£2,692
Profit	£1,808.16	£1,418
Funds held:	£6,082.22	£4,140

The flower fund remains self-funding. They have 2 fund raising projects per annum along with a variety of donations throughout the year. It is always nice to see the church beautifully decorated and thanks need to be given to our dedicated flower team.

Funds

We have two types of funds: Designated which are allocated to certain areas but may be used for other purposes as needed and Restricted which are allocated by the donor or St Giles and may not be used for other purposes without permission.

We hold £192,267.58 (£216,452.49 L/year) in Designated funds to which for accounting purposes is added the Wentworth property at its initial valuation of £540,000. We hold £416,950.23 (£311,571.37 L/year) in restricted funds (including the Centre Renovation Fund); a total of £1,426,592.12 (£1,356,747.70 L/year).

Conclusion

2025 has been a challenging year, yet we have remained resilient and successfully maintained our position. It is pleasing that our Wentworth property is now fully operational once again, restoring a reliable and steady income stream.

Our fundraising efforts for the centre's renovation have been highly encouraging, and we look forward with optimism to work commencing later this year. While there are still funds to be raised, we are committed to sustaining this momentum and ensuring the creation of a welcoming, accessible space for all.

We are especially grateful for the continued loyalty and generosity of our supporters. The dedication of our volunteers and the commitment of our donors make our progress possible, and we extend our sincere thanks to each of them. We move into the coming year with confidence and purpose.

Thanks must go to:

Linda Crisp and Mary Compton as part of the Financial Team

Eddie Bellamy as administrator of the Memorial Wall fund

Liz Diamond as Parish Secretary

Adele Cooke for office administration

Pam Stacey as Planned Giving Envelope Scheme Secretary

Lee Bellamy as insurance administrator

Chris Jones of Afinia (previously Baxter's), our External Examiners

Carol Fryer

Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles

ST. NICHOLAS

In summary this is a good news report. St Nicholas year end balances were at their highest level in the sum of £95926 at 31 December 2019 immediately prior to Covid. It has been a bit of a roller coaster since, but now at 31 December 2025 balances are just over £96000 (£96008), meaning we are back to where we were pre Covid with a few pounds extra, a new highest ever level. The balances comprise £44827 in Repair Funds at the Diocese and General Funds of £51181, which is in line with parish policy of maintaining balances in General Funds equating to 50% of annual revenue expenditure.

In the years before Covid St Nicholas had always paid the Parish Share in full and we did so too in 2020 as we did not feel we should renege on our offer to do likewise in 2020 made in November 2019, sometime before we were hit hard with the Covid rules and regulations. As a result our year end balances fell to £73001. We have been recovering since.

The Parish Share/Indicative Offer is made up of three elements, the Ministry Costs, the Per Benefice Cost for Diocesan Support and the Wider Diocesan Mission. For the period 2021 - 2025 St Nicholas has not been contributing to the Wider Diocesan Mission for the simple reason that we could not afford to, only paying the Ministry Costs in full and our share of the Per Benefice Costs. St Nicholas and St Giles usually share the Per Benefice Cost on a 50/50 basis but for one year only, 2024, St Giles paid two thirds and St Nicholas one third. This is the only financial help St Nicholas has received from St Giles and we are financially independent. We have also in 2025 made a small contribution of £500 to St Giles towards the St Giles Centre refurbishment. On the administrative side Carol Fryer does help us in claiming Gift Aid monthly for us at the same time as she makes the St Giles claim. We do appreciate that, Carol, and thank you very much.

Year end balances rose each year from 2021 to £92374 at the end of 2023. During 2024 a consultant reviewed the administrative and financial processes at St Nicholas, the conclusion of which was that the paid roles of Church Administrator and Children and Families Worker could no longer be afforded and the report recommended that they should be made redundant, a recommendation the PCC agreed but with sadness. One off redundancy payments were the main reason why year end balances fell back to £85485 at the end of 2024.

2025 has been a good year with income exceeding expenditure by £10523, but not just financially. We have been able to make improvements at St Nicholas with replacing the Fire Safety Equipment at a cost of £1389, installing new water heaters in the toilets at a cost of £1668 and replacing all the lighting with new LED at a cost of £4548. We have been helped with grants from the Diocese of £830 for the water heaters and £3270 for the LED lighting.

At this stage 2026 is looking good too. The budget, approved by the St Nicholas PCC on 27 January, is projecting an increase in balances of £8250 (General Reserves £4050, Repair Funds £4200) at 31 December 2026 and includes for the first time since 2020 a contribution towards the Wider Diocesan Mission of £1200, £100 per month.

As many of you will know I am standing down as the St Nicholas Treasurer at the APCM and it is good to be able to hand over my responsibilities to the new team at a time when year end balances are at highest levels and the 2026 financial position is very promising. On a note of concern the St Nicholas roof is beginning to show signs of wear with the original roof replaced in the mid 1980s and this is likely to be an issue the St Nicholas PCC will need to address in the not too distant future. That said I would like to end on a positive rather than a negative note by saying that St Nicholas does have substantial reserves which will stand us in good stead when that time does eventually come.

Roger Allard
Hon Treasurer, St Nicholas

5. SAFEGUARDING

6. ST. GILES CENTRE

Redevelopment update.

7. ELECTIONS

ST. GILES P.C.C.

The current St. Giles PCC Members have now completed their mandatory three year term on the Church Council but have requested to stand for a further term of one year so that they can continue to see the refurbishment of the St. Giles Centre to its completion. Therefore they will be offering themselves for re-election at this year's AGM. However, this does not preclude any new people from being proposed. If you would like to stand then please contact the Rector to obtain a Nomination Form.

TWO MEMBERS FOR THE ST. NICHOLAS P.C.C.

8. APPOINTMENT

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Acting under delegated powers (A.G.M. 2001) The P.C.C. appointed Mr. Christopher Jones, F.C.C.A., Baxter and Co. as independent examiner for the 2021 accounts.

The PCC recommends Mr. Jones's appointment for the year 2026 accounts and the A.G.M. is requested to approve this proposal.

9. GOODBYES AND THANK YOU'S.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To be notified at the beginning of the meeting.

Date and time of next A.G.M. 2027

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

In his letter to the Church in Philippi, St. Paul writes:

'I thank God upon every remembrance of you always in every prayer of mine for you all making requests with joy, for your fellowship in the Gospel until now.' (Philippians chapter 1: 3-5)

These words reflect my own feelings as I come to consider another year of ministry as Rector of Farnborough since our last AGM. I do indeed remember and thank God for all the wonderful people that we have at St. Giles and for the fellowship that we enjoy together in the service of Christ. It is somewhat difficult to convey to you just how much is needed to run a parish church today and we are so fortunate that we have many people who give very generously of their time and abilities for the life and mission of St. Giles. To name them all would risk forgetting someone, but if you help in any way please be assured of my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for all you do not just on behalf of myself, but on behalf of our whole Parish who I know appreciate the presence of St. Giles and all it stands for.

I would now like to highlight some important parts of our Church's life and my vision for the immediate future.

ST. GILES CENTRE

We have now been fundraising for the refurb of St. Giles Centre for almost two years and I am delighted to say that we are well on target to not only reach the actual costs of the building work, which will be in the region of £210,000, but have enough to cover any unforeseen eventualities, and even to have some left over for a future upkeep fund. The response to this appeal has been simply amazing and has proved to me once again how much the life of our Church is valued by so many people. The building work is set to begin in June of this year. This will also be time for me to don my hard hat along with our Architect Dora so that we make sure that we end up with the Centre that we have worked so hard to envisage. I have full confidence in the builders that we have selected to accomplish this work. For me the refurb of the Centre is not just about revitalising a tired building, but is central to the reinvigoration of our social life, mission and ministry.

MISSION

Everyone involved in parish life across a range of parishes would easily acknowledge that these are not easy times for the Church of England. Much has changed, and much has declined, in the nearly forty years that I have been involved in parochial ministry. People no longer see the CofE as the go to place for weddings, baptisms and funerals. Children's sports and activities have made traditional Sunday Schools sparsely attended, if even viable. Church attendance and membership is generally modest and variable. In conjunction with this, mandatory compliances around Safeguarding, Risk Assessments, finances and good practices are considerable as are the ongoing costs of running St. Giles which are annually in the region of £160,000! We need at least 160 volunteers to run St. Giles, so forgive me for all my arm twisting! I appreciate that we can all get a little demoralised when it seems that the Church is not attracting more people.

It is worth bearing in mind, however, that the world in which we live is fast changing, and for some, has changed beyond all recognition. Culture, leisure time choices, technology, the stress of modern life, can all create a dissonance between what we offer as a church and what people outside the church recognise as important and valuable and have time for. Nevertheless the message of the Gospel is a timeless and essential one and I firmly believe that a loving church, which offers good worship and good music, intelligent and relevant preaching and a peaceful haven away from the stresses and sorrows of life will also be attractive. Bearing this in mind my vision is as follows:

- Refurb the Centre to a high specification. Then use the Centre for social activities, meetings and outreach activities.
- Relaunch our children's work against the backdrop of a new and attractive Centre. With Sunday activities we may have to think outside the box in terms of the activities and times that we run our children's work.
- Continue to build up our choir and musical life of our Church.
- Once the Centre is refurbished to move on to the redecorating St. Giles and to revisit the lighting provision in the Church.
- In the long term, look at the bank just above the lower carpark which is sliding away and may need some structural brick work.
- To build up our online presence and to extend our contact with as many people as possible through a variety of ways so that we can advertise and highlight the life of our Church.
- To continue to make sure that St. Giles is a safe place for children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- To make sure that we have enough finances to meet all our obligations and to build up reserves for the future.

IN CONCLUSION

Back in November I attended a Deanery Confirmation in Beckenham where 23 people from six different churches were Confirmed. I was struck that in St. Giles and St. Nicholas we were able to present 13 candidates for Confirmation last year, just from our one Parish. So, even though times are difficult, there is much to give thanks to God for and much that we are getting right. Indeed, I remember some lovely services where everything came together in a wonderful way. I think of happy times and shared events where everyone pulls together and the quality of the friendships and love is palpable. I constantly experience St. Giles to be a solid and well run Church where people who come to us receive the best that we can give them. I have a profound sense of St. Giles being a loving and caring community, which works very hard to be a beacon of light and hope in an unstable and at times bleak world. Thank you to my colleagues in the Gospel, Stephen, Paul and Chris and especially to Paul whose support and wise counsel is a constant source of encouragement and support to me. To my Churchwarden, Andrew, whose friendship and support is utterly invaluable and very much appreciated by myself and all of us. To our Treasurer, Carol, who works indefatigably for the good of St. Giles without whose service St. Giles would struggle to function. For Irene who does so much to make sure that we run a safe and compliant Church with a full programme of Christian education and care of our children and young people. For Ralph whose dedication, skill and devotion gives us the gift of wonderful uplifting music week by week, and Clive for his faithful playing at so many services. For Peter, our dedicated and wonderful Verger, for flower arrangers, brass cleaners, website and plaque mangers, magazine editor and magazine team, cleaners, servers, Sunday school teachers, Churchyard workers, financiers, musicians, and pastoral visitors. For our organ and choral scholars, many of whom have gone on to prestigious colleges and appointments, for our bell ringers as well.

I particularly want to thank the Friends of St. Giles, they have been very aware of the difficult financial circumstances that St. Giles is operating in at the moment and also of the significant challenge of fundraising for the Centre. In the face of this, their support and generosity to St. Giles has been fantastic. They have been true Friends. They have also kindly offered to pay for the repair of our Church clock and once again on behalf of all of us I express my sincere gratitude to The Friends.

Finally I would like to remember with love and gratitude all those from our Church family who came to the end of the earthly journey this past year. Every year it is with sadness that we lose dear friends and fellow worshippers, in doing so we give thanks to God for their faithful witness and service and entrust them in hope to the eternal life that Christ has promised to those who believe in him. Thank you to all those whose work no one sees but is seen and valued by Christ who is the one that ultimately we all serve. To him be all praise and glory now and forever. Amen

I thank you and remember you all with deep gratitude and love.
Matthew

Matthew Hughes
Rector of Farnborough Benefice

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT INCLUDING ST. NICHOLAS CHILDREN'S REPORT

For St. Nicholas Church, 2025 was a year when a number of significant changes took place within our building. We finally installed high quality, up-to-date water heaters in our washrooms. These now ensure the supply of hot water on demand. Although this may seem a small thing, it is of course hugely significant for the hundreds of people who use our building on a weekly basis, and who in this day and age need the regular supply of hot water to thoroughly wash their hands. In addition, we replaced all the Fire Extinguishers throughout St. Nicholas Church, ensuring that every single room in our building is now equipped with the latest and most suitable fire extinguishers in line with the latest regulations and requirements. Undoubtedly the biggest project we undertook last year was to replace every single light fixture with LED lighting, from the smallest cupboard light bulb to the extensive ceiling lights covering our main hall. By one estimate, this will reduce our annual carbon footprint by approximately 2.7 tonnes a year. At the end of the year, we installed a defibrillator on the outside of our building for use by the church and the community. The British Red Cross state that 'quick use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can lead to survival rates of 50% to 70%' for victims of cardiac arrest'. As a church we are very grateful for the individual donor who made provision of this defibrillator possible. In addition, we were grateful to Rochester Diocese for the provision of two significant grants towards the cost of the water heaters and LED lighting.

All these improvements to our 'fabric' helped ensure that St. Nicholas Church continued to be a welcoming space for our community as well as a place of worship. 2025 saw the Monday 'Tea, Cake and Chat' group begun by Val Richardson in 2024 continue to go from strength to strength, drawing in more and more members of our local community, and providing a vital space for friendship and companionship. In addition, the weekly games of 'Rummikub' have become increasingly competitive!

The St. Nicholas Community Larder continues to play a vital role in the lives of the many people who access this service. We gave out over 1032 food parcels in 2025, and in February 2026 we will have celebrated our 5th anniversary. We now have a large team of between 15-20 volunteers, collecting from Waitrose, Sainsbury's, the Co-op, Greggs and Brothers bakery. As grants and government funding for food banks have been cut over the years both at national and local authority level, we now do our own fundraising, including a very successful Quiz in 2025, and as of 2026 are contributing funds on a quarterly basis towards the running of the Transform Bromley Borough Food Hub.

A new initiative that was begun in May 2025 was a 'Gardening Club'. We are very grateful for the work of the 'Leamington Ladies WI' who for many years helped maintain the grounds at St. Nicholas Church. As they finally had to step down from the role towards the beginning of last year, we managed to pull together a small team of able volunteers who now meet fortnightly during the warmer months and less frequently during the winter, to help maintain our grounds. It has been a great pleasure to gather together with 4 or 5 other 'gardeners' of varying abilities, to take part in pruning, weeding, planting and generally helping keep the borders and grounds of St. Nicholas Church looking respectable. We have been grateful for the advice of our professional resident gardener, Ian Gillies, who helped advise us in the successful planting of daffodils around the edge of the car park. We finish each Gardening Club session with a short time of reading from the scriptures and prayer, while we recharge our batteries with a cup of tea or coffee. I am sometimes reminded that the Bible begins (in Genesis 1) and ends (in Revelation 22) in a garden! As it says in Revelation 22, 'the leaves of the tree are for ... healing' and there is certainly something therapeutic about gardening, at any level.

On a more sobering note, I was asked in 2025 to conduct 13 funerals. This is certainly more than I have normally conducted in recent years, but it is always a huge privilege to be alongside families at such a critical time, and I continue to believe that this is a vital service that the church can offer to the local community, remembering that God is 'close to the broken hearted' (Psalm 34). At the funerals of three of our own Church members, we sadly had to say goodbye to three people who had each played a key role in the life of St. Nicholas over many years – Beryl Couldridge, Rosemary Fordyce and Carol Gibbons. As we consider the faithful service of these saints, we are very aware of how much our current ministry is built on their legacy. During 2025 we also had our first service of 'renewal of baptism vows' for one of our Community Larder volunteers, and in September were delighted to see three of our young people confirmed at the parish Confirmation service at St. Giles. Throughout the year the seasons were marked by our usual activities – a Passover meal and the usual Easter Services, as well as the long-awaited return of the 'Pet Blessing' service in June, our ever popular 'Light and Bright' party, and a packed Christingle service at Christmas Eve with over 200 people in attendance.

As ever I owe a huge debt of gratitude to so many for their invaluable help at St. Nicholas. In particular I would like to thank Claire Couldridge, our indefatigable Church Warden, and Nick Jolliffe, Deputy Warden. A huge thank you is owed to Roger Allard, who after decades of service to St. Nicholas Church is finally stepping down as Treasurer. Thank you also to our Finance Team who will now be taking the reins - Richard Butterworth, Deputy Treasurer (and soon to be Treasurer), Brian and Lynda Allen our book-keeping team, and Jenny Fu, the most recent member of this team. I must also thank our lay ministers at St. Nicholas: Ian Gillies, our Reader with PTO, and Diane Stiff, our Pastoral Assistant. Thank you also to Jayne Calvert, our pianist, MU leader and lead volunteer at the Larder, to Val Richardson and the Tea and Coffee team, to Jackie Mason, Margie Gillies and the flower team, and to everyone who helps at Just Babies. Thank you to Katie Spreadbury who continues to oversee our social media presence with such dedication. Thank you also to the many volunteers who help with the children's work and the administration, giving up their free time. I am reminded of the words from Hebrews 6:10, 'God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them'.

Stephen Broadie
Associate Rector

CHILDREN'S REPORT AS PART OF THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

As mentioned in the Associate Rector's report last year, we are now hugely reliant on volunteers for much of the ministry of the Church. We continue to be incredibly grateful as a PCC to those volunteers who have been running Kids Club in particular. In 2025 we continued to use teaching materials based on Scripture Union's 'Splash' series, and as mentioned in the Associate Rector's report, we were delighted that three of our young people were Confirmed last September. 2025 also saw the beginning of our monthly 'Croissants and Craft' service. This is our All Age worship service where we serve pastries and enjoy a short time of song, story and prayer followed by crafts. We now include a short time of celebrating Communion as part of this service, and have grown a great team of willing volunteers, including two who now get to practise their skills of puppetry with our resident puppets 'Bill and Jill'! We have been delighted to welcome so many families and young children from around our community to this service, seeing an average attendance of over 50 during the Winter term, with around 80 people attending our Christmas 'Croissants and Craft'.

We once again saw excellent attendance at our Light and Bright party, and saw over 200 people attend our Christingle service in 2025, once again enjoying the spectacle of our very own 'human Christingle' (aka Michelle Felstead) in a bright orange blow up sumo suit along with assorted 'christingle' paraphernalia! The youth group 'Ignite' continued to meet during 2025, enjoying trips to Pavilion Bowling in Bromley, delivering leaflets around the parish, and one memorable visit to the 'all you can eat' buffet at the Bombay restaurant, Green Street Green. At the beginning of 2026, we have taken the Youth Group to visit HTB Onslow Square, a church connected to the 'Alpha Course' and we are looking forward to further planned church visits and social events, including a barbecue in the warmer months. The Just Babies group continues to provide a vital space of welcome and support for young parents and their babies.

As ever, I am incredibly grateful to the wide variety of people who help in so many ways at St Nicholas Church with the various babies, children's and youth activities. None of what we do would now be possible without volunteers, so there is no doubt that you are our most valued resource. We are continuing to pray that God will continue to lead and guide our children's and youth work going forward.

Stephen Broadie
Associate Rector

ST. GILES MUSIC

This year has seen another year of wonderful church music and I am enormously grateful to Ralph Barlow our Director of Music, for his inspiration and hard work in delivering beautiful and high quality music across a wide range of services. Needless to say this is all due to a creative partnership between Ralph, our choir members, and our organ scholar, Tom Blew. As a Parish we are very fortunate to have such a deep and rich partnership at work. I am also very grateful to our Organist, Clive Brearley, for his reliable and versatile playing at our 10.00 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. services plus at funerals and weddings as well.

I am pleased to say that this year we have gained three new members to our church choir and we are continuing to explore ways in which we can further attract people of all ages to participate in the musical life of St. Giles. As Rector of this Parish Church the maintenance and growth of music and the Anglican choral tradition continue to be a central priority for me. I am also delighted to say that a number of our young musicians have gone on to notable music careers and course of study at Oxford and Cambridge. This is a testament to the nurturing environment that St. Giles is proving to be for young musicians. It is good to know that St. Giles is making an important contribution to the wider musical life of the Church.

The Rector

ST. GILES FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

Our team of leaders continue to offer Sunday school sessions on a regular basis. They work collaboratively on a rota basis on a scheme of work that is sent out to them every term.

Last year I reported that it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract and maintain attendance of children and young people, as we compete with other offers on a Sunday morning. However, we do get positive feedback when children are able to attend, and it is good to know that families do feel welcome and valued at our church. Children and young people are an important and integral part of our congregation. They serve on our reading rota at the 10am and other major services and help by taking the offertory at 10am.

The main change to our Sunday morning offer since September, has been to run an 'All Age' Sunday school for anyone aged 3+. The scheme of work mentioned now includes extension activities for older children who may attend. We meet every Sunday morning except for 1st Sunday of the month.

Our last Youth Group meeting was a December meal at Ephesus in Orpington. At present we are looking forward to the Good Friday Family Service held in the churchyard. This is usually well attended by a large number of families.

Our Annual Children's Celebration Service is held in July and marks the end of the Sunday school year. All children and young people who attend church are thanked with either a book or small token of our appreciation. Last year the talk was about how our children are the beating heart of our church.

Christmas Eve services are always well attended and last year was no exception. The Sunday school led service included bible extracts and poems read by the children and young people. The talk, 'The Everlasting Gift' focused on the contrast between, albeit, lovely, but transient gifts we might receive at Christmas, and the everlasting gift of Jesus, Son of God. As is the tradition, the children donned their costumes and created a tableau.

On Christmas Day, children brought their presents to church to show the congregation.

This year, we look forward to the long-awaited refurbishment of the centre. This will mean a suspension of Sunday school during the period of building work. Hopefully, we will be able to relaunch with a 'big bang' when the time comes. As always, there will be children's activities at the back of church and an encouragement to take part with 'noisy silence.'

All-Age Worship, on the first Sunday of the month will continue (except for August). I am also aware that the Communion service on the 2nd Sunday of the month is being tweaked, offering a more streamlined approach for those who might struggle with children at a longer service. Our aim is to ensure that St Giles really is an 'all age' church, with something for everyone, even in the absence of Sunday school.

Finally, thank you to everyone involved in supporting our children and young people at St Giles Church. Yes, they are our today, but they are also our tomorrow.

Irene Dancer
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker

ST. GILES SAFEGUARDING REPORT

I am required to report annually to the church AGM that our churches have adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. I also report that all church groups have been approved by the relevant PCCs.

Our own Parish Safeguarding Policy is updated regularly and approved by PCC's. Copies are located in both churches, in St Giles Centre and on the parish website. There is also information there to support survivors of abuse.

Safeguarding is a regular item on the St Giles PCC agenda and included at all joint PCC meetings with St Nicholas. I have strong links with Stephen at St Nicholas and am grateful for his oversight and adherence to policy there as well as for his quick responses to any questions or requests for information I may have.

As Lead Recruiter I can confirm that all those who are required to have a DBS check (which includes a police check) have done so or are in the process of doing so. Both churches comply with the relevant guidance with regard to DBS. My thanks go to Jenny Wilkins at St Giles and Chris Deeks at St Nicholas for their support in achieving this.

Safeguarding training is required for all role holders in our churches and needs to be repeated/updated every three years (as does the DBS). Most people do this individually on their computer at home, but we have also run individual and group sessions for anyone who struggles with the technology. The PCC at St Giles has agreed that visiting bell ringers and musicians and singers should be made aware of our safeguarding policies and abide by them. At the time of writing appropriate notices are being prepared.

The Safeguarding dashboard is used as a tool to help me track compliance with safeguarding requirements for our churches. It is useful in highlighting areas that need to be focused on either immediately or which can become part of a longer term action plan. An action plan is presented to PCCs annually.

This year I resigned from the SEC group (safeguarding executive committee). Having served for a number of years, the time was right to pass this office on to someone else in the diocese.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this important work over the year. Safeguarding protocols and procedures are in place, hopefully so that we don't notice them or think of them as anything unusual. They become part of our church culture. As Christians, we have a special responsibility to be open and honest about these things. We strive to be the best that we can be, serving the vulnerable in listening, active and supportive communities.

Irene Dancer
Parish Safeguarding Officer/Lead Recruiter

ST. GILES FLOWER ARRANGERS REPORT

As well as our weekly flower displays, the church is beautifully decorated for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Posies are made for Mothering Sunday.

Organisation

There are approximately four meetings a year with Matthew when we discuss previous events and advise on future commitments.

The four teams take turns in organising the festivals when occasional flower arrangers are welcomed to help. Lynn Taylor deals with all bookings for the Book of Remembrance and special requests and Elizabeth Harriss-Orr with wedding bookings.

Accounts

Eddie Roberts has taken the role of treasurer since Autumn 2024. Congratulations to Eddie for being such an efficient book keeper for our accounts.

Recruitment

We are pleased to have welcomed several promising new members and are always looking for new volunteers.

Donations

We continue to receive regular donations from the congregation for the main flower festivals, the Book of Remembrance and special requests for windows and pedestals.

Costs

The cost of fresh flowers varies with the season. For festivals and weddings, we use a wholesale supplier. For most weeks we buy from supermarkets and occasionally a florist. To keep costs down we also make use of silk flowers when appropriate. We are fortunate that our members bring fresh foliage.

The budget for weekly flowers and festivals remains as low as can be managed and we have reduced the number of weekly arrangements to keep costs to a minimum. A budget for each festival is arranged with Matthew.

Recommendation

St Giles Church, carried out a fire risk assessment, by local fire and rescue authority in autumn 2025. As flower arrangers' equipment is inflammable, changes to storage were recommended. The advice was to buy fireproof bags to enable all equipment to be placed safely in these. The improvement has now been implemented.

Contact Details

Our details are available via the Parish website and magazine which also display photos of the festival flowers.

St. Giles Flower Arrangers

ST. GILES BELLRINGERS

2025 was a year of progress in the ringing chamber.

The bells have been rung almost every Sunday morning prior to the Family Service and additionally rung for practices approximately every other Monday evening, on most Tuesdays from 11.00am, often a quarter peal or sometimes a peal, and for weddings and funerals upon request. For a number of months in the middle of the year Chelsfield bells were out of action while spire works were carried out and so our Monday practice often hosted the Chelsfield ringers, too.

A record thirty six quarter peals were rung in 2025 (28 in 2024), and nine peals (8 in 2024).

In order to maintain a healthy band of ringers and replace those no longer ringing it is necessary to recruit and teach new ringers. Pleasingly in November 2024 we hosted an open evening for the Scouts and as a result of this we have a new young learner who is doing very well. Teaching sessions have been held on Monday evenings prior to the main practice and we now have three adult learners, one of whom is up to a standard sufficient to ring for Service on Sundays.

During the year we took delivery of a new set of bell ropes. Due to the possible stretch in the new ropes it is unwise to fit them all at once so we've fitted two at a time and now six out of eight bells have had the new ropes installed so far.

Frustratingly the Church clock ceased to work in the summer of 2025 due to a failed motor. Inspections have been carried out by clock companies and Smiths Clocks of Derby are now instructed to carry out repairs.

As ever, thanks go to the members of the band who turn up regularly and enthusiastically to ring.

Nick Wilkins

ST. GILES SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We hope that St Giles offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere that encourages our congregations and the wider community to become involved with their local church. Throughout the year, we try to provide refreshments after services, giving people the opportunity to meet, talk, and build friendships. Mother's Day marks the beginning of our regular refreshments season, with a cheerful posy of daffodils adding a special touch to the celebration, thanks to our Flower Arrangers.

The winter months can make this more challenging, when colder weather makes it less appealing for volunteers to stand outside serving tea and coffee and, of course, serving in the rain is simply not an attractive proposition for volunteers or congregation.

Nevertheless, refreshments are always served after the Thursday service, and all are warmly welcome. Our sincere thanks go to those who regularly help: Marilyn Reeves, Linda Crisp, Carole White, Sheila Munns, Eileen Dixon and Sue Rennie.

After evening services, we often offer wine, juice and light snacks, along with the opportunity to enjoy our wonderful choir in a relaxed and sociable setting.

Coach trips are always popular, and we have seen an increase in support from people who do not come to church on a regular basis. The year started with a trip to Brighton in May, followed by our annual trip to Broadstairs in July, a somewhat chilly day on the beach for some. The end of the year saw a trip to the Canterbury Christmas market to get everyone in the right mood.

Our annual Summer Fete in June is always well attended and proves to be the biggest fund raiser of the year. Although it requires a great deal of hard work, it is always worthwhile. This year we raised £6,222, helped enormously by the generous sponsorship that covered the initial set-up costs. We have continued to foster a garden party atmosphere, with plenty of tables and chairs inviting people to sit, relax and enjoy excellent food, a refreshing glass of Pimm's, and superb entertainment.

So many people help at this event that it is almost impossible to list everyone, so erring on the side of caution, I can only say that this event would not take place without the unstinting help of sponsors, donors, entertainers and volunteers.

Planning is already under way for this year's fete on Saturday 13th June, so put the date in your diary. Do look for the requests for prizes, gazebos and help. Fingers crossed for good weather this year. It makes all the difference to the performers and to our guests.

Harvest Supper incorporates a Barn Dance, with the Ian Petrie band providing the music and the calling; an opportunity to join in or just watch the antics of the dancers. A two-course meal is served and is always much appreciated. It is a true family occasion, and we are building a loyal band of regular attendees.

The year concludes with refreshments in the Village Hall after the Nine Lessons & Carols service. Mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine for everyone to wish each other a Happy Christmas.

All these events help to strengthen our sense of community, and we warmly encourage those beyond our regular congregation to get involved. We are anticipating that this coming year's renovation of the St Giles Centre will offer us additional opportunities to develop and host a wider range of events for our community.

Volunteers are the key to successful social activities, and we are deeply grateful for the time and energy so generously given. There is always room for more helping hands.

Equally important are our participants. We need your support — do come along when you can, bring family and friends, and if you are unable to attend, please consider sponsoring or donating. And if you have the time and enthusiasm, we would be delighted to welcome you to the team.

Carol Fryer

MOTHERS' UNION

Another year has gone by, and Mothers' Union is still thriving in the Parish of Farnborough!

In 2026, we will celebrate 150 years since Mothers' Union was founded in the small parish Church of Old Alresford, Hampshire by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife with a bold vision. She believed that women, regardless of class or status, could come together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the Church.

From that single spark of an idea, a global movement was born- and Mothers' Union has grown to 4 million members across 84 countries. As we look to the future our members will continue working to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities around the world. At the heart of everything we do will remain our unwavering belief that faith and compassion can transform lives.

As we look ahead to this remarkable milestone, we invite you to be part of it. Whether you're passionate about social justice, prayer, community outreach, or simply want to connect with people who care, there will be a way for you to join us and join in.

For 150 years, we have been making a meaningful difference in the lives of millions worldwide through our unique, faith-based and community-led approach to tackling poverty, injustice and violence. We understand that these challenges are deeply interconnected and as such, our response is holistic, while confronting the systematic causes and consequences of marginalisation and oppression. All these years later, our beliefs and aims are still very relevant today.

Since Covid in 2020, our monthly Monday evening meetings have again been held by zoom, which has proved very popular with our branch members, and has also enabled members from other branches, both near and far, to join in these Evening Prayers with our Farnborough branch. Sharing faith and fellowship through prayer is very important to us all, and underpins the aims and objectives of Mothers' Union we share together.

We follow the Church's year, and most of the prayers we use are taken from The Mothers' Union website, an excellent resource to share together.

In December we again held our zoom service supporting the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence entitled, "No More 1 in 3", and lit candles in our homes to show solidarity with our friends who have sadly been affected, both in the UK and overseas. Many suffer in silence and are undetected in their wider community. Mothers' Union joins each year with other organisations from approximately 187 countries who participate in this campaign to raise awareness of, and call for, an end to gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies.

Our group is currently participating in this year's Make a Mother's Day campaign. The 2026 theme is entitled, "Give the gift of BELONGING this Mothering Sunday." Belonging through Parenting and Community Support, and guided by faith and compassion, Mothers' Union supports parents and young mothers to build families where everyone belongs. Through community programmes and parenting training, families are equipped to grow in confidence, connection and care. Mothers' Union believes ethical gifts change lives.

Mothers' Union still supports the AFIA project, (Away From it All), funding holidays for families who wouldn't otherwise have a holiday. Due to the tremendous cost of each holiday, day trips out are now being considered.

Again, this year, Farnborough Branch has been involved with the MU Prison Project, at Rochester men's prison. We were asked to give prisoners filled toiletries bags for when they were released from prison. We have been able to provide another 20 bags this year, which were very gratefully received, and we are hoping to be able to provide more in the future. Each bag includes a card wishing them well, from Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union. We have also provided a few rucksacks which, again, were given to prisoners on their release from prison. At Easter, all 750 inmates receive a chocolate Easter egg from Mothers' Union, and we have again supported this project. At Christmas, each prisoner gets a pair of socks, and a Christmas card, which we were involved with as well. These small gifts help to make the prisoners feel loved and valued, whatever their crime.

Our afternoon meetings continue in person on the 3rd Thursday of each month at St. Nicholas Church, at 1.30 pm, where we sometimes have speakers, join in reflective services, or meet for prayer and fellowship with refreshments.

We are very pleased to have returned to St. Giles Church once a month on the 1st Thursday morning at the 10am Communion Service, where we all share the Mothers' Union prayer together.

Many of our members continue to knit colourful squares, which are then sewn up into blankets, and distributed to people in need. Again, this past year, several baby cot blankets have been given to SCBU at the PRUH, along with cardigans, hats, booties, canula mitts for the pre-term and sickly babies needing care there.

We have recently become involved with a local women's refuge. We hope to supply them with practical items for when they are rehoused in the near future.

On 10th June, we have our 150th Celebratory Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, where our World-Wide President, Kathleen Snow, and all the Zonal Trustees, will be in attendance. Several of our members from Farnborough branch will also be attending this service.

The following day, there will be an Annual Gathering in The Emmanuel Centre, next to Mary Sumner House, the headquarters of the Mothers' Union.

Closer to home, on Tuesday 23rd June, Bishop Jonathan will be giving us the use of his garden in Bishop's Court, Rochester for a 150th celebration party and family day.

If you are interested in hearing more about Mothers' Union, or coming along to our Farnborough branch, either by zoom on a Monday evening or in person on a Thursday afternoon please contact Jayne Calvert on 07780664340 or by e mail at jayne_calvert@hotmail.com We are a very friendly group and would love to have some new members!

Jayne Calvert

ST. GILES WEBSITE

Farnborough Parish website:

www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk

The website has continued to provide information to parishioners and others about our church, its history, and events both past and upcoming.

As well as the regular services and events taking place during the year, the website this year posted many photos taken at our VE Day 80 year anniversary celebrations and flower festival in May, fate and garden party in June. and harvest festival.

The website has around 100 pages, although this fluctuates during the year. The busiest months for access were May and August 2025. With over 300 visits per day, visits and pages accessed over the year were 5-10% higher than in 2024.

Related websites:

Farnborough Village History

www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk

Farnborough and the Railway

www.farnborough-kent-railways.org.uk

Nick Reynolds
nickrstgiles@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST. GILES

The Friends of St. Giles is composed of Church members, villagers and those who have moved away. We support the Church in any way that we can.

Our annual fundraising Quiz at the Woodman was a very happy evening and raised £438.

The Committee meets regularly and we sometimes use Zoom to keep in touch with our financial advisor. We thank the Committee, and particularly Roger Alard our Treasurer and Sue Ellis our Secretary. Our AGM was held at the Chairman's house.

We have lost several of our very loyal members this year. We particularly miss Barrie Walker and Anne Vincent. We also remember Andrew Hunt.

The 250 Club is thriving. If you would like to be a member it costs £1 per annum and details are available from Sue Ellis on 07715 860504.

Julia Hoadley, Chairman

PARISH MAGAZINE

Let me start with some good news. The number of subscribers has risen by just over 3% since this time last year. We now have one hundred subscribers for the hard copy and fifteen who receive the magazine by email. We have also increased our advertisers this year thanks to some great work by Gill. So let's hope the upward trend continues throughout 2026.

I would also like to thank Paul who organises the distribution of the magazines and looks after the emailed ones and the volunteers who willingly deliver the magazines.

As I mentioned last year, I am very grateful to the small band of regulars who provide interesting articles, but there have been months recently when even with this help I have struggled for content. It would be great to have a selection of articles that I could keep in hand for quiet months, and I am sure there are budding writers out there who could share some stories but just need a little encouragement. So please put your thinking caps on or persuade a friend or relative to write something.

I wonder what you do with your copy of the magazine. Do you put it in the recycling? Try passing it on to a friend or neighbour instead. Particularly if you think there is something in there that may be of interest to them.

I have a few ideas that might get us a few more subscribers, but I can't do this on my own, so if any of you have any ideas, please drop me an email to farnboroughparishmag@gmail.com or leave a note in my pigeonhole. Let's try and increase our subscribers by 10% before next year's AGM. That would be a great result.

Gail Low, Editor

9. CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER KENT**

**ST GILES THE ABBOT
ST NICHOLAS**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

Incumbent:	Revd. Matthew Hughes
Associate Rector:	Revd. Stephen Broadie

**Principal Bankers;
Barclays Bank Plc
Santander UK Plc**

**Independent Examiner:
Affinia, Accountant**

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER KENT**

**ST GILES THE ABBOT
ST NICHOLAS**

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**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	128,999	500	29,401	158,900	163,084
Activities for generating funds	66,213	-	15	66,228	64,242
Investment income	19,028	8,859	-	27,887	38,506
Incoming resources from charitable activities	33,044	-	112,976	146,020	73,380
Other incoming resources	198	-	-	198	4,828
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	247,482	9,359	142,392	399,233	344,040
RESOURCES USED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	9,109	-	146	9,255	15,853
Charitable activities	232,368	33,543	45,994	311,905	307,837
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	241,477	33,543	46,140	321,160	323,690
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources pre transfers	6,005	(24,184)	96,252	78,073	20,350
Transfers between funds	(6,830)	0	6,830	-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in funds	(825)	(24,184)	103,082	78,073	20,350
Total funds brought forward	1,778,703	756,452	311,571	2,846,726	2,826,376
Total funds carried forward	1,777,878	732,268	414,653	2,924,799	2,846,726

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments	10,005	5,354
No notice accounts	428,429	413,510
Notice Account	94,054	88,721
Cash at bank and in hand	216,612	166,741
CCLA Funds	<u>29,785</u>	<u>23,642</u>
	778,885	697,968
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>-9,580</u>	<u>-6,735</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>769,305</u>	<u>691,233</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	<u>2,924,799</u>	<u>2,846,727</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,777,878	1,778,703
DESIGNATED FUNDS	732,268	756,452
RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>414,653</u>	<u>311,571</u>
	<u>2,924,799</u>	<u>2,846,726</u>

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

Rector

Churchwarden

Financial Accountant

Hon Treasurer

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

1 Form of Accounts and Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") FRS 102.

The Parish does not make payments for the preparation of the annual accounts and PCC trustees are not remunerated. A nominal payment of £600 was made to the independent financial examiner.

2 Diocesan Contribution

The Diocesan Contribution is an annual contribution from each parish towards Diocesan expenditure based upon what the parish can afford and includes a contribution towards clergy costs (including stipends) which are financed by the Diocese directly.

3 Policy on Reserves

The Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 require PCCs to set out their policy on Reserves. Designated and restricted reserves are established for particular, specified purposes. General reserves are held to provide for ongoing cash demands and to provide for unforeseen emergencies.

4 Parish Property Assets

- i) Consecrated properties are excluded from the accounts under Sect. 96 (2)(a) of the Charities Act, 1993. This includes the Church and churchyard.
- ii) Movable Church furnishings are held on special trust by the Wardens on behalf of the PCC and are excluded from the accounts. Such items are recorded in the parish inventory which may be inspected by appointment.
- iii) The Rectory building is the responsibility of the Diocese and therefore excluded.

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

4 Parish Property Assets (cont)

- i) The St. Giles Centre is not consecrated property. It falls within the PCC's trusteeship and is required by the Charities Act to be included in the accounts. It is recorded at its revalued amount at 31st December 2012.

Depreciation of the Centre building has not been provided in these accounts as any charge is not considered to be material on the basis that this asset has a very long useful economic life or a residual value based on its current value which is not materially different from its carrying value.

Any centre contents are not considered to be of material value.

- ii) The Church Hall (St Nicholas) is included at its last insured valuation. The Church House is included at a valuation based upon an estimate of the cost to rebuild it in the event of its total loss.

Depreciation has not been provided for either property based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

- iii) An interest in a freehold property ("12 Wentworth Close") is held on trust by the Diocese of Rochester for the beneficial ownership of St Giles and is included in these accounts at its initial probate valuation as a Freehold Property. This valuation is informally reviewed annually to assess whether it remains reasonable.

Depreciation is not provided based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

5 Inter Church Transfers

Inter-Church financial transfers are dealt with by offset during the year within the two accounts in order to avoid duplication of income and expenditure at consolidation.

6 Friends of St Giles

The Friends of St Giles is a registered charity and accounts separately to the Charity Commissioners.

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

Flower Fund

The Flower Fund Treasurer operates a separate bank account and draws down the flower fees from St. Giles from time to time as required. The Fund accounts are integrated within these financial statements.

8 Risk Policy

The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 require the PCC to set out its policy on Risk Management. The PCC has already undertaken Child Protection, Health and Safety and Fire Risk Assessments. So far as concerns financial risk, controls regulate the banking arrangements including online banking and the issue of cheques (two signatures). Cashflow is managed monthly and budgetary controls are in place.

For the broader liabilities the PCC has comprehensive insurance with the specialist insurance company, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Property assets were subject to a full survey and valuation by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company during 2012.

9 Stakeholder Pensions

The PCC has registered with the Legal and General Assurance Society as its stakeholder Pension provider. To date no eligible member of staff has expressed an interest in joining the Scheme.

10 Garden of Remembrance (Wall Fund and Plaques)

The PCC is responsible for administration of the wall memorials scheme which commenced in 2006. Funds received from the sale of each memorial provide for the cost of an installed, engraved plaque, a contribution towards the cost of building new walls and a contribution towards the general upkeep of the churchyard.

11 Independent Examination of the Accounts

Affinia, provided an independent examination of the financial statements.

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

INCOMING RESOURCES		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	2(a)	79,774	500	29,188	109,462	114,855
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	12,707	-	15	12,722	11,397
Investment income	2(c)	16,638	8,859	-	25,497	35,356
Incoming resources from charitable a	2(d)	32,250	-	112,976	145,226	73,254
Other incoming resources	2(e)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		141,369	9,359	142,179	292,907	234,862
RESOURCES USED						
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(a)	7,567	-	146	7,713	6,811
Charitable activities	3(b)	138,320	33,543	45,781	217,644	200,812
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		145,887	33,543	45,927	225,357	207,623
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before trans	-	4,518	24,184	96,252	67,550	27,239
Transfers between funds	-	6,830	-	6,830	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in funds	-	11,348	24,184	103,082	67,550	27,239
Total funds brought forward		288,724	756,452	311,571	1,356,747	1,329,508
Total funds carried forward		277,376	732,268	414,653	1,424,297	1,356,747

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025**

	Note:	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Church Centre Building	8	211,000	211,000
Freehold Property	8	<u>540,000</u>	<u>540,000</u>
		<u>751,000</u>	<u>751,000</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	10	5,745	3,508
No notice deposits	9	383,602	372,754
Notice accounts	9	92,684	88,721
Cash at bank and in hand	9	<u>197,946</u>	<u>146,500</u>
		<u>679,977</u>	<u>611,483</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: falling due within one year	10	<u>(6,680)</u>	<u>(5,735)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>673,297</u>	<u>605,748</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES		<u>1,424,297</u>	<u>1,356,748</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		277,376	288,724
DESIGNATED FUNDS	11	732,268	756,452
RESTRICTED FUNDS	11	<u>414,653</u>	<u>311,571</u>
		<u>1,424,297</u>	<u>1,356,748</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

Rector

Churchwarden

Financial Accountant

Hon Treasurer

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

1 Diocesan Contribution

The Diocesan Contribution amounted to £70,600 (2024: £70,600)).

2. Legacies & Donations

One legacy of £500 was received during the year (2024: NIL)).

3. Donations and appeals amounted to £11,677 (2024: £11,455)).

4. Gift Aid Donations

Gift aid donations amounted to £45,772 (2024: 47,422) and income tax recoveries amounted to £14,720 (2024: £13,302).

5 Investment Income

Included within Investment Income of £25,497 (2024: £35,356) is rental income from the letting of Wentworth Close of £10,845 (2024: £21,418).

6 Costs and expenses

Total costs and expenses for the year amounted to £225,357 (2024: £207,623).

7 Staff costs

The following salary and wages were expenses during the year:

	2025	2024
	£'s	£'s
Parish secretary	20,622	19,700
Church and centre cleaners	<u>4,292</u>	<u>3,746</u>
	<u>£24,914</u>	<u>£23,446</u>

No employer's national insurance was paid as this was less than the annual Government allowance of £10,000 p.a.

In addition, a self employed organist and choir master are paid retainer fees, and wedding and funeral fees for services.

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

- i) The Church Centre is shown at its formal insured valuation of £211,000.

The Church Centre contents are considered to be of no material value.

- ii) The freehold interest in the residential property ("12 Wentworth Close") is recorded as a Freehold Property at its probate valuation of £540,000. This valuation has been reconsidered for the year end and is believed to remain an appropriate carrying value.

The property has been let and rental income included within Investment income.

9 Cash at Bank and Notice Accounts

Current accounts held with Santander and Barclays amount to £197,946 (2024: £146,500).

No notice accounts comprise the following:

	2025	2024
	£'s	£'s
Barclays	-	-
Diocese of Rochester	261,641	253,094
Barclays Reward	51,950	51,276
Nationwide	69,609	68,141
Flower Fund	402	243
Total:	£383,602	£372,754

A balance of £92,684 (2024: £88,721) is held with Cambridge & Counties Bank at 95 days notice.

10 Balance Sheet Debtors and Creditors

	2025	2024
	£'s	£'s
Debtors and prepayments	<u>5,745</u>	<u>3,508</u>
Creditors and accruals	<u>6,680</u>	<u>5,735</u>

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

11 Analysis of Funds

The following Designated Funds were held at 31st December 2025:

Designated funds:	2025	2024
	£'s	£'s
DHL legacy	4,000	4,000
Church building	31,447	31,447
DG Legacy	5,240	17,578
DL Legacy	95,367	106,107
DL Legacy ("Wentworth Close")	540,000	540,000
Churchyard	14,076	15,671
RH Legacy	1,500	1,500
Mason re plaques	11,957	11,956
Altar Front	2,679	2,679
CM Legacy	1,000	1,000
RAB Legacy	5,000	5,000
RO Legacy	10,000	10,000
WO Legacy	5,000	5,000
GB Legacy	2,500	2,500
Organ Scholarship	600	0
Memorial Renovation	1,360	1360
Altar Linen	455	564
Organ fund	0	0
Other	89	89
Total designated funds:	£732,268	£756,452

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

Analysis of Funds (con't)

The following Restricted Funds were held at 31st December 2025:

Restricted funds:	2025	2024
	£'s	£'s
Church Upkeep	87,908	87,908
Blank Plaques & Stonemason	33,153	33,004
Benefact Trust – Centre Ren.	11,000	0
Churchyard	105,357	99,219
TOL legacy	0	112
BM legacy	6,000	6,000
Bell fund	1,398	2,143
Gallery Carpet	2,086	2,086
Gaines Future Burial	463	0
Wall Fund	35,184	32,663
Choir Robes	1024	1,023
Music	3,077	1,540
MON Legacy	739	671
Hayley Price Memorial	854	854
Centre renovation	79,232	22,656
Centre notice boards	500	500
Junior Choir	168	284
Flower fund	6,082	4,274
Magazine fund	13,511	14,336
Memorial Renovation	250	0
Montgomery Fund	671	671
National Lottery – Centre Ren.	19,500	0
Ousley trust for Choir	4,000	0
Organ Fund	1,252	0
Post	878	8
Prayer Books	319	319
Sunday School	224	223
Verge	2,662	1,544
Other Funds	198	198
Total restricted funds:	£416,950	£311,571

ST GILES THE ABBOT – 2025 ACCOUNTS

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
2(a) Voluntary income					
Gift aid	45,767.40		5.00	45,772	47,422
Churchyard donations (from Wall fund)	346.26		4,645.68	4,992	10,039
Tax recoverable (Gift Aid)	14,720.44			14,720	13,302
Postage			223.00	223	951
Loose plate collections	9,081.26			9,081	9,284
Collections - weddings, funerals, baptisms etc	964.84			965	528
Secular charities			459.20	459	929
Donations & appeals	6,966.53		4,709.83	11,677	11,455
Legacies - Stringer		500.00		500	-
Other planned giving - non gift aid	1,239.16			1,239	1,635
Relief Development Agencies			164.00	164	325
Future Burial payment			463.00	463	-
Overseas Churches			20.00	20	446
Churchyard donations	4.85		13,189.46	13,194	12,779
Giving (Church boxes)	634.21			634	547
Maintenance of graves				-	750
Flower Fund			5,058.92	5,059	4,117
Memorial Renovation			250.00	250	146
Other	50			50	200
	79,774	500	29,188	109,462	114,855
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Summer Fair	8,728	-	-	8,728	8,067
Other Parish events	3,979	-	15	3,994	3,330
	12,707	-	15	12,722	11,397
2(c) Investment income					
Rental income from Freehold Property	1,986	8,859	-	10,845	21,418
Dividends & interest	14,652		-	14,652	13,938
	16,638	8,859	-	25,497	35,356
2(d) Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Fees - funerals	20,611			20,611	19,268
Magazine income & sales	1,830		4,065	5,895	7,537
Centre Hire	560			560	
Fees - weddings	446			446	144
Fees - wall fund			2,415	2,415	4,620
Fees - memorials			5,371	5,371	9,540
Fees - blank plaques	- 152		182	30	435
Fees - book of Remembrance	484			484	423
Fees for verger			2,065	2,065	1,860
Fees for plot	7,340			7,340	3,090
Centre Renovation	444		94,878	95,322	25,867
Other	687		4,000	4,687	470
	32,250	-	112,976	145,226	73,254
2(e) Other incoming resources					
Energy support	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	141,369	9,359	142,179	292,907	234,862

ST GILES THE ABBOT – 2025 ACCOUNTS

RESOURCES USED	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
3(a) Costs of generating funds					
Costs of applying for grants	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of events, fetes etc	7,567	-	146	7,713	6,811
	7,567	-	146	7,713	6,811
Charitable activities					
Diocesan contribution	70,600			70,600	70,600
Parish secretary	20,622			20,622	19,700
Parish office - stationery, post, telephone	1,467		1,853	3,320	4,220
Parish office - computer				-	667
Parish office - photocopier	1,739			1,739	1,465
Rector's personal expenses	2,220			2,220	2,220
Rector's church expenses	849			849	1,324
Council tax - rectory	3,389			3,389	3,232
Internal decoration - rectory	568			568	401
Water rates - rectory	350			350	864
Rector's telephone	523			523	490
Churchyard - contracted services			11,696	11,696	11,713
Rectory alarm	117			117	117
War Memorial Wall redecoration				-	-
Removal of notice boardss				-	-
Organists	4,466			4,466	5,828
Choir master		5,280		5,280	5,340
Organ scholarship		2,025		2,025	600
Parish magazine expenses			6,721	6,721	6,305
St Giles centre costs	5,640			5,640	5,692
St Giles Centre - Renovation			7,823	7,823	4,784
Expenses Wentworth Close	1,986	19,599		21,585	7,181
Giving - Secular charities			459	459	929
Giving - Home missions/other charities	40			40	10
Churchyard - stonemasons costs			7,598	7,598	11,375
Junior Choir fund	33	890	1,911	2,834	3,180
Church maintenance	2,837			2,837	309
Administration	2,279			2,279	2,224
Giving - Relief Development Agencies			164	164	325
Giving - Missionary societies			20	20	446
Altar & services	599	110	193	902	609
Gifts	1,069			1,069	1,255
Other education - youth work				-	68
Verger			754	754	316
Church running costs (electric/gas/water)	2,205			2,205	2,409
Visiting clergy	2,125			2,125	1,823
Church cleaning (wages & expenses)	3,452			3,452	3,020
Church insurance	1,725	273		1,998	1,397
Churchyard - running costs		1,596		1,596	2,083
Organ/piano tuning			1,248	1,248	1,189
Sunday school & Lollipop	323			323	450
Cushions				-	-
Music & Music equipment	2,907	3,145		6,052	1,834
Church alarm & telephone	971			971	955
Card reader	2,783			2,783	107
Flower Fund			3,251	3,251	2,595
				-	-
Choir eqpt & scholarships		625		625	3,500
Bell Fund			2,090	2,090	336
Carpark resurfacing				-	5,000
Other Costs	436			436	324
	138,320	33,543	45,781	217,644	200,812
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	145,887	33,543	45,927	225,357	207,623

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. NICHOLAS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

INCOME:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Fixed Assets	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from Donors	49,225	-		49,225	47,967
Other Voluntary Income	-	213		213	262
Activities for generating funds	53,506	-		53,506	52,845
Incoming resources from Charitable activities	794	-		794	126
Other Ordinary Income	198	-		198	4,828
Income from Investment	2,390	-		2,390	3,150
TOTAL INCOME	106,113	213	-	106,326	109,178
EXPENDITURE:					
Grants	4,407	213		4,620	15
Church Expenditure	86,800	-		86,800	90,188
Costs of generating funds	1,542	-		1,542	9,042
Management and Administration	2,841	-		2,841	16,822
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	95,590	213	-	95,803	116,067
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	10,523	0	0	10,523	(6,889)
Gains on fixed assets					-
Net Movement in Funds	10,523	0	0	10,523	(6,889)
Balances b/fwd at 1st Jan 2025	85,485	-	1,404,494	1,489,979	1,496,868
Balances c/fwd at 31st December 2025	96,008	-	1,404,494	1,500,502	1,489,979
Check:	0		0	0	
Check:	0	0	0	0	0

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. NICHOLAS**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Fixed Assets Church Hall	1,166,494	1,166,494
Church House	238,000	238,000
	<u>1,404,494</u>	<u>1,404,494</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and Prepayments	4,260	1,846
Short Term Deposits	44,827	39,431
Deposit with Diocese	1,370	1,325
CCLA	29,785	23,642
Cash at Bank and in Hand	18,666	20,241
	<u>98,908</u>	<u>86,485</u>
LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Mission Charity Giving and Welcare	(2,900)	
Community Larder Designated Fund		(1,000)
	<u>96,008</u>	<u>85,485</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	<u>1,500,502</u>	<u>1,489,979</u>
NET ASSETS		
REPRESENTED BY:		
PROPERTY RESERVES	1,404,494	1,404,494
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	96,008	85,485
DESIGNATED FUNDS	-	-
RESTRICTED FUNDS	-	-
	<u>1,500,502</u>	<u>1,489,979</u>

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH KENT ST NICHOLAS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST
DECEMBER 2025

1a Funds

The income in the Restricted Funds of £213 is the £213 collected at the Christingle Service for the Children's Society.

1b TAX EFFICIENT GIVING

The total gift aid tax due for the year amounts to £8856 - £7506 Gift Aid and £1350 under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme introduced from 6 April 2013. £8172 has already been received. The balance of £684 for December is a debtor in the accounts at 31 December and was received in January and early February 2026.

1c FIXED ASSETS

The valuations of the Church Hall and Church House shown in the Balance Sheet are the latest valuations that are available. The valuation of £1,166,494 for the Church Hall is the sum insured as at renewal in December 2015. Since then the policy has been on a different basis with losses covered up to a specified sum. The valuation of £238000 for Church House is the figure included in the quinquennial report, dated March 2017, as being the sum necessary to reinstate the house in the event of total loss. These figures will not be changed in future as it is understood that any new figures would have to be supported by a professional valuation and it is not considered to be of any benefit to incur this additional expenditure on a regular basis.

1d DEBTORS (UNRESTRICTED FUNDS)

2025	2024
£	£
4260	1846

The debtors at 31 December 2025 of £4260 is the Gift Aid Tax due in respect of December 2025 and £3576 due from Praetorium, the Hall Lettings Company, in respect of December 2025 hall lettings. These sums have been received in full, £3871 in January and £389 on 3 February 2026.

1e LIABILITIES

2025	2024
£	£
2900	Nil

The liabilities are the Mission Charity Giving and Welcare donations agreed by the St Nicholas PCC on 27 January 2026.

1f STAFF COSTS

Following the redundancy of the posts of Church Administrator and the Children and Family Worker in 2024 there have been no staff directly employed at St Nicholas. Cleaning services have been provided since June 2024 by a self employed contractor.

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH KENT ST NICHOLAS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2 INCOME RESOURCES

	Unrestricted General £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
2a Incoming resources from donors				
Planned Giving:-				
Gift Aid	25,831		25,831	26,745
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid	7,506		7,506	8,635
Other planned giving	2,142		2,142	2,100
Donations, collections and offerings	7,761		7,761	7,855
Gift Aid Small Donations	1,350		1,350	1,919
Legacies	0		0	0
Diocesan Grant - new water heaters in toilets	830		830	0
Diocesan Grant - new LED lighting	3,270		3,270	0
Easter Activity & Light & Bright Party (Messy Church 2024)	402		402	587
Ignite	133		133	126
	<u>49,225</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>49,225</u>	<u>47,967</u>
2b Other voluntary incoming resources				
Childrens Society		213	213	262
		<u>213</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>262</u>
2c Activities for generating funds				
Hall Lettings	46,258		46,258	42,409
Parent and Toddler Group	0		0	2,789
Holiday Club	0		0	692
Spring Fair	0		0	2,348
Autumn Toy & Cake Sale, Sale of Jams & Sponsored Walk	1,174		1,174	0
Christmas Raffle	1,116		1,116	1,007
Tea, Cake & Chat Afternoon Donations	2,650		2,650	1,621
Christmas Lunch & Passover Meal	885		885	910
Community Larder Incl Quiz Night	1,423		1,423	1,069
	<u>53,506</u>		<u>53,506</u>	<u>52,845</u>
2d Income from investment				
Diocesan deposit interest & CCLA	1,241		1,241	1,443
CCLA	1,143		1,143	1,633
Bank interest	6		6	74
	<u>2,390</u>		<u>2,390</u>	<u>3,150</u>
2e Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Fees - Funerals	794		794	126
	<u>794</u>		<u>794</u>	<u>126</u>
2f Other ordinary incoming resources				
Sundry Refreshments	0		0	44
Easy Fundraising Commission	148		148	194
Insurance Claims	0		0	4,436
Associate Rector's Discretionary Fund	50		50	0
Miscellaneous Income			0	154
	<u>198</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>4,828</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>106,113</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>106,326</u>	<u>109,178</u>

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH KENT ST NICHOLAS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 CONTINUED

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted General £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL	
			2025 £	2024 £
3a Grants				
Missionary and charitable giving:-				
Church overseas:-				
Church missionary societies	1,125		1,125	
Home missions and other church societies	2,750		2,750	-300
Secular charities	532	213	745	315
	<u>4,407</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>4,620</u>	<u>15</u>
3b Directly relating to the work of the Church				
Ministry - Pledged Offer	48,552		48,552	44,928
Ministry - Working expenses	1,257		1,257	978
Ministry - Housing costs	7,480		7,480	14,488
Children & family worker	0			2,263
Church upkeep of services	1,077		1,077	1,136
Training and education costs	807		807	822
Church/Hall running expenses	16,023		16,023	15,537
Church/Hall maintenance and repairs	3,999		3,999	2,199
Church/Hall major improvements	7,605		7,605	7,837
	<u>86,800</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>86,800</u>	<u>90,188</u>
3c Costs of generating funds				
Hall lettings	135		135	0
Parent and Toddler Group expenses	0		0	6,661
Holiday Club	0		0	659
Spring Fair/Christmas Raffle expenses	68		68	180
Community lunches/Passover Meal	478		478	366
Tea, Cake & Chat Afternoon	0		0	142
Community larder	861		861	1,034
	<u>1,542</u>		<u>1,542</u>	<u>9,042</u>
3d Church management and administration				
Printing, postage and stationery	1,367		1,367	1,584
Publicity	830		830	699
Church Administrator - salary & redundancy	0		0	13,550
Sundry expenditure	644		644	989
	<u>2,841</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,841</u>	<u>16,822</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>95,590</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>95,803</u>	<u>116,067</u>

There were no other disclosable transactions in respect of PCC members, persons closely connected with them or other related parties.

Honorary Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Giles the Abbot, Farnborough

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 1 to 18, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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

Signed:

Spencer Clewley
Affinia, Accountants

27 March 2026

Accounts

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT and ST. NICHOLAS

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 11th MAY 2025 - 4.30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYERS

May this meeting be in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING: 2 Corinthians 4: 7-18

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

PRAYERS

Leader: O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith: bless our Bishops Jonathan and Simon, and other clergy, and all your people. Grant that your word may be truly preached and truly heard, your sacraments be faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: God our Father, graciously hallow with your blessing our Parish churches of St. Giles and St. Nicholas. May they be places where the sorrowing find comfort and the tempted strength; where the lonely find fellowship and the sinner forgiveness; where the faithful find grace, and all offer you a holy worship; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on all who share in the life and work of the churches of St. Giles and St. Nicholas: in the ministry of word

and sacrament, in teaching and pastoral care, in service to the diocese, the community, and those in need, in ecumenical fellowship and co-operation. We pray for all members of the congregations, that in their varied callings they may advance your kingdom and bear witness to your love, shown in you Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Almighty God, you have made us members of Christ and of his Church, and have taught us through him that it is more blessed to give than to receive: make us truly thankful for all your goodness; help us to deepen our commitment to you as stewards of our time, talents, and money; and guide us in all things to know and do your will, for the honour and glory of your name.

All: Amen.

Leader: Heavenly Father, assist us in our efforts to make contact with the homes and people of our parish by means of the Parish magazine, posters, leaflets, and other literature. Grant that our publicity may not be misleading, or unworthy, or trite, but may truly represent us as your people, and commend him who is our good news, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS AND DEPUTIES

Churchwardens	Andrew Bailey	(St. Giles)
	Claire Couldridge	(St. Nicholas)
Deputy Wardens	Peter Russell	) St. Giles - 8.00 a.m.
	Sue Rennie	) St. Giles - 10.00 a.m.
	Sally Attwood	) St. Giles - 11.15 a.m.
	Philip Lovelock	) St. Giles - 6.30 p.m.
	Sheila Munns	) St. Giles - Thursdays 10.00 a.m.
	Nick Jolliffe	) St. Nicholas

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 28th April 2024, *(pages 4-6)*
3. **Matters arising**
4. **Reports**
 - (a) Electoral Roll, *(page 7)*
 - (b) Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council, *(pages 7-8)*
 - (c) Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report, *(pages 9-11)*
 - (d) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2024 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas *(pages 12-15)*
5. **Safeguarding**
6. **St. Giles Centre**
7. **Election**
Members for the P.C.C.
St. Giles **TWO** vacancies
St. Nicholas **ONE** vacancy
8. **Appointment**
Independent Financial Examiner.
9. Goodbyes and Thank-you's.
10. **Any other business and date of next A.G.M. 2025.**

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Rector, *(pages 16-18)*
 Associate Rector including St. Nicholas Children's Report, *(pages 18-20)*
 St. Giles Music, *(page 20)*
 St. Giles Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 21-22)*
 St. Giles Safeguarding Report, *(pages 22-23)*
 St. Giles Flower Arrangers Report, *(page 23)*
 St. Giles Bell Ringers, *(page 24)*
 St. Giles Social Committee, *(pages 24-25)*
 Mothers' Union, *(pages 26-27)*
 St. Giles Website, *(page 28)*
 Friends of St. Giles, *(page 28)*
 Parish Magazine, *(pages 28-29)*

The Accounts are on the Notice Boards of both Churches.

2. MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2024

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST.GILES THE ABBOT and ST. NICHOLAS

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens:
Churchwardens Andrew Bailey (St. Giles)
Claire Couldridge (St. Nicholas)
Deputy Wardens Peter Russell) St. Giles - 8.00 a.m.
Sue Rennie) St. Giles - 10.00 a.m.
Sally Attwood) St. Giles - 11.15 a.m.
TBA) St. Giles - 6.30 p.m.
Sheila Munns) St. Giles - Thursdays 10.00 a.m.
Nick Jolliffe) St. Nicholas

Thanks to Andrew and Claire for their continuance as Churchwardens.

Rector: Thanks to Andrew for his outstanding patience and diplomacy.

Vote of Confidence and thanks:

Proposed: Sally Attwood

Seconded: Sue Renee

Approved

Associate Rector: Thanks to Claire with particular regard to Stephen's Sabbatical last year.

Vote of Confidence and thanks:

Proposed: Valerie Blinks

Seconded: Stewart Hutson

Approved

Deputy Wardens are all continuing.

Associate Rector: thanks to Nick Jolliffe for returning.

Rector: To remember Janet Palmer who was a Deputy Warden at the 11.15 a.m. service at St. Giles for a number of years and is now poorly.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING **SUNDAY 28th April 2024 - 4.30 p.m.**

PRESENT:

The Revd. Matthew Hughes, The Revd. Stephen Broadie, Sylvia Addison, Roger Allard, Andrew Bailey, Lindsay Barnes, Valerie Blinks, Richard Butterworth, Mary Compton, Claire Couldridge, Irene Dancer, Carol Fryer, Geoffrey Harding, Julia Hoadley, Stewart Hutson, Gail Low, Sheila Munns, Sue Rennie, Eddie Roberts, Carol Stokes, David Stokes.

Apologies for absence

Paul Bailey, Valerie Bailey, Paul Barnes, Jayne Calvert, Rosemary Fordyce, Nick Jolliffe, Lynn and John Kelly, Gill Knapp, Alison and Nick Reynolds, Helen Roberts, Noreen Roberts, Sue Simpson, Jenny and Nick Wilkins.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 14th May 2023.

Proposed: Sheila Munns

Seconded: Valerie Blinks

Approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

4. **REPORTS**

(a) Electoral Roll.

(b) Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

(c) Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report.

(d) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2023 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas.

Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles, Carol Fryer: Most of the detail in the Reports. We held our own despite cost of living pressures

Rector: Income from funerals and weddings down. Standing orders help.

Hon Treasurer, St. Nicholas: Beginning of year it looked bad expecting a deficit but at the end had a surplus. This year looks much the same. Spring Fair raised over £2,300.

Adoption of the Accounts:

Proposed: Mary Compton

Seconded: Julia Hoadley

Thanks to Carol, Roger and the St. Giles and St. Nicholas Finance Teams:

Proposed: Sheila Munns

Seconded: Sally Attwood

Approved.

5. **SAFEGUARDING**

Irene Dancer, Parish Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter: Safeguarding is a priority. We must protect the vulnerable and young. It is important all Church groups co-operate. We are nearly there but not quite.

There are new National Guidelines coming out and will be reviewed and incorporated.

Rector: Safeguarding has become increasingly complex. Must make sure we have required compliance. Thanks to Irene.

Associate Rector: Thanks to Irene

Thanks to Irene Dancer

Proposed: Carol Stokes

Seconded: Lindsay Barnes

Approved.

6. **ST. GILES CENTRE**

Moving forward. Continuing talks with Architect and builder. Complex process: problems of asbestos, renewing roof, electrical wiring, plumbing. Installing gas It will be a basic refurbishment with a modern accessible toilet including disabled use. Cost to be considered.

7. **ELECTIONS**

(a) Members for the Parochial Church Council:

St. Giles: Julia Hoadley

Geoff Harding

St. Nicholas:

Diane Stiff (*N.B. Employed by St Nicholas*)

Accepted

Proposed: Sheila Munns

Seconded: Carol Stokes

Approved.

- (b) Deanery Synod Members - vacancies for St. Giles and St. Nicholas

8. **APPOINTMENTS**

- (a) Sidespeople

Vote of Thanks

Proposed: Julia Hoadley

Seconded: Sue Rennie

Approved.

- (b) Independent Financial Examiner.

Chris Jones of Baxter's to continue

Proposed: Mary Compton

Seconded: Sheila Munns

Approved.

9. Goodbyes and Thank-you's.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Eddie Roberts: Now that the Choir is well populated why were they not at all the Christmas Eve services and on Christmas morning?

Rector: Christmas Eve would be rectified this year. Christmas morning is more difficult in getting Choir members to that service.

Sally Attwood: How are Choir allocations made?

Rector: By Choir attendance. Three choral scholars: Two bass and one tenor. To allocate to a service would require other Choir members: sopranos and altos

Needs looking at. Mattins has diminished.

Andrew Bailey: There has been Choir losses since Covid

Sally Attwood: There are 40 in the Choir. It should be spread more evenly.

Sally made the point that 10% of Church funds are spent on music and that allocation should reflect this.

Rector: Fair point. First and Second Sundays Choir is at Evensong. Fourth Sunday Choir is at the 10.00 a.m. service.

Choir is funded from legacies, not from general funds.

Rector has 30 years experience and knows that congregations need good music; money well spent.

Eddie Roberts: Will take on the responsibility of being Treasurer for the Flower Arrangers. Taking over from Alison Reynolds.

11. **TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT AGM 2025**

Tbc

12. **CLOSING PRAYERS**

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

4. **REPORTS**

ELECTORAL ROLL

The figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 283 (St. Giles - 234, St. Nicholas - 49). Our Electoral Roll membership continues to offer a solid base for the ongoing life of the Parish.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

ST. GILES THE ABBOT, FARNBOROUGH
With ST. NICHOLAS, ORPINGTON

OBJECTIVES

The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Matthew Hughes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Centre complexes of St. Giles at Church Road, Farnborough and St. Nicholas at Leamington Avenue, Orpington.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") in accordance with Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC who served from 29 May 2022 until the date that this report was approved by the PCC were: -

Ex-Officio:

<u>Rector</u>	The Revd. Matthew Hughes	Chairman	
<u>Associate Rector</u>	The Revd. Stephen Broadie		
<u>Assistant Priest</u>	Archdeacon Paul Wright		
<u>Reader</u>	Mrs. Chris Hallett		
<u>Wardens</u>	Mr. Andrew Bailey	until APCM 2026	St Giles
	Miss Clare Couldridge	until ACPM 2024	St Nicholas
<u>Verger</u>	Mr. Peter Russell		
<u>Deputy Wardens</u>	Mr. Peter Russell	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mrs. Susan Rennie	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mrs. Sheila Munns	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Miss Sally Attwood	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mr. Philip Lovelock	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mr. Nick Jolliffe	Not on PCC	St Nicholas

Elected:

Hon. Secretary

<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mr. Roger Allard	St. Nicholas
<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mrs. Carol Fryer	St. Giles

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs. Carol Fryer
Members

Mr. Stewart Hutson	until ACPM 2025	St Giles
Mrs. Gill Knapp	until ACPM 2025	St Giles
Mrs. Lynn Kelly	until ACPM 2025	St Giles
Mr. John Kelly	until ACPM 2025	St Giles
Mrs. Irene Dancer	until APCM 2024	St Giles
Mrs. Carol Stokes	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Miss Julia Hoadley	until ACPM 2025	St Giles
Mr Alfie Beston	until ACPM 2025	St Giles
Mrs. Rosemary Fordyce	until ACPM 2025	St Nicholas
Mrs Jayne Calvert	until APCM 2024	St Nicholas
Mrs Adele Cooke	until APCM 2024	St Nicholas

The United PCC met 2 during the year with an attendance of 65 per cent. In addition, the members representing St. Giles met 5 times (with an average attendance of 75 per cent) and those representing St. Nicholas met 6 times (average attendance 79.2 per cent).

COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between meetings of the PCC:

- Standing & Finance Committee – this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC
- St. Giles' Fabric Group
- St. Giles' Churchyard Group
- Ad hoc groups.

CHURCH ATTENDANCES

There were 390 names on the Church Electoral Roll for the parish as at 31st December 2023.

As a Parish, we are available at times of birth, marriage and death. In 2024, the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

9 Baptisms

3 Weddings

28 Funeral services held in church followed by burial in the churchyard or Cremation

14 Funeral services held at a crematorium

39 Burials of ashes.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Aggregated parish income for the year was £334,142 (2022-£342,275) and aggregated resources used were £295,336 (2022-£281,614). Net incoming resources amounted to £38,806 (2021-£60,661). St. Giles recorded net incoming resources of £33,198 (2022-£52,330) and St. Nicholas recorded net incoming resources of £5,608 (2022-£8,331).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (less fixed assets) which equates approximately to six months unrestricted expenditure. This was achieved as at 31st December 2024.

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS

ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD REPORT

This is my third report for my second 'tour' as Churchwarden for St. Giles, something that I see as both a privilege and a great responsibility.

This has once more been another busy year at St. Giles.

As Churchwarden I continue to enjoy a good working relationship with Matthew. I believe that is part of my role to have a good relationship with the incumbent of St. Giles in order to advise and support him in the exercise of his ministry. The Churchwarden is there to bring to the Rector's attention any issues raised by the congregation, and to represent the interests of the Parish to him and the PCC. I enjoy working with Matthew and appreciate the mutually supporting roles that we share together.

In 2024 we again had a full set of services across the whole year, as we get back to the new 'normality'. The parish observed the seasons of Lent and Easter. At Easter we held the usual services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday - both inside and outside the Church (where my brother once again was able to toast prestigious quantities of hot-cross buns for the congregations in the Churchyard). We held the full set of services for Harvest, the Pets Blessing and Remembrance Sunday, with lots of flowers (courtesy of the Flower Ladies) and singing (courtesy of the Choir).

This year at Christmas we once again just did the three Nativity services on Christmas Eve (compared to four in 2022). This appears to be worked well as we still have 'room in the inn' for everyone who wished to attend. Numbers in attendance were roughly the same as previous years, it also makes it easier to organise logistically. We also had the two Advent Carol services beforehand, the 'Midnight Mass' and the Epiphany Carol services in January.

We continue to enjoy a full calendar of Parish events. June saw the Parish Fete, which was well attended despite it pouring down with rain for most of the day. Despite that everybody enjoyed themselves (thanks in no small part to the small army of volunteers who helped organise it). We once more had a good range of individuals and organisation who contributed to the day to make it enjoyable for all. This is always an excellent opportunity where the wider Parish 'family' was able to get together and participate in an event outside the Church. The following month we had the Seaside Coach excursion to Broadstairs in July. The coach was full and once more I would like to thank Carol Fryer and her team in organising this and all the other events across the year.

In October we held our usual Churchyard Saturday Morning where members of the congregation of the Parish turn up with a whole array of gardening tools to scarify the grass, rake up the moss and seed the lawn. This year it was very well attended. This was followed up by a Deep Spring Clean in March 2025 where we worked on the insides of St. Giles, cleaning floors, pews and the monuments.

In terms of goods and ornaments we have purchased new items for both inside and outside the Church. We have obtained a new Altar cloth, together with a glass top for the Credence Table (to protect against spill damage). In addition, we have also purchased four new palm branches for Palm Sunday.

There was also an upgrade to the Church's security system. Outside we took the opportunity to re-tarmac the Lower Car Park, which brought to an end the increasing pothole problem there (both in number and size of the issues involved).

During 2024 we continued to undertake the rolling program of 'deep cleaning' within the Church. A common theme is checking on the use and distribution of storage space around the church, what is where and who is using it. This has been a recurring issue in previous years as we only have a finite resource in space, and we need to use it in the most efficient way.

As part of this, the Rector and Churchwarden worked on the North Aisle where there was a fungal buildup. It was treated with a 2-part treatment, which appears to be working. Further treatments will be applied in the future as and when necessary.

Following a theft of a few pounds worth of lead off the roof of the Choir Vestry, we have 'Smart Watered' the new lead to make it less desirable for criminals to steal it again.

I can report that all the Church's goods and ornaments are in a good state of repair.

Looking forward, the next major challenges will be the Quinquennial Inspection in May, and the refurbishment of the St. Giles Centre. I am confident that we will rise to the challenge, and that eventually we'll have a decent place for us to use for parish meetings and activities.

I am always grateful for my fellow Churchwardens/Verger and their total commitment and support over the last year. We would not be able to do what we do without their efforts. I thank them for their time and for the kind support they have shown me. As Churchwardens you have to do lots of things behind the scenes which the congregation do not always see. However, I do have to say that being a Churchwarden is a most satisfying undertaking, and I have enjoyed being one in 2024.

Andrew Bailey
St. Giles Churchwarden

ST. GILES CHURCHYARD REPORT AS PART OF THE CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

A huge thank you to all our wonderful Churchyard volunteers who do a great deal to keep our Churchyard and Gardens of Remembrance areas looking so good. The regular planting of Spring bulbs and Summer bedding plants continues to make the Church grounds look stunning. All this is very much appreciated by the many hundreds of people who visit our Churchyard and walk through it each year.

Good work also continues on maintaining the Memorial Walls, repairing brickwork and cleaning up rubbish. Preventative measures are being taken against roosting pigeons whose presence above the Church's door is leaving it soiled.

St. Giles is due its Quinquennial inspection in May when we hope to be congratulated on the excellent state of our Church and grounds.

Churchyard Usage

There were 53 burials of all types during 2024, which is the second lowest in recent years; the highest being 90 in 2018. Of these 39 (74%) were in the Garden of Remembrance, the remaining 14 being in the Churchyard. These totals are both below long term yearly averages. Just four new adult graves were used, which is the lowest ever, and compares with the long term average of 12 per year, with a highest of 22 in 2020.

c235 grave spaces are available, excluding the area used for outdoor services, and a potential for small-scale infilling of spaces and paths. Based on long term annual usage this space should last c19.7 years but as the number of new graves required is usually now much lower than in previous years, the actual capacity in years is likely to be longer than this. No new child grave spaces were used. A further area for child graves has been reserved to be used once the current one is full.

The yearly use of plaques is 28.

Finally, many thanks to Martin Parsons our outgoing Chairman who has also had to step away from his overall membership of the Group. I am very grateful for all the hard work, guidance and leadership Martin has provided.

Thank you also to Eddie Bellamy for his faithful service to families with the memorial plaques; and to Nick Reynolds for his impeccable maintenance of our Burial registers and Churchyard records and running of our Church website.

The Rector

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

It does not seem like a year since I wrote my last Report. There has been many changes at St. Nicholas, as there must be if we are to continue to grow and serve our community. We have said goodbye to a few of our older members, but have also welcomed a few new faces.

Many of our congregation have taken on new roles for which we are very grateful and will continue to support them in their efforts. We have also started new ventures and look forward to see how these develop. The first one is our 'Tea & Chat', which has been going for a year now which runs on Monday afternoon and provides company for those on their own - there is cake and refreshments, and games which has proved very popular. Because numbers were dropping at Messy Church we have now relaunched this as 'Croissants & Craft' which now takes place on the second Sunday of the month which includes a small service, a craft activity relating to a given story, and refreshments of croissants, coffee and other things. This has proved popular so far with our young families and others.

The Community Larder continues to prove a much needed resource for our community as well as all the groups that use our hall. As the year has progressed there have been a variety of new groups which have provided much needed income.

The services continue to hold their numbers, with new faces which is always encouraging.

As I write this Report, we are preparing for Easter with all its activities, our usual Passover Meal is already fully booked.

There are too many people to mention individually - St. Nicholas is a big family and we support and encourage one another in our varied roles.

My special thanks to Stephen, Nick and the PCC for their continued support.

Claire Couldridge
St. Nicholas Churchwarden

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2024, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

In 2024, we finished with a surplus of £27,239. Our total income was £234,862 which exceeded our total expenditure of £207,623. We continue to maintain our position in what has proved to be difficult times. Income continues to comfortably exceed expenditure. St Giles is supported by a strong range of donors and sponsors, both small and large, including the hard-working volunteers whose work allows us to limit expenditure. Donations and legacies from the past continue to provide security against future costs and emergencies we may be unable to avoid.

Income

General giving is down on last year; cost of living pressures along with increased energy costs will have had their effect. We are lucky to have a solid core of donors who have St Giles high on their giving list. Small and large donations are always gratefully received.

We have, however, seen a decrease in giving via Gift Aid envelopes: £13,302 claimed in 2024 as opposed to £14,282 in 2023. We need to make sure that GA envelopes and pens are always available from the pews so we keep this momentum

going. Even the smallest amount from a tax payer enables us to claim 25% of the donation directly from HMRC.

There is now very little income from letting the St Giles centre. The decision to renovate the Centre will allow a better standard of use for church activities and will allow us to offer the much needed and easily accessible toilet facilities to those using the Church. We are encouraging donations for the Centre renovation; dedicated envelopes with a GA option are helping and provide a steady trickle of funds. This may, however, affect the amount of general giving.

The Summer Fete proved a great success despite the rain and gives a focal point to the community aspect of St Giles. With continued support from sponsors and donors, as well as help from a hardy crew of volunteers, we raised £5,443.09. We are lucky to have so many people who are willing to give their time and energy to St Giles. Thanks to all those who supported us and came along and enjoyed the day.

The Wentworth property, a product of a past legacy, produced a rental income of £21,418, reduced by expenses of £7,181. This income provides a much-needed buffer against the cost of living pressures we are seeing. We are likely to see some increase in expenses as much needed repairs to the property are made in the coming year. The actual property itself offers St Giles financial security into the future. Although house prices are not increasing as steadily as previously seen, this is only a blip in a long term expectation.

We have seen a decrease in the number of funerals, which may be due to competition from other sources, and unfortunately a choice of having more secular services. In 2024 we had 10 Burials, 29 Cremations and 38 Burial of ashes. The number of weddings has also fallen, which seems to be part of a continuing trend; in 2025 we have to date weddings booked.

The number of plaques increased from 643 in 2023 to 692 in 2024, with 159 blank plaques. Many people remark on the appearance of the Remembrance Garden, and the churchyard team of volunteers do a great job in its upkeep.

Expenditure

We try to keep firm control over expenditure, but cost of living increases are hard to balance especially those for heating. We are lucky to have good financial support from many givers.

The Diocesan share in 2024 was £70,600 as opposed to £67,948 in 2023. Our offer for 2025 being £70,600.

At the present time we have 3 choral scholarships, and 15 junior choristers who get paid depending on attendance. We have used the funds from the Tolman Fund and are using the Greenhalgh Fund to support this. A good deal of effort, including great leadership from our Choir Master has been put in to make the choir as good as it is. The support by the adult choir who are all volunteers is amazing.

Our church ministry has been re-enforced by the Ven. Dr. Paul Wright, retired Archdeacon, as Paul continues to bring a lot of experience and support to the life of St. Giles.

Utility bills have continued to rise. We ended a fixed rate contract in mid-2023 so saw the start of an upturn. Business rates do not seem to be coming down yet.

Magazine fund

Advertising	£2,557	£1,507 L/year
Hard copy	£1,623	£4,244 L/year

Email	£59	£160 L/year
One off sales	£520	£373 L/year
Total Income	£7,536	£6,284 L/year
Total Expenditure	£6,822	£5,753 L/year
Profit	£714	£531 L/year

Funds held: £13,897

Magazine subscriptions for the hard copy held their own in 2024, with a small increase in one-off sales but email options declined. Advertising has increased thanks to Gill's hard work and has helped to prevent any losses.

In the past, the magazine has produced good profits and these are shown in the funds still held. We have a great editor, Gail Low, who continues to maintain the high standard of the Parish magazine. Renewals for 2025 are really slow with just 97 signed up to date. We have fewer subscribers for a number of reasons among which may be the changing viewing of the public. Reduced circulation makes it difficult to increase our advertising but Gill Knapp is doing an excellent job of fighting the trend.

The delivery team help to keep postal costs to a minimum by hand delivering the magazine each month. Thanks to Paul Barnes, Lee Bellamy, Nick and Jenny Wilkins, Eddie and Helen Roberts, Danielle Carle, Catriona Lee, Angela Leake, Pat.

The Magazine Fund holds £14,336 so a buffer for any losses. We need to review the future of the magazine in say 6 months; once we have a better idea of how many renewals we have. We need to decide whether there are sufficient subscribers to make the magazine worthwhile, or come up with a plan to increase circulation.

If we regard the magazine as part of our outreach the existing fund will last a while longer. We do, however, need to increase the number of subscribers and we should try to find someone with time on their hands to do this.

Flower fund

Income	£4,110	£4,397 L/Year
Expenses	£2,692	£3,348 L/Year
Profit	£1,418	£1,049 L/Year

Funds held: £ 4,140

The flower fund remains self-funding. They have 2 fund raising projects per annum along with a variety of donations throughout the year. It is always nice to see the church beautifully decorated and thanks need to be given to our dedicated flower team.

Funds

We have two types of funds: Designated which are allocated to certain areas but may be used for other purposes as needed and Restricted which are allocated by the donor or St Giles and may not be used for other purposes without permission.

We hold £216,452 (£211,809 L/year) in Designated funds to which for accounting purposes is added the Wentworth property at its initial valuation of £540,000. We hold £308,871 (£274,302 L/year) in restricted funds.

Conclusion

The increase in the cost of living has affected both our income and our expenditure, but even so we have managed to hold a good position with income exceeding expenditure by a comfortable amount. Although funerals have reduced, the Remembrance Garden continues to provide a flow of income. Weddings have almost

disappeared, probably due to pressures from other event providers and is unlikely to change.

During 2024 we raised a total of £1,700.68 for a variety of external charities.

We are lucky that we have loyal and generous supporters, both volunteers and donors.

The fund raising for the centre renovation will go on and consideration will need to be given to finding other sources of funds for this purpose.

Thanks must go to:

Linda Crisp and Mary Compton as part of the Financial Team

Eddie Bellamy as administrator of the Memorial Wall fund

Liz Diamond as Parish Secretary

Adele Cooke for office administration

Pam Stacey as Planned Giving Envelope Scheme Secretary

Lee Bellamy as insurance administrator

Chris Jones of Baxters, our External Examiners

Carol Fryer
Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles

ST.NICHOLAS

The original 2024 St Nicholas budget had figures of income £94150, expenditure £106700. The expenditure budget included Repair Fund contributions of £4200. Although these contributions are not expenditure, but a transfer between funds, I do show them as expenditure as a means to try and ensure that the contributions are actually made and the balances increase at least by that amount.

The original budget included a Pledged Offer of £44950 to the Diocese to cover the Ministry Costs and the St Nicholas share of the Benefice Cost. In view of our financial position we did not feel that we could make any contribution to the Wider Diocesan Mission Cost of £10238 in the Offer.

In the light of the financial position it was decided to make no charity donations until the position at 31 December 2024 was known. The budget included Mission Charity giving of £3750 and a donation to Welcare of £650.

At the year end expenditure exceeded income and there was a reduction in current assets of £6889 from £92374 at 31 December 2023 to £85485 at 31 December 2024. At the February 2025 meeting the St Nicholas PCC reviewed the position regarding charity donations and decided not to make any at that time in view of the year end deficit but to hold a fundraising event in the first half of 2025 for that purpose.

It would be fair to say that St Nicholas was facing an uncertain future with forecast deficits. A few years ago a consultant, a member of St Giles, carried out a review at St Giles and during the year the consultant did a similar exercise at St Nicholas, reviewing processes and procedures.

The most significant conclusion was that St Nicholas could no longer afford to retain the role of Church Administrator and Children and Family Worker and the postholders were made redundant in July and August respectively. Redundancy and related payments amounted to one off costs of £12888, offset of course by salary savings in the second half of the year. There will be a full year effect of these savings from 2025 onwards. One effect of the redundancy of the Children and Family Worker was that the Parent and Toddler Group ceased to run after the end of the summer term but it seems that new hall hirer(s) are providing something similar.

During the year we have invested in major improvements both to the Church Hall and Church House. The fencing between the Church Hall and Church House was renewed at a cost of £5100 with the funds for this being withdrawn from the Church Hall Repair Fund at the Diocese. Other improvements, the new office door (£1112), new locks (£425) and the redecoration of the Leamington Room (£1200) were financed from revenue. The fascias and soffits were replaced at Church House at a cost of £4560 financed by withdrawing funds from the Church House Repair Fund at the Diocese. These works brought to light problems with the drainage from the downpipes and the soakaways and these were renewed at a cost of £4200. These works were covered by the Church House insurance policy which paid out the sum of £4436 for the works.

Following the redundancy decisions, the St Nicholas PCC has felt that 2024 marks the low point in the St Nicholas finances. The approved 2025 budget of income £97500 and expenditure £93700 is in surplus by £3800 and with expenditure including the Repair Fund contributions of £4200 as is my usual practice, there could be an increase of £8000 in the Net Current Assets at the year end if there are no surprises in the year and outturn goes to plan.

With no Church Administrator who used to deal with the hall lettings, this work is now carried out by the firm, Praetorium, and the PCC are quietly confident that income will increase over the budget figure which could lead to further increases in balances at 31 December 2025 or give us the opportunity to start contributing again to the Wider Diocesan Mission as part of our Pledged Offer to the Diocese.

Roger Allard
Hon Treasurer, St Nicholas

5. SAFEGUARDING

6. ST. GILES CENTRE

Redevelopment update.

7. ELECTIONS

FOUR MEMBERS FOR THE ST. GILES P.C.C.

ONE MEMBER FOR THE ST. NICHOLAS P.C.C.

8. APPOINTMENT

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Acting under delegated powers (A.G.M. 2001) The P.C.C. appointed Mr. Christopher Jones, F.C.C.A., Baxter and Co. as independent examiner for the 2021 accounts.

The PCC recommends Mr. Jones's appointment for the year 2022 accounts and the A.G.M. is requested to approve this proposal.

9. GOODBYES AND THANK YOU'S.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To be notified at the beginning of the meeting.

Date and time of next A.G.M. 2026

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

For me there is no other way to start my Annual Report then with a huge thank you to all of you who work so hard to make St. Giles the wonderful Church that it is. During Lent this year we had been looking at St. Paul's letter to the Colossians and it is clear

from this letter that Paul worked with teams of people in the furtherance of the Gospel. For Paul his fellow helpers were not just volunteers, but *co workers* in the building up of the Kingdom. I cannot think of a better word to describe the many people who give of their time and skills to St. Giles as my *co-workers* in the Gospel of Christ.

There are too many people to mention everyone by name, but if you help in any way, big or small then please accept my sincere thanks for all you do. However, I would like to particularly mention all our Team Leaders and the following: our wonderful Church Warden Andrew and his Deputy Wardens. Andrew is such a support to me and many, our Treasurer Carol without whom St. Giles finances and social life would grind to a halt. Ralph for his inspiring leadership which provides a choir and music that uplifts us all. For Irene and the huge amount of time she puts into our Children's ministry and the vital work of Parish Safeguarding. For our Verger Peter who gives hours of his time across many areas of the Church's life much of it unseen but to the benefit of all of us.

Things for the Church of England continue to be challenging and I cannot remember a more precarious time for the ordinary parish church as the one we are going through now. Every year sees the Church of England and the Christian faith pushed further to the margins of society. Sadly St. Giles is not immune from these changes and challenges. People coming to us for weddings, baptisms and funerals decreases each year as more and more people identify as '*not religious*'. Patterns of church attendance continue to fluctuate. How we adjust to these new realities as a Church both nationally and locally will continue to shape the agenda for years to come. In such circumstances it would be easy for a parish priest to become demoralised. However, I continue to have faith in the attractiveness of the Gospel message, the power of a loving church and the uplift that a good act of worship can still have upon people in times which seem increasingly stressful and devoid of real community and meaning. That is why one of my priorities will always be the music and choir at St. Giles. I have always believed that good music has an extraordinary ability to bring us closer to God whilst creating a wonderful experience for those who do find their way to our Church. I am very grateful to Clive and our organ scholar Tom for the part they play in the musical life of our Church. I am also very grateful to the wonderful PCC we have and the thoughtful way that they engage with the challenges and opportunities that St Giles faces.

So what will be our priorities for this coming year?

ST GILES CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

This past year has seen us spend a lot of time preparing for the refurbishment of the Centre. Plans and drawings have been produced, Architects, Building Engineers, Building Regulators, Surveyors and Contractors have all been engaged. It has been a lengthy and expensive process but we are now finally in a position to move forward with the actual refurb. Four contractors have submitted quotes and it is looking like the work is going to be within the region of £200,000. This will be a significant sum of money for us to raise as a Parish, but I am confident that we will be equal to the task and with the help of grants and gifts we should get there. The plan will be to give ourselves a good year to fund raise with the refurb starting in Spring 2026.

The Centre has now reached a tipping point and its refurbishment is increasingly urgent. However, this is not only about the upkeep of a building, it is essentially about our mission and engagement with our community. One of the ways that we can face the challenges described above is to continue the focus on the social life of our Church. Having a nice, attractive, warm, welcoming building to meet in will do a great deal to build up friendships and sense of belonging which underpin church growth and membership. I am really looking forward to finally having a nice place to

meet, a hall that is pleasant to sit in, a modern Parish Office, a kitchen that works, and finally a set of toilets that the congregation will have easy access to.

A full set of plans and drawings will be made available on the noticeboard at the back of the Church in due course. Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed so generously to this appeal to date.

OTHER PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

Going forward the following will continue to be of importance to me and our PCC.

Finance

With a decrease in weddings, baptisms and funerals and the continuous loss of many generous givers to St. Giles, church finances are increasingly under pressure. The Treasury Team and PCC are only too aware of the ongoing *cost of living crisis* and the pressure this places on people's personal finances. There will continue to be gentle reminders and encouragements for people to give to St. Giles especially through standing orders and Gift Aid. We have also purchased two card readers that will allow people to give by debit card as well.

Volunteers

One of the things which really marks St. Giles out is the amazing quantity and quality of our Church volunteers. Many, many people put in a serious amount of time to the life of our Church. Generally most of our teams are well supported. However, recruiting and retaining volunteers in a society that is much more inward looking and individualistic is not easy. Spreading the word that volunteering is fun and good for mental well being is something that we can all do.

Children's work

Attracting children and young people to our Sunday School and Church has become increasingly difficult. Modern life and the many activities available to children on a Sunday do not help. I will continue to work with Irene to maintain our outreach amongst the children of our Parish. A newly refurbished Centre will certainly be of help in this regard.

Charity work

I continue, as many of you do, to be greatly exercised by the huge inequalities in our world and the awful sufferings of so many people. I will continue to make sure that we do all we can to help those who are poor and disadvantaged to remember them in our thoughts and prayers. I hope that we will continue to help my friend and colleague Fr Biliam. Your support means so much to him and his people.

In conclusion

It remains a great privilege to be the Rector of Farnborough Benefice and I can only have this ministry amongst you through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the amazing support of my many co-workers in the Gospel. Please continue to pray for the life of our Church and for the many challenges that we face and also that we will make the most of the opportunities that are there as well.

Matthew Hughes
Rector of Farnborough Benefice

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT INCLUDING ST. NICHOLAS CHILDREN'S REPORT

2024 was a year of beginnings and endings for St Nicholas Church. The Monday Tea, Cake and Chat group which was begun by Val Richardson at the start of the year went from strength to strength during the year and has now become a regular fixture in the St Nicholas week, providing an invaluable space for members of the community to gather and make connections, come rain or shine. The St Nicholas

Community Larder continues to provide a vital service for the Community. While donations from supermarkets and wholesalers have diminished for all food banks connected to the TBB Food Hub, we were able to have a couple of successful fundraising events during the year, including a sponsored walk and a Community Quiz, which raised much-needed funds to enable us to supplement the donations given by local suppliers. This has been particularly necessary as we have seen the number of 'customers' referred to us by social services and the local authority increasing. As was outlined in some detail in an article I wrote for the Parish Magazine in September 2024, the PCC also had to make some very difficult decisions to address the ongoing financial challenges we had faced ever since the pandemic. The most difficult decisions were undoubtedly those to make two paid roles redundant, as was outlined in that magazine article. With that came some of the goodbyes I mentioned at the beginning of this report. We are incredibly grateful as a PCC for the years that both Catherine and Diane served in their different paid roles in the parish. While we sadly had to say goodbye to the Toddler Group that used to run on Wednesday mornings, and expressed our huge thanks to all the volunteers who had run this over the years, we were also able to welcome the new 'Baby Explorer' and 'Pop Up Play' groups for babies and toddlers respectively, who are now helping the church continue to be a welcoming space for parents with young children and babies every week. We are also incredibly grateful for the ways that Diane Stiff is continuing to serve in the parish, in her role as a Pastoral Assistant, visiting the sick, and through her involvement with different activities in church. Despite the significant changes during 2024, many of the traditional St Nicholas activities nevertheless took place throughout the year, including a very successful holiday club, a 'Light and Bright' party with record-breaking attendance, and an over-subscribed Christingle Service. At the beginning of this year we launched a revamped family service on the 2nd Sunday of each month, naming it 'Croissants and Craft', and serving fresh pastries and providing inspiring craft for all ages. This new service has been very well attended, with many new faces, and some families who had never been to church before. We are looking forward now to our usual Passiontide events, including a Passover Meal, Good Friday Service (led by Diane) and Easter Activity Morning. Increasingly this year I have come to appreciate how much everything that happens at St Nicholas is dependent on the incredible number of people who volunteer in all sorts of ways. To mark this we were able to hold a 'Celebration of Volunteers' in the Autumn, where Matthew came to speak and we celebrated afterwards with a glass of bubbly and some champagne. While the last 12 months have been in many ways a time of significant change, we are now able to face the future on a more secure financial footing in particular, as for the first time since the pandemic we are no longer facing a deficit as a church.

As ever I owe a huge debt of gratitude to so many for their invaluable help at St Nicholas. In particular I would like to thank Claire Couldridge, our indefatigable Church Warden. I am particularly grateful to Claire considering the challenges she has faced this year following the loss of her mother, Beryl Couldridge, who was a faithful member of St Nicholas and a pillar of the community for decades. I would also like to thank Nick Jolliffe, who in fact has carried on being Deputy Warden, to Roger Allard and Richard Butterworth as treasurer and deputy treasurer. I must also thank our lay ministers at St Nicholas: Ian Gillies, our Reader with PTO, and Diane Stiff, our Pastoral Assistant, and with the late Rosemary Fordyce, Pastoral Assistant with PTO. Thank you also to Jayne Calvert, our pianist, MU leader and lead volunteer at the Larder, to Val Richardson and the tea and coffee team, to Jackie Mason, Margie Gillies and the flower team, and to everyone who helps at Just Babies. Thank you to Katie Spreadbury who continues to oversee our social media presence with such dedication. Thank you also to the many volunteers who have come forward in different ways over the past year to help with the children's work and the administration, giving up their free time. A number of times over the past year I have considered the famous passage from Ecclesiastes 3, looking at the different 'times

and seasons' we go through. That passage does not hold back from naming some of the more challenging times we may have to go through. However, my prayer is that the coming year will be 'a time to heal... a time to build... a time to mend'.

Stephen Broadie
Associate Rector

CHILDREN'S REPORT AS PART OF THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

As mentioned in the Associate Rector's report, 2024 proved to be a time of significant change for St Nicholas Church, as the PCC had to make the difficult decision in the summer to make two paid roles redundant, including the role of Children's and Families' worker. As a PCC we are incredibly grateful for the years that Diane Stiff gave to this paid role, and we are so glad that at the beginning of the summer Diane was able to run a successful holiday club 'Deep Sea Divers' that was very well attended and saw the side chapel turned into a prayer 'submarine'. Following the various changes, we are grateful that Diane is continuing to serve at St Nicholas in her role as Pastoral Assistant, and in helping out in the wider life of the church, including leading a reflective Good Friday service this year. As a result of the various changes at church, we have come increasingly now to rely on volunteers, and we are incredibly grateful as a PCC to those volunteers who have been running Kids Club in particular. Since autumn 2024 Kids Club have been following teaching materials provided by Scripture Union, looking at the different creation accounts from Genesis, and then the opening chapters of the gospels, leading up to Christmas. In the new year we launched a new service, 'Croissants and Craft', in place of our monthly 'All Age Worship' service. Somehow through providing fresh pastries and a wide variety of crafts for all ages, we have been able to connect with a number of new families from our neighbourhood, seeing over 30 children attending the first service, bringing more than 30 adults with them. One family who come along to this new service have said that they have never attended church before, but they have now decided this is the faith they want their child to be raised with. Another mum who attends, who is new to church, said recently that after the second 'Croissants and Craft' service she went home and her daughter turned to her and said 'Mummy, I love Jesus!' Although some more time may be needed for the full 'catechesis' of these new members of our congregation, it has been encouraging to see these early signs of faith. We saw record attendance at our Light and Bright party in 2024, and we were really excited to welcome many members of the local Hong Kong/ Chinese community to this event, many of whom are connected to other Chinese congregations in the area. We also saw the highest attendance since the pandemic at our Christingle service in 2024, and enjoyed the spectacle of our very own 'human Christingle' (aka Michelle Felstead) in a bright orange blow up sumo suit along with assorted 'christingle' paraphernalia! The youth group 'Ignite' has continued to meet two or three times a month on Sunday mornings, and at least once a month on Sunday evenings. Most recently we have begun watching the new series of the 'Youth Alpha' videos which has been given a relaunch. We have also enjoyed youth social outings to the Pavilion Bowling Alley, Chelsfield Lakes 9 hole golf course and a fire pit with roasted marshmallows. The Just Babies group continues to provide a vital space of welcome and support for young parents and their babies, and in fact has been one of the key factors in drawing people along to the new 'Croissants and Craft' service. As ever, I am incredibly grateful to the wide variety of people who help in so many ways at St Nicholas Church with the various babies, children's and youth activities. None of what we do would now be possible without volunteers, so there is no doubt that you are our most valued resource. Although it has been a time of significant change and challenge, we pray that God will continue to lead and guide our children's and youth work going forward.

Stephen Broadie
Associate Rector

ST. GILES MUSIC

Our Church Choir continues to offer high quality music across a range of services both for special occasions within the Church's year and the normal weekly services. Membership of our Choir continues to fluctuate as new people join and others step down. Overall our Choir is in good heart and thriving under the excellent leadership of Ralph.

We have been so lucky to have the services of Alfie Beston as our organ scholar and we wish him all the best as he takes up his new role as organ scholar at Truro Cathedral. Tom Blew is not our new organ scholar and once again we are fortunate to have such a talented musician as part of our team.

The work involved in sustaining the Anglican choral tradition at St. Giles is considerable and I am enormously grateful to every member of our Choir, our Organist, musicians and above all our Director of Music, Ralph Barlow, for their hard work over the past year.

The Rector

ST. GILES FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

A dedicated team of leaders continue to offer Sunday school sessions on a regular basis. The work is of a high standard and valued by families who attend, and the congregation, who receive immediate feedback. Colourful and informative displays are produced of the children's work. It is becoming increasingly difficult however, to attract and maintain attendance of children and young people, as we compete with other offers on a Sunday morning.

Junior Sunday School meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays at 9.50am. Our topics this past year have included work on 'Our Church,' a focus on 'Jesus: A real person, a real life' and currently, 'Jesus in Action' about how Jesus works in our lives.

Senior Sunday School meet on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 9.50am. We study the lectionary bible readings for that week and present the learning through craft, encouraging personal interpretation and reflection.

Youth Group meets on an occasional basis, meeting for discussion, followed by a meal at the Rectory on a Sunday evening.

Our children and young people are an important and integral part of our congregation. They serve on our reading rota at the 10am services and help by taking the offertory. We value their input.

The Easter Art Workshop encourages the children to think about the events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. The children prepare posters which are the focus for the Good Friday Family Service held in the churchyard.

Our Annual Children's Celebration Service is held in July and marks the end of the Sunday school year. A display of children's work, undertaken each term, is exhibited. All children and young people who attend church are thanked with either a book or small token of our appreciation.

Christmas Eve services are always well attended and last year was no exception. The Sunday school led service involved a focus on the word 'Nativity' and how the events of Christ's birth are reflected in our own, emphasising Jesus' humanity. The children donned their costumes and created a tableau. On Christmas Day, children brought their presents to church to show the congregation.

Some of our children and myself took part in the Holiday Club held at Nicholas. My thanks go to all those involved in organising this and making us feel so welcome.

The first Sunday of the month is when we hold our All-Age Worship service. There is no Sunday school, but families are encouraged to come along and join us for this family focused time of worship.

Our children's area at the back of church is well used by children and babies. Toys, books, colouring and drawing resources are always available. It is the first thing you see when entering the church and, as such, is a visual reminder of our welcome to children and that we strive to meet their needs. Parents are put at ease during services by reference to 'noisy silence.' It is our aim that no one should feel uncomfortable about bringing even their youngest to church at 10am on a Sunday morning.

I began this report by mentioning the challenges we face in competing for children's time on a Sunday morning. However, I know that children who are able to come along, enjoy what we have on offer and benefit from Christian teaching by those committed to nurturing them. Furthermore, it is encouraging to see that attendance by families at our 'special' services such as Mothering Sunday, Christmas, Harvest Festival....remains strong. I think that we should be encouraged and uplifted by this.

Thank you to everyone involved in supporting our children and young people at St Giles Church. Leaders, parents, grandparents, carers.....we couldn't do it without you.

Irene Dancer
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker

ST. GILES SAFEGUARDING REPORT

I am required to report annually to the church AGM that our churches have adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. I also report that all church groups have been approved by the relevant PCCs.

Our own Parish Safeguarding Policy is updated regularly and approved by PCC's. Copies are located in both churches, in St Giles Centre and on the parish website.

Safeguarding is a regular item on the St Giles PCC agenda and included at all joint PCC meetings with St Nicholas. I have strong links with Stephen at St Nicholas and am grateful for his oversight and adherence to policy there.

As Lead Recruiter I can confirm that all those who are required to have a DBS check (which includes a police check) have done so. Both churches are up to date with this requirement. My thanks go to Jenny Wilkins at St Giles and Chris Deeks at St Nicholas for their support in achieving this.

This year has seen an increase in the roles required to undertake basic safeguarding training. At St Nicholas, in person group training has been offered to Foodbank workers and, at the time of writing, is being planned for those who volunteer at the 'Tea and Chat' sessions. At St Giles, I continue to encourage all choir members to undertake their training, including offering 1:1 sessions if beneficial. A document from the Diocese, interpreting the Church of England training matrix, has recently been sent out. It would appear that anyone working or volunteering in any capacity, will be required to undertake basic training. This goes beyond our current focus at both churches where we prioritise those who work with or alongside any of the vulnerable groups.

I have previously mentioned the Safeguarding dashboard that is used by many church PSO'S, including myself, to monitor progress in compliance with guidance. This has been reviewed and updated by the provider and is now in line with the new Safeguarding Standards that came into effect since my last report. A Safeguarding

Hub is also being created and has been adopted by Rochester Diocese. It will focus on assisting parishes with their responsibilities around Safer Recruitment and People Management (for your information, this includes volunteers as well as paid workers.) Invitations will be sent out to parishes in due course to join the scheme.

This has been a difficult year for the Church of England in terms of Safeguarding and there have been many failures that need to be acknowledged and put right by the national church hierarchy. The Church of England Safeguarding Policy states that "Safeguarding is at the heart of our Christian faith.... Safeguarding means the action the church takes to promote a safer culture in all our churches..... The church will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all." At National level, this has not always been the case and when people have spoken 'truth to power' that truth has been ignored.

However, at parish level a great deal of excellent work is being done and positive outcomes achieved. But we must not be complacent. We must continue with this vital work and create a culture that we can be proud of in our parish. We have a special responsibility as disciples of the Gospel to implement those policies that will bring about such a culture. A culture of openness, honesty, listening, action, support and love.

Irene Dancer
Parish Safeguarding Officer/Lead Recruiter

ST. GILES FLOWER ARRANGERS REPORT

As well as our weekly flower displays, the church was beautifully decorated for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Over 100 posies were made for Mothering Sunday.

Organisation

There are approximately four meetings a year with Matthew when we discuss previous events and advise on future commitments.

The four teams take turns in organising the festivals when occasional flower arrangers are welcomed to help. Lynn Taylor deals with all bookings for the Book of Remembrance and special requests and Elizabeth Harriss-Orr with wedding bookings.

Alison Reynolds relinquished the role of treasurer in the autumn after many years of exemplary help and we are very grateful to Eddie Roberts who has stepped in as our efficient keeper of accounts. Helen Roberts, as well as being a regular arranger, takes meticulous minutes. We are fortunate to have team leaders who will 'go the extra mile'.

Recruitment

We are pleased to have welcomed several promising new members and are always looking for new volunteers.

Donations

We continue to receive regular donations from the congregation for the main flower festivals, the Book of Remembrance and special requests for windows and pedestals.

Costs

The cost of fresh flowers varies with the season. For festivals and weddings we use a wholesale supplier. For most weeks we buy from supermarkets and occasionally a florist. To keep costs down we also make use of silk flowers when appropriate. We are fortunate that our members bring fresh foliage.

The budget for weekly flowers and festivals remains as low as can be managed and we have reduced the number of weekly arrangements to keep costs to a minimum. A budget for each festival is arranged with Matthew.

Contact Details

Our details are available via the Parish website and magazine which also display photos of the festival flowers.

St. Giles Flower Arrangers

ST. GILES BELLRINGERS

In 2024 things have generally settled down after the disruption caused by Covid over previous years.

The bells have been rung almost every Sunday morning prior to the Family Service as long as there has been a competent person to take charge. Additionally, the bells are rung for practices approximately every other Monday evening, on most Tuesdays from 11.00am and for weddings and funerals upon request. Additionally, St Giles hosted a District ringing practice on Saturday 10th February.

Twenty eight quarter peals were rung in 2024 (27 in 2023), and eight peals (9 in 2023).

A plaque recording the 2021 augmentation and naming major donors has been provided by Taylor's bell foundry of Loughborough and been fixed under the window in the ringing chamber and is to be read in conjunction with the weights board which is situated on the wall nearby.

Andrew Mills of Taylor's has installed a new heavier clapper in the treble bell which has stopped the double clapping.

Sadly in May 2024 Bill Allaway, widower of Audrey who died two years previously, passed away. Bill was a regular Sunday service ringer until his health took a downturn. The ringers were represented at his funeral.

In order to maintain a healthy band of ringers and replace those no longer ringing it is necessary to recruit and teach new ringers and this was not possible during Covid. Pleasingly on Monday 11th November we hosted an open evening for the Scouts and as a result of this we have a new learner who is doing very well.

Since bells were installed at St Giles in 2012 a number of our new ringers have rung quarter peals and I'm delighted and proud to report that one of our young ringers rang a full peal on 29th December. This was the first peal by a 'new' ringer who has learnt from scratch at St Giles. The peal took 2hrs and 48mins of non-stop ringing, a most commendable achievement.

As ever, thanks go to the members of the band who turn up regularly to ring.

Nick Wilkins

ST. GILES SOCIAL COMMITTEE

St Giles tries to provide a welcoming atmosphere and it is important to encourage the wider community to become involved with their local church. Throughout the year we try to put on refreshments after services. This can diminish during the winter when it gets too cold for the volunteers to stand outside serving tea and coffee; and standing in the rain is just not on.

During the summer, we try to do this a couple of times a month, with cakes and biscuits. Mother's Day seems to be the first of the year's regular refreshments days, and a posy of daffodils adds to the day. Many people linger for a drink and a chat; keys for the Centre toilet are always to hand.

Refreshments are always served after the Thursday service, and all are welcome. Thanks to all those who regularly help: Marilyn Reeves, Linda Crisp, Carole White, Sheila Munns. Sue Rennie

After the evening services we offer wine, juice and snacks: an opportunity to hear our wonderful choir. This is increasingly popular when warmer weather encourages people out.

Coach trips are always well supported, and we have seen an increase in people coming who do not come to church on a regular basis. The year started with a trip to Brighton in April, followed by our annual trip to Broadstairs in July. A full coach and lovely weather; some people even swim. This year we tried the Canterbury market to end the year and it proved very successful, and a shorter journey.

The annual Fete in June is always well attended. It also proves to be the biggest fund raiser of the year. It takes a lot of work, but it's well worth it, and this year we raised £5,443.09. The pressure was eased by the generous sponsorship beforehand of the costs of setting up this event. The fete has changed over the years and now has a Garden Party atmosphere, with lots of tables and chairs encouraging people to sit and enjoy the great food, a wonderful glass of Pimms and the really excellent entertainment.

This would have been wonderful if it had not rained so heavily throughout the day. Our volunteers proved stalwart despite the rain and were only topped by the Rock Choir who threw down their umbrellas to sing joyfully in torrential rain.

So many people help at this event that it is almost impossible to list everyone, so erring on the side of caution, I can only say that this event would not take place without the unstinting help of sponsors, donors, entertainers and volunteers.

Planning is already under way for this year's fete on Saturday 14th June, so put the date in your diary. Look out for the requests for prizes, gazebos and help. Fingers crossed for good weather this year. It makes all the difference.

Harvest Supper incorporates a Barn Dance, with the Ian Petrie band providing the music and the calling; an opportunity to join in or just watch the antics of the dancers. We serve a two course meal which always goes down well. This is always a real family affair. We are getting together a band of regulars.

The year finishes with the refreshments in the Village Hall after the Nine Lessons & Carols service. Mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine for everyone to wish each other a Happy Christmas.

These events bring us together as a community, and we encourage those outside of the congregation to participate. Willing volunteers are the one key to successful social activities and we always seem to get the support we need, but of course we are always in need of more. So, a very big thank you to all those who give their time and energy to making these events work.

The other key to great social events is participants. We need your support; come along to events when you can, bring your family and friends; if you can't get there, please sponsor or donate. If you have the energy, get involved and help out.

MOTHERS' UNION

Another year has gone by, and Mothers Union is still thriving in the parish of Farnborough!

In 1876, Mary Sumner, a clergyman's wife from Old Alresford, near Winchester, founded Mothers' Union, which started from hosting a small home-group meeting in the vicarage to support young mothers with small children in the parish where her husband George was the local vicar. In those days it was very unusual for women to start up any group, and even more unusual that Mary Sumner reached out to all the women in the parish, irrespective of their class.

Almost 150 years later, our beliefs and aims are still very relevant today. There are over 4 million Christian members in 84 countries in the world who belong to Mothers' Union.

Since Covid arrived in 2020, our monthly Monday evening meetings have again been held by zoom, which has proved very popular with our branch members, and has also enabled members from other branches, both near and far, to join in these Evening Prayers. Sharing faith and fellowship through prayer is very important to us all and underpins the work we do together in Christ's name.

We have 28 members in the group, having sadly lost 2 very special members, Joyce Rackham and Beryl Couldridge, last year. We are very grateful for all the active years of service they gave to Farnborough Mothers' Union.

We follow the Church's year, and most of the prayers we use are taken from The Mothers' Union website, an excellent resource to share together.

This present month of April is entitled, 'Love Blooms'. The reflection says:

Love blooms all around us this month. We begin to see God's goodness as creation starts to bloom. Then as we approach Easter, we prepare our hearts to see God's love blooming from the tomb in joyous resurrection. Both are a reminder of God's extraordinary love, and serve as a call to action, to pass on both the planet, and the Gospel message for generations to come.

In December we again held our zoom service supporting the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence entitled, "No More 1 in 3", and lit candles in our homes to show solidarity with our friends who have sadly been affected, both in the UK and overseas. Many suffer in silence and are undetected in their wider community. Mothers' Union joins each year with other organisations from approximately 187 countries who participate in this campaign to raise awareness of, and call for, an end to gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies.

Our group is currently participating in this year's **Make a Mother's Day** campaign. The 2025 theme is entitled, "Give the gift of PEACE this Mothering Sunday." Our **Gift of Peace** can give families worldwide the chance to swap discord and tension to an atmosphere of support and positivity and are gifts that will empower women and girls

around the world- giving them their voices, rights, and helping to turn the tide on gender inequality. So far, we have raised over £350 for this project.

Mothers' Union still supports the AFIA project, (Away From it All), funding holidays for families who wouldn't otherwise have a holiday. Unfortunately, we currently have no project managers in Rochester Diocese for AFIA.

Kate and Jocelyn ran this very successfully for 3 years, but felt it was time to hand it over to others. We pray that the right people will come forward in their place.

Again, this year, Farnborough Branch has been involved with the MU Prison Project, at Rochester men's prison.

We were asked to give prisoners filled toiletries bags for when they were released from prison. We have been able to provide another 20 bags this year, which were very gratefully received, and we are hoping to be able to provide more in the future. Each bag includes a card wishing them well, from Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union.

We have also provided prisoners with rucksacks which, again, were given to prisoners on their release from prison. Those not so lucky to get a rucksack, get their belongings given back to them in a black sack.

At Easter, all 750 inmates receive a chocolate Easter egg from Mothers' Union, and we have again supported this project. At Christmas, they all get a present of a pair of socks, and a Christmas card, which we were involved with as well. These small gifts of love help to make the prisoners feel loved and valued, whatever their crime.

Our afternoon meetings continue in person on the 3rd Thursday of each month at St. Nicholas Church, at 1.30 pm, where we sometimes have speakers, join in reflective services, or meet for prayer and fellowship with refreshments.

We are very pleased to be back worshipping at St. Giles Church once a month on the 1st Thursday morning 10am Communion Service, where we all share the Mothers' Union prayer together.

Many of our members continue to knit colourful squares, which are then sewn up into blankets, and distributed to people in need. Again, this past year, several baby cot blankets have been given to SCBU at the PRUH, along with cardigans, hats, booties, canula mitts for the pre- term and sickly babies needing care there.

Our new Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, was Commissioned in St. Martin-in-the-Fields by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, last month, which was a very joyous occasion. I, and a couple of other members from our branch, had the pleasure of meeting Kathleen last week at Canterbury Cathedral and joined in the Eucharist in the crypt. The Celebrant was the Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin.

If you are interested in hearing more about the Mothers' Union, or coming along to our Farnborough branch, either by zoom on a Monday evening or in person on a Thursday afternoon please contact

Jayne Calvert on 07780664340 or by e mail at jayne.calvert@hotmail.com.

We are a very friendly group and would love to have some new members!

Jayne Calvert

ST. GILES WEBSITE

Farnborough Parish website:

www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk

The website has continued to provide information to parishioners and others about our church, its history, and events both past and upcoming.

As well as the regular services and events taking place during the year, the website this year posted many photos taken at our fete and garden party in June.

The website has around 100 pages, although this fluctuates during the year. The busiest months for access were May and August 2024. With over 300 visits per day.

Visits and pages accessed over the year were substantially higher than in 2023.

The website was moved to a different hosting company in November without incident or significant downtime.

Related websites:

Farnborough Village History

www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk

Farnborough and the Railway

www.farnborough-kent-railways.org.uk

Nick Reynolds
nickrstgiles@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST. GILES

The Friends of St. Giles is composed of Church members, villagers and those who have moved away. We support the Church in any way that we can.

Our annual fundraising Quiz at the Woodman was a very happy evening and raised £476.66.

The Committee meets regularly and we sometimes use Zoom to keep in touch with our financial advisor. We thank the Committee, and particularly Roger Alard our Treasurer and Sue Ellis our Secretary. Our AGM was held at the Chairman's house.

We have lost several of our very loyal members this year. We particularly miss Molly Richardson who was a long standing and very hard working member of our Committee. Others we miss are Barry Stead, Sheila Sturton, Charles McArdell and Evelyn Morgan.

The 250 Club is thriving. If you would like to be a member it costs £1 per annum and details are available from Sue Ellis on 07715 860504.

Julia Hoadley, Chairman

PARISH MAGAZINE

Following on from my report in 2024, I was hoping to have some good news for you from the National Parish Magazine Awards but unfortunately they did not run in 2024 and are not running again this year, so we will all have to wait and see if they run again.

Due to a valiant effort by Gill Knapp we have managed to have regular advertisers and also a few new ones, which is good to see.

With regard to subscribers, to date in 2025, we have 112 (97 who receive hard copies and 15 by email). I am very grateful to the willing volunteers who deliver the magazines and to Paul who looks after the emailed ones. Our subscribers have dropped by 20% since last year and a total of almost 40% since 2022.

As I said last year, I would like to think that we could build back up to the 2022 level of subscribers in time, but it is definitely reliant on the magazine remaining relevant to its readers. I am very grateful to the regulars who provide interesting articles for the magazine, but there have been month's where I have been struggling for content, even with their help. Again, it would be lovely if the congregation of St Nicholas could provide articles as well. This hopefully might increase the reach of the magazine when people see articles written by members of their congregation as well. I'm sure some of the articles published this year have brought back memories to people or provoked a response and it would be lovely for me to be able to print some of them. I can only create a magazine if people provide me with the content.

Throughout the year, I have received articles and adverts that unfortunately I have had to turn down, including two this week! This is only because they come from organisations wishing to publicise themselves or their events in Farnborough Hampshire!

Let's see what 2025 can bring! Hopefully more from Kent than Hampshire!

Gail Low, Editor

9. CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER KENT**

**ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

Incumbent: Revd. Matthew Hughes

Associate Rector: Revd. Stephen broadie

Principal Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc

Santander UK plc

Independent Examiner

Baxter & Co, Chartered Accountants

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER KENT**

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

ST. NICHOLAS

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Honorary Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Giles the Abbot, Farnborough

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 18, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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

Signed:

Baxter & Co

30 April 2025

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	128,348	96	34,640	163,084	179,573
Activities for generating funds	64,242	-	-	64,242	63,743
Investment income	17,088	21,418	-	38,506	28,092
Incoming resources from charitable activities	22,285	-	51,095	73,380	61,277
Other incoming resources	4,828	-	-	4,828	1,457
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	236,792	21,513	85,735	344,040	334,142
RESOURCES USED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	15,853	-	-	15,853	14,228
Charitable activities	238,214	17,220	52,403	307,837	281,108
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	254,067	17,220	52,403	323,690	295,336
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources pre transfers	(17,275)	4,293	33,332	20,350	38,806
Transfers between funds	(4,287)	350	3,937	-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in funds	(21,562)	4,643	37,269	20,350	38,806
Total funds brought forward	1,800,263	751,809	274,302	2,826,374	2,787,568
Total funds carried forward	1,778,701	756,452	311,571	2,846,724	2,826,374

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments	5,354	2,524
No notice accounts	413,510	348,944
Notice Account	88,721	85,064
Cash at bank and in hand	166,741	209,478
CCLA Funds	<u>23,642</u>	<u>32,009</u>
	697,968	678,019
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(6,735)	(7,139)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>691,233</u>	<u>670,880</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	<u>2,846,727</u>	<u>2,826,374</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,778,703	1,800,263
DESIGNATED FUNDS	756,452	751,809
RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>311,571</u>	<u>274,302</u>
	<u>2,846,727</u>	<u>2,826,374</u>

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

Rector *Matthew Hughes*

Churchwarden *Andrew T Bailey*

Financial Accountant

Smadile

CR Coulter

Hon Treasurer

Rose C
Chayer

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1 Form of Accounts and Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") FRS 102.

The Parish does not make payments for the preparation of the annual accounts and PCC trustees are not remunerated. A nominal payment of £600 was made to the independent financial examiner.

2 Diocesan Contribution

The Diocesan Contribution is an annual contribution from each parish towards Diocesan expenditure based upon what the parish can afford and includes a contribution towards clergy costs (including stipends) which are financed by the Diocese directly.

3 Policy on Reserves

The Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 require PCCs to set out their policy on Reserves. Designated and restricted reserves are established for particular, specified purposes. General reserves are held to provide for ongoing cash demands and to provide for unforeseen emergencies.

4 Parish Property Assets

- i) Consecrated properties are excluded from the accounts under Sect. 96 (2)(a) of the Charities Act, 1993. This includes the Church and churchyard.
- ii) Movable Church furnishings are held on special trust by the Wardens on behalf of the PCC and are excluded from the accounts. Such items are recorded in the parish inventory which may be inspected by appointment.
- iii) The Rectory building is the responsibility of the Diocese and therefore excluded.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

4 Parish Property Assets (cont)

- iv) The St. Giles Centre is not consecrated property. It falls within the PCC's trusteeship and is required by the Charities Act to be included in the accounts. It is recorded at its revalued amount at 31st December 2012.

Depreciation of the Centre building has not been provided in these accounts as any charge is not considered to be material on the basis that this asset has a very long useful economic life or a residual value based on its current value which is not materially different from its carrying value.

Any centre contents are not considered to be of material value.

- v) The Church Hall (St Nicholas) is included at its last insured valuation. The Church House is included at a valuation based upon an estimate of the cost to rebuild it in the event of its total loss.

Depreciation has not been provided for either property based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

- vi) An interest in a freehold property ("12 Wentworth Close") is held on trust by the Diocese of Rochester for the beneficial ownership of St Giles and is included in these accounts at its initial probate valuation as a Freehold Property. This valuation is informally reviewed annually to assess whether it remains reasonable.

Depreciation is not provided based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

5 Inter Church Transfers

Inter-Church financial transfers are dealt with by offset during the year within the two accounts in order to avoid duplication of income and expenditure at consolidation.

6 Friends of St Giles

The Friends of St Giles is a registered charity and accounts separately to the Charity Commissioners.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

7 Flower Fund

The Flower Fund Treasurer operates a separate bank account and draws down the flower fees from St. Giles from time to time as required. The Fund accounts are integrated within these financial statements.

8 Risk Policy

The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 require the PCC to set out its policy on Risk Management. The PCC has already undertaken Child Protection, Health and Safety and Fire Risk Assessments. So far as concerns financial risk, controls regulate the banking arrangements including online banking and the issue of cheques (two signatures). Cashflow is managed monthly and budgetary controls are in place.

For the broader liabilities the PCC has comprehensive insurance with the specialist insurance company, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Property assets were subject to a full survey and valuation by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company during 2012.

9 Stakeholder Pensions

The PCC has registered with the Legal and General Assurance Society as its stakeholder Pension provider. To date no eligible member of staff has expressed an interest in joining the Scheme.

10 Garden of Remembrance (Wall Fund and Plaques)

The PCC is responsible for administration of the wall memorials scheme which commenced in 2006. Funds received from the sale of each memorial provide for the cost of an installed, engraved plaque, a contribution towards the cost of building new walls and a contribution towards the general upkeep of the churchyard.

11 Independent Examination of the Accounts

Baxter & Co, Chartered Accountants, provided an independent examination of the financial statements.

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

INCOMING RESOURCES		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	2(a)	80,381	96	34,378	114,855	132,544
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	11,397	-	-	11,397	12,473
Investment income	2(c)	13,938	21,418	-	35,356	25,849
Incoming resources from charitable a	2(d)	22,159	-	51,095	73,254	60,895
Other incoming resources	2(e)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		127,876	21,513	85,473	234,862	231,761
RESOURCES USED						
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(a)	6,811	-	-	6,811	7,593
Charitable activities	3(b)	131,451	17,220	52,141	200,812	190,970
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		138,262	17,220	52,141	207,623	198,563
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before trans	-	10,386	4,293	33,332	27,239	33,198
Transfers between funds	-	4,287	350	3,937	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in funds	-	14,673	4,643	37,269	27,239	33,198
Total funds brought forward		303,396	751,810	274,303	1,329,509	1,296,310
Total funds carried forward		288,724	756,452	311,571	1,356,748	1,329,508

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	Note:	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Church Centre Building	8	211,000	211,000
Freehold Property	8	<u>540,000</u>	<u>540,000</u>
		<u>751,000</u>	<u>751,000</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	10	3,508	2,015
No notice deposits	9	372,754	304,171
Notice accounts	9	88,721	85,064
Cash at bank and in hand	9	<u>146,500</u>	<u>192,597</u>
		611,483	583,847
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: falling due within one year	10	<u>(5,735)</u>	<u>(5,339)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>605,748</u>	<u>578,508</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES		<u>1,356,748</u>	<u>1,329,508</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		288,724	303,397
DESIGNATED FUNDS	11	756,452	751,809
RESTRICTED FUNDS	11	<u>311,571</u>	<u>274,302</u>
		<u>1,356,748</u>	<u>1,329,508</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

Rector *Matthew Hughes* Churchwarden *Andrew T Briley* Financial Accountant

Hon Treasurer

[Signature]

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

1 Diocesan Contribution

The Diocesan Contribution amounted to £70,600 (2023: £67,948).

2. Legacies & Donations

No legacies were received during the year: Nil (2023: Nil).

3. Donations and appeals amounted to £11,731 (2023: £12,122).

4. Gift Aid Donations

Gift aid donations amounted to £47,422 (2023: £46,773) and income tax recoveries amounted to £13,302 (2023: £14,282).

5 Investment Income

Included within Investment Income of £35,356 (2023: £25,849) is rental income from the letting of Wentworth Close of £21,418 (2023: £19,920).

6 Costs and expenses

Total costs and expenses for the year amounted to £207,623 (2023: £198,563).

7 Staff costs

The following salary and wages were expenses during the year:

	2024 £'s	2023 £'s
Parish secretary	19,700	18,786
Church and centre cleaners	<u>3,746</u>	<u>3,429</u>
	<u>£23,446</u>	<u>£22,215</u>

No employer's national insurance was paid as this was less than the annual Government allowance of £5,000 p.a.

In addition a self employed organist is paid a retainer fee and wedding and funeral fees for services.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

- i) The Church Centre is shown at its formal insured valuation of £211,000.
The Church Centre contents are considered to be of no material value.
- ii) The freehold interest in the residential property ("12 Wentworth Close") is recorded as a Freehold Property at its probate valuation of £540,000. This valuation has been reconsidered for the year end and is believed to remain an appropriate carrying value.

The property has been let and rental income included within Investment income.

9 Cash at Bank and Notice Accounts

Current accounts held with Santander and Barclays amount to £146,500 (2023: £192,597).

No notice accounts comprise the following:

	2024	2023
	£'s	£'s
Barclays	-	-
Diocese of Rochester	253,094	94,969
Barclays Reward	51,276	50,515
Virgin Money	-	91,525
Nationwide	68,141	66,850
Flower Fund	243	312
Total:	£372,754	£304,171

A balance of £88,721 (2023: £85,064) is held with Cambridge & Counties Bank at 95 days notice.

10 Balance Sheet Debtors and Creditors

	2024 £'s	2023 £'s
Debtors and prepayments	<u>3,508</u>	<u>2,015</u>
Creditors and accruals	<u>5,735</u>	<u>5,339</u>

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

11 Analysis of Funds

The following Designated Funds were held at 31st December 2024:

Designated funds:	2024	2023
	£'s	£'s
DHL legacy	4,000	4,000
Church building	31,447	31,447
DG Legacy	17,578	23,939
DL Legacy	106,107	92,143
DL Legacy (“Wentworth Close”)	540,000	540,000
Churchyard	15,671	17,755
RH Legacy	1,500	1,500
Mason re plaques	11,956	12,729
Altar Front	2,679	2,679
CM Legacy	1,000	1,000
RAB Legacy	5,000	5,000
RO Legacy	10,000	10,000
WO Legacy	5,000	5,000
GB Legacy	2,500	2,500
Organ Scholarship	0	250
Memorial Renovation	1,360	1,214
Altar Linen	564	564
Organ fund	-	-
Other	89	89
Total designated funds:	£756,452	£751,809

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

11 Analysis of Funds (con't)

The following Restricted Funds were held at 31st December 2023:

Restricted funds:	2024	2023
	£'s	£'s
Church Upkeep	87,908	87,908
Blank Plaques & Stonemason	33,004	33,632
Churchyard	99,219	92,364
TOL legacy	112	5,267
BM legacy	6,000	3,000
Bell fund	2,143	2,439
Gallery Carpet	2,086	2,086
Wall Fund	32,663	28,043
Junior Choir Robes	1,023	1,023
MON Legacy	671	739
Hayley Price Memorial	854	854
Centre renovation	22,656	1,000
Centre notice boards	500	500
Flower fund	4,274	2,752
Magazine fund	14,336	11,273
Other Funds	1,422	1,422
Total restricted funds:	£308,871	£274,302

ST GILES THE ABBOT – 2024 ACCOUNTS

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2(a) Voluntary income					
Gift aid	47,422	-	-	47,422	46,773
Churchyard donations (from Wall fund)		-	10,039	10,039	14,550
Tax recoverable (Gift Aid)	13,302	-	-	13,302	14,282
Postage	-		951	951	590
Loose plate collections	9,284	-	-	9,284	10,692
Collections - weddings, funerals, baptisms etc	528	-	-	528	1,277
Secular charities	929	-	-	929	1,595
Donations & appeals	5,963	- 50	5,542	11,455	12,122
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Other planned giving - non gift aid	1,635	-	-	1,635	2,237
Relief Development Agencies	325	-	-	325	1,234
Home missions	-	-	-	-	684
Overseas Churches	446	-	-	446	894
Churchyard donations	-	-	12,779	12,779	19,094
Giving (Church boxes)	547	-	-	547	600
Maintenance of graves	-	-	750	750	750
Flower Fund	-	-	4,117	4,117	4,397
Memorial Renovation	-	146	-	146	452
Work with children	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	200	200	321
	80,381	96	34,378	114,855	132,544
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Summer Fair	8,067	-	-	8,067	9,327
Other Parish events	3,330	-	-	3,330	3,146
	11,397	-	-	11,397	12,473
2(c) Investment income					
Rental income from Freehold Property	-	21,418	-	21,418	19,920
Dividends & interest	13,938	-	-	13,938	5,929
	13,938	21,418	-	35,356	25,849
2(d) Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Fees - funerals	19,268	-	-	19,268	24,331
Magazine income & sales	2,777	-	4,760	7,537	6,424
Magazine Prepayments	- 4,607		4,607		
Fees - weddings	144	-	-	144	735
Fees - wall fund	-	-	4,620	4,620	6,510
Fees - memorials	-	-	9,540	9,540	10,411
Fees - blank plaques	-	-	435	435	1,659
Fees - book of Remembrance	423	-	-	423	585
Fees for verger	-	-	1,860	1,860	1,557
Fees for plot	3,090	-	-	3,090	7,055
Centre hire + refurbishment	595	-	25,272	25,867	1,554
Other	470	-	-	470	74
	22,159	-	51,095	73,254	60,895
2(e) Other incoming resources					
Energy support	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	127,876	21,513	85,473	234,862	231,761

ST GILES THE ABBOT – 2024 ACCOUNTS

RESOURCES USED	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3(a) Costs of generating funds					
Costs of applying for grants	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of events, fetes etc	6,811	-	-	6,811	7,593
	6,811	-	-	6,811	7,593
Charitable activities					
Diocesan contribution	70,600	-	-	70,600	67,948
Parish secretary	19,700	-	-	19,700	18,786
Parish office - stationery, post, telephone	2,268	-	1,952	4,220	3,022
Parish office - computer	667	-	-	667	-
Parish office - photocopier	1,465	-	-	1,465	2,005
Rector's personal expenses	2,220	-	-	2,220	2,220
Rector's church expenses	1,324	-	-	1,324	1,996
Council tax - rectory	3,232	-	-	3,232	3,052
Internal decoration - rectory	401	-	-	401	863
Water rates - rectory	864	-	-	864	363
Rector's telephone	490	-	-	490	612
Churchyard - contracted services	-	-	11,713	11,713	11,251
Rectory alarm	117	-	-	117	111
War Memorial Wall redecoration	-	-	-	-	-
Removal of notice boardss	-	-	-	-	2,800
Organists	5,828	-	-	5,828	7,020
Choir master	-	2,577	2,763	5,340	5,880
Organ scholarship	-	600	-	600	-
Parish magazine expenses	-	-	6,305	6,305	5,863
St Giles centre costs	5,692	-	-	5,692	4,906
St Giles centre cleaner & waste collection	-	-	-	-	-
St Giles Centre - Renovation	-	-	4,784	4,784	234
Expenses Wentworth Close	-	7,181	-	7,181	4,544
Giving - Secular charities	929	-	-	929	1,595
Giving - Home missions	-	-	10	10	684
Churchyard - stonemasons costs	-	772	10,602	11,375	8,615
Junior Choir fund	-	-	3,180	3,180	1,710
Church maintenance	309	-	-	309	1,373
Administration	2,224	-	-	2,224	1,506
Giving - Relief Development Agencies	325	-	-	325	1,234
Giving - Missionary societies	446	-	-	446	893
Altar & services	609	-	-	609	487
Gifts	1,255	-	-	1,255	1,038
Other education - youth work	-	-	68	68	-
Verger	-	-	316	316	229
Church running costs (electric/gas/water)	2,409	-	-	2,409	2,103
Visiting clergy	1,823	-	-	1,823	1,890
Church cleaning (wages & expenses)	3,020	-	-	3,020	2,747
Church insurance	1,397	-	-	1,397	1,641
Churchyard - running costs	-	2,083	-	2,083	3,380
Organ/piano tuning	-	-	1,189	1,189	1,481
Sunday school & Lollipop	450	-	-	450	491
Cushions	-	-	-	-	-
Music	-	507	1,327	1,834	2,236
Church alarm & telephone	955	-	-	955	901
Card reader	107	-	-	107	158
Flower Fund	-	-	2,595	2,595	3,348
Choir master	-	-	-	-	-
Choir eqpt & scholarships	-	3,500	-	3,500	4,620
Bell Fund	-	-	336	336	2,431
Carpark resurfacing	-	-	5,000	5,000	-
Other Costs	324	-	-	324	703
	131,451	17,220	52,141	200,812	190,970
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	138,262	17,220	52,141	207,623	198,563

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. NICHOLAS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

INCOME:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Fixed Assets	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from Donors	47,967	-		47,967	46,595
Other Voluntary Income	-	262		262	434
Activities for generating funds	52,845	-		52,845	51,270
Incoming resources from Charitable activities	126	-		126	382
Other Ordinary Income	4,828	-		4,828	1,457
Income from Investment	3,150	-		3,150	2,243
TOTAL INCOME	108,916	262	-	109,178	102,381
EXPENDITURE:					
Grants	(247)	262		15	1,440
Church Expenditure	90,188	-		90,188	74,815
Costs of generating funds	9,042	-		9,042	6,635
Management and Administration	16,822	-		16,822	13,883
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	115,805	262	-	116,067	96,773
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(6,889)	0	0	(6,889)	5,608
Gains on fixed assets					-
Net Movement in Funds	(6,889)	0	0	(6,889)	5,608
Balances b/fwd at 1st Jan 2024	92,374	-	1,404,494	1,496,868	1,491,260
Balances c/fwd at 31st December 2024	85,485	-	1,404,494	1,489,979	1,496,868

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. NICHOLAS**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Church Centre	-	-
Church Hall	1,166,494	1,166,494
Church House	238,000	238,000
	<u>1,404,494</u>	<u>1,404,494</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and Prepayments	1,846	509
Short Term Deposits	40,756	44,773
Cash at Bank and in Hand	20,241	16,883
CCLA	23,642	32,009
	<u>86,485</u>	<u>94,174</u>
LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year		(1,800)
Community Larder Designated Fund	(1,000)	
	<u>85,485</u>	<u>92,374</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	<u>85,485</u>	<u>92,374</u>
NET ASSETS		
	<u>1,489,979</u>	<u>1,496,868</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
PROPERTY RESERVES	1,404,494	1,404,494
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	85,485	92,374
DESIGNATED FUNDS	-	-
RESTRICTED FUNDS	-	-
	<u>1,489,979</u>	<u>1,496,868</u>

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH KENT ST NICHOLAS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1a FUNDS

The income in the Restricted Funds of £262 is the £262 collected at the Christingle Service for the Children's Society.

1b TAX EFFICIENT GIVING

The total gift aid tax due for the year amounts to £8220 - £6301 Gift Aid and £1919 under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme introduced from 6 April 2013. £6933 has already been received. The balance of £1287 for December is a debtor in the accounts at 31 December and was received in January 2025.

1c FIXED ASSETS

The valuations of the Church Hall and Church House shown in the Balance Sheet are the latest valuations that are available. The valuation of £1166494 for the Church Hall is the sum insured as at renewal in December 2015. Since then the policy has been on a different basis with losses covered up to a specified sum. The valuation of £238000 for Church House is the figure included in the quinquennial report, dated March 2017, as being the sum necessary to reinstate the house in the event of total loss. These figures will not be changed in future as it is understood that any new figures would have to be supported by a professional valuation and it is not considered to be of any benefit to incur this additional expenditure on a regular basis.

1d DEBTORS (UNRESTRICTED FUNDS)

2024	2023
£	£
1846	509

The debtors at 31 December 2024 of £1846 is the Gift Aid Tax due in respect of December 2024 and £559 due from Praetorium, the Hall Lettings Company, in respect of December 2024 hall lettings. These sums were received in full in January 2025.

1e LIABILITIES

1800

There were no creditors at 31 December 2024.

1f STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff Costs	24689	20092

The staff costs of £24689 comprise the salary of the Cleaner until 12 June and the salary and redundancy payments for the Church Administrator and the Children and Family Worker. They were made redundant on 11 July and 9 August respectively. Cleaning services have been provided since June by a self employed contractor.

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH KENT ST NICHOLAS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2 INCOME RESOURCES

	Unrestricted General £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
2a Incoming resources from donors				
Planned Giving:-				
Gift Aid	26,745		26,745	26,668
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid	8,635	0	8,635	7,377
Other planned giving	2,100		2,100	2,484
Donations, collections and offerings	7,855		7,855	5,439
Gift Aid Small Donations	1,919		1,919	1,065
Energy support	0		0	2,818
Messy Church & other	587		587	563
Alpha & Ignite	126		126	181
Legacies	0		0	0
	<u>47,967</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>47,967</u>	<u>46,595</u>
2b Other voluntary incoming resources				
Childrens Society		262	262	434
		<u>262</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>434</u>
2c Activities for generating funds				
Hall lettings	42,409		42,409	39,947
Parent and Toddler Group	2,789		2,789	4,552
Community Larder & Quiz Night	1,069		1,069	935
Christmas Raffle & Stall (2023)	1,007		1,007	1,414
Spring Fair	2,348		2,348	1,924
Book Sale	0		0	377
Holiday Club	692		692	836
Christmas & 2023 Coronation lunches & Passover Meal	910		910	1,285
Tea, Cake & Chat Afternoon donations	1,621		1,621	0
	<u>52,845</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>52,845</u>	<u>51,270</u>
2d Income from investment				
Diocesan deposit interest & CCLA	3,076		3,076	2,201
Bank interest	74		74	42
	<u>3,150</u>		<u>3,150</u>	<u>2,243</u>
2e Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Fees - Weddings	0		0	0
Fees - Funerals	126		126	382
	<u>126</u>		<u>126</u>	<u>382</u>
2f Other ordinary incoming resources				
Sundry Refreshments	44		44	0
Insurance claims	4,436		4,436	1,129
Easy Fundraising Commission	194		194	201
Flower Fund	0		0	52
Miscellaneous Income	154		154	75
	<u>4,828</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,828</u>	<u>1,457</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>108,916</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>109,178</u>	<u>102,381</u>

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH KENT ST NICHOLAS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 CONTINUED

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted General £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL	
			2024 £	2023 £
3a Grants				
Missionary and charitable giving:-				
Church overseas:-				
Church missionary societies	(300)		(300)	600
Church relief and development agencies				500
Home missions and other church societies				
Secular charities	53	262	315	340
	(247)	262	15	1,440
3b Directly relating to the work of the Church				
Ministry - Pledged Offer	44,928		44,928	45,420
Ministry - Appointment/licensing				
Ministry - Working expenses	978		978	1,122
Ministry - Housing costs	14,488		14,488	6,126
Church upkeep of services	1,136		1,136	968
Training and education costs	822		822	1,034
Children & family worker	2,263		2,263	950
60th Anniversary				
Church/Hall running expenses	15,537		15,537	16,669
Church/Hall maintenance and repairs	2,199		2,199	2,526
Church/Hall major improvements	7,837		7,837	
	90,188		90,188	74,815
3c Costs of generating funds				
Parent and Toddler Group expenses	6,661		6,661	4,085
Hall letting expenses				90
Parish events	180		180	410
Community lunches	366		366	654
Summer Holiday Club	659		659	692
Community larder/ Warm Spaces	1,034		1,034	704
Tea, Cake & Chat Afternoon	142		142	
	9,042		9,042	6,635
3d Church management and administration				
Printing, postage and stationery	1,584		1,584	2,177
Publicity	699		699	794
Church Administrator - salary & redundancy	13,550		13,550	10,428
Sundry expenditure	989		989	484
	16,822		16,822	13,883
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	115,805	262	116,067	96,773

There were no other disclosable transactions in respect of PCC members, persons closely connected with them or other related parties.

CHURCH WARDEN
CECOWLEY

ASSOCIATE RECTOR
SBroadie

TREASURER
Rye

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER KENT**

**ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

Incumbent: Revd. Matthew Hughes

Associate Rector: Revd. Stephen broadie

Principal Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc

Santander UK plc

Independent Examiner

Baxter & Co, Chartered Accountants

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER KENT**

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

ST. NICHOLAS

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STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

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Honorary Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Giles the Abbot, Farnborough

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 18, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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

Signed:

Baxter & Co

30 April 2025

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	128,348	96	34,640	163,084	179,573
Activities for generating funds	64,242	-	-	64,242	63,743
Investment income	17,088	21,418	-	38,506	28,092
Incoming resources from charitable activities	22,285	-	51,095	73,380	61,277
Other incoming resources	4,828	-	-	4,828	1,457
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	236,792	21,513	85,735	344,040	334,142
RESOURCES USED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	15,853	-	-	15,853	14,228
Charitable activities	238,214	17,220	52,403	307,837	281,108
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	254,067	17,220	52,403	323,690	295,336
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources pre transfers	(17,275)	4,293	33,332	20,350	38,806
Transfers between funds	(4,287)	350	3,937	-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in funds	(21,562)	4,643	37,269	20,350	38,806
Total funds brought forward	1,800,263	751,809	274,302	2,826,374	2,787,568
Total funds carried forward	1,778,701	756,452	311,571	2,846,724	2,826,374

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments	5,354	2,524
No notice accounts	413,510	348,944
Notice Account	88,721	85,064
Cash at bank and in hand	166,741	209,478
CCLA Funds	<u>23,642</u>	<u>32,009</u>
	697,968	678,019
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(6,735)	(7,139)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>691,233</u>	<u>670,880</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	<u>2,846,727</u>	<u>2,826,374</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,778,703	1,800,263
DESIGNATED FUNDS	756,452	751,809
RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>311,571</u>	<u>274,302</u>
	<u>2,846,727</u>	<u>2,826,374</u>

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

Rector *Matthew Hughes*

Churchwarden *Andrew T Bailey*

Financial Accountant

Smadile

CR Coulter

Hon Treasurer

Rye
Chayer

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1 Form of Accounts and Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") FRS 102.

The Parish does not make payments for the preparation of the annual accounts and PCC trustees are not remunerated. A nominal payment of £600 was made to the independent financial examiner.

2 Diocesan Contribution

The Diocesan Contribution is an annual contribution from each parish towards Diocesan expenditure based upon what the parish can afford and includes a contribution towards clergy costs (including stipends) which are financed by the Diocese directly.

3 Policy on Reserves

The Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 require PCCs to set out their policy on Reserves. Designated and restricted reserves are established for particular, specified purposes. General reserves are held to provide for ongoing cash demands and to provide for unforeseen emergencies.

4 Parish Property Assets

- i) Consecrated properties are excluded from the accounts under Sect. 96 (2)(a) of the Charities Act, 1993. This includes the Church and churchyard.
- ii) Movable Church furnishings are held on special trust by the Wardens on behalf of the PCC and are excluded from the accounts. Such items are recorded in the parish inventory which may be inspected by appointment.
- iii) The Rectory building is the responsibility of the Diocese and therefore excluded.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

4 Parish Property Assets (cont)

- iv) The St. Giles Centre is not consecrated property. It falls within the PCC's trusteeship and is required by the Charities Act to be included in the accounts. It is recorded at its revalued amount at 31st December 2012.

Depreciation of the Centre building has not been provided in these accounts as any charge is not considered to be material on the basis that this asset has a very long useful economic life or a residual value based on its current value which is not materially different from its carrying value.

Any centre contents are not considered to be of material value.

- v) The Church Hall (St Nicholas) is included at its last insured valuation. The Church House is included at a valuation based upon an estimate of the cost to rebuild it in the event of its total loss.

Depreciation has not been provided for either property based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

- vi) An interest in a freehold property ("12 Wentworth Close") is held on trust by the Diocese of Rochester for the beneficial ownership of St Giles and is included in these accounts at its initial probate valuation as a Freehold Property. This valuation is informally reviewed annually to assess whether it remains reasonable.

Depreciation is not provided based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

5 Inter Church Transfers

Inter-Church financial transfers are dealt with by offset during the year within the two accounts in order to avoid duplication of income and expenditure at consolidation.

6 Friends of St Giles

The Friends of St Giles is a registered charity and accounts separately to the Charity Commissioners.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

7 Flower Fund

The Flower Fund Treasurer operates a separate bank account and draws down the flower fees from St. Giles from time to time as required. The Fund accounts are integrated within these financial statements.

8 Risk Policy

The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 require the PCC to set out its policy on Risk Management. The PCC has already undertaken Child Protection, Health and Safety and Fire Risk Assessments. So far as concerns financial risk, controls regulate the banking arrangements including online banking and the issue of cheques (two signatures). Cashflow is managed monthly and budgetary controls are in place.

For the broader liabilities the PCC has comprehensive insurance with the specialist insurance company, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Property assets were subject to a full survey and valuation by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company during 2012.

9 Stakeholder Pensions

The PCC has registered with the Legal and General Assurance Society as its stakeholder Pension provider. To date no eligible member of staff has expressed an interest in joining the Scheme.

10 Garden of Remembrance (Wall Fund and Plaques)

The PCC is responsible for administration of the wall memorials scheme which commenced in 2006. Funds received from the sale of each memorial provide for the cost of an installed, engraved plaque, a contribution towards the cost of building new walls and a contribution towards the general upkeep of the churchyard.

11 Independent Examination of the Accounts

Baxter & Co, Chartered Accountants, provided an independent examination of the financial statements.

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

INCOMING RESOURCES		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	2(a)	80,381	96	34,378	114,855	132,544
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	11,397	-	-	11,397	12,473
Investment income	2(c)	13,938	21,418	-	35,356	25,849
Incoming resources from charitable a	2(d)	22,159	-	51,095	73,254	60,895
Other incoming resources	2(e)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		127,876	21,513	85,473	234,862	231,761
RESOURCES USED						
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(a)	6,811	-	-	6,811	7,593
Charitable activities	3(b)	131,451	17,220	52,141	200,812	190,970
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		138,262	17,220	52,141	207,623	198,563
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before trans	-	10,386	4,293	33,332	27,239	33,198
Transfers between funds	-	4,287	350	3,937	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in funds	-	14,673	4,643	37,269	27,239	33,198
Total funds brought forward		303,396	751,810	274,303	1,329,509	1,296,310
Total funds carried forward		288,724	756,452	311,571	1,356,748	1,329,508

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	Note:	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Church Centre Building	8	211,000	211,000
Freehold Property	8	<u>540,000</u>	<u>540,000</u>
		<u>751,000</u>	<u>751,000</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	10	3,508	2,015
No notice deposits	9	372,754	304,171
Notice accounts	9	88,721	85,064
Cash at bank and in hand	9	<u>146,500</u>	<u>192,597</u>
		611,483	583,847
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: falling due within one year	10	<u>(5,735)</u>	<u>(5,339)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>605,748</u>	<u>578,508</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES		<u>1,356,748</u>	<u>1,329,508</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		288,724	303,397
DESIGNATED FUNDS	11	756,452	751,809
RESTRICTED FUNDS	11	<u>311,571</u>	<u>274,302</u>
		<u>1,356,748</u>	<u>1,329,508</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

Rector *Matthew Hughes* Churchwarden *Andrew T Briley* Financial Accountant

Hon Treasurer

A. Hughes

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

1 Diocesan Contribution

The Diocesan Contribution amounted to £70,600 (2023: £67,948).

2. Legacies & Donations

No legacies were received during the year: Nil (2023: Nil).

3. Donations and appeals amounted to £11,731 (2023: £12,122).

4. Gift Aid Donations

Gift aid donations amounted to £47,422 (2023: £46,773) and income tax recoveries amounted to £13,302 (2023: £14,282).

5 Investment Income

Included within Investment Income of £35,356 (2023: £25,849) is rental income from the letting of Wentworth Close of £21,418 (2023: £19,920).

6 Costs and expenses

Total costs and expenses for the year amounted to £207,623 (2023: £198,563).

7 Staff costs

The following salary and wages were expenses during the year:

	2024 £'s	2023 £'s
Parish secretary	19,700	18,786
Church and centre cleaners	<u>3,746</u>	<u>3,429</u>
	<u>£23,446</u>	<u>£22,215</u>

No employer's national insurance was paid as this was less than the annual Government allowance of £5,000 p.a.

In addition a self employed organist is paid a retainer fee and wedding and funeral fees for services.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

- i) The Church Centre is shown at its formal insured valuation of £211,000.
The Church Centre contents are considered to be of no material value.
- ii) The freehold interest in the residential property ("12 Wentworth Close") is recorded as a Freehold Property at its probate valuation of £540,000. This valuation has been reconsidered for the year end and is believed to remain an appropriate carrying value.

The property has been let and rental income included within Investment income.

9 Cash at Bank and Notice Accounts

Current accounts held with Santander and Barclays amount to £146,500 (2023: £192,597).

No notice accounts comprise the following:

	2024	2023
	£'s	£'s
Barclays	-	-
Diocese of Rochester	253,094	94,969
Barclays Reward	51,276	50,515
Virgin Money	-	91,525
Nationwide	68,141	66,850
Flower Fund	243	312
Total:	£372,754	£304,171

A balance of £88,721 (2023: £85,064) is held with Cambridge & Counties Bank at 95 days notice.

10 Balance Sheet Debtors and Creditors

	2024 £'s	2023 £'s
Debtors and prepayments	<u>3,508</u>	<u>2,015</u>
Creditors and accruals	<u>5,735</u>	<u>5,339</u>

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

11 Analysis of Funds

The following Designated Funds were held at 31st December 2024:

Designated funds:	2024	2023
	£'s	£'s
DHL legacy	4,000	4,000
Church building	31,447	31,447
DG Legacy	17,578	23,939
DL Legacy	106,107	92,143
DL Legacy (“Wentworth Close”)	540,000	540,000
Churchyard	15,671	17,755
RH Legacy	1,500	1,500
Mason re plaques	11,956	12,729
Altar Front	2,679	2,679
CM Legacy	1,000	1,000
RAB Legacy	5,000	5,000
RO Legacy	10,000	10,000
WO Legacy	5,000	5,000
GB Legacy	2,500	2,500
Organ Scholarship	0	250
Memorial Renovation	1,360	1,214
Altar Linen	564	564
Organ fund	-	-
Other	89	89
Total designated funds:	£756,452	£751,809

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST GILES THE ABBOT
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

11 Analysis of Funds (con't)

The following Restricted Funds were held at 31st December 2023:

Restricted funds:	2024	2023
	£'s	£'s
Church Upkeep	87,908	87,908
Blank Plaques & Stonemason	33,004	33,632
Churchyard	99,219	92,364
TOL legacy	112	5,267
BM legacy	6,000	3,000
Bell fund	2,143	2,439
Gallery Carpet	2,086	2,086
Wall Fund	32,663	28,043
Junior Choir Robes	1,023	1,023
MON Legacy	671	739
Hayley Price Memorial	854	854
Centre renovation	22,656	1,000
Centre notice boards	500	500
Flower fund	4,274	2,752
Magazine fund	14,336	11,273
Other Funds	1,422	1,422
Total restricted funds:	£308,871	£274,302

ST GILES THE ABBOT – 2024 ACCOUNTS

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2(a) Voluntary income					
Gift aid	47,422	-	-	47,422	46,773
Churchyard donations (from Wall fund)		-	10,039	10,039	14,550
Tax recoverable (Gift Aid)	13,302	-	-	13,302	14,282
Postage	-		951	951	590
Loose plate collections	9,284	-	-	9,284	10,692
Collections - weddings, funerals, baptisms etc	528	-	-	528	1,277
Secular charities	929	-	-	929	1,595
Donations & appeals	5,963	- 50	5,542	11,455	12,122
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Other planned giving - non gift aid	1,635	-	-	1,635	2,237
Relief Development Agencies	325	-	-	325	1,234
Home missions	-	-	-	-	684
Overseas Churches	446	-	-	446	894
Churchyard donations	-	-	12,779	12,779	19,094
Giving (Church boxes)	547	-	-	547	600
Maintenance of graves	-	-	750	750	750
Flower Fund	-	-	4,117	4,117	4,397
Memorial Renovation	-	146	-	146	452
Work with children	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	200	200	321
	80,381	96	34,378	114,855	132,544
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Summer Fair	8,067	-	-	8,067	9,327
Other Parish events	3,330	-	-	3,330	3,146
	11,397	-	-	11,397	12,473
2(c) Investment income					
Rental income from Freehold Property	-	21,418	-	21,418	19,920
Dividends & interest	13,938	-	-	13,938	5,929
	13,938	21,418	-	35,356	25,849
2(d) Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Fees - funerals	19,268	-	-	19,268	24,331
Magazine income & sales	2,777	-	4,760	7,537	6,424
Magazine Prepayments	- 4,607		4,607		
Fees - weddings	144	-	-	144	735
Fees - wall fund	-	-	4,620	4,620	6,510
Fees - memorials	-	-	9,540	9,540	10,411
Fees - blank plaques	-	-	435	435	1,659
Fees - book of Remembrance	423	-	-	423	585
Fees for verger	-	-	1,860	1,860	1,557
Fees for plot	3,090	-	-	3,090	7,055
Centre hire + refurbishment	595	-	25,272	25,867	1,554
Other	470	-	-	470	74
	22,159	-	51,095	73,254	60,895
2(e) Other incoming resources					
Energy support	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	127,876	21,513	85,473	234,862	231,761

ST GILES THE ABBOT – 2024 ACCOUNTS

RESOURCES USED	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3(a) Costs of generating funds					
Costs of applying for grants	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of events, fetes etc	6,811	-	-	6,811	7,593
	6,811	-	-	6,811	7,593
Charitable activities					
Diocesan contribution	70,600	-	-	70,600	67,948
Parish secretary	19,700	-	-	19,700	18,786
Parish office - stationery, post, telephone	2,268	-	1,952	4,220	3,022
Parish office - computer	667	-	-	667	-
Parish office - photocopier	1,465	-	-	1,465	2,005
Rector's personal expenses	2,220	-	-	2,220	2,220
Rector's church expenses	1,324	-	-	1,324	1,996
Council tax - rectory	3,232	-	-	3,232	3,052
Internal decoration - rectory	401	-	-	401	863
Water rates - rectory	864	-	-	864	363
Rector's telephone	490	-	-	490	612
Churchyard - contracted services	-	-	11,713	11,713	11,251
Rectory alarm	117	-	-	117	111
War Memorial Wall redecoration	-	-	-	-	-
Removal of notice boardss	-	-	-	-	2,800
Organists	5,828	-	-	5,828	7,020
Choir master	-	2,577	2,763	5,340	5,880
Organ scholarship	-	600	-	600	-
Parish magazine expenses	-	-	6,305	6,305	5,863
St Giles centre costs	5,692	-	-	5,692	4,906
St Giles centre cleaner & waste collection	-	-	-	-	-
St Giles Centre - Renovation	-	-	4,784	4,784	234
Expenses Wentworth Close	-	7,181	-	7,181	4,544
Giving - Secular charities	929	-	-	929	1,595
Giving - Home missions	-	-	10	10	684
Churchyard - stonemasons costs	-	772	10,602	11,375	8,615
Junior Choir fund	-	-	3,180	3,180	1,710
Church maintenance	309	-	-	309	1,373
Administration	2,224	-	-	2,224	1,506
Giving - Relief Development Agencies	325	-	-	325	1,234
Giving - Missionary societies	446	-	-	446	893
Altar & services	609	-	-	609	487
Gifts	1,255	-	-	1,255	1,038
Other education - youth work	-	-	68	68	-
Verger	-	-	316	316	229
Church running costs (electric/gas/water)	2,409	-	-	2,409	2,103
Visiting clergy	1,823	-	-	1,823	1,890
Church cleaning (wages & expenses)	3,020	-	-	3,020	2,747
Church insurance	1,397	-	-	1,397	1,641
Churchyard - running costs	-	2,083	-	2,083	3,380
Organ/piano tuning	-	-	1,189	1,189	1,481
Sunday school & Lollipop	450	-	-	450	491
Cushions	-	-	-	-	-
Music	-	507	1,327	1,834	2,236
Church alarm & telephone	955	-	-	955	901
Card reader	107	-	-	107	158
Flower Fund	-	-	2,595	2,595	3,348
Choir master	-	-	-	-	-
Choir eqpt & scholarships	-	3,500	-	3,500	4,620
Bell Fund	-	-	336	336	2,431
Carpark resurfacing	-	-	5,000	5,000	-
Other Costs	324	-	-	324	703
	131,451	17,220	52,141	200,812	190,970
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	138,262	17,220	52,141	207,623	198,563

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. NICHOLAS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

INCOME:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Fixed Assets	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from Donors	47,967	-		47,967	46,595
Other Voluntary Income	-	262		262	434
Activities for generating funds	52,845	-		52,845	51,270
Incoming resources from Charitable activities	126	-		126	382
Other Ordinary Income	4,828	-		4,828	1,457
Income from Investment	3,150	-		3,150	2,243
TOTAL INCOME	108,916	262	-	109,178	102,381
EXPENDITURE:					
Grants	(247)	262		15	1,440
Church Expenditure	90,188	-		90,188	74,815
Costs of generating funds	9,042	-		9,042	6,635
Management and Administration	16,822	-		16,822	13,883
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	115,805	262	-	116,067	96,773
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(6,889)	0	0	(6,889)	5,608
Gains on fixed assets					-
Net Movement in Funds	(6,889)	0	0	(6,889)	5,608
Balances b/fwd at 1st Jan 2024	92,374	-	1,404,494	1,496,868	1,491,260
Balances c/fwd at 31st December 2024	85,485	-	1,404,494	1,489,979	1,496,868

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. NICHOLAS**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Church Centre	-	-
Church Hall	1,166,494	1,166,494
Church House	238,000	238,000
	<u>1,404,494</u>	<u>1,404,494</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and Prepayments	1,846	509
Short Term Deposits	40,756	44,773
Cash at Bank and in Hand	20,241	16,883
CCLA	23,642	32,009
	<u>86,485</u>	<u>94,174</u>
LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year		(1,800)
Community Larder Designated Fund	(1,000)	
	<u>85,485</u>	<u>92,374</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	<u>85,485</u>	<u>92,374</u>
NET ASSETS		
	<u>1,489,979</u>	<u>1,496,868</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
PROPERTY RESERVES	1,404,494	1,404,494
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	85,485	92,374
DESIGNATED FUNDS	-	-
RESTRICTED FUNDS	-	-
	<u>1,489,979</u>	<u>1,496,868</u>

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH KENT ST NICHOLAS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1a FUNDS

The income in the Restricted Funds of £262 is the £262 collected at the Christingle Service for the Children's Society.

1b TAX EFFICIENT GIVING

The total gift aid tax due for the year amounts to £8220 - £6301 Gift Aid and £1919 under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme introduced from 6 April 2013. £6933 has already been received. The balance of £1287 for December is a debtor in the accounts at 31 December and was received in January 2025.

1c FIXED ASSETS

The valuations of the Church Hall and Church House shown in the Balance Sheet are the latest valuations that are available. The valuation of £1166494 for the Church Hall is the sum insured as at renewal in December 2015. Since then the policy has been on a different basis with losses covered up to a specified sum. The valuation of £238000 for Church House is the figure included in the quinquennial report, dated March 2017, as being the sum necessary to reinstate the house in the event of total loss. These figures will not be changed in future as it is understood that any new figures would have to be supported by a professional valuation and it is not considered to be of any benefit to incur this additional expenditure on a regular basis.

1d DEBTORS (UNRESTRICTED FUNDS)

2024	2023
£	£
1846	509

The debtors at 31 December 2024 of £1846 is the Gift Aid Tax due in respect of December 2024 and £559 due from Praetorium, the Hall Lettings Company, in respect of December 2024 hall lettings. These sums were received in full in January 2025.

1e LIABILITIES

1800

There were no creditors at 31 December 2024.

1f STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff Costs	24689	20092

The staff costs of £24689 comprise the salary of the Cleaner until 12 June and the salary and redundancy payments for the Church Administrator and the Children and Family Worker. They were made redundant on 11 July and 9 August respectively. Cleaning services have been provided since June by a self employed contractor.

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH KENT ST NICHOLAS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2 INCOME RESOURCES

	Unrestricted General £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
2a Incoming resources from donors				
Planned Giving:-				
Gift Aid	26,745		26,745	26,668
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid	8,635	0	8,635	7,377
Other planned giving	2,100		2,100	2,484
Donations, collections and offerings	7,855		7,855	5,439
Gift Aid Small Donations	1,919		1,919	1,065
Energy support	0		0	2,818
Messy Church & other	587		587	563
Alpha & Ignite	126		126	181
Legacies	0		0	0
	<u>47,967</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>47,967</u>	<u>46,595</u>
2b Other voluntary incoming resources				
Childrens Society		262	262	434
		<u>262</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>434</u>
2c Activities for generating funds				
Hall lettings	42,409		42,409	39,947
Parent and Toddler Group	2,789		2,789	4,552
Community Larder & Quiz Night	1,069		1,069	935
Christmas Raffle & Stall (2023)	1,007		1,007	1,414
Spring Fair	2,348		2,348	1,924
Book Sale	0		0	377
Holiday Club	692		692	836
Christmas & 2023 Coronation lunches & Passover Meal	910		910	1,285
Tea, Cake & Chat Afternoon donations	1,621		1,621	0
	<u>52,845</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>52,845</u>	<u>51,270</u>
2d Income from investment				
Diocesan deposit interest & CCLA	3,076		3,076	2,201
Bank interest	74		74	42
	<u>3,150</u>		<u>3,150</u>	<u>2,243</u>
2e Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Fees - Weddings	0		0	0
Fees - Funerals	126		126	382
	<u>126</u>		<u>126</u>	<u>382</u>
2f Other ordinary incoming resources				
Sundry Refreshments	44		44	0
Insurance claims	4,436		4,436	1,129
Easy Fundraising Commission	194		194	201
Flower Fund	0		0	52
Miscellaneous Income	154		154	75
	<u>4,828</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,828</u>	<u>1,457</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>108,916</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>109,178</u>	<u>102,381</u>

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH KENT ST NICHOLAS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 CONTINUED

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted General £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL	
			2024 £	2023 £
3a Grants				
Missionary and charitable giving:-				
Church overseas:-				
Church missionary societies	(300)		(300)	600
Church relief and development agencies				500
Home missions and other church societies				
Secular charities	53	262	315	340
	(247)	262	15	1,440
3b Directly relating to the work of the Church				
Ministry - Pledged Offer	44,928		44,928	45,420
Ministry - Appointment/licensing				
Ministry - Working expenses	978		978	1,122
Ministry - Housing costs	14,488		14,488	6,126
Church upkeep of services	1,136		1,136	968
Training and education costs	822		822	1,034
Children & family worker	2,263		2,263	950
60th Anniversary				
Church/Hall running expenses	15,537		15,537	16,669
Church/Hall maintenance and repairs	2,199		2,199	2,526
Church/Hall major improvements	7,837		7,837	
	90,188		90,188	74,815
3c Costs of generating funds				
Parent and Toddler Group expenses	6,661		6,661	4,085
Hall letting expenses				90
Parish events	180		180	410
Community lunches	366		366	654
Summer Holiday Club	659		659	692
Community larder/ Warm Spaces	1,034		1,034	704
Tea, Cake & Chat Afternoon	142		142	
	9,042		9,042	6,635
3d Church management and administration				
Printing, postage and stationery	1,584		1,584	2,177
Publicity	699		699	794
Church Administrator - salary & redundancy	13,550		13,550	10,428
Sundry expenditure	989		989	484
	16,822		16,822	13,883
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	115,805	262	116,067	96,773

There were no other disclosable transactions in respect of PCC members, persons closely connected with them or other related parties.

CHURCH WARDEN
CECOWLEY

ASSOCIATE RECTOR
SBroadie

TREASURER
Rye

Accounts

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT and ST. NICHOLAS

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens:
- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Churchwardens | Andrew Bailey | (St. Giles) |
| | Claire Couldridge | (St. Nicholas) |
| Deputy Wardens | Peter Russell |) St. Giles - 8.00 a.m. |
| | Sue Rennie |) St. Giles - 10.00 a.m. |
| | Janet Palmer and |) |
| | Sally Attwood |) St. Giles - 11.15 a.m. |
| | Philip Lovelock |) St. Giles - 6.30 p.m. |
| | Sheila Munns |) St. Giles - Thursdays 10.00 a.m. |
| | Nick Jolliffe |) St. Nicholas |

Proposal that we allow all of our Readers to be members of Farnborough P.C.C. (It is customary across the Diocese that licensed Readers are allowed by virtue of their office to be full members of their P.C.C. This needs to be agreed at the AGM or Vestry Meeting).

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 14th MAY 2023 - 4.30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYERS

May this meeting be in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-7

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

PRAYERS

- Leader:** Loving God, we thank you for the fellowship of the Church - for the privilege of belonging to your people and sharing in the ministry of the Body of Christ. Unite us in love,
All: **and send us out in faith.**
- Leader:** We thank you for the fellowship of our Church here - for the friendship, encouragement, support and inspiration we gain from it, and for the ties that bind us together in Christ. Unite us in love,
All: **and send us out in faith.**
- Leader:** We thank you for one another - for the various gifts you have given us as a family and for the quirks and characteristics which make us what we are. Unite us in love,
All: **and send us out in faith.**
- Leader:** We thank you for the history of our churches - all those who have run the race before us and to whom we owe our being here now. Unite us in love,
All: **and send us out in faith.**
- Leader:** We thank you for those whose work among us we recognise today - all who have offered spiritual guidance, nurture and inspiration, and all who have offered a practical ministry, sometimes unseen, unnoticed. Unite us in love,
All: **and send us out in faith.**
- Leader:** We thank you for the possibilities you set before us - new avenues of service inviting our response, and new opportunities for witness waiting to be grasped. Unite us in love,
All: **and send us out in faith.**
- Leader:** We thank you for those who will take up office as a result of this meeting - using their talents, their time and their energy both here among us and, above all, in the cause of Christ. Unite us in love,
All: **and send us out in faith.**
- Leader:** Loving God, we thank you for the fellowship of the Church - for the privilege of belonging to your people - and we ask you to help us honour that calling through all we are and do. Unite us in love,
All: **and send us out in faith.**
- Leader:** Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 29th May 2022, *(pages)*
3. **Matters arising**
4. **Reports**
 - (a) Electoral Roll, *(page)*
 - (b) Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council, *(pages)*
 - (c) Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report, *(pages)*
 - (d) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2022 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas *(pages)*
5. **Safeguarding** *(page)*
6. **St. Giles Centre**
7. **Elections**
 - (a) Members for the P.C.C.
St. Giles **TWO** vacancies
St. Nicholas **ONE** vacancy
 - (b) Deanery Synod Members - vacancies for St. Giles and St. Nicholas
8. **Appointments**
 - (a) Sidespeople
 - (b) Independent Financial Examiner.
9. Goodbyes and Thank-you's.
10. **Any other business and date of next A.G.M. 2024.**

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Rector, *(pages 15-19)*
Associate Rector, *(pages 19-20)*
St. Giles Music, *(page 20)*
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 20-21)*
St. Giles Safeguarding Report, *(page 22)*
St. Giles Flower Arrangers Report, *(pages 22-23)*
St. Giles Bell Ringers, *(pages 23-24)*
St. Giles Social Committee, *(pages 24-25)*
St. Nicholas Family & Children's Worker, *(page 25-26)*
Mothers' Union, *(pages 26-28)*
House Groups, *(page 28)*
St. Giles Website, *(page 29)*
Friends of St. Giles, *(page 29)*
Parish Magazine, *(page 30)*

The Accounts are on the Notice Boards of both Churches.

2. MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 29th MAY 2022

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH **ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

Vestry Meeting

Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens

Churchwardens:

Andrew Bailey (St. Giles)

Approved.
Proposed: Sheila Munn
Seconded: Sue Rennie
Agreed: All.

Claire Couldridge (St. Nicholas)

Claire agreed to stand for another year and a vote of thanks was raised for her continued hard work.

Approved.
Proposed: Chris Hallett
Seconded: Paul Barnes
Agreed: All.

Personal thanks for his support given to the St. Giles retiring Churchwarden, Philip Lovelock.

Deputy Wardens: Peter Russell (St. Giles - 8.00 a.m.)
Sue Rennie (St. Giles - 10.00 a.m.)
Janet Palmer
and Sally Attwood (St. Giles - 11.15 a.m.)
Philip Lovelock (St. Giles - 6.30 p.m.)
Sheila Munns (St. Giles - Thursdays, 10.00 a.m.)
Nick Jolliffe (St. Nicholas)

Approved.
Proposed: Mary Compton
Seconded: Lindsay Barnes
Agreed: All.

Vote of thanks for all Wardens.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING **SUNDAY 29th MAY 2022 at 4.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: The Revd. Matthew Hughes, The Revd. Stephen Broadie, Mary Compton, Sue Price, Sue Rennie, Sheila Munns, Claire Couldridge, Alan Baker, Linda Montgomery, Carol Fryer, Lindsay Barnes, Chris Hallett, Iren Dancer, Sally Attwood, Paul Barnes, Anne Vincent, Julia Hoadley, Judy Haines, Heather Argent, Carol Stokes, Gill Knapp, Soo Chu Clift, Theo Clift, Pamela Butcher, Sylvia Addison, Richard Healey, Andrew Bailey.

1. Opening prayers led by the Rector and Associate Rector.

2. **Apologies for absence:** These were received from Roger Allard, Diane Stiff, Jayne Calvert, Richard Butterworth, Nick Jolliffe and Sue Simpson.

3. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 23rd May 2021.

Approved and agreed.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

St. Nicholas Electoral Roll numbers.

5. **REPORTS**

(a) **Electoral Roll Report:**

No comments.

(b) **Annual Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council:**

No comments.

(c) **Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report:**

No comments.

(d) **Deputy Churchwarden's Report on the Goods and Ornaments of the churches in the Parish:**

No comments.

(e) **The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2021 including financial statements for St. Giles and St. Nicholas: and the Report of the Independent Examiner:**

The Consolidated Accounts together with the Accounts for St. Giles and St. Nicholas were formally accepted.

Vote of thanks to the Treasury Teams at both St. Giles and St. Nicholas.

Approved and agreed.

5. **SAFEGUARDING**

We appoint Irene Dancer as Parish Safeguarding Officer and **Linda Montgomery** as Lead Recruiter; Jenny Wilkins as St. Giles Disclosure & Barring Service Officer; Val Richardson as St. Nicholas Disclosure & Barring Service Officer.

We acknowledge that all PCC members will need to have a DBS check and complete all necessary Diocesan Safeguarding training. This training extends to Churchwardens and any others in positions of responsibility involving children and vulnerable adults.

The AGM and PCC formally adopt the House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy statement available to view at

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/603eb0893e402/content/pages/documents/1603726336.pdf>

6. **ST. GILES CENTRE**

Drawings - refurbish/modern extension. Rector updated meeting on plans to refurbish and extend the St. Giles Centre.

7. ELECTIONS

(a) Members of the P.C.C:

St. Giles **FOUR** vacancies - only two filled.

Nominations: Gill Knapp and Stewart Hutson

Agreed: All.

St. Nicholas **ONE** vacancy:

Nomination: Rosemary Fordyce

Agreed: All.

(b) Deanery Synod Members, **ONE** vacancy at St. Giles, **ONE** vacancy at St. Nicholas.

Linda Montgomery agreed to stand for another year and the other vacancy was not filled.

8. APPOINTMENTS

(a) Sidespeople.

All agreed to stand for another term. Vote of thanks for all the people who carry out this role for both St. Giles and St. Nicholas.

Approved and agreed: All.

(b) Independent Financial Examiner:

Christopher Jones from Baxters is to continue as the Parish Independent Financial Examiner. Vote of thanks for work done and continued support.

Proposed: Chris Hallett

Seconded: Mary Compton

Agreed: All.

9. GOODBYES AND THANK YOUS to outgoing PCC members.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT A.G.M. APRIL 2023

Stephen and Claire were thanked for hosting today's meeting at St. Nicholas.

11. CLOSING PRAYERS

The meeting closed with prayers.

3. MATTERS ARISING

4. REPORTS

ELECTORAL ROLL Report (a)

The figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 396 (St. Giles - 339, St. Nicholas - 56). Our Electoral Roll membership continues to offer a solid base for the ongoing life of the Parish.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022 - Report (b)

ST. GILES THE ABBOT, FARNBOROUGH With ST. NICHOLAS, ORPINGTON

OBJECTIVES

The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Matthew Hughes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Centre complexes of St. Giles at Church Road, Farnborough and St. Nicholas at Leamington Avenue, Orpington.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") in accordance with Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC who served from 29 May 2022 until the date that this report was approved by the PCC were: -

Ex-Officio:

<u>Rector</u>	The Revd. Matthew Hughes	Chairman	
<u>Associate Rector</u>	The Revd. Stephen Broadie		
<u>Reader</u>	Mrs. Chris Hallett		
<u>Wardens</u>	Mr. Andrew Bailey	until APCM 2026	St Giles
	Miss Clare Couldridge	until ACPM 2024	St Nicholas
<u>Deputy Wardens</u>	Mr. Peter Russell	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mr. Philip Lovelock	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mrs. Janet Palmer	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mrs. Susan Rennie	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mrs. Sheila Munns	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Miss Sally Attwood	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mr. Nicholas Jollife	until APCM 2024	St Nicholas

Elected:

Hon. Secretary

<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mr. Roger Allard	St. Nicholas
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<u>Gift Aid Secretary</u>	Mrs. Carol Fryer
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Members

Mr. Stewart Hutson	until ACPM 2025	St Giles
Mrs. Gill Knapp	until ACPM 2025	St Giles
Mrs. Lynn Kelly	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mr. John Kelly	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mrs. Helen Roberts	until ACPM 2023	St Giles
Mrs. Irene Dancer	until APCM 2024	St Giles
Mr. Richard Healey	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mrs. Carol Stokes	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mr. Richard Butterworth	until ACPM 2023	St Nicholas
Mrs. Rosemary Fordyce	until ACPM 2025	St Nicholas
Mrs. Sue Simpson	until APCM 2024	St Nicholas

The United PCC met 3 during the year with an attendance of 70 per cent. In addition, the members representing St. Giles met 6 times (with an average attendance of 70 per cent) and those representing St. Nicholas met 6 times (average attendance 87.5 per cent).

COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between meetings of the PCC:

- Standing & Finance Committee – this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC
- St. Giles' Fabric Group
- St. Giles' Churchyard Group
- Ad hoc groups.

CHURCH ATTENDANCES

There were 390 names on the Church Electoral Roll for the parish as at 31st December 2022.

As a Parish, we are available at times of birth, marriage and death. In 2021, the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

18 Baptisms
7 Weddings
38 Funeral services held in church followed by burial in the churchyard or Cremation
15 Funeral services held at a crematorium
54 Burials of ashes.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Aggregated parish income for the year was £342,275 (2021-£347,638) and aggregated resources used were £281,614 (2021-£277,308). Net incoming resources amounted to £60,661(2021-£70,330). St Giles recorded net incoming resources of £52,330 (2021-£64,896) and St. Nicholas recorded net incoming resources of £8,331 (2021- £5,434).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (less fixed assets) which equates approximately to six months unrestricted expenditure. This was achieved as at 31st December 2022.

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS Report (c)

ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD REPORT

This is my first report for my second 'tour' as Churchwarden for St. Giles, something that I see as both a privilege and a great responsibility.

This has once more been another busy year at St. Giles with much of it dominated by the effects of the Parish recovering from the coronavirus pandemic. We are not yet back to what we could call 'normal' activities yet, but we are moving in the right direction. Now this is not the end of the effects of Covid. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

As Churchwarden I enjoy a good working relationship with Matthew. I believe that is part of my role to have a good relationship with the incumbent of St. Giles in order to advise and support him in the exercise of his ministry. The Churchwarden is there to bring to the Rector's attention any issues raised by the congregation, and to represent the interests of the Parish to him and the PCC. I enjoy working with Matthew and appreciate the mutually supporting roles that we share together.

For the first time in what has seemed ages we have had a full set of services across the whole year. At Easter we held the usual services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday - both inside and outside the Church (where my brother once again was able to toast industrial quantities of hot-cross buns for the congregations in the Churchyard). We held the full set of services for Harvest and Remembrance Sunday, with lots of flowers (courtesy of the Flower Ladies) and singing (courtesy of the Choir).

Christmas saw much larger congregations flowing through the Church at the four Nativity services on Christmas Eve than in 2021, plus we had the two Advent Carol services beforehand, and the Epiphany Carol services in January. We also had a well-attended Confirmation Service, conducted by the new Bishop of Rochester, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Jonathan Gibbs.

2022 saw several major 'highs' and 'lows' in celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, followed later in the year by her funeral. For both occasions I thought the Parish outdid itself in the music, the flowers, and the way that we conducted the services for both events.

We were aided in all this good work by the arrival of the Ven. Dr. Paul Wright, who joined the Parish this year, and who will certainly be a great asset to St. Giles in the years to come! We also this year held a Memorial Service to Graham Shaw, Rector here 1988-1995, who passed away in April 2021.

We have enjoyed the return of several Parish events. In June we held the Parish Fete for the first time since 2019. It was very well attended, and everybody enjoyed themselves (thanks in no small part to the small army of volunteers who helped organise it). It was the first time in ages where the wider Parish 'family' was able to get together and participate in an event outside the Church. The following month we had the first excursion to the seaside for three years with a coach trip to Broadstairs in July. The coach was full and once more I would like to thank Carol Fryer and her team in organising this.

In October we held our usual Churchyard Saturday Morning where the gentlemen, and lady, of the Parish turn up with a whole array of gardening tools to scarify the grass, rake up the moss and seed the lawn. This year it was very well attended.

In terms of goods and ornaments we have purchased new items for both inside and outside the Church. We have a pair of new brass candle sticks on the altar, and a new carpet in the gallery. We also saw an upgrade to the Church's security system.

During 2022 we continued to undertake a rolling program of 'deep cleaning' within the Church. One of the main targets was the Choir Vestry with the space above the storage cupboards being cleared of items to improve the ventilation, which has been a recurring issue in previous years.

In the Churchyard we have gained some benches provided by the family of Thelma Dawes, put into place by Eddie Bellamy. These were laid down on paving stones by Churchyard volunteers. In February 2022 two trees were also taken down in the Churchyard. This was a planned operation, deemed necessary because of disease. The proximity of many grave monuments, including war graves, made this a delicate operation, conducted over three days.

I can report that all the Church's goods and ornaments are in a good state of repair.

I am always grateful for my fellow Churchwardens/Verger and their total commitment and support over the last year. We would not be able to do what we do without their efforts. I thank them for their time and for the kind support they have shown me. As Churchwardens you have to do lots of things behind the scenes which the congregation do not always see. However, I do have to say that being a Churchwarden is a most satisfying undertaking, and I have enjoyed being one in 2023 immensely.

Lastly, as the Churchwarden, to mis-quote the captain of HMS Torrin, I like to have both an efficient Church, and a happy Church. You cannot have one without the other, and at St. Giles I believe that we have managed to do just that.

Andrew Bailey
St. Giles Churchwarden

ST. GILES CHURCHYARD REPORT AS PART OF THE CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT Report (c)

We have continued our regular Committee meetings over the last year to receive reports from Committee members regarding usage and maintenance of the Church and Churchyard, and discuss and action matters arising. We have welcomed three new and enthusiastic members to the work team in recent months, with an expression of interest from one other. We continue to welcome new members, and would be pleased to see new faces on a regular or occasional basis. I would like to thank our team of volunteers who turn out every Tuesday whatever the weather and work very hard.

There is always something that needs our attention, either in the Church, the Centre, or the Churchyard. The Council have still to repair the flint wall by the lych-gate, which continues to deteriorate. Two recent individual approaches from members of the Committee received the standard response from the Council that they are still seeking a suitable price for the works. In June it will be three years since it was first brought to their attention.

The work to reduce the height of some of the evergreen firs in the orchard which block out light to the other trees has been completed, and members of the Tuesday team have tidied up the lower branches, as well as pruning saplings along the border of the orchard. As a result this area has a much improved aspect.

Nick Reynolds, one of our team and a Committee member, continues to be in charge of the burial of ashes, and digs the holes when he can. This results in saving the Church a significant sum of money. There were 79 burials of all kinds in 2022, close to the long term average of 73. Eight new graves were dug, which was the lowest in recent years. The highest was 22 in 2020. Based on the long term average usage the graveyard has an estimated 20 years of capacity, excluding the area used for open air services.

A survey of headstones was carried out by Nick, and as a result works carried out to make them safe as far as possible. However, the caution to people visiting the Churchyard to beware of potentially unsafe headstones still applies.

Eddie Bellamy, another volunteer and Committee member, remains in charge of ordering the plaques for the Garden of Remembrance Memorial Wall. During the past year 31 new inscribed plaques have been ordered and 12 new blanks. Five blanks were removed and replaced with incised plaques. We have space for 519 more plaques on the existing walls, with a yearly average of 45 this is enough for approximately 11 years. Eddie has cleaned the plaques which are our responsibility.

Two new benches were installed in the Garden of Remembrance which were kindly donated, and the existing two were reinstated in another part of the Churchyard, giving a total of about 25 seats. Unfortunately the varnish on the new benches has aged rather quickly, but this will be addressed in the coming weeks.

The posts supporting the fence along the top of the wall on the north/east boundary of the Churchyard have now been renewed, but unfortunately the contractor has encountered some supply problems in respect of the fencing itself, but this should hopefully be rectified shortly.

We are still awaiting a date for the placing of a hammer on the large bell to strike the hours. This is being regularly chased with Taylor's Bell Foundry.

PRO Landscapes have had their contract renewed for this year, the cost now being £7,500 for 20 visits, March to November. This represents an increase of just over 7%, which was considered reasonable. The contractors mow the grass, remove the rubbish, wood chip the paths, and cut some of the hedges.

Martin Parsons
Chairman Churchyard and Fabric Group

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

It has been another year in which St. Nicholas has continued to fulfill its mission statement of 'Transforming our Community through the presence of Christ'.

The Community Larder continues to be well used by those who need it and with the rising cost of energy bills and a grant from the Council we were able to include a warm space where people could keep warm and have hot drink while chatting to their friends, all while the larder was in operation.

The Spring Fair which replaced our Autumn Fair was held just over a month ago, which brought together many people from our local community was very successful.

With Holy Week just finished we had all our usual activities, Prayer trail, Passover meal, Easter Activity Morning, all of which were appreciated by those who attended them. With our usual Easter Services, it has been a busy period.

We have also welcomed some new faces to our Congregation and look forward to including them in our family.

St. Nicholas continues to be a welcoming community in which everyone plays their part. My thanks to Nick and Stephen for their support.

Claire Couldridge
St. Nicholas Churchwarden

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2020, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

In 2022, we finished with a surplus of £52,330. Our total income was £239,626 which exceeded our total expenditure of £187,296. Following on from the previous difficult two years, 2022 continued to be a troublesome year. Although general activity increased income fell across most revenue channels. This increased activity paired with inflation and increased energy costs, meant an increase of £5,299 in expenditure.

We again benefitted from those who have fond memories of St Giles. As this year we received four legacies totalling £22,500

Legacies have helped us to build our finances so we are able to weather these turbulent financial years. However, the bedrock of our cashflow is seen in the way the congregation and Church community has rallied behind St. Giles over the past year.

Our Gift Aid income is holding up well, based on the stewardship campaign held in 2019. Although it is normal to rerun the stewardship campaign every three years, we did not hold one last year and the decision has yet to be made whether we hold one this year, recognising the other increasing household financial costs this year. Although, of course, St. Giles has been subject to those same inflationary pressures over the last four years.

Following the restructure of the Parish magazine this continues to operate satisfactorily. Our rental income from Wentworth Close continued unabated and provides St. Giles with a solid income stream.

The hangover from the lockdowns together with reducing appetite for the hiring of halls has meant we were unable to hire out the Centre last year. I expect it to remain very difficult this year.

The Parish Share or Diocesan Contribution for 2022 was £66,028.

As previously stated the St. Giles's congregation continues to give generously, through planned giving, collections and specific fund raising, as well as time and skills, to the upkeep and work of the Church. Donations from funerals and wall plaques fees help fund maintenance of the Churchyard.

Previous generous legacies provide security, as well as the ability to fund major building repairs and projects, as fabric wears and needs renewing or replacing. These funds also provide security against unforeseen events similar to those we have recently experienced. Therefore, these funds are not utilised for the running costs of the Church and work of the Church. The Rector and PCC monitor running costs with the aim always to keep expenditure below income.

As ever, many thanks to all who help with the St. Giles financial work. The finance team work especially hard, so my gratitude and appreciation goes to, in alphabetical order, Mary Compton, Linda Crisp and Carol Fryer.

Thank you to Eddie Bellamy, administrator of the Memorial Wall fund, in again providing a reliable income stream. Thanks are also due to Adele Cooke for her continued work with the office administration.

In addition, I would again like to thank Carol Fryer for her work as Gift Aid Secretary and Pam Stacey our Planned Giving Envelope Scheme Secretary.

Finally, thanks to Lee Bellamy for looking after the insurance policies and to Mark Auger, for preparing the Parish and St Giles Annual Accounts. Also it is important to acknowledge the work of our examiner, Chris Jones of Baxter's, Orpington.

Paul Beamiss
Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles

ST. NICHOLAS

The St. Nicholas 2022 accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure of £8331.

The original 2022 St. Nicholas budget had figures of income £100,000, expenditure £104250. The expenditure budget included Repair Fund contributions of £3650. Although these contributions are not expenditure, but a transfer between funds, I do show them as expenditure as a means to try and ensure that the contributions are actually made and the balances increase at least by that amount. The original budget included a Pledged Offer of £48600 to the Diocese compared with the Indicative Offer of £53258, so at least we were trying to make some contribution to the Wider Diocesan Mission in the Offer.

Early in 2022 however our financial position significantly changed when I became aware that the largest St. Nicholas giver ceased giving at the end of 2021. The 2022 budget was subsequently revised to figures of income £89700, expenditure £100800 including Repair Fund contributions of £5750 – up from the original £3650 to include the insurance refund of £2115 relating to the new boiler at Church House for which we had withdrawn funds from the Church House Repair Fund at the Diocese. Given these circumstances at the March meeting the PCC decided there was little option but to reduce the Pledged Offer and this was reduced to £43965 with the result that our Pledged Offer now covered just the Ministry costs and 50% of the Benefice costs but nothing for the Wider Diocesan Mission.

There was more bad news in the summer when the Lucy Griffiths Dance and Theatre Academy gave notice that they would be leaving St. Nicholas after some 27 years of hiring the halls at the end of the summer term. A full year's income in 2022 was estimated at £14000.

In round terms these two income reductions amount to some 25% of the annual income budget. To date we have had limited success in finding new long term hirers to replace Lucy Griffiths with just two hirers, a Pilates class, estimated to bring in just under £2000 in 2023 for a two hours per week hire and the return of the Indian Class in March for two hours in the Leamington Room on term time Saturday early evenings, which will bring in £1000 in 2023. A one off temporary hire by a child minder while flood damage at her property was repaired has brought in almost £3000.

In July we held an Appeal Sunday at which Liz Mullins, Generous Giving Adviser at the Diocese, spoke. This brought in one off donations including Gift Aid of £4250, increases in regular giving of £1604pa including Gift Aid and new regular giving including Gift Aid of £750pa. A number of donors have joined the Parish Giving Scheme which might lead to them increasing their giving each year by the annual rate of inflation. Although very welcome of course, one off donations do nothing to address the financial shortfall going forward beyond the year in which they are given. What eventually led to a surplus at the year end was a one off donation of £6000 at the beginning of October and actual expenditure just below the budget figure despite considerable expenditure on Church House Repairs and Maintenance and an overspend on the office photocopier due to colour copying the Spring Fair leaflet. This has been produced by professional printers at lower cost in 2023. Net current assets have increased by £8331 at 31 December 2022, an increase of £5107 in the Repair Funds and £3224 in General Reserves.

At the time of writing this report St. Nicholas faces a very uncertain future. The 2023 expenditure budget totals £104500, including Repair Fund contributions of £3750, and the income budget totals £86700, a deficit of £17800. There is nothing in the expenditure budget for the Wider Diocesan Mission (£10053 is the figure in the Calculated Indicative Offer).

On the basis that there is no significant under or overspending in expenditure the deficit has subsequently reduced and currently is estimated at £12000. The Spring Fair made more money than in the budget and there is likely to be some small increases in other areas of fundraising. There is additional hall hire income of £4500 and some increase in the estimated interest received due to the recent increases in bank base rates. However the stark reality is that an annual deficit of this magnitude is not sustainable and would exhaust reserves in some seven to eight years. The need for another appeal was briefly discussed at the January PCC meeting and a June date agreed at the March meeting and increases in hall hire rates of 4% to 5% for existing hirers from 1 September and with immediate effect for new hirers were agreed (reflected in the £4500 above). It remains to be seen what can be raised from the Appeal but a third in three years is asking a lot of the St Nicholas congregation. It will be no easy task, even impossible, for the PCC to find the ways and means of balancing the books by the end of the year and the recently received Quinquennial Report on the inspection carried out at St Nicholas in October 2022 is not good news, pointing to the need for substantial expenditure in forthcoming years. The PCC will be needing to consider the report in due course.

The St. Nicholas financial position does of course have Parish wide implications. Stephen and the St. Nicholas finance team did meet with Matthew and his finance team in November and we are currently trying to arrange a next meeting and meet on a regular quarterly basis.

Roger Allard
Hon Treasurer, St Nicholas

5. SAFEGUARDING

We appoint Irene Dancer as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter; Jenny Wilkins as St. Giles Disclosure & Barring Service Officer; Val Richardson as St. Nicholas Disclosure & Barring Service Officer.

We acknowledge that all PCC members will need to have a DBS check and complete all necessary Diocesan Safeguarding training. This training extends to Churchwardens and any others in positions of responsibility involving children and vulnerable adults.

The AGM and PCC formally adopt the House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy statement available to view at

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/603eb0893e402/content/pages/documents/1603726336.pdf>

6. ST. GILES CENTRE

Redevelopment update.

7. ELECTIONS

TWO MEMBERS FOR THE ST. GILES P.C.C.
ONE MEMBER FOR THE ST. NICHOLAS P.C.C.
THREE DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

8. APPOINTMENTS

SIDESPERSONS -

St. Giles:

Mrs. R. Arney, Miss S. Attwood, Mr. P. Barnes, Mrs. L. Barnes, Mrs. V. Clark, Mrs. M. Compton, Mrs. C. Coyle, Mr. M. Dancer, Mrs. I. Dancer, Mrs. J. Palmer, Reeves Family, Russell Family, Scarlett Family, Mrs. M. Sullivan, Mr. J. White.

St. Nicholas:

Mrs. C. Allen, Mrs. V. Blinks, Miss I. Broadie, Mrs. P. Butcher, Miss C. Couldridge, Mrs. S. Dixey, Mrs. M. Felstead, Mrs. R. Fordyce, Mrs. C. Gibbons, Mrs. M. Gillies, Mrs. A. Howlett, Mrs. D. Stiff, Mrs. L. Matthews, Mrs. J. Mason, Mrs. S. Simpson.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Acting under delegated powers (A.G.M. 2001) The P.C.C. appointed Mr. Christopher Jones, F.C.C.A., Baxter and Co. as independent examiner for the 2021 accounts.

The PCC recommends Mr. Jones's appointment for the year 2022 accounts and the A.G.M. is requested to approve this proposal.

9. GOODBYES AND THANK YOU'S.**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

To be notified at the beginning of the meeting.

Date and time of next A.G.M. 2024

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This year has proved to be another full and busy time at St. Giles and it does feel as if we are finally building up after all the difficulties of the Covid period. Although we continue to lose members through various scenarios, we are also attracting new ones as well. In this vein it was particularly encouraging to welcome 13 adults and juniors to full membership of the Church via our Confirmation service held at the end of January. It was also good to welcome our new Diocesan Bishop, Jonathan Gibbs, to St. Giles for the first time. St. Giles remains a close and loving family where many people live out their discipleship of Christ with generosity and integrity. Below I have reflected with gratitude on all that constitutes our shared life, (not in order of importance!).

MUSIC

Our choir and music continues to go from strength to strength and I am delighted that we have been able to 'recruit' the services of three choral scholars who have done much to boost our choral singing. I continue to place a high priority on this part of our Church's life as I have been around long enough to know that good music is one of the church's greatest assets in encouraging all of us in uplifting worship, whilst attracting new people to the life of faith. Thank you so much to Ralph and Clive for the huge amount of work they put into this area of our Church's life, I know that it is really appreciated by many, our musicians and congregations alike.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORK

Trying to attract children and young people to the life of our Church is very difficult in the current climate. Sport and other recreational activities present families with varied and difficult choices on Sunday mornings. Although we may not be as numerically strong as we were, currently we have a wonderful group of children and young people, who not only attend our Church regularly, but offer their time and labour in some key areas of our Church's life. I am very grateful to Irene and her team for all they do in this important part of our Church's life.

PASTORAL WORK

We now have over 40 people who receive Holy Communion at home, many of them were once regular attendees at St. Giles. It is so important that we offer them care and support during these vulnerable times in their lives. I am very grateful to all our pastoral workers for their hard work in visiting and caring for them. Our pastoral care is critical as actions always speak louder than words. Caring for each other is never just the preserve of a few, we can all reach out to each other, to help build a deeply caring church. People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care!

FLOWER ARRANGING

Well done and thank you to all our wonderful flower arranging teams who continue to offer a very high standard of floral arts on a weekly basis. Their arrangements do much to lift our spirits and contribute to the overall ascetic of our Church and its worship. We look forward to seeing some special arrangements to mark the King's Coronation in May.

CHURCHYARD and FABRIC

I am going to leave the bulk of this report to our Churchwarden. Suffice to say our Church and its grounds continue to be maintained to a very high standard reflecting the respect and appreciation that we all have for St. Giles, its heritage and the important part it plays in the lives of many people. Thank you to all those who help in this area.

BELL RINGING

It continues to give me and many people great pleasure to hear our Church bells ring out and I am very grateful to Lesley, Nick and all our regular ringers who give so much of their time to this area of our Church's life. Once again the bells make an important contribution to the overall attractiveness of our Church, reminding people that we are open and active in our community. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Simon to the Parish on Sunday 18th June at 10.30 a.m. for the Dedication of the two new bells which were installed over lock down.

INTERCESSORS, SIDESPEOPLE and READERS

Thank you to all those who give of their time to help with our services in leading prayers, welcoming people and reading the Scriptures. I and members of our Church very much appreciate the part you play in the worshipping life of St. Giles. In particular I would like to thank Sylvia Addison, who at the great age of ** finally stepped down after many years of being on the readers rota. We will all miss the lovely way she read the Scriptures.

SOCIAL LIFE

Thank you to all those who contribute to the social life of our Church. Bringing people together is a key way in which friendships are made and enjoyed both in the Church and outside as well. These events do not just happen but require careful planning and preparation. Thank you to Carol and her team for the many events which enhance our Church's life, including the huge task of organising and running our Parish Fete, which this year is on Saturday 17th June.

PARISH MAGAZINE

I would very much like to thank Eddie and Helen for all that they have done in support of our Parish Magazine, both when they were its Editors and also in holding the fort when Rosie and Daphne had to suddenly step down. The future of the magazine at one stage was on a very precarious footing, but I am glad to say that we now have a new Editor, Gail Low, who is doing an excellent job in editing our award

winning Parish Magazine. In times of increasing technology a printed magazine is by no means a given. If we wish for it to continue it is vital that we subscribe to it, or make buying it at Church our regular custom. Once again the magazine contributes to the overall attractiveness of our Church. Thank you also to all those who write articles for it, take photos for it and help distribute it.

Whilst on I am the subject of our publicity, I do want to acknowledge the invaluable work that Nick does in editing and updating our Parish website which is a real credit to our Church and a useful source of information to its many visitors. Also to Lynn Kelly for keeping social media up-to-date with what's happening at St. Giles.

FINANCE TEAM

Most people attending our Church would be surprised to know of the huge amount of work and responsibility involved in running and administering modern day Parish finances. From counting out the collection and taking it to the Post Office, to the bigger issues of preparing budgets, financial statements and end of year accounts, the work and expertise involved is considerable and demanding. To this end I want to express sincere gratitude on behalf of all of us to the six people in our Finance Team, and this year I especially want to single out our Treasurer, Paul Beamiss who will come to the end of his tenure at this year's AGM. Paul has proved to be a brilliant Treasurer and under his stewardship we have continued to build healthy finances for the work of our Church. In the large and small Paul has had a keen eye for detail and in so doing he has been a shrewd custodian of our resources. I have greatly valued Paul's advice and guidance on all things financial and I am delighted that he has agreed to continue as a member of the Finance Team helping and offering advice where necessary. As one remarkable Treasurer has retired so it is that another very skilled person has agreed to take over. Carol Fryer has offered to take on the role of Honorary Treasurer and I hope that this will be fully endorsed at our coming AGM.

CLEANERS

Keeping St. Giles clean is a mammoth task, not only does it receive considerable footfall at particular times in the year and over many weeks, there are innumerable nooks and crannies that seem to be a magnet for dust and mess. I have a particular thing about clutter in churches as I think you can tell a lot about a church by first impressions! In this sense I am so grateful to our two cleaners John and Lynn for their secret behind the scenes work in keeping the house of God quiet and peaceful and clean! Also to our team of brass cleaners, (did you know we even had one!), who meet regularly in cold and heat to keep our brass and silver gleaming.

ADMINISTRATION

There are a number of people who work very hard to administrate the Parish and I am grateful to all of them. Again this is very much a behind the scenes job, but we would soon realise its absence if there were no pewsheets on Sunday.

CHURCHWARDENS

I cannot thank my seven Churchwardens enough for all their constant support of our congregation and myself personally. In particular our legal Warden Andrew Bailey who is the consummate professional, discreet, diplomatic, kind and thoroughly reliable. Thank you to all of them and again in particular our Parish Verger Peter Russell who, come rain or shine, is at St. Giles every Sunday at 7.00 a.m. and also for the many funerals which take place, always calm and kind, just what grieving families need. Not to mention the many other services he verges at as well including weddings. Thank you also to our PCC members for their wise advice and counsel.

MINISTRY TEAM

A final thank you to our ministry team at St. Giles which consists of me and our Reader Chris, plus Stephen and now Paul. It is good to be able to share the challenges of parish ministry with trusted colleagues and to know that they keep us all in their prayers as I do them.

THE FRIENDS OF ST GILES

Again this year I have cause to be grateful to the Friends who have generously agreed to help with the tuning and upkeep of our Parish organ. In these straightened times their openness to the needs of St. Giles Church is a source of much encouragement. They are Friends indeed!

IN MEMORIAM

Every year we lose some lovely and faithful members of our Church. In particular it was sad to say goodbye to Richard Wood who passed away 5th November 2022. Richard did so much for St. Giles and we have much to thank him for. May he rest in peace along with all those we love and miss.

ST. GILES CENTRE

I am pleased to say that things are progressing well with our plans for the Centre and just in case they have slipped your mind, the PCC approved plan is to refurbish the main hall and to build a modest extension, (including a toilet!), coming out from the present site of the Parish Office. The plans have now been submitted to Bromley Council and we are now in the process of seeking planning permission. The next stage will be to put together a detailed specification before we go to tender. When we do finally know what the cost is, we will then commit a year to fundraising as much as we can for this important project.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

It is natural that over the years a church's income stream should decline somewhat. This is certainly true for us, people move away and pass away and cost of living scenarios can mean that donations are reduced. To arrest this it is probably sensible for us to have a Stewardship campaign in September. A Stewardship Campaign is when we review our giving in the light of our circumstances that collectively we can all give what we can for the ongoing work and upkeep of our Church that means so much to us.

IN CONCLUSION

I realise that the above is a lengthy tour de force of the many components that make up the life of St. Giles. I have written all this to help us see the colossal effort that so many people put into St. Giles so it can be there for us and many others when it is needed. From the big to small, the seen to the unseen, the easy to the difficult, everything that is done and offered helps. The point to all we do individually and collectively is not just to keep the 'show on the road', but to extend the reach and mission of our Church so that God's love and light may shine out to those around us. I have taken a risk in mentioning so many groups and individuals and if I have missed anyone out then my sincere apologies to you, thank you to you as well!

When Jesus was on earth he was the light, bringing hope to all those who he encountered. Now we are the body of Christ and we are his hands and mind in this Parish called Farnborough. Thank you very much to everyone! I will leave you with a prayer from St Teresa:

Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
You are the eyes by which He sees,
You are the feet with which He walks.
You are the hands with which He blesses all the world.
You are the hands.

Matthew Hughes
Rector of Farnborough Benefice

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

It is now over a year since we moved to a pattern of 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship with 9.15 a.m. Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. We now plan to stick to this pattern for the foreseeable future. We enjoyed a good Christmas period, with a return to more 'normal' service, having unrestricted numbers at our Christingle Service for the first time in two years, and our usual Midnight Communion and Family Christmas service. At the beginning of Advent two of our young people were Confirmed at the Deanery Confirmation Service at St. Paul's, Crofton, and we are delighted that some more members of our Kids Club completed the diocesan 'Preparation for Communion Course' in December. Messy Church now runs once again every month, with fairly good numbers, and contact with new and familiar families.

We are continuing to run our Community Larder, and alongside this since the beginning of January we have been running a 'Warm Space' serving tea and coffee in the main hall thanks to a grant from the Diocese. Although the colder weather has largely passed, we plan to continue creating this community space alongside the larder for the foreseeable future. In recent weeks nearly 30 people have been accessing these services each week, with links continually being developed with the wider community. Most recently Brothers Bakery in the Crescent have become a partner, giving us their leftover bread at the end of each Monday. Nevertheless these are challenging times for all food banks and for the Transform Bromley Borough Food Hub as supermarkets experience shortages themselves and have decreasing supplies of surplus food.

We held a very successful Spring Fair on the 11th March which raised over £1800. We are also planning to hold a Coronation Community Lunch on 9th May and a Coronation Messy Church on 12th May this year. On a Sunday morning we are enjoying steady numbers, whether across two services on the 2nd and 4th Sunday or just one service on the other Sundays. Although we have lost some members of the congregation following the pandemic, we have gained new members and are very privileged to enjoy thriving children's and young people's groups.

As I think about those who have served our Church over the past year, I would like to express my thanks to the PCC, and in particular to Claire Couldridge, Church Warden, and to Nick Jolliffe, Deputy Warden. I am also very grateful to Roger Allard, our Treasurer, and Richard Butterworth our Deputy Treasurer. I must also thank the different Lay Ministers at St. Nicholas: Diane Stiff, our Children and Families worker and Pastoral Assistant, Rosemary Fordyce, our Pastoral Assistant with PTO, and Ian Gillies, Reader with PTO, with a wider ministry across the Deanery. Thanks must also go to Jayne Calvert, for all her work with the music, MU and the Community Larder. Thank you also to Catherine Roffey for all she does as Church Administrator and Lettings Manager. Thank you also to all who help with the teas and coffees and the flowers on a Sunday morning, to all the many volunteers who make ministry at St. Nicholas possible.

Having experienced a very challenging three years, the congregation at St. Nicholas continue to demonstrate great innovation and good spirit as we fulfil our mission of 'Transforming Our Community through the Presence of Christ'. As I come to the end of my seventh year in this role, I continue to count it a great privilege to be serving this Parish.

Stephen Broadie
Associate Rector

ST. GILES MUSIC

It is only when looking back over the last year that it becomes clear what a significant one it has been for music at St. Giles.

There have been many highlights. Of course there have been the big services - the Joint Jubilee Evensong in June with our friends from St. George's, Bickley; packed Advent and Christmas services; Confirmation and Easter. For me, however, the greatest pleasure has been our regular weekly services, with the choir going from strength to strength, growing in numbers and singing challenging and beautiful music to an ever higher standard. The addition of our three Choral Scholars - Alex, Alfie and Tom - has been a massive support to our back row, particularly during the absence through illness of the much loved Andrew Hunt.

Particular thanks also to Clive, our dedicated Organist, and Julia and Alison whose responsibilities for wardrobe involved looking after people just as much as looking after clothes.

Despite our occasional disagreements over hymn choice I also want to publicly thank Matthew, we are extremely fortunate to have a Rector who understands so well the marriage between music and liturgy and offers such support, practical and pastoral to the Choir.

Finally an exhortation! Those who join the congregation for our choral services regularly comment on how moving they find them and, once we get them through the door for the first time, are hugely appreciative regular attenders. It is not unusual however for the Choir to significantly outnumber the congregation. Please help to spread the word, encourage your music loving neighbours to come and experience the joy of Choral Evensong, bring a friend with you to services and share copies of the termly music lists far and wide.

Ralph Barlow
Music Director

ST. GILES FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

I am pleased to report that all of our groups for children and young people are now up and running, continuing to meet regularly with consistent numbers. Children and young people attend when they can, which is commendable in these days of multiple choice of children's activities. In spite of following up, some families have not returned since the pandemic, but we have been delighted to welcome new ones. Our vision remains, "to foster a Family Community within the church". We remain committed to working alongside parents, seeking to enable children to follow and know the love of Christ.

Lollipop Club

Lollipop Club meets monthly in the Church. Parents and carers with babies and toddlers are able to enjoy a relaxed time with one another, participating in story and crafts. Look out for their posters at the front of Church.

Junior Sunday School

This group meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays at 9.50 a.m. Story, craft and song is enjoyed by all and we work towards creating an attractive termly display in Church. Since the last report our topics have been 'Abraham's Family' and the promises God made to him; 'Belonging' with a focus on the Lord's Prayer; and 'Jesus the Teacher' looking at what Jesus teaches us about forgiveness, love, generosity, trust and humility.

Senior Sunday School

These children meet on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 9.50 a.m. We study the lectionary bible readings for that week and present the learning through craft, encouraging personal interpretation and reflection.

Youth Group

We have had various reincarnations of this group, seeking to find the most appropriate time and venue to meet. We are conscious of the busy school lives these young people lead, with homework and exams as a priority. More recently we have met for discussion, followed by a meal at the Rectory on a Sunday evening.

Easter Workshop and Good Friday

Our Easter services are well attended. Some of the older children meet in Holy Week to paint pictures of the Stations of the Cross for the Good Friday service in the churchyard. No Easter Family service would be complete without an Easter egg hunt and the children participate with enthusiasm!

Celebration and Prizegiving Service

This is held in July every year and in 2022 the theme was about the importance of having children in our Church and how we, as a congregation, are incomplete without them. A display of children's work undertaken throughout the year is exhibited. All children and young people who attend Church are rewarded with either a book or small token of our appreciation.

Christmas

Numbers at the candle lit services on Christmas Eve were encouraging. The Sunday School led service had a focus on the Christingle and how this relates to Christ's nativity. On Christmas Day, children brought their presents to Church to show the congregation.

Walks

During Covid, when we were unable to meet in groups indoors, we arranged family walks as a way of continuing to connect with one another. Although not so frequent, we have continued this and meet occasionally for a walk around High Elms.

Holiday Club

Thanks go to Diane Stiff and St. Nicholas Church for arranging and hosting the annual Holiday Club which some of our children attend. I am pleased to be involved with this, leading one of the groups. It is a wonderful week which we all enjoy.

None of the above can take place without parents bringing their children to Church. Thank you to all parents and carers who continue to do so and for your invaluable support. Thank you too to the various team members who help us in this important work. You know who you are. Thank you!

Irene Dancer
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker

ST. GILES SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The Church of England Safeguarding Policy states that, "Safeguarding is at the heart of our Christian faith.... Safeguarding means the action the church takes to promote a safer culture in all our churches..... The church will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all."

Our commitment to creating a safe, caring environment for all remains paramount at St. Giles and St. Nicholas churches and is fundamental to bringing about the Kingdom of God.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) I meet regularly with both PCCs to update and inform them of our progress towards this aim and present action plans for next steps.

I can confirm that our churches have adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. We have our own Parish Safeguarding Policy, which supports and illustrates this guidance and which is updated regularly. Copies are located in both churches, in St. Giles Centre and on the Parish website.

Current work being undertaken focuses on ensuring that all those who work with children and/or vulnerable adults have updated their training. It is required that training is updated every three years. Colleagues provide me with evidence of their compliance.

Since the last AGM I have taken on the role of Lead Recruiter and, with Jenny Wilkins at St. Giles and the newly appointed Chris Deeks at St. Nicholas, am looking at all post holders to ensure that their DBS is up-to-date. Again, this needs to be renewed every three years. In line with 'Safer Recruitment' the St. Giles PCC have adopted Diocesan guidance to obtain a Confidential Self Declaration Form prior to DBS renewal if one had not been completed upon original appointment. Going forward, the St. Nicholas PCC will adopt the same policy. Again, in line with Safer Recruitment, we are seeking to ensure that all relevant post holders have a basic job description.

Following the Church of England's 'Code of safer working practice' the PCCs have agreed and approved the children's/vulnerable adults groups we support. I have been working with the St. Giles groups to ensure that appropriate risk assessments are carried out and that the necessary consent forms, registers and other requirements are in place. Diane Stiff has done the same at St. Nicholas.

A positive safeguarding culture is integral to the smooth and safe running of all institutions. The church, however, has a special responsibility as we are disciples of the Gospel of Christ. While policies and guidance are important, it is the actions we take to implement those policies and the positive relationships we build with one another that ensure such a culture is present in our churches..

Irene Dancer
Parish Safeguarding Officer

ST. GILES FLOWER ARRANGERS REPORT

2021 - 2022

Flower arranging is now back to normal. Mothering Sunday posies, Easter, Harvest and Christmas displays were achieved and also a successful Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 to honour our beloved late Queen Elizabeth II.

Organisation

There are approximately four Meetings during the year with Matthew. We discuss previous events and advise on future commitments.

We are still in the situation where only three teams are currently in operation. It has been decided that each team in turn will now arrange approximately three extra Friday's during the months April-December. The extra weeks are marked in the yearly Flower Schedule, kindly produced by Doreen Wilson.

We continue to have dedicated resource for all flower bookings, Book of Remembrance etc. and wedding liaison.

Recruitment

We have new people who have joined and hopefully more will give arranging a try this year. The idea is to reinstate a new team 2 with help from existing teams.

Donations

We continue to receive regular donations from the congregation re the main flower festivals and requests for Book of Remembrance, window arrangements and occasional pedestal.

Costs

The cost of fresh flowers obviously varies from week to week. For main Festivals and Weddings we use wholesale suppliers. The intended move of our main wholesaler has not yet taken place so we are still within reasonable distance to collect flowers. We use the supermarket flowers most weeks and/or local Florist for more specialised requests, e.g. Weddings. We are very lucky that our members bring fresh foliage from their gardens each week and at Festivals.

Pricing for 2024

The budget for weekly flowers and festivals to be reviewed, along with pricing for requests and wedding flowers. New budget usually advised first Flower Meeting in January.

Contact Details

Our details remain available via the Church website and Church magazine. Photos of the main Festivals are included in both publications.

Next Events

Following Easter Festival in April 2023 the next planned event will be floral displays to mark the King's Coronation in May 2023, when the Church will be open.

St. Giles Flower Arrangers

ST. GILES BELLRINGERS

2022 was a better year than the two previous years but that wasn't difficult! Through the year Covid restrictions and incidences of Covid gradually decreased but Covid is still with us impacting from time to time on individuals.

As mentioned in previous Reports the installation of the two new bells was completed on Maundy Thursday, 1st April, 2021 but due to Covid restrictions we have only in the last year been able to ring the bells fairly freely, hold regular practices and have the ability to teach new recruits.

The bells have been rung most Sunday mornings prior to the Family Service as long as there has been a competent person to take charge. Additionally, the bells are rung for practices approximately every other Monday evening, on some Tuesdays from 11.00 a.m., for weddings and funerals upon request and occasionally for peals by arrangement, such as on Christmas Day.

Twenty four quarter peals were rung in 2022 (just two in 2021), and six peals. On Friday 9th September the heavy Gillett and Johnston bell was tolled upon the death of Queen Elizabeth II and there was general half muffled ringing on Saturday 10th September in which 11 local ringers participated.

The former, redundant, clock bell which was mentioned in last year's Report has been sold following PCC approval and granting of a Faculty. Pleasingly this bell is to be rehoused, subject to fund raising and Faculty, at Thurloxtton in Somerset as a full circle ringing bell. It will be the treble of an augmented ring of six bells.

Taylor's of Loughborough, who completed the 2021 Farnborough augmentation, have returned to carry out some snagging works. However, another visit is required to:

- Provide a permanent solution to the temporary fix which stops the treble double clapping.
- Place a radar controlled electromagnetic hammer to strike the hours on the big and sonorous G&J bell.
- Provide a plaque recording the 2021 augmentation naming major donors.

In order to maintain a healthy band of ringers and replace those no longer ringing it is necessary to recruit and teach new ringers. This is being done at times convenient to the new recruits mainly either before the main Monday evening practice or, recently, on Sunday afternoons after the winter Evensong Service.

Finally, thanks go to the members of the band that turn up regularly to ring.

St. Giles Bellringers

ST. GILES SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Social activities are of major importance at St. Giles, bringing us together as a community, and encouraging integration with the larger community that is Farnborough. Throughout the year we try to put on refreshments after services: tea and coffee after the Sunday 10.00 a.m. service with occasionally cakes, and sometimes soup, and wine and juice after Evensong. These events prove popular, and many people linger for a drink and a chat; keys for the Centre toilet are always to hand.

The annual Fete in June is always well attended. It also proves to be the biggest fund raiser of the year. It takes a lot of work, but its well worth it, and last year raised £5,317. The pressure was eased by the generous sponsorship of the costs of setting up this event. We had lots of entertainment, including a Punch & Judy with John Styles MBE. The emphasis last year was on a relaxing Garden Party atmosphere and many people lingered over food and drink to listen to the music, the singing from the enthusiastic Rock Choir and the violin playing of Matthew English. We even ran out of Pimms and had to send the Rector for more bottles. Of course, dare I tempt providence for this year's fete on 17th June, but the weather was definitely with us. Fingers crossed for this year.

Coach trips have also been well supported and we had our annual trip to Broadstairs in July. A full coach and lovely weather; some people even went swimming. This year's trips to Brighton, Winchester Christmas market and of course Broadstairs are planned.

Harvest Supper has now become an annual Barn Dance. We serve a two course meal and the Ian Petrie band provides the music. Ian is a popular caller and can get most people up on their feet; there is plenty to watch for those who feel their dancing days are over.

The year finishes with the refreshments in the Village Hall after the Nine Lessons & Carols service. Mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine for everyone to wish each other a Happy Christmas.

These events bring us together as a community, and we encourage those outside of the congregation to participate. Willing volunteers are the one key to successful social activities and we always seem to get the support we need, but of course we always need more. So, a very big thank you to all those who give their time and energy to making these events work.

The other key to great social events is participants. We need your support; come along to events when you can, bring your family and friends; if you can't get there please sponsor or donate.

Carol Fryer

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

ST. NICHOLAS TODDLER GROUP

The St. Nicholas Toddler Group meets on Wednesday mornings during term time. Each week about 40 toddlers plus their mums, dads and carers come along. A variety of toys are available and there is a craft or messy play activity for the adults to do with their children each week. The morning finishes with a story and song time. Once a month a Toddler Service takes place with a Bible story, prayer and associated craft.

KIDS CLUB AT ST. NICHOLAS

KIDS CLUB takes place on Sunday mornings during the Church service. It is for children from about 3 years old upwards and we divide into groups for age appropriate activities that include a Bible story songs, prayer and craft. The older group, Ignite, (school year 6+) is led by Isabel Broadie.

In the Autumn term we ran a Children and Communion Course and at the end of it two of our Kids Club children were baptised and five took their first Communion. This term we have been looking at the life of Elijah and have found out how God cares for us and that he is always with us. The children and teenagers were involved again in the Christingle service, the title of the play this time being 'The Christmas promise'.

JUST BABIES

Just Babies takes place in the Mother and Baby room at St. Nicholas on a Tuesday afternoon and is for mothers and their babies, up to crawling age. It provides an opportunity for mums to develop friendships and to chat over a cup of tea in an informal and friendly atmosphere. Please spread the news about Just Babies to any mothers you know with young babies.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church happens monthly on a Friday afternoon after school. We have about 40 people at each session. Children and their parents come together to play games and do craft activities which are linked to a Bible story. The themes over this past year have included: The Queen's Jubilee, Creation, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and St. Patrick's Day.

LIGHT AND BRIGHT and EASTER ACTIVITY MORNING

These events are open to all in the community and are very popular. They provide opportunities to build up relationships with people and to share the good news of Jesus through games and crafts.

HOLIDAY CLUB

The children's Holiday Club took place last August. It was called 'Diary of a Disciple' and we looked at some events in Luke's Gospel through drama, games and craft. We thought about how Jesus is the real Christmas gift; the calling of the disciples; the healing of the paralysed man and the parable of the Good Samaritan. Our memory verse for the week was 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself', *Luke 10.27*. We also had a visit from the Community Police. The week finished with a Holiday Club service on the Sunday.

I would like to thank all who help with the children and family activities at St. Nicholas.

Diane Stiff

Family and Children's worker St. Nicholas

MOTHERS' UNION

The Farnborough branch of the Mothers' Union is still thriving in the Parish!

We decided to keep our monthly Monday evening meetings by Zoom, as with the dark, winter evenings, it has meant that no one has had to venture out into the cold to meet together in person. Also, another positive thing is that it has enabled members from other MU branches, both near & far, to join in these Evening Prayers by Zoom. Sharing faith & fellowship through prayer is very important to us all and underpins all the work we do in Christ's name together.

We have almost 30 MU members in the group, with another 2 due to be enrolled soon. Members who are not able to join us by Zoom are always given a paper copy of each service before the Monday meeting, so they can feel involved and follow the prayers at home.

We follow the Church's year, and most of the prayers are taken from the Mothers' Union website, an excellent resource to share together. This present month of April we have shared Lent Reflections, 'Christ is risen'.

In December we again held our Zoom service supporting the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence entitled "No More 1 in 3", and lit candles to show solidarity with our friends who have sadly been affected, both in the UK and overseas. Many suffer in silence and are undetected in their wider community. Mothers' Union joins each year with other organisations from approximately 187 countries who participate in this campaign to raise awareness of and call for an end to gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies. Last December, several MU members from Rochester Diocese gathered in solidarity outside Rochester Cathedral with other organisations during the 16 days of Activism period.

Mothers' Union was founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner, a clergyman's wife, from a small home-group meeting she started to support young mothers who were living in her husband George's parish in Old Alresford near Winchester. In those days it was very unusual for a woman to start up any group, and even more unusual that Mary Sumner reached out to all the women in the parish, irrespective of their class. 146 years later, our beliefs and goals are still very relevant today. We have over 4 million Christian members in 84 countries in the world, and Mothers' Union continues to flourish.

On August 9th we celebrate Mary Sumner Day, and members of Rochester Diocese have always joined in a pilgrimage starting from their home church, stopping off at various churches along the way to the Cathedral to share in Choral Evensong together. Unfortunately, last August it again wasn't possible to travel as a group, but about 150 members from around the Diocese did go down to Rochester Cathedral to celebrate Evensong.

Like many other charities, Mothers' Union has suffered again this past year through lack of fund raising, however our group has just participated in this year's **Make a Mother's Day** campaign. This year our theme was entitled, "Give the gift of perseverance", and we have raised almost £300 for this project, to help members both in the UK and overseas. The project is to help enable more women to improve their families' wellbeing.

Our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, wrote, *"This, Mothering Sunday, our love, prayers and strength as a community mean so much to women and their families around the world and here at home. Your gift of perseverance can give desperately needed support to women, families and communities everywhere we work, while at the same time helping you celebrate someone you admire and who inspires you"*.

The highlight of this past year was being invited by St. Giles Church to be the Charity in Focus for July/August, to support one of our projects, AFIA – which stands for "Away From It All". It is a holiday/day trip scheme funded by Mothers' Union members to help people who would not otherwise have a holiday or day trip. A short break can give families the space and time to create positive memories, build relationships and strengthen family bonds. We had a very successful campaign, holding various cake stalls during some of the Summer services at St. Giles, we chose and attended the film night in July, and then hosted a very well attended Afternoon Tea at St. Nicholas Church at the end of August. Altogether, over £1000 was raised. This money helped send 3 families on a much-needed holiday last year. To date, we have one holiday booked for a family this year. We thank Matthew and St. Giles Church members very much for the generosity shown to Mothers' Union for the AFIA project.

Locally, several members of Farnborough Mothers' Union and other friends are still knitting colourful squares, which are then sewn up into blankets. This past year several baby cot-blankets have been given to SCBU at the PRUH, and it has also received many cardigans, hats, bootees, cannula mitts and mugs for the preterm and sickly babies needing care there.

Other blankets have been taken to "Knit for Peace" project in Hampstead.

Some members have continued to knit 'Anna Crosses' for the Anna Chaplains to give to residents in Care Homes when they have been along to administer Communion (Covid restrictions last year did, unfortunately, affect their ability to go into some of the care homes).

Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union has always had a relationship with the Prison in Rochester, and last year we donated several rucksacks for the inmates' personal use when they had completed their sentence, to preserve their dignity and have something to put their few possessions into.

Some MU members have just helped deliver Easter eggs and cards to parishioners of St. Giles and St. Nicholas who are no longer able to attend services in person. It was wonderful to see the joy and gratitude on their faces when we handed over the presents!

We continue to hold our Zoom meetings on the 1st Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m. and we meet in person on the 3rd Thursday afternoon at 1.30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church.

The 1st Thursday morning we have now returned to St. Giles to attend the 10.00 a.m. Communion, and usually cakes will be provided by us to accompany the tea/coffee after the service!

If you are interested in hearing more about the Mothers' Union, and would like to get involved, contact Jayne Calvert on 07780664340 or email: jayne_calvert@hotmail.com

Jayne Calvert

HOUSE GROUPS

This has been another difficult year for our House Groups, but those led by Alison Reynolds, Andy Chapman, Jenny Hutson and Sue Simpson have continued meeting, but mainly online. Although they miss face to face social contact and having a shared cup of tea/coffee, it does have some advantages, e.g. members can join from their own home without the need to travel - particularly helpful for less mobile individuals (a broken hip in one case); it also gives greater flexibility for those with dependents to look after.

The different groups have followed and discussed study guides and talks on Jonah, Christian character, Caring for Creation (very topical and highly recommended), a Passion for Christ and Lives of Great Christians. Some groups followed Matthew's 2022 Lent Course entitled, 'What makes for human flourishing?' which explored 'Coping with change', 'Anxiety & Worry', 'Forgiveness' and 'Nature and Human Creativity'. Ailsa Chapman's House Group reassembled for this (although they have been, and will continue, to keep in contact with each other). There was also another Lent Group, led by Matthew, and held at the back of the Church following the 4.00 p.m. Sunday evening service.

People have found it valuable to get together, either for real, or virtually. Sue's group has also set up a What's app group for encouraging each other and for support in between meetings which is proving successful.

I hope that the various groups manage to thrive during 2023. If you would like to join a group please contact me.

Heather Argent
House Group co-ordinator
01689 857785 / hargent@talktalk.net

After very many years as House Group Coordinator, I am now stepping down from this role and hope that someone else will take this on. I think that house groups play a vital part in parish life; meeting regularly in a small group helps you get to know each other better and they provide mutual support and encouragement as you learn and grow in your Christian faith together. Alison, Andy, Jenny and Sue continue to be amazing and faithful group leaders and I'd love to see more people volunteer to lead a group. This doesn't mean they have to know all the answers - just be prepared to act as a facilitator so that group members all feel they belong and that their contributions are valued. I have plenty of books which give helpful and practical advice on setting up and running a group. In addition, I have quite a library of study courses on different books of the Bible, Bible characters, the Lord's Prayer, Christian living etc which provide all the material and questions needed for group sessions. At one time and across the parish we had ninety people participating in a Lent course - yes, 90! I'd love to see that same level of support once again. Could YOU be part of this? Heather Argent 01689 857785

ST. GILES WEBSITE

Farnborough Parish website:

www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk

The website has continued to provide information to parishioners and others about our Church, its history and events, both past and upcoming.

As life returned to a more normal footing after the pandemic, so Church life has restarted. The website has covered events including the Summer Garden Party, Harvest Festival and the special evensong to mark the Platinum Jubilee of her Majesty the Queen. Sadly, we also had to mark her death in September. We look forward to the special events associated with the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May.

In June the website recorded the memorial service for The Revd. Graham Shaw, and in January this year the Welcome for the former Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley Paul Wright as our new Assistant Priest.

The website was moved to a different hosting contract in April 2022. This makes detailed analysis of year by year website usage a little difficult, but the trend is up compared with the previous year. The busiest months were June and December.

Farnborough Village History website

www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk

The history website has been updated with articles about Limes, the former laundry in the village, also Goddendene, the March family residence and workshops at Locksbottom.

The site now contains about 110 pages, which makes it larger than the St. Giles website. The number of visitors is growing steadily year on year, and is now also larger than for the St. Giles site, although they spend less time on the site at each visit.

Some pages from the website have been used in modified form in the Parish magazine.

Nick Reynolds
nickrstgiles@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST. GILES

The Friends continue to support the Church in any way they can. During the last year we have particularly supported organ needs, i.e. another special pipe that was needed and also the tuning of the instrument that is a regular commitment.

We had a fund raising jigsaw puzzle sale in September that did not do quite as well as it should due to a huge thunderstorm that rained down on customers and helpers! Thanks to everyone, it raised £108.50.

The Committee meets regularly, both in person and via Zoom in order to keep in contact with our financial advisor. We thank all the Committee but we particularly thank our Treasurer, Roger Allard, and our Secretary, Sue Ellis. Our AGM was held in the Church again this year.

We lost one of our founding members, Yvonne Burr, this year. She is particularly remembered for her wonderful work in dealing with the tickets for our twice yearly concerts which, thanks to Yvonne, were always a sell out.

The 250 Club continues to thrive. If you would like to be a member, it costs £12 per year and details are available from Sue Ellis, 07715 860504.

Julia Hoadley
Chairman

PARISH MAGAZINE

The end of 2021 saw the end of an era with the retirement of Eddie and Helen Roberts as long time editors of the Farnborough Parish Magazine. Great thanks must be given to this hardworking pair who managed to bring the magazine to a prize winning level. They will be sorely missed.

The search was on for a new editor. Rosie and Daphne took over in January 2022, starting with the February issue. They did a great job but unfortunately ill health prevented them from continuing and their last issue was November 2022.

The hunt was on again, and Eddie and Helen stepped into the breach to temporarily fill the space. As this is written in 2023, we can acknowledge the introduction of Gail Low as our new editor from the April issue, with a great deal of support and help from the twice outgoing editors.

The Farnborough Parish magazine is a 28 page glossy magazine produced once a month. It contains information, articles, pictures and adverts relevant to Farnborough and the surrounds, and costs £2.50 per issue and can always be found in the Church. Subscribers who pay for the year (helps our editor to know how many copies to print) get their magazine delivery included in the price. Thanks must be given to our delivery team.

Financially the magazine is having a tough time. Covid prevented the magazine from being printed. This hole was plugged by on-line copies, and Matthew's monthly bulletins. With the ease on restrictions, the magazine went back into production but, of course, we had to get back our regular subscribers, contributors and encourage our one-off sales. Advertisers, too, had to be encouraged back to a much reduced circulation.

Overall the magazine made a small profit in 2022. Fortunately, the profits from previous years have provided reassurance in the short term, but we do need to get back to pre-Covid levels again. Unfortunately the cost of living crisis is continuing to make life difficult for all. Renewals for 2023 have been good, but we do need to increase circulation substantially.

Farnborough Parish Magazine is a valuable tool for community out-sourcing, a means of keeping in touch, and should not be lost as a non-profitable item.

9. CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT**

**ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

Incumbent: Rev'd Matthew Hughes

Associate Rector: Rev'd Stephen Broadie

Principal Bankers:

**Barclays Bank plc
Santander UK plc**

Independent Examiner

Baxter & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT**

**ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS**

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Honorary Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Giles the Abbot, Farnborough

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 18, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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

Signed:

28th April 2024

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	133,033	452	46,088	179,573	201,128
Activities for generating funds	63,743	-	-	63,743	59,417
Investment income	11,800	16,292	-	28,092	20,911
Incoming resources from charitable activities	37,867	-	23,410	61,277	58,069
Other incoming resources	1,457	-	-	1,457	2,750
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	247,900	16,744	69,498	334,142	342,275
RESOURCES USED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	13,981	-	247	14,228	10,001
Charitable activities	226,465	9,407	45,236	281,108	271,613
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	240,446	9,407	45,483	295,336	281,614
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources pre transfers	7,454	7,337	24,015	38,806	60,661
Transfers between funds	(721)	(506)	1,227	-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in funds	6,733	6,831	25,242	38,806	60,661
Total funds brought forward	1,793,530	744,978	249,060	2,787,568	2,726,907
Total funds carried forward	1,800,263	751,809	274,302	2,826,374	2,787,568

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments	2,524	2,625
No notice accounts	348,949	265,463
Notice Account	85,064	83,152
Cash at bank and in hand	209,480	267,597
CCLA Funds	<u>32,009</u>	<u>26,034</u>
	678,021	644,871
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(7,139)</u>	<u>(12,797)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>670,882</u>	<u>632,074</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	<u>2,826,376</u>	<u>2,787,568</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,800,265	1,793,530
DESIGNATED FUNDS	751,809	744,978
RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>274,302</u>	<u>249,060</u>
	<u>2,826,376</u>	<u>2,787,568</u>

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 28th April 2024

Rector

Churchwarden

Financial Accountant

Hon Treasurer

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1 Form of Accounts and Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") FRS 102.

The Parish does not make payments for the preparation of the annual accounts and PCC trustees are not remunerated. A nominal payment of £600 was made to the independent financial examiner.

2 Diocesan Contribution

The Diocesan Contribution is an annual contribution from each parish towards Diocesan expenditure based upon what the parish can afford and includes a contribution towards clergy costs (including stipends) which are financed by the Diocese directly.

3 Policy on Reserves

The Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 require PCCs to set out their policy on Reserves. Designated and restricted reserves are established for particular, specified purposes. General reserves are held to provide for ongoing cash demands and to provide for unforeseen emergencies.

4 Parish Property Assets

- i) Consecrated properties are excluded from the accounts under Sect. 96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act, 1993. This includes the Church and churchyard.
- ii) Movable Church furnishings are held on special trust by the Wardens on behalf of the PCC and are excluded from the accounts. Such items are recorded in the parish inventory which may be inspected by appointment.
- iii) The Rectory building is the responsibility of the Diocese and therefore excluded.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

4 Parish Property Assets (cont)

- iv) The St. Giles Centre is not consecrated property. It falls within the PCC's trusteeship and is required by the Charities Act to be included in the accounts. It is recorded at its revalued amount at 31st December 2012.

Depreciation of the Centre building has not been provided in these accounts as any charge is not considered to be material on the basis that this asset has a very long useful economic life or a residual value based on its current value which is not materially different from its carrying value.

Any centre contents are not considered to be of material value.

- v) The Church Hall (St Nicholas) is included at its last insured valuation. The Church House is included at a valuation based upon an estimate of the cost to rebuild it in the event of its total loss.

Depreciation has not been provided for either property based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

- vi) An interest in a freehold property ("12 Wentworth Close") is held on trust by the Diocese of Rochester for the beneficial ownership of St Giles and is included in these accounts at its initial probate valuation as a Freehold Property. This valuation is informally reviewed annually to assess whether it remains reasonable.

Depreciation is not provided based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

5 Inter Church Transfers

Inter-Church financial transfers are dealt with by offset during the year within the two accounts in order to avoid duplication of income and expenditure at consolidation.

6 Friends of St Giles

The Friends of St Giles is a registered charity and accounts separately to the Charity Commissioners.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

7 Flower Fund

The Flower Fund Treasurer operates a separate bank account and draws down the flower fees from St. Giles from time to time as required. The Fund accounts are integrated within these financial statements.

8 Risk Policy

The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 require the PCC to set out its policy on Risk Management. The PCC has already undertaken Child Protection, Health and Safety and Fire Risk Assessments. So far as concerns financial risk, controls regulate the banking arrangements including online banking and the issue of cheques (two signatures). Cashflow is managed monthly and budgetary controls are in place.

For the broader liabilities the PCC has comprehensive insurance with the specialist insurance company, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Property assets were subject to a full survey and valuation by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company during 2012.

9 Stakeholder Pensions

The PCC has registered with the Legal and General Assurance Society as its stakeholder Pension provider. To date no eligible member of staff has expressed an interest in joining the Scheme.

10 Garden of Remembrance (Wall Fund and Plaques)

The PCC is responsible for administration of the wall memorials scheme which commenced in 2006. Funds received from the sale of each memorial provide for the cost of an installed, engraved plaque, a contribution towards the cost of building new walls and a contribution towards the general upkeep of the churchyard.

11 Independent Examination of the Accounts

Baxter & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants, provided an independent examination of the financial statements.

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT**

**ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

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Associate Rector: Rev'd Stephen Broadie

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**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT**

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ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

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**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

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Rector

Churchwarden

Financial Accountant

Hon Treasurer

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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The Diocesan Contribution is an annual contribution from each parish towards Diocesan expenditure based upon what the parish can afford and includes a contribution towards clergy costs (including stipends) which are financed by the Diocese directly.

3 Policy on Reserves

The Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 require PCCs to set out their policy on Reserves. Designated and restricted reserves are established for particular, specified purposes. General reserves are held to provide for ongoing cash demands and to provide for unforeseen emergencies.

4 Parish Property Assets

- i) Consecrated properties are excluded from the accounts under Sect. 96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act, 1993. This includes the Church and churchyard.
- ii) Movable Church furnishings are held on special trust by the Wardens on behalf of the PCC and are excluded from the accounts. Such items are recorded in the parish inventory which may be inspected by appointment.
- iii) The Rectory building is the responsibility of the Diocese and therefore excluded.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

4 Parish Property Assets (cont)

- iv) The St. Giles Centre is not consecrated property. It falls within the PCC's trusteeship and is required by the Charities Act to be included in the accounts. It is recorded at its revalued amount at 31st December 2012.

Depreciation of the Centre building has not been provided in these accounts as any charge is not considered to be material on the basis that this asset has a very long useful economic life or a residual value based on its current value which is not materially different from its carrying value.

Any centre contents are not considered to be of material value.

- v) The Church Hall (St Nicholas) is included at its last insured valuation. The Church House is included at a valuation based upon an estimate of the cost to rebuild it in the event of its total loss.

Depreciation has not been provided for either property based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

- vi) An interest in a freehold property ("12 Wentworth Close") is held on trust by the Diocese of Rochester for the beneficial ownership of St Giles and is included in these accounts at its initial probate valuation as a Freehold Property. This valuation is informally reviewed annually to assess whether it remains reasonable.

Depreciation is not provided based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

5 Inter Church Transfers

Inter-Church financial transfers are dealt with by offset during the year within the two accounts in order to avoid duplication of income and expenditure at consolidation.

6 Friends of St Giles

The Friends of St Giles is a registered charity and accounts separately to the Charity Commissioners.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

7 Flower Fund

The Flower Fund Treasurer operates a separate bank account and draws down the flower fees from St. Giles from time to time as required. The Fund accounts are integrated within these financial statements.

8 Risk Policy

The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 require the PCC to set out its policy on Risk Management. The PCC has already undertaken Child Protection, Health and Safety and Fire Risk Assessments. So far as concerns financial risk, controls regulate the banking arrangements including online banking and the issue of cheques (two signatures). Cashflow is managed monthly and budgetary controls are in place.

For the broader liabilities the PCC has comprehensive insurance with the specialist insurance company, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Property assets were subject to a full survey and valuation by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company during 2012.

9 Stakeholder Pensions

The PCC has registered with the Legal and General Assurance Society as its stakeholder Pension provider. To date no eligible member of staff has expressed an interest in joining the Scheme.

10 Garden of Remembrance (Wall Fund and Plaques)

The PCC is responsible for administration of the wall memorials scheme which commenced in 2006. Funds received from the sale of each memorial provide for the cost of an installed, engraved plaque, a contribution towards the cost of building new walls and a contribution towards the general upkeep of the churchyard.

11 Independent Examination of the Accounts

Baxter & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants, provided an independent examination of the financial statements.

Accounts

ELECTORAL ROLL Report (a)

The figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 396 (St. Giles - 339, St. Nicholas - 56). Our Electoral Roll membership continues to offer a solid base for the ongoing life of the Parish.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022 - Report (b)

ST. GILES THE ABBOT, FARNBOROUGH With ST. NICHOLAS, ORPINGTON

OBJECTIVES

The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Matthew Hughes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Centre complexes of St. Giles at Church Road, Farnborough and St. Nicholas at Leamington Avenue, Orpington.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") in accordance with Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC who served from 29 May 2022 until the date that this report was approved by the PCC were: -

Ex-Officio:

<u>Rector</u>	The Revd. Matthew Hughes	Chairman	
<u>Associate Rector</u>	The Revd. Stephen Broadie		
<u>Reader</u>	Mrs. Chris Hallett		
<u>Wardens</u>	Mr. Andrew Bailey	until APCM 2026	St Giles
	Miss Clare Couldridge	until ACPM 2024	St Nicholas
<u>Deputy Wardens</u>	Mr. Peter Russell	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mr. Philip Lovelock	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mrs. Janet Palmer	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mrs. Susan Rennie	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mrs. Sheila Munns	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Miss Sally Attwood	Not on PCC	St Giles
	Mr. Nicholas Jollife	until APCM 2024	St Nicholas

Elected:

Hon. Secretary

<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mr. Roger Allard	St. Nicholas
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<u>Gift Aid Secretary</u>	Mrs. Carol Fryer
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Members

Mr. Stewart Hutson	until ACPM 2025	St Giles
Mrs. Gill Knapp	until ACPM 2025	St Giles
Mrs. Lynn Kelly	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mr. John Kelly	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mrs. Helen Roberts	until ACPM 2023	St Giles
Mrs. Irene Dancer	until APCM 2024	St Giles
Mr. Richard Healey	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mrs. Carol Stokes	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mr. Richard Butterworth	until ACPM 2023	St Nicholas
Mrs. Rosemary Fordyce	until ACPM 2025	St Nicholas
Mrs. Sue Simpson	until APCM 2024	St Nicholas

The United PCC met 3 during the year with an attendance of 70 per cent. In addition, the members representing St. Giles met 6 times (with an average attendance of 70 per cent) and those representing St. Nicholas met 6 times (average attendance 87.5 per cent).

COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between meetings of the PCC:

- Standing & Finance Committee – this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC
- St. Giles' Fabric Group
- St. Giles' Churchyard Group
- Ad hoc groups.

CHURCH ATTENDANCES

There were 390 names on the Church Electoral Roll for the parish as at 31st December 2022.

As a Parish, we are available at times of birth, marriage and death. In 2021, the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

18 Baptisms
7 Weddings
38 Funeral services held in church followed by burial in the churchyard or Cremation
15 Funeral services held at a crematorium
54 Burials of ashes.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Aggregated parish income for the year was £342,275 (2021-£347,638) and aggregated resources used were £281,614 (2021-£277,308). Net incoming resources amounted to £60,661(2021-£70,330). St Giles recorded net incoming resources of £52,330 (2021-£64,896) and St. Nicholas recorded net incoming resources of £8,331 (2021- £5,434).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (less fixed assets) which equates approximately to six months unrestricted expenditure. This was achieved as at 31st December 2022.

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS Report (c)

ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD REPORT

This is my first report for my second 'tour' as Churchwarden for St. Giles, something that I see as both a privilege and a great responsibility.

This has once more been another busy year at St. Giles with much of it dominated by the effects of the Parish recovering from the coronavirus pandemic. We are not yet back to what we could call 'normal' activities yet, but we are moving in the right direction. Now this is not the end of the effects of Covid. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

As Churchwarden I enjoy a good working relationship with Matthew. I believe that is part of my role to have a good relationship with the incumbent of St. Giles in order to advise and support him in the exercise of his ministry. The Churchwarden is there to bring to the Rector's attention any issues raised by the congregation, and to represent the interests of the Parish to him and the PCC. I enjoy working with Matthew and appreciate the mutually supporting roles that we share together.

For the first time in what has seemed ages we have had a full set of services across the whole year. At Easter we held the usual services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday - both inside and outside the Church (where my brother once again was able to toast industrial quantities of hot-cross buns for the congregations in the Churchyard). We held the full set of services for Harvest and Remembrance Sunday, with lots of flowers (courtesy of the Flower Ladies) and singing (courtesy of the Choir).

Christmas saw much larger congregations flowing through the Church at the four Nativity services on Christmas Eve than in 2021, plus we had the two Advent Carol services beforehand, and the Epiphany Carol services in January. We also had a well-attended Confirmation Service, conducted by the new Bishop of Rochester, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Jonathan Gibbs.

2022 saw several major 'highs' and 'lows' in celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, followed later in the year by her funeral. For both occasions I thought the Parish outdid itself in the music, the flowers, and the way that we conducted the services for both events.

We were aided in all this good work by the arrival of the Ven. Dr. Paul Wright, who joined the Parish this year, and who will certainly be a great asset to St. Giles in the years to come! We also this year held a Memorial Service to Graham Shaw, Rector here 1988-1995, who passed away in April 2021.

We have enjoyed the return of several Parish events. In June we held the Parish Fete for the first time since 2019. It was very well attended, and everybody enjoyed themselves (thanks in no small part to the small army of volunteers who helped organise it). It was the first time in ages where the wider Parish 'family' was able to get together and participate in an event outside the Church. The following month we had the first excursion to the seaside for three years with a coach trip to Broadstairs in July. The coach was full and once more I would like to thank Carol Fryer and her team in organising this.

In October we held our usual Churchyard Saturday Morning where the gentlemen, and lady, of the Parish turn up with a whole array of gardening tools to scarify the grass, rake up the moss and seed the lawn. This year it was very well attended.

In terms of goods and ornaments we have purchased new items for both inside and outside the Church. We have a pair of new brass candle sticks on the altar, and a new carpet in the gallery. We also saw an upgrade to the Church's security system.

During 2022 we continued to undertake a rolling program of 'deep cleaning' within the Church. One of the main targets was the Choir Vestry with the space above the storage cupboards being cleared of items to improve the ventilation, which has been a recurring issue in previous years.

In the Churchyard we have gained some benches provided by the family of Thelma Dawes, put into place by Eddie Bellamy. These were laid down on paving stones by Churchyard volunteers. In February 2022 two trees were also taken down in the Churchyard. This was a planned operation, deemed necessary because of disease. The proximity of many grave monuments, including war graves, made this a delicate operation, conducted over three days.

I can report that all the Church's goods and ornaments are in a good state of repair.

I am always grateful for my fellow Churchwardens/Verger and their total commitment and support over the last year. We would not be able to do what we do without their efforts. I thank them for their time and for the kind support they have shown me. As Churchwardens you have to do lots of things behind the scenes which the congregation do not always see. However, I do have to say that being a Churchwarden is a most satisfying undertaking, and I have enjoyed being one in 2023 immensely.

Lastly, as the Churchwarden, to mis-quote the captain of HMS Torrin, I like to have both an efficient Church, and a happy Church. You cannot have one without the other, and at St. Giles I believe that we have managed to do just that.

Andrew Bailey
St. Giles Churchwarden

ST. GILES CHURCHYARD REPORT AS PART OF THE CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT Report (c)

We have continued our regular Committee meetings over the last year to receive reports from Committee members regarding usage and maintenance of the Church and Churchyard, and discuss and action matters arising. We have welcomed three new and enthusiastic members to the work team in recent months, with an expression of interest from one other. We continue to welcome new members, and would be pleased to see new faces on a regular or occasional basis. I would like to thank our team of volunteers who turn out every Tuesday whatever the weather and work very hard.

There is always something that needs our attention, either in the Church, the Centre, or the Churchyard. The Council have still to repair the flint wall by the lych-gate, which continues to deteriorate. Two recent individual approaches from members of the Committee received the standard response from the Council that they are still seeking a suitable price for the works. In June it will be three years since it was first brought to their attention.

The work to reduce the height of some of the evergreen firs in the orchard which block out light to the other trees has been completed, and members of the Tuesday team have tidied up the lower branches, as well as pruning saplings along the border of the orchard. As a result this area has a much improved aspect.

Nick Reynolds, one of our team and a Committee member, continues to be in charge of the burial of ashes, and digs the holes when he can. This results in saving the Church a significant sum of money. There were 79 burials of all kinds in 2022, close to the long term average of 73. Eight new graves were dug, which was the lowest in recent years. The highest was 22 in 2020. Based on the long term average usage the graveyard has an estimated 20 years of capacity, excluding the area used for open air services.

A survey of headstones was carried out by Nick, and as a result works carried out to make them safe as far as possible. However, the caution to people visiting the Churchyard to beware of potentially unsafe headstones still applies.

Eddie Bellamy, another volunteer and Committee member, remains in charge of ordering the plaques for the Garden of Remembrance Memorial Wall. During the past year 31 new inscribed plaques have been ordered and 12 new blanks. Five blanks were removed and replaced with incised plaques. We have space for 519 more plaques on the existing walls, with a yearly average of 45 this is enough for approximately 11 years. Eddie has cleaned the plaques which are our responsibility.

Two new benches were installed in the Garden of Remembrance which were kindly donated, and the existing two were reinstated in another part of the Churchyard, giving a total of about 25 seats. Unfortunately the varnish on the new benches has aged rather quickly, but this will be addressed in the coming weeks.

The posts supporting the fence along the top of the wall on the north/east boundary of the Churchyard have now been renewed, but unfortunately the contractor has encountered some supply problems in respect of the fencing itself, but this should hopefully be rectified shortly.

We are still awaiting a date for the placing of a hammer on the large bell to strike the hours. This is being regularly chased with Taylor's Bell Foundry.

PRO Landscapes have had their contract renewed for this year, the cost now being £7,500 for 20 visits, March to November. This represents an increase of just over 7%, which was considered reasonable. The contractors mow the grass, remove the rubbish, wood chip the paths, and cut some of the hedges.

Martin Parsons
Chairman Churchyard and Fabric Group

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

It has been another year in which St. Nicholas has continued to fulfill its mission statement of 'Transforming our Community through the presence of Christ'.

The Community Larder continues to be well used by those who need it and with the rising cost of energy bills and a grant from the Council we were able to include a warm space where people could keep warm and have hot drink while chatting to their friends, all while the larder was in operation.

The Spring Fair which replaced our Autumn Fair was held just over a month ago, which brought together many people from our local community was very successful.

With Holy Week just finished we had all our usual activities, Prayer trail, Passover meal, Easter Activity Morning, all of which were appreciated by those who attended them. With our usual Easter Services, it has been a busy period.

We have also welcomed some new faces to our Congregation and look forward to including them in our family.

St. Nicholas continues to be a welcoming community in which everyone plays their part. My thanks to Nick and Stephen for their support.

Claire Couldridge
St. Nicholas Churchwarden

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2020, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

In 2022, we finished with a surplus of £52,330. Our total income was £239,626 which exceeded our total expenditure of £187,296. Following on from the previous difficult two years, 2022 continued to be a troublesome year. Although general activity increased income fell across most revenue channels. This increased activity paired with inflation and increased energy costs, meant an increase of £5,299 in expenditure.

We again benefitted from those who have fond memories of St Giles. As this year we received four legacies totalling £22,500

Legacies have helped us to build our finances so we are able to weather these turbulent financial years. However, the bedrock of our cashflow is seen in the way the congregation and Church community has rallied behind St. Giles over the past year.

Our Gift Aid income is holding up well, based on the stewardship campaign held in 2019. Although it is normal to rerun the stewardship campaign every three years, we did not hold one last year and the decision has yet to be made whether we hold one this year, recognising the other increasing household financial costs this year. Although, of course, St. Giles has been subject to those same inflationary pressures over the last four years.

Following the restructure of the Parish magazine this continues to operate satisfactorily. Our rental income from Wentworth Close continued unabated and provides St. Giles with a solid income stream.

The hangover from the lockdowns together with reducing appetite for the hiring of halls has meant we were unable to hire out the Centre last year. I expect it to remain very difficult this year.

The Parish Share or Diocesan Contribution for 2022 was £66,028.

As previously stated the St. Giles's congregation continues to give generously, through planned giving, collections and specific fund raising, as well as time and skills, to the upkeep and work of the Church. Donations from funerals and wall plaques fees help fund maintenance of the Churchyard.

Previous generous legacies provide security, as well as the ability to fund major building repairs and projects, as fabric wears and needs renewing or replacing. These funds also provide security against unforeseen events similar to those we have recently experienced. Therefore, these funds are not utilised for the running costs of the Church and work of the Church. The Rector and PCC monitor running costs with the aim always to keep expenditure below income.

As ever, many thanks to all who help with the St. Giles financial work. The finance team work especially hard, so my gratitude and appreciation goes to, in alphabetical order, Mary Compton, Linda Crisp and Carol Fryer.

Thank you to Eddie Bellamy, administrator of the Memorial Wall fund, in again providing a reliable income stream. Thanks are also due to Adele Cooke for her continued work with the office administration.

In addition, I would again like to thank Carol Fryer for her work as Gift Aid Secretary and Pam Stacey our Planned Giving Envelope Scheme Secretary.

Finally, thanks to Lee Bellamy for looking after the insurance policies and to Mark Auger, for preparing the Parish and St Giles Annual Accounts. Also it is important to acknowledge the work of our examiner, Chris Jones of Baxter's, Orpington.

Paul Beamiss
Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles

ST. NICHOLAS

The St. Nicholas 2022 accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure of £8331.

The original 2022 St. Nicholas budget had figures of income £100,000, expenditure £104250. The expenditure budget included Repair Fund contributions of £3650. Although these contributions are not expenditure, but a transfer between funds, I do show them as expenditure as a means to try and ensure that the contributions are actually made and the balances increase at least by that amount. The original budget included a Pledged Offer of £48600 to the Diocese compared with the Indicative Offer of £53258, so at least we were trying to make some contribution to the Wider Diocesan Mission in the Offer.

Early in 2022 however our financial position significantly changed when I became aware that the largest St. Nicholas giver ceased giving at the end of 2021. The 2022 budget was subsequently revised to figures of income £89700, expenditure £100800 including Repair Fund contributions of £5750 – up from the original £3650 to include the insurance refund of £2115 relating to the new boiler at Church House for which we had withdrawn funds from the Church House Repair Fund at the Diocese. Given these circumstances at the March meeting the PCC decided there was little option but to reduce the Pledged Offer and this was reduced to £43965 with the result that our Pledged Offer now covered just the Ministry costs and 50% of the Benefice costs but nothing for the Wider Diocesan Mission.

There was more bad news in the summer when the Lucy Griffiths Dance and Theatre Academy gave notice that they would be leaving St. Nicholas after some 27 years of hiring the halls at the end of the summer term. A full year's income in 2022 was estimated at £14000.

In round terms these two income reductions amount to some 25% of the annual income budget. To date we have had limited success in finding new long term hirers to replace Lucy Griffiths with just two hirers, a Pilates class, estimated to bring in just under £2000 in 2023 for a two hours per week hire and the return of the Indian Class in March for two hours in the Leamington Room on term time Saturday early evenings, which will bring in £1000 in 2023. A one off temporary hire by a child minder while flood damage at her property was repaired has brought in almost £3000.

In July we held an Appeal Sunday at which Liz Mullins, Generous Giving Adviser at the Diocese, spoke. This brought in one off donations including Gift Aid of £4250, increases in regular giving of £1604pa including Gift Aid and new regular giving including Gift Aid of £750pa. A number of donors have joined the Parish Giving Scheme which might lead to them increasing their giving each year by the annual rate of inflation. Although very welcome of course, one off donations do nothing to address the financial shortfall going forward beyond the year in which they are given. What eventually led to a surplus at the year end was a one off donation of £6000 at the beginning of October and actual expenditure just below the budget figure despite considerable expenditure on Church House Repairs and Maintenance and an overspend on the office photocopier due to colour copying the Spring Fair leaflet. This has been produced by professional printers at lower cost in 2023. Net current assets have increased by £8331 at 31 December 2022, an increase of £5107 in the Repair Funds and £3224 in General Reserves.

At the time of writing this report St. Nicholas faces a very uncertain future. The 2023 expenditure budget totals £104500, including Repair Fund contributions of £3750, and the income budget totals £86700, a deficit of £17800. There is nothing in the expenditure budget for the Wider Diocesan Mission (£10053 is the figure in the Calculated Indicative Offer).

On the basis that there is no significant under or overspending in expenditure the deficit has subsequently reduced and currently is estimated at £12000. The Spring Fair made more money than in the budget and there is likely to be some small increases in other areas of fundraising. There is additional hall hire income of £4500 and some increase in the estimated interest received due to the recent increases in bank base rates. However the stark reality is that an annual deficit of this magnitude is not sustainable and would exhaust reserves in some seven to eight years. The need for another appeal was briefly discussed at the January PCC meeting and a June date agreed at the March meeting and increases in hall hire rates of 4% to 5% for existing hirers from 1 September and with immediate effect for new hirers were agreed (reflected in the £4500 above). It remains to be seen what can be raised from the Appeal but a third in three years is asking a lot of the St Nicholas congregation. It will be no easy task, even impossible, for the PCC to find the ways and means of balancing the books by the end of the year and the recently received Quinquennial Report on the inspection carried out at St Nicholas in October 2022 is not good news, pointing to the need for substantial expenditure in forthcoming years. The PCC will be needing to consider the report in due course.

The St. Nicholas financial position does of course have Parish wide implications. Stephen and the St. Nicholas finance team did meet with Matthew and his finance team in November and we are currently trying to arrange a next meeting and meet on a regular quarterly basis.

Roger Allard
Hon Treasurer, St Nicholas

5. SAFEGUARDING

We appoint Irene Dancer as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter; Jenny Wilkins as St. Giles Disclosure & Barring Service Officer; Val Richardson as St. Nicholas Disclosure & Barring Service Officer.

We acknowledge that all PCC members will need to have a DBS check and complete all necessary Diocesan Safeguarding training. This training extends to Churchwardens and any others in positions of responsibility involving children and vulnerable adults.

The AGM and PCC formally adopt the House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy statement available to view at

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/603eb0893e402/content/pages/documents/1603726336.pdf>

6. ST. GILES CENTRE

Redevelopment update.

7. ELECTIONS

TWO MEMBERS FOR THE ST. GILES P.C.C.
ONE MEMBER FOR THE ST. NICHOLAS P.C.C.
THREE DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

8. APPOINTMENTS

SIDESPERSONS -

St. Giles:

Mrs. R. Arney, Miss S. Attwood, Mr. P. Barnes, Mrs. L. Barnes, Mrs. V. Clark, Mrs. M. Compton, Mrs. C. Coyle, Mr. M. Dancer, Mrs. I. Dancer, Mrs. J. Palmer, Reeves Family, Russell Family, Scarlett Family, Mrs. M. Sullivan, Mr. J. White.

St. Nicholas:

Mrs. C. Allen, Mrs. V. Blinks, Miss I. Broadie, Mrs. P. Butcher, Miss C. Couldridge, Mrs. S. Dixey, Mrs. M. Felstead, Mrs. R. Fordyce, Mrs. C. Gibbons, Mrs. M. Gillies, Mrs. A. Howlett, Mrs. D. Stiff, Mrs. L. Matthews, Mrs. J. Mason, Mrs. S. Simpson.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Acting under delegated powers (A.G.M. 2001) The P.C.C. appointed Mr. Christopher Jones, F.C.C.A., Baxter and Co. as independent examiner for the 2021 accounts.

The PCC recommends Mr. Jones's appointment for the year 2022 accounts and the A.G.M. is requested to approve this proposal.

9. GOODBYES AND THANK YOU'S.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To be notified at the beginning of the meeting.

Date and time of next A.G.M. 2024

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This year has proved to be another full and busy time at St. Giles and it does feel as if we are finally building up after all the difficulties of the Covid period. Although we continue to lose members through various scenarios, we are also attracting new ones as well. In this vein it was particularly encouraging to welcome 13 adults and juniors to full membership of the Church via our Confirmation service held at the end of January. It was also good to welcome our new Diocesan Bishop, Jonathan Gibbs, to St. Giles for the first time. St. Giles remains a close and loving family where many people live out their discipleship of Christ with generosity and integrity. Below I have reflected with gratitude on all that constitutes our shared life, (not in order of importance!).

MUSIC

Our choir and music continues to go from strength to strength and I am delighted that we have been able to 'recruit' the services of three choral scholars who have done much to boost our choral singing. I continue to place a high priority on this part of our Church's life as I have been around long enough to know that good music is one of the church's greatest assets in encouraging all of us in uplifting worship, whilst attracting new people to the life of faith. Thank you so much to Ralph and Clive for the huge amount of work they put into this area of our Church's life, I know that it is really appreciated by many, our musicians and congregations alike.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORK

Trying to attract children and young people to the life of our Church is very difficult in the current climate. Sport and other recreational activities present families with varied and difficult choices on Sunday mornings. Although we may not be as numerically strong as we were, currently we have a wonderful group of children and young people, who not only attend our Church regularly, but offer their time and labour in some key areas of our Church's life. I am very grateful to Irene and her team for all they do in this important part of our Church's life.

PASTORAL WORK

We now have over 40 people who receive Holy Communion at home, many of them were once regular attendees at St. Giles. It is so important that we offer them care and support during these vulnerable times in their lives. I am very grateful to all our pastoral workers for their hard work in visiting and caring for them. Our pastoral care is critical as actions always speak louder than words. Caring for each other is never just the preserve of a few, we can all reach out to each other, to help build a deeply caring church. People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care!

FLOWER ARRANGING

Well done and thank you to all our wonderful flower arranging teams who continue to offer a very high standard of floral arts on a weekly basis. Their arrangements do much to lift our spirits and contribute to the overall ascetic of our Church and its worship. We look forward to seeing some special arrangements to mark the King's Coronation in May.

CHURCHYARD and FABRIC

I am going to leave the bulk of this report to our Churchwarden. Suffice to say our Church and its grounds continue to be maintained to a very high standard reflecting the respect and appreciation that we all have for St. Giles, its heritage and the important part it plays in the lives of many people. Thank you to all those who help in this area.

BELL RINGING

It continues to give me and many people great pleasure to hear our Church bells ring out and I am very grateful to Lesley, Nick and all our regular ringers who give so much of their time to this area of our Church's life. Once again the bells make an important contribution to the overall attractiveness of our Church, reminding people that we are open and active in our community. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Simon to the Parish on Sunday 18th June at 10.30 a.m. for the Dedication of the two new bells which were installed over lock down.

INTERCESSORS, SIDESPEOPLE and READERS

Thank you to all those who give of their time to help with our services in leading prayers, welcoming people and reading the Scriptures. I and members of our Church very much appreciate the part you play in the worshipping life of St. Giles. In particular I would like to thank Sylvia Addison, who at the great age of ** finally stepped down after many years of being on the readers rota. We will all miss the lovely way she read the Scriptures.

SOCIAL LIFE

Thank you to all those who contribute to the social life of our Church. Bringing people together is a key way in which friendships are made and enjoyed both in the Church and outside as well. These events do not just happen but require careful planning and preparation. Thank you to Carol and her team for the many events which enhance our Church's life, including the huge task of organising and running our Parish Fete, which this year is on Saturday 17th June.

PARISH MAGAZINE

I would very much like to thank Eddie and Helen for all that they have done in support of our Parish Magazine, both when they were its Editors and also in holding the fort when Rosie and Daphne had to suddenly step down. The future of the magazine at one stage was on a very precarious footing, but I am glad to say that we now have a new Editor, Gail Low, who is doing an excellent job in editing our award

winning Parish Magazine. In times of increasing technology a printed magazine is by no means a given. If we wish for it to continue it is vital that we subscribe to it, or make buying it at Church our regular custom. Once again the magazine contributes to the overall attractiveness of our Church. Thank you also to all those who write articles for it, take photos for it and help distribute it.

Whilst on I am the subject of our publicity, I do want to acknowledge the invaluable work that Nick does in editing and updating our Parish website which is a real credit to our Church and a useful source of information to its many visitors. Also to Lynn Kelly for keeping social media up-to-date with what's happening at St. Giles.

FINANCE TEAM

Most people attending our Church would be surprised to know of the huge amount of work and responsibility involved in running and administering modern day Parish finances. From counting out the collection and taking it to the Post Office, to the bigger issues of preparing budgets, financial statements and end of year accounts, the work and expertise involved is considerable and demanding. To this end I want to express sincere gratitude on behalf of all of us to the six people in our Finance Team, and this year I especially want to single out our Treasurer, Paul Beamiss who will come to the end of his tenure at this year's AGM. Paul has proved to be a brilliant Treasurer and under his stewardship we have continued to build healthy finances for the work of our Church. In the large and small Paul has had a keen eye for detail and in so doing he has been a shrewd custodian of our resources. I have greatly valued Paul's advice and guidance on all things financial and I am delighted that he has agreed to continue as a member of the Finance Team helping and offering advice where necessary. As one remarkable Treasurer has retired so it is that another very skilled person has agreed to take over. Carol Fryer has offered to take on the role of Honorary Treasurer and I hope that this will be fully endorsed at our coming AGM.

CLEANERS

Keeping St. Giles clean is a mammoth task, not only does it receive considerable footfall at particular times in the year and over many weeks, there are innumerable nooks and crannies that seem to be a magnet for dust and mess. I have a particular thing about clutter in churches as I think you can tell a lot about a church by first impressions! In this sense I am so grateful to our two cleaners John and Lynn for their secret behind the scenes work in keeping the house of God quiet and peaceful and clean! Also to our team of brass cleaners, (did you know we even had one!), who meet regularly in cold and heat to keep our brass and silver gleaming.

ADMINISTRATION

There are a number of people who work very hard to administrate the Parish and I am grateful to all of them. Again this is very much a behind the scenes job, but we would soon realise its absence if there were no pewsheets on Sunday.

CHURCHWARDENS

I cannot thank my seven Churchwardens enough for all their constant support of our congregation and myself personally. In particular our legal Warden Andrew Bailey who is the consummate professional, discreet, diplomatic, kind and thoroughly reliable. Thank you to all of them and again in particular our Parish Verger Peter Russell who, come rain or shine, is at St. Giles every Sunday at 7.00 a.m. and also for the many funerals which take place, always calm and kind, just what grieving families need. Not to mention the many other services he verges at as well including weddings. Thank you also to our PCC members for their wise advice and counsel.

MINISTRY TEAM

A final thank you to our ministry team at St. Giles which consists of me and our Reader Chris, plus Stephen and now Paul. It is good to be able to share the challenges of parish ministry with trusted colleagues and to know that they keep us all in their prayers as I do them.

THE FRIENDS OF ST GILES

Again this year I have cause to be grateful to the Friends who have generously agreed to help with the tuning and upkeep of our Parish organ. In these straightened times their openness to the needs of St. Giles Church is a source of much encouragement. They are Friends indeed!

IN MEMORIAM

Every year we lose some lovely and faithful members of our Church. In particular it was sad to say goodbye to Richard Wood who passed away 5th November 2022. Richard did so much for St. Giles and we have much to thank him for. May he rest in peace along with all those we love and miss.

ST. GILES CENTRE

I am pleased to say that things are progressing well with our plans for the Centre and just in case they have slipped your mind, the PCC approved plan is to refurbish the main hall and to build a modest extension, (including a toilet!), coming out from the present site of the Parish Office. The plans have now been submitted to Bromley Council and we are now in the process of seeking planning permission. The next stage will be to put together a detailed specification before we go to tender. When we do finally know what the cost is, we will then commit a year to fundraising as much as we can for this important project.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

It is natural that over the years a church's income stream should decline somewhat. This is certainly true for us, people move away and pass away and cost of living scenarios can mean that donations are reduced. To arrest this it is probably sensible for us to have a Stewardship campaign in September. A Stewardship Campaign is when we review our giving in the light of our circumstances that collectively we can all give what we can for the ongoing work and upkeep of our Church that means so much to us.

IN CONCLUSION

I realise that the above is a lengthy tour de force of the many components that make up the life of St. Giles. I have written all this to help us see the colossal effort that so many people put into St. Giles so it can be there for us and many others when it is needed. From the big to small, the seen to the unseen, the easy to the difficult, everything that is done and offered helps. The point to all we do individually and collectively is not just to keep the 'show on the road', but to extend the reach and mission of our Church so that God's love and light may shine out to those around us. I have taken a risk in mentioning so many groups and individuals and if I have missed anyone out then my sincere apologies to you, thank you to you as well!

When Jesus was on earth he was the light, bringing hope to all those who he encountered. Now we are the body of Christ and we are his hands and mind in this Parish called Farnborough. Thank you very much to everyone! I will leave you with a prayer from St Teresa:

Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
You are the eyes by which He sees,
You are the feet with which He walks.
You are the hands with which He blesses all the world.
You are the hands.

Matthew Hughes
Rector of Farnborough Benefice

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

It is now over a year since we moved to a pattern of 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship with 9.15 a.m. Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. We now plan to stick to this pattern for the foreseeable future. We enjoyed a good Christmas period, with a return to more 'normal' service, having unrestricted numbers at our Christingle Service for the first time in two years, and our usual Midnight Communion and Family Christmas service. At the beginning of Advent two of our young people were Confirmed at the Deanery Confirmation Service at St. Paul's, Crofton, and we are delighted that some more members of our Kids Club completed the diocesan 'Preparation for Communion Course' in December. Messy Church now runs once again every month, with fairly good numbers, and contact with new and familiar families.

We are continuing to run our Community Larder, and alongside this since the beginning of January we have been running a 'Warm Space' serving tea and coffee in the main hall thanks to a grant from the Diocese. Although the colder weather has largely passed, we plan to continue creating this community space alongside the larder for the foreseeable future. In recent weeks nearly 30 people have been accessing these services each week, with links continually being developed with the wider community. Most recently Brothers Bakery in the Crescent have become a partner, giving us their leftover bread at the end of each Monday. Nevertheless these are challenging times for all food banks and for the Transform Bromley Borough Food Hub as supermarkets experience shortages themselves and have decreasing supplies of surplus food.

We held a very successful Spring Fair on the 11th March which raised over £1800. We are also planning to hold a Coronation Community Lunch on 9th May and a Coronation Messy Church on 12th May this year. On a Sunday morning we are enjoying steady numbers, whether across two services on the 2nd and 4th Sunday or just one service on the other Sundays. Although we have lost some members of the congregation following the pandemic, we have gained new members and are very privileged to enjoy thriving children's and young people's groups.

As I think about those who have served our Church over the past year, I would like to express my thanks to the PCC, and in particular to Claire Couldridge, Church Warden, and to Nick Jolliffe, Deputy Warden. I am also very grateful to Roger Allard, our Treasurer, and Richard Butterworth our Deputy Treasurer. I must also thank the different Lay Ministers at St. Nicholas: Diane Stiff, our Children and Families worker and Pastoral Assistant, Rosemary Fordyce, our Pastoral Assistant with PTO, and Ian Gillies, Reader with PTO, with a wider ministry across the Deanery. Thanks must also go to Jayne Calvert, for all her work with the music, MU and the Community Larder. Thank you also to Catherine Roffey for all she does as Church Administrator and Lettings Manager. Thank you also to all who help with the teas and coffees and the flowers on a Sunday morning, to all the many volunteers who make ministry at St. Nicholas possible.

Having experienced a very challenging three years, the congregation at St. Nicholas continue to demonstrate great innovation and good spirit as we fulfil our mission of 'Transforming Our Community through the Presence of Christ'. As I come to the end of my seventh year in this role, I continue to count it a great privilege to be serving this Parish.

Stephen Broadie
Associate Rector

ST. GILES MUSIC

It is only when looking back over the last year that it becomes clear what a significant one it has been for music at St. Giles.

There have been many highlights. Of course there have been the big services - the Joint Jubilee Evensong in June with our friends from St. George's, Bickley; packed Advent and Christmas services; Confirmation and Easter. For me, however, the greatest pleasure has been our regular weekly services, with the choir going from strength to strength, growing in numbers and singing challenging and beautiful music to an ever higher standard. The addition of our three Choral Scholars - Alex, Alfie and Tom - has been a massive support to our back row, particularly during the absence through illness of the much loved Andrew Hunt.

Particular thanks also to Clive, our dedicated Organist, and Julia and Alison whose responsibilities for wardrobe involved looking after people just as much as looking after clothes.

Despite our occasional disagreements over hymn choice I also want to publicly thank Matthew, we are extremely fortunate to have a Rector who understands so well the marriage between music and liturgy and offers such support, practical and pastoral to the Choir.

Finally an exhortation! Those who join the congregation for our choral services regularly comment on how moving they find them and, once we get them through the door for the first time, are hugely appreciative regular attenders. It is not unusual however for the Choir to significantly outnumber the congregation. Please help to spread the word, encourage your music loving neighbours to come and experience the joy of Choral Evensong, bring a friend with you to services and share copies of the termly music lists far and wide.

Ralph Barlow
Music Director

ST. GILES FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

I am pleased to report that all of our groups for children and young people are now up and running, continuing to meet regularly with consistent numbers. Children and young people attend when they can, which is commendable in these days of multiple choice of children's activities. In spite of following up, some families have not returned since the pandemic, but we have been delighted to welcome new ones. Our vision remains, "to foster a Family Community within the church". We remain committed to working alongside parents, seeking to enable children to follow and know the love of Christ.

Lollipop Club

Lollipop Club meets monthly in the Church. Parents and carers with babies and toddlers are able to enjoy a relaxed time with one another, participating in story and crafts. Look out for their posters at the front of Church.

Junior Sunday School

This group meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays at 9.50 a.m. Story, craft and song is enjoyed by all and we work towards creating an attractive termly display in Church. Since the last report our topics have been 'Abraham's Family' and the promises God made to him; 'Belonging' with a focus on the Lord's Prayer; and 'Jesus the Teacher' looking at what Jesus teaches us about forgiveness, love, generosity, trust and humility.

Senior Sunday School

These children meet on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays at 9.50 a.m. We study the lectionary bible readings for that week and present the learning through craft, encouraging personal interpretation and reflection.

Youth Group

We have had various reincarnations of this group, seeking to find the most appropriate time and venue to meet. We are conscious of the busy school lives these young people lead, with homework and exams as a priority. More recently we have met for discussion, followed by a meal at the Rectory on a Sunday evening.

Easter Workshop and Good Friday

Our Easter services are well attended. Some of the older children meet in Holy Week to paint pictures of the Stations of the Cross for the Good Friday service in the churchyard. No Easter Family service would be complete without an Easter egg hunt and the children participate with enthusiasm!

Celebration and Prizegiving Service

This is held in July every year and in 2022 the theme was about the importance of having children in our Church and how we, as a congregation, are incomplete without them. A display of children's work undertaken throughout the year is exhibited. All children and young people who attend Church are rewarded with either a book or small token of our appreciation.

Christmas

Numbers at the candle lit services on Christmas Eve were encouraging. The Sunday School led service had a focus on the Christingle and how this relates to Christ's nativity. On Christmas Day, children brought their presents to Church to show the congregation.

Walks

During Covid, when we were unable to meet in groups indoors, we arranged family walks as a way of continuing to connect with one another. Although not so frequent, we have continued this and meet occasionally for a walk around High Elms.

Holiday Club

Thanks go to Diane Stiff and St. Nicholas Church for arranging and hosting the annual Holiday Club which some of our children attend. I am pleased to be involved with this, leading one of the groups. It is a wonderful week which we all enjoy.

None of the above can take place without parents bringing their children to Church. Thank you to all parents and carers who continue to do so and for your invaluable support. Thank you too to the various team members who help us in this important work. You know who you are. Thank you!

Irene Dancer
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker

ST. GILES SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The Church of England Safeguarding Policy states that, "Safeguarding is at the heart of our Christian faith.... Safeguarding means the action the church takes to promote a safer culture in all our churches..... The church will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all."

Our commitment to creating a safe, caring environment for all remains paramount at St. Giles and St. Nicholas churches and is fundamental to bringing about the Kingdom of God.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) I meet regularly with both PCCs to update and inform them of our progress towards this aim and present action plans for next steps.

I can confirm that our churches have adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. We have our own Parish Safeguarding Policy, which supports and illustrates this guidance and which is updated regularly. Copies are located in both churches, in St. Giles Centre and on the Parish website.

Current work being undertaken focuses on ensuring that all those who work with children and/or vulnerable adults have updated their training. It is required that training is updated every three years. Colleagues provide me with evidence of their compliance.

Since the last AGM I have taken on the role of Lead Recruiter and, with Jenny Wilkins at St. Giles and the newly appointed Chris Deeks at St. Nicholas, am looking at all post holders to ensure that their DBS is up-to-date. Again, this needs to be renewed every three years. In line with 'Safer Recruitment' the St. Giles PCC have adopted Diocesan guidance to obtain a Confidential Self Declaration Form prior to DBS renewal if one had not been completed upon original appointment. Going forward, the St. Nicholas PCC will adopt the same policy. Again, in line with Safer Recruitment, we are seeking to ensure that all relevant post holders have a basic job description.

Following the Church of England's 'Code of safer working practice' the PCCs have agreed and approved the children's/vulnerable adults groups we support. I have been working with the St. Giles groups to ensure that appropriate risk assessments are carried out and that the necessary consent forms, registers and other requirements are in place. Diane Stiff has done the same at St. Nicholas.

A positive safeguarding culture is integral to the smooth and safe running of all institutions. The church, however, has a special responsibility as we are disciples of the Gospel of Christ. While policies and guidance are important, it is the actions we take to implement those policies and the positive relationships we build with one another that ensure such a culture is present in our churches..

Irene Dancer
Parish Safeguarding Officer

ST. GILES FLOWER ARRANGERS REPORT

2021 - 2022

Flower arranging is now back to normal. Mothering Sunday posies, Easter, Harvest and Christmas displays were achieved and also a successful Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 to honour our beloved late Queen Elizabeth II.

Organisation

There are approximately four Meetings during the year with Matthew. We discuss previous events and advise on future commitments.

We are still in the situation where only three teams are currently in operation. It has been decided that each team in turn will now arrange approximately three extra Friday's during the months April-December. The extra weeks are marked in the yearly Flower Schedule, kindly produced by Doreen Wilson.

We continue to have dedicated resource for all flower bookings, Book of Remembrance etc. and wedding liaison.

Recruitment

We have new people who have joined and hopefully more will give arranging a try this year. The idea is to reinstate a new team 2 with help from existing teams.

Donations

We continue to receive regular donations from the congregation re the main flower festivals and requests for Book of Remembrance, window arrangements and occasional pedestal.

Costs

The cost of fresh flowers obviously varies from week to week. For main Festivals and Weddings we use wholesale suppliers. The intended move of our main wholesaler has not yet taken place so we are still within reasonable distance to collect flowers. We use the supermarket flowers most weeks and/or local Florist for more specialised requests, e.g. Weddings. We are very lucky that our members bring fresh foliage from their gardens each week and at Festivals.

Pricing for 2024

The budget for weekly flowers and festivals to be reviewed, along with pricing for requests and wedding flowers. New budget usually advised first Flower Meeting in January.

Contact Details

Our details remain available via the Church website and Church magazine. Photos of the main Festivals are included in both publications.

Next Events

Following Easter Festival in April 2023 the next planned event will be floral displays to mark the King's Coronation in May 2023, when the Church will be open.

St. Giles Flower Arrangers

ST. GILES BELLRINGERS

2022 was a better year than the two previous years but that wasn't difficult! Through the year Covid restrictions and incidences of Covid gradually decreased but Covid is still with us impacting from time to time on individuals.

As mentioned in previous Reports the installation of the two new bells was completed on Maundy Thursday, 1st April, 2021 but due to Covid restrictions we have only in the last year been able to ring the bells fairly freely, hold regular practices and have the ability to teach new recruits.

The bells have been rung most Sunday mornings prior to the Family Service as long as there has been a competent person to take charge. Additionally, the bells are rung for practices approximately every other Monday evening, on some Tuesdays from 11.00 a.m., for weddings and funerals upon request and occasionally for peals by arrangement, such as on Christmas Day.

Twenty four quarter peals were rung in 2022 (just two in 2021), and six peals. On Friday 9th September the heavy Gillett and Johnston bell was tolled upon the death of Queen Elizabeth II and there was general half muffled ringing on Saturday 10th September in which 11 local ringers participated.

The former, redundant, clock bell which was mentioned in last year's Report has been sold following PCC approval and granting of a Faculty. Pleasingly this bell is to be rehoused, subject to fund raising and Faculty, at Thurloxtton in Somerset as a full circle ringing bell. It will be the treble of an augmented ring of six bells.

Taylor's of Loughborough, who completed the 2021 Farnborough augmentation, have returned to carry out some snagging works. However, another visit is required to:

- Provide a permanent solution to the temporary fix which stops the treble double clapping.
- Place a radar controlled electromagnetic hammer to strike the hours on the big and sonorous G&J bell.
- Provide a plaque recording the 2021 augmentation naming major donors.

In order to maintain a healthy band of ringers and replace those no longer ringing it is necessary to recruit and teach new ringers. This is being done at times convenient to the new recruits mainly either before the main Monday evening practice or, recently, on Sunday afternoons after the winter Evensong Service.

Finally, thanks go to the members of the band that turn up regularly to ring.

St. Giles Bellringers

ST. GILES SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Social activities are of major importance at St. Giles, bringing us together as a community, and encouraging integration with the larger community that is Farnborough. Throughout the year we try to put on refreshments after services: tea and coffee after the Sunday 10.00 a.m. service with occasionally cakes, and sometimes soup, and wine and juice after Evensong. These events prove popular, and many people linger for a drink and a chat; keys for the Centre toilet are always to hand.

The annual Fete in June is always well attended. It also proves to be the biggest fund raiser of the year. It takes a lot of work, but its well worth it, and last year raised £5,317. The pressure was eased by the generous sponsorship of the costs of setting up this event. We had lots of entertainment, including a Punch & Judy with John Styles MBE. The emphasis last year was on a relaxing Garden Party atmosphere and many people lingered over food and drink to listen to the music, the singing from the enthusiastic Rock Choir and the violin playing of Matthew English. We even ran out of Pimms and had to send the Rector for more bottles. Of course, dare I tempt providence for this year's fete on 17th June, but the weather was definitely with us. Fingers crossed for this year.

Coach trips have also been well supported and we had our annual trip to Broadstairs in July. A full coach and lovely weather; some people even went swimming. This year's trips to Brighton, Winchester Christmas market and of course Broadstairs are planned.

Harvest Supper has now become an annual Barn Dance. We serve a two course meal and the Ian Petrie band provides the music. Ian is a popular caller and can get most people up on their feet; there is plenty to watch for those who feel their dancing days are over.

The year finishes with the refreshments in the Village Hall after the Nine Lessons & Carols service. Mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine for everyone to wish each other a Happy Christmas.

These events bring us together as a community, and we encourage those outside of the congregation to participate. Willing volunteers are the one key to successful social activities and we always seem to get the support we need, but of course we always need more. So, a very big thank you to all those who give their time and energy to making these events work.

The other key to great social events is participants. We need your support; come along to events when you can, bring your family and friends; if you can't get there please sponsor or donate.

Carol Fryer

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

ST. NICHOLAS TODDLER GROUP

The St. Nicholas Toddler Group meets on Wednesday mornings during term time. Each week about 40 toddlers plus their mums, dads and carers come along. A variety of toys are available and there is a craft or messy play activity for the adults to do with their children each week. The morning finishes with a story and song time. Once a month a Toddler Service takes place with a Bible story, prayer and associated craft.

KIDS CLUB AT ST. NICHOLAS

KIDS CLUB takes place on Sunday mornings during the Church service. It is for children from about 3 years old upwards and we divide into groups for age appropriate activities that include a Bible story songs, prayer and craft. The older group, Ignite, (school year 6+) is led by Isabel Broadie.

In the Autumn term we ran a Children and Communion Course and at the end of it two of our Kids Club children were baptised and five took their first Communion. This term we have been looking at the life of Elijah and have found out how God cares for us and that he is always with us. The children and teenagers were involved again in the Christingle service, the title of the play this time being 'The Christmas promise'.

JUST BABIES

Just Babies takes place in the Mother and Baby room at St. Nicholas on a Tuesday afternoon and is for mothers and their babies, up to crawling age. It provides an opportunity for mums to develop friendships and to chat over a cup of tea in an informal and friendly atmosphere. Please spread the news about Just Babies to any mothers you know with young babies.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church happens monthly on a Friday afternoon after school. We have about 40 people at each session. Children and their parents come together to play games and do craft activities which are linked to a Bible story. The themes over this past year have included: The Queen's Jubilee, Creation, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and St. Patrick's Day.

LIGHT AND BRIGHT and EASTER ACTIVITY MORNING

These events are open to all in the community and are very popular. They provide opportunities to build up relationships with people and to share the good news of Jesus through games and crafts.

HOLIDAY CLUB

The children's Holiday Club took place last August. It was called 'Diary of a Disciple' and we looked at some events in Luke's Gospel through drama, games and craft. We thought about how Jesus is the real Christmas gift; the calling of the disciples; the healing of the paralysed man and the parable of the Good Samaritan. Our memory verse for the week was 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself', *Luke 10.27*. We also had a visit from the Community Police. The week finished with a Holiday Club service on the Sunday.

I would like to thank all who help with the children and family activities at St. Nicholas.

Diane Stiff

Family and Children's worker St. Nicholas

MOTHERS' UNION

The Farnborough branch of the Mothers' Union is still thriving in the Parish!

We decided to keep our monthly Monday evening meetings by Zoom, as with the dark, winter evenings, it has meant that no one has had to venture out into the cold to meet together in person. Also, another positive thing is that it has enabled members from other MU branches, both near & far, to join in these Evening Prayers by Zoom. Sharing faith & fellowship through prayer is very important to us all and underpins all the work we do in Christ's name together.

We have almost 30 MU members in the group, with another 2 due to be enrolled soon. Members who are not able to join us by Zoom are always given a paper copy of each service before the Monday meeting, so they can feel involved and follow the prayers at home.

We follow the Church's year, and most of the prayers are taken from the Mothers' Union website, an excellent resource to share together. This present month of April we have shared Lent Reflections, 'Christ is risen'.

In December we again held our Zoom service supporting the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence entitled "No More 1 in 3", and lit candles to show solidarity with our friends who have sadly been affected, both in the UK and overseas. Many suffer in silence and are undetected in their wider community. Mothers' Union joins each year with other organisations from approximately 187 countries who participate in this campaign to raise awareness of and call for an end to gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies. Last December, several MU members from Rochester Diocese gathered in solidarity outside Rochester Cathedral with other organisations during the 16 days of Activism period.

Mothers' Union was founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner, a clergyman's wife, from a small home-group meeting she started to support young mothers who were living in her husband George's parish in Old Alresford near Winchester. In those days it was very unusual for a woman to start up any group, and even more unusual that Mary Sumner reached out to all the women in the parish, irrespective of their class. 146 years later, our beliefs and goals are still very relevant today. We have over 4 million Christian members in 84 countries in the world, and Mothers' Union continues to flourish.

On August 9th we celebrate Mary Sumner Day, and members of Rochester Diocese have always joined in a pilgrimage starting from their home church, stopping off at various churches along the way to the Cathedral to share in Choral Evensong together. Unfortunately, last August it again wasn't possible to travel as a group, but about 150 members from around the Diocese did go down to Rochester Cathedral to celebrate Evensong.

Like many other charities, Mothers' Union has suffered again this past year through lack of fund raising, however our group has just participated in this year's **Make a Mother's Day** campaign. This year our theme was entitled, "Give the gift of perseverance", and we have raised almost £300 for this project, to help members both in the UK and overseas. The project is to help enable more women to improve their families' wellbeing.

Our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, wrote, *"This, Mothering Sunday, our love, prayers and strength as a community mean so much to women and their families around the world and here at home. Your gift of perseverance can give desperately needed support to women, families and communities everywhere we work, while at the same time helping you celebrate someone you admire and who inspires you"*.

The highlight of this past year was being invited by St. Giles Church to be the Charity in Focus for July/August, to support one of our projects, AFIA – which stands for "Away From It All". It is a holiday/day trip scheme funded by Mothers' Union members to help people who would not otherwise have a holiday or day trip. A short break can give families the space and time to create positive memories, build relationships and strengthen family bonds. We had a very successful campaign, holding various cake stalls during some of the Summer services at St. Giles, we chose and attended the film night in July, and then hosted a very well attended Afternoon Tea at St. Nicholas Church at the end of August. Altogether, over £1000 was raised. This money helped send 3 families on a much-needed holiday last year. To date, we have one holiday booked for a family this year. We thank Matthew and St. Giles Church members very much for the generosity shown to Mothers' Union for the AFIA project.

Locally, several members of Farnborough Mothers' Union and other friends are still knitting colourful squares, which are then sewn up into blankets. This past year several baby cot-blankets have been given to SCBU at the PRUH, and it has also received many cardigans, hats, bootees, cannula mitts and mugs for the preterm and sickly babies needing care there.

Other blankets have been taken to "Knit for Peace" project in Hampstead.

Some members have continued to knit 'Anna Crosses' for the Anna Chaplains to give to residents in Care Homes when they have been along to administer Communion (Covid restrictions last year did, unfortunately, affect their ability to go into some of the care homes).

Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union has always had a relationship with the Prison in Rochester, and last year we donated several rucksacks for the inmates' personal use when they had completed their sentence, to preserve their dignity and have something to put their few possessions into.

Some MU members have just helped deliver Easter eggs and cards to parishioners of St. Giles and St. Nicholas who are no longer able to attend services in person. It was wonderful to see the joy and gratitude on their faces when we handed over the presents!

We continue to hold our Zoom meetings on the 1st Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m. and we meet in person on the 3rd Thursday afternoon at 1.30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church.

The 1st Thursday morning we have now returned to St. Giles to attend the 10.00 a.m. Communion, and usually cakes will be provided by us to accompany the tea/coffee after the service!

If you are interested in hearing more about the Mothers' Union, and would like to get involved, contact Jayne Calvert on 07780664340 or email: jayne_calvert@hotmail.com

Jayne Calvert

HOUSE GROUPS

This has been another difficult year for our House Groups, but those led by Alison Reynolds, Andy Chapman, Jenny Hutson and Sue Simpson have continued meeting, but mainly online. Although they miss face to face social contact and having a shared cup of tea/coffee, it does have some advantages, e.g. members can join from their own home without the need to travel - particularly helpful for less mobile individuals (a broken hip in one case); it also gives greater flexibility for those with dependents to look after.

The different groups have followed and discussed study guides and talks on Jonah, Christian character, Caring for Creation (very topical and highly recommended), a Passion for Christ and Lives of Great Christians. Some groups followed Matthew's 2022 Lent Course entitled, 'What makes for human flourishing?' which explored 'Coping with change', 'Anxiety & Worry', 'Forgiveness' and 'Nature and Human Creativity'. Ailsa Chapman's House Group reassembled for this (although they have been, and will continue, to keep in contact with each other). There was also another Lent Group, led by Matthew, and held at the back of the Church following the 4.00 p.m. Sunday evening service.

People have found it valuable to get together, either for real, or virtually. Sue's group has also set up a What's app group for encouraging each other and for support in between meetings which is proving successful.

I hope that the various groups manage to thrive during 2023. If you would like to join a group please contact me.

Heather Argent
House Group co-ordinator
01689 857785 / hargent@talktalk.net

After very many years as House Group Coordinator, I am now stepping down from this role and hope that someone else will take this on. I think that house groups play a vital part in parish life; meeting regularly in a small group helps you get to know each other better and they provide mutual support and encouragement as you learn and grow in your Christian faith together. Alison, Andy, Jenny and Sue continue to be amazing and faithful group leaders and I'd love to see more people volunteer to lead a group. This doesn't mean they have to know all the answers - just be prepared to act as a facilitator so that group members all feel they belong and that their contributions are valued. I have plenty of books which give helpful and practical advice on setting up and running a group. In addition, I have quite a library of study courses on different books of the Bible, Bible characters, the Lord's Prayer, Christian living etc which provide all the material and questions needed for group sessions. At one time and across the parish we had ninety people participating in a Lent course - yes, 90! I'd love to see that same level of support once again. Could YOU be part of this? Heather Argent 01689 857785

ST. GILES WEBSITE

Farnborough Parish website:

www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk

The website has continued to provide information to parishioners and others about our Church, its history, and events both past and upcoming.

As life returned to a more normal footing after the pandemic, so Church life has restarted. The website has covered events including the Summer Garden Party, Harvest Festival and the special evensong to mark the Platinum Jubilee of her Majesty the Queen. Sadly, we also had to mark her death in September. We look forward to the special events associated with the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May.

In June the website recorded the memorial service for The Revd. Graham Shaw, and in January this year the welcome for the former Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley Paul Wright as our new assistant priest.

The website was moved to a different hosting contract in April 2022. This makes detailed analysis of year by year website usage a little difficult, but the trend is up compared with the previous year. The busiest months were June and December.

Farnborough Village History website

www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk

The history website has been updated with articles about Limes, the former laundry in the village, also Goddendene, the March family residence and workshops at Locksbottom.

The menus have also been restructured to better reflect the distinct histories of the three villages in the ancient Parish. The site now contains about 110 pages, which makes it larger than the St. Giles website. The number of visitors is growing steadily year on year, and is now also larger than for the St. Giles site, although they spend less time on the site at each visit.

Some pages from the website have been used in modified form in the parish magazine.

Nick Reynolds
nickrstgiles@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST. GILES

The Friends continue to support the Church in any way they can. During the last year we have particularly supported organ needs, i.e. another special pipe that was needed and also the tuning of the instrument that is a regular commitment.

We had a fund raising jigsaw puzzle sale in September that did not do quite as well as it should due to a huge thunderstorm that rained down on customers and helpers! Thanks to everyone, it raised £108.50.

The Committee meets regularly, both in person and via Zoom in order to keep in contact with our financial advisor. We thank all the Committee but we particularly thank our Treasurer, Roger Allard, and our Secretary, Sue Ellis. Our AGM was held in the Church again this year.

We lost one of our founding members, Yvonne Burr, this year. She is particularly remembered for her wonderful work in dealing with the tickets for our twice yearly concerts which, thanks to Yvonne, were always a sell out.

The 250 Club continues to thrive. If you would like to be a member, it costs £12 per year and details are available from Sue Ellis, 07715 860504.

Julia Hoadley, Chairman

PARISH MAGAZINE

The end of 2021 saw the end of an era with the retirement of Eddie and Helen Roberts as long time editors of the Farnborough Parish Magazine. Great thanks must be given to this hardworking pair who managed to bring the magazine to a prize winning level. They will be sorely missed.

The search was on for a new editor. Rosie and Daphne took over in January 2022, starting with the February issue. They did a great job but unfortunately ill health prevented them from continuing and their last issue was November 2022.

The hunt was on again, and Eddie and Helen stepped into the breach to temporarily fill the space. As this is written in 2023, we can acknowledge the introduction of Gail Low as our new editor from the April issue, with a great deal of support and help from the twice outgoing editors.

The Farnborough Parish magazine is a 28 page glossy magazine produced once a month. It contains information, articles, pictures and adverts relevant to Farnborough and the surrounds, and costs £2.50 per issue and can always be found in the Church. Subscribers who pay for the year (helps our editor to know how many copies to print) get their magazine delivery included in the price. Thanks must be given to our delivery team.

Financially the magazine is having a tough time. Covid prevented the magazine from being printed. This hole was plugged by on-line copies, and Matthew's monthly bulletins. With the ease on restrictions, the magazine went back into production but, of course, we had to get back our regular subscribers, contributors and encourage our one-off sales. Advertisers, too, had to be encouraged back to a much reduced circulation.

Overall the magazine made a small profit in 2022. Fortunately, the profits from previous years have provided reassurance in the short term, but we do need to get back to pre-Covid levels again. Unfortunately the cost of living crisis is continuing to make life difficult for all. Renewals for 2023 have been good, but we do need to increase circulation substantially.

Farnborough Parish Magazine is a valuable tool for community out-sourcing, a means of keeping in touch, and should not be lost as a non-profitable item.

9. CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT

ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Incumbent: Rev'd Matthew Hughes

Associate Rector: Rev'd Stephen Broadie

Principal Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc
Santander UK plc

Independent Examiner

Baxter & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT

ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS

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Honorary Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Giles the Abbot, Farnborough

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 18, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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

Signed:

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	138,486	24,046	38,596	201,128	216,403
Activities for generating funds	59,417	-	-	59,417	45,417
Investment income	4,012	16,899	-	20,911	20,501
Incoming resources from charitable activities	41,965	55	16,049	58,069	62,890
Other incoming resources	2,750	-	-	2,750	2,427
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	246,630	41,000	54,645	342,275	347,638
RESOURCES USED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	10,001	-	-	10,001	4,478
Charitable activities	229,927	8,723	32,963	271,613	272,830
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	239,928	8,723	32,963	281,614	277,308
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources pre transfers	6,702	32,277	21,682	60,661	70,330
Transfers between funds	(2,254)	2,254	-	-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in funds	4,448	34,531	21,682	60,661	70,330
Total funds brought forward	1,789,082	710,447	227,378	2,726,907	2,656,577
Total funds carried forward	1,793,530	744,978	249,060	2,787,568	2,726,907

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 £	2021
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments	2,625	4,567
No notice accounts	265,463	279,803
Notice Account	83,152	82,329
Cash at bank and in hand	267,597	192,273
CCLA Funds	<u>26,034</u>	<u>20,746</u>
	644,871	579,718
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(12,797)</u>	<u>(8,305)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>632,074</u>	<u>571,413</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	<u>2,787,568</u>	<u>2,726,907</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,793,530	1,789,082
DESIGNATED FUNDS	744,978	710,447
RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>249,060</u>	<u>227,378</u>
	<u>2,787,568</u>	<u>2,726,907</u>

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14 May 23

Rector

Churchwarden

Financial Accountant

Hon Treasurer

Accounts

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT**

***ST. GILES THE ABBOT
with
ST. NICHOLAS***

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021.**

**RECTOR:
THE REVD. MATTHEW HUGHES**

**ASSOCIATE RECTOR:
THE REVD. STEPHEN BROADIE**



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021 - Report (b)

ST. GILES THE ABBOT, FARNBOROUGH WITH ST. NICHOLAS, ORPINGTON

OBJECTIVES

The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Matthew Hughes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Centre complexes of St. Giles at Church Road, Farnborough and St. Nicholas at Leamington Avenue, Orpington.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") in accordance with Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC who served from 23 May 2021 until the date that this report was approved by the PCC were: -

Ex-Officio:

Rector The Revd. Matthew Hughes Chairman

Associate Rector The Revd. Stephen Broadie

Readers Mrs. Chris Hallett
Mrs. Susan Midha

Wardens Mr. Philip Lovelock until APCM 2022 St Giles
Miss Claire Couldridge until APCM 2024 St Nicholas

Deputy Wardens Mr Peter Russell Not on PCC St Giles
Mr Andrew Bailey Not on PCC St Giles
Mrs Janet Palmer Not on PCC St Giles
Mrs Susan Rennie Not on PCC St Giles
Mrs Sheila Munns Not on PCC St Giles
Mrs Sally Attwood Not on PCC St Giles
Nicholas Jolliffe until APCM 2024 St Nicholas

Deanery Synod Rep. Mrs Linda Montgomery until APCM 2024 St Giles

Elected:

Hon. Secretary Mrs Linda Montgomery

Hon. Treasurer Mr. Roger Allard St. Nicholas

Gift Aid Secretary Ms. Carol Fryer

Members

Mrs Adele Cooke until APCM 2022 St Giles
Mrs Jo Cook until APCM 2024 St Giles

Mrs Helen Roberts	until ACPM 2024 St Giles
Mrs Irene Dancer	until APCM 2024 St Giles
Mr Richard Healey	until ACPM 2024 St Giles
Mrs Carol Stokes	until ACPM 2024 St Giles
Mr Richard Butterworth	until ACPM 2023 St Nicholas
Mrs Diane Stiff	until ACPM 2022 St Nicholas
Mrs Sue Simpson	until APCM 2024 St Nicholas

The United PCC met twice during the year with an attendance of ninety per cent. In addition, the members representing St. Giles met seven times (with an average attendance of ninety per cent) and those representing St. Nicholas met 7 times (average attendance eighty five per cent).

COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between meetings of the PCC:

- ☐ Standing & Finance Committee – this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC
- ☐ St. Giles' Fabric Group
- ☐ St. Giles' Churchyard Group
- ☐ Ad hoc groups.

CHURCH ATTENDANCES

There were 391 names on the Church Electoral Roll for the parish as at 31st December 2021.

As a Parish, we are available at times of birth, marriage and death. In 2021, the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

	18 Baptisms
	7 Weddings
	30 Funeral services held in church followed by burial in the
churchyard or	7 Cremations
	5 Graveside Funeral services
	16 Funeral services held at a crematorium
	35 Burials of ashes.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Aggregated parish income for the year was £347,638 (2020-£276,671) and aggregated resources used were £277,308 (2020-£256,981). Net incoming resources amounted to £70,330 (2020-£19,690). St Giles recorded net incoming resources of £64,896 (2020-£42,615) and St. Nicholas recorded net incoming resources of 5,434 (2020-~~£22,925~~).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (less fixed assets) which equates approximately to six months unrestricted expenditure. This was achieved as at 31st December 2021.

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS Report (c)
**ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD
REPORT**

As I reflect on the last year, one observation that stands out is how lovely it is to see the Church returning to its full glory. For me, to hear the Church full of voice and song is most invigorating and I realise how much I had missed the sense of community.

As my father would say, 'you don't know what you have until you lose it' and that is so true even after losing him just over 3 years ago. Loss knows no boundary and at times brings many together to share, even just to listen or to share our homes.

Having been the Churchwarden for nearly 4 years I have found the role interesting, challenging and most rewarding. The challenge has come from trying to maintain a balance between family, work, health, and the responsibility of being Churchwarden.

I have gained many new experiences, and this has offered me added richness to life. A few key events that stand out for me over the 4 years must be of course Covid and how we all managed the crisis. St Giles using YouTube and other elements world of technology to reach us during that difficult time.

Also, participating with ongoing legacy of the Church with reference to the bells, the organ, and the War Memorial. The effects of which we shall all enjoy for many, many years.

We have enjoyed the return of our barn dances and look forward at last to the return of our fabulous fete.

I will always carry gratitude for my fellow Churchwardens/Verger and their total commitment to support us all. I thank them for their time and for the kind support they have shown me.

One further acknowledgement should be to Matthew and for his friendship, advice, faith, and trust.

I come away with experience of pride in serving and most of all being part of a community based on friendship, trust, and love.

I leave a better person and I thank you all, God bless.

Philip Lovelock
St. Giles Churchwarden

We have been fortunate in being able to hold our meetings again in St. Giles Centre during the past year. We have welcomed two new members to the Committee. I would like to thank our team of volunteers who turn out every Tuesday, whatever the weather. We are also now able to have our Coffee Break again, and we had a Christmas Party in December, after missing the previous two years.

There is always something that needs our attention, either in the Church, the Centre, or the Churchyard. The Council have cut down a large beech tree in the wood behind the Garden of Remembrance which was leaning on another one near the Memorial Wall holding the plaques. However, they have still not repaired the flint wall by the lychgate. When I reminded them, what did they do, paint yellow lines on the road! Come June it will be two years since it was first brought to their attention. They have again been reminded, and we await their response.

Unfortunately, at a cost of £1,630 we had to have two trees cut down in the Churchyard which had died. One of these was a cherry tree believed to be over 100 years old, the other tree was a fir. We are also in the process of reducing the height of some of the evergreen firs in the orchard which block out light to the other trees.

Nick Reynolds, one of our team, and a Committee member, is in charge of the burial of ashes and digs the holes when he can. The volunteers doing this save the Church a lot of money. There were 64 burials in 2021, similar to last year, and slightly below the long term average. Two thirds of these were burial of ashes in the Garden of Remembrance. Thirteen new graves were dug, which was fewer than last year. The graveyard has an estimated 25 years of further available space.

Eddie Bellamy, another volunteer and Committee member, is in charge of ordering the plaques for the Garden of Remembrance Memorial Wall. During the past year 26 new inscribed plaques have been ordered, and 18 blank ones. We have space for 562 more plaques on the existing walls, with a yearly average of 46 this is enough for 12+ years. Eddie has cleaned the plaques which are our responsibility. However, the first four sections, from the right looking at the Memorial Walls, are owned by Francis Chappell, and these need cleaning.

I would also like to thank Phil Enticknap, who have helped us with the refurbishing of the War Memorial, and other brickwork.

As I write this we are about to install two new benches in the Garden of Remembrance which have been kindly donated, the existing two will be reinstated in another part of the Churchyard. I think this will make a total of about 25 seats.

We have renewed the fence above the undercroft, and are in the process of obtaining quotes for the renewal of the fence along the top of the wall on the north/east boundary of the Churchyard. We have repaired the present one a number of times, but it is now no longer safe.

We are still getting quotes to refurbish St. Giles Centre. One of the main items is to have a toilet accessible from the outside. Also we are awaiting

a faculty to sell the clock bell, and fit a new mechanism for the clock to chime on the Gillett & Johnson Bell.

PRO Landscapes have had their contract renewed for this year, which had only increased by £100 - the first rise for two years. It is now £7,000 for 20 visits, March to November. They mow the grass, remove the rubbish and wood chip the paths, plus cut some of the hedges.

Richard Healey
Chairman Churchyard and Fabric Group

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Now that most of the restrictions have been lifted for Covid, it is time to step back and take stock of the last two years.

St. Nicholas on the whole adapted well to the new restrictions placed on it, taking services online with Facebook and Zoom, and in some cases such as the Wednesday Prayer Meeting increasing in number. As soon as we were allowed however, we were delighted to come together, albeit with restricted numbers and strict guidelines. We lost a few people along the way, but on the whole our numbers have remained steady, even attracting a few new families into the bargain. We are now back to our past Covid pattern of services, although the 10.00 a.m. service has now become 10.30 a.m.

Our Community Larder, I am sad to say, has grown reflecting the needs of our community.

We have just completed another Zoom Alpha Course online and also just had two successful Men's and Women's Breakfasts which were enjoyed by all that attended them, as well as our first Spring Fair which was also very successful.

As I write we are looking forward to all our Easter activities, including a Prayer Trail, Passover Meal, Children's Activity Morning, and of course Easter Sunday itself.

St. Nicholas is not all about one person and would not function without everyone playing their part. My thanks to everyone for playing their part and for their support and to Nick and Stephen for all their advice.

Claire Couldridge
St. Nicholas Churchwarden

DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT ON THE GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCHES IN THE PARISH Report (d)

This has been another busy year at St. Giles with much of it dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. It has been good to be part of the Churchwarden's team and I am grateful to my fellow Deputies for their continuing support of St. Giles in these difficult times.

In terms of goods and ornaments we have purchased a new set of pew cushions for the gallery at St. Giles. We also repaired the large brass Baptism jug (which was leaking), and replaced the hinge on the folding section of the Altar Rail (which had completely broken) - through the generous donation of a parishioner we were able to both repair the damaged baptismal jug and the hinge on the altar rail.

In addition, in order to provide music during the services over the last year, we have had an additional number of CDs of church music purchased by individuals and donated to St. Giles.

During 2021 we continued to undertake a refurbishment of the Clergy Vestry, repainting the walls and undertaking a 'deep clean'. During the course of this work we replaced the desk in the vestry, with an Antique English Oak desk which was given in memory of Laraine Langley-Davies by her family.

We also conducted a deep clean of the Porch area, and the monuments inside the main body of the Church. Some of the latter work was carried out by the 'Monuments Men' team. It is planned to undertake a deep clean of the Choir Vestry from May 2022 onwards.

Given the current emphasis on cleaning I can report that St. Giles is being cleaned with due regard to its historic materials following guidance from Historic Churches.

I can report that all the Church's goods and ornaments are in a good state of repair.

Andrew Bailey
St. Giles Deputy Warden

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2020, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

In 2021, we finished with a surplus of £64,896. Our total income was £246,893 which exceeded our total expenditure of £181,997. As you know, 2021 continued to be a difficult year as was 2020, however general activity increased and there were corresponding small increases across most income channels. More activity, of course, also meant an increase of £22,768 in expenditure.

The reason behind the increase in our surplus for 2021 was that three legacies totalling £25,000 were received for that year.

However, although the legacies account for the increase in our surplus they do not explain the bedrock of our finances. This is seen in the way the congregation and church community has rallied behind St Giles especially with extra donations to replace the lost income from the summer fair.

Our Gift Aid income is holding up well, based on the stewardship campaign held in 2019. Although it is normal to rerun the stewardship campaign every three years, we have decided not to hold one this year, recognising

the other increasing household financial costs this year.

Following the restructure of the parish magazine it is good to see this on a firmer footing including retaining our award-winning glossy magazine. Our rental income from Wentworth Close continued unabated and provides St. Giles with a solid income stream.

We were unable to hire out the centre last year because of the lockdowns and the general Covid climate. I expect it to remain difficult this year.

The Parish Share or Diocesan Contribution for 2021 was £64,733.

As previously stated the St Giles's congregation continues to give generously, through planned giving, collections and specific fund raising, as well as time and skills, to the upkeep and work of the Church. Donations from funerals and wall plaques fees help fund maintenance of the Churchyard.

Previous generous legacies provide security, as well as the ability to fund major building repairs and projects, as fabric wears and needs renewing or replacing. These funds also provide security against unforeseen events similar to those we have recently experienced. Therefore, these funds are not utilised for the running costs of the church and work of the church. The Rector and PCC monitor running costs with the aim always to keep expenditure below income.

As ever, many thanks to all who help with the St. Giles financial work. The finance team work especially hard, so my gratitude and appreciation goes to, in alphabetical order, Ken Butchers, Mary Compton, Linda Crisp and Carol Fryer.

Thank you to Eddie Bellamy, administrator of the Memorial Wall fund, in again providing a reliable income stream. Thanks are also due to Adele Cooke for her continued sterling work with the Parish magazine and office administration.

In addition, I would again like to thank Carol Fryer for her work as Gift Aid Secretary and Pam Stacey our Planned Giving Envelope Scheme Secretary.

Finally, thanks to David Clark for looking after the insurance policies and to Mark Auger, for preparing the Parish and St Giles Annual Accounts. Also it is important to acknowledge the work of our examiner, Chris Jones of Baxter's, Orpington.

Paul Beamiss
Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles

ST. NICHOLAS

The St Nicholas 2021 accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure of £5434.

The 2021 budget was prepared very much on a worst case scenario with only Little Angels, the Nursery, in the hall for the full year and other hirers and the church congregation not returning until September. Income was estimated at £84900 and expenditure £103250, a deficit of £18350, £14700 excluding the Repair Fund contributions which are not expenditure

but a transfer between funds. I do though show these contributions as expenditure as a means to try and ensure that the contributions are actually made and the balances increase at least by that amount.

The worst case scenario did not materialise with services resuming in March and the other major hall hirers returning in April. In the light of the resultant increase in income I revised the projected deficit down to around £5000 at 31 December and an appeal was made to the congregation for donations/increased giving to cover this shortfall. This was very successful in that almost £6000 was raised including Gift Aid but unfortunately almost all the giving was by way of one off donation rather than any increase in regular giving.

Income for the year totaled £100745 compared with the original budget figure of £84900. An additional legacy of £2000, an insurance payment of £2115 in respect of the Church House boiler replaced in 2020 and the Christmas Raffle of £908 (a total of £5023) also helped to increase the income. None of this £5023 was included in the budget.

Expenditure for the year totaled £98951 compared with the budget of £103250 or £95311/£99600 excluding the Repair Fund contributions.

The St Nicholas Calculated Indicative Offer to the Diocese for 2021 was £52751 but in view of the deficit in 2020 and the uncertain future at the time we only felt able to pledge the sum of £41994 covering the Ministry Costs and the Benefice Cost but nothing towards the Wider Diocesan Mission. At the end of the year we did feel able to make an additional contribution of £500 to the Diocese.

During 2020 we had only given the three charities we support £1000 each rather than the usual £1250 but in view of the successful appeal we made good that shortfall in 2021. The expenditure outturn was helped by savings of £1171 on cleaning costs – we terminated the cleaning contract and engaged a self-employed cleaner at lower costs and there was also a period of no cleaning in the changeover when the hall was not really being used – and £2626 on hall repairs and maintenance compared with budget.

During the summer builders recaulked the exterior joints between the concrete panels at a cost of £10242, including the consultant's fees, in line with the budget estimate.

As regards 2022 we had a reasonable expectation that we would more or less break even unless there was some significant reduction in income or increase in expenditure and we included some element of the Wider Diocesan Mission in our 2022 Pledged Offer - £48600 compared with the Calculated Indicative Offer of £53258. That expectation has recently changed in that one of the St Nicholas major givers has ceased giving from December 2021 and we now face a significant shortfall. The St Nicholas PCC has already decided to approach the Diocese to reduce our Pledged Offer by £4635 to £43965 to cover just the Ministry Cost and the Benefice Cost. We have also been in touch with Liz Mullins, the Generous Giving Adviser at the Diocese, to seek her help with a Stewardship Campaign before the school summer holidays. Appealing again so soon after the

2021 appeal and at a time when all household budgets are under pressure is not ideal and it remains to be seen what will be given/pledged. The St Nicholas net current assets amounted to £78435 at 31 December 2021 – General Reserves of £44544 and Designated Repair Funds of £33891. Clearly there are funds available to meet any short term deficits but of course reserves can only be spent once. Going forward into 2023 the St Nicholas budget has to balance, continuing deficits will mean that in due course St Nicholas will not be able financially to continue.

Roger Allard
Hon Treasurer, St Nicholas

5. SAFEGUARDING

We appoint Irene Dancer as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Linda Montgomery as Lead Recruiter; Jenny Wilkins as St. Giles Disclosure & Barring Service Officer; Val Richardson as St. Nicholas Disclosure & Barring Service Officer.

We acknowledge that all PCC members will need to have a DBS check and complete all necessary Diocesan Safeguarding training. This training extends to Churchwardens and any others in positions of responsibility involving children and vulnerable adults.

The AGM and PCC formally adopt the House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy statement available to view at

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/603eb0893e402/content/pages/documents/1603726336.pdf>

6. ST. GILES CENTRE

Redevelopment drawings.

7. ELECTIONS

TWO MEMBERS FOR THE ST. GILES P.C.C.

ONE MEMBER FOR THE ST. NICHOLAS P.C.C.

TWO DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES, both for ST. NICHOLAS

8. APPOINTMENTS

SIDESPONSORS -

St. Giles:

Mrs. R. Arney, Miss S. Attwood, Mr. P. Barnes, Mrs. L. Barnes, Mrs. V. Clark, Mrs. M. Compton, Mrs. C. Coyle, Mr. M. Dancer, Mrs. I. Dancer, Mrs. C. Fryer, Mrs. J. Palmer, Reeves Family, Russell Family, Scarlett Family, Mrs. M. Sullivan, Mr. J. White.

St. Nicholas:

Mrs. C. Allen, Mrs. V. Blinks, Miss I. Broadie, Mrs. P. Butcher, Miss C. Couldridge, Mrs. S. Dixey, Mrs. M. Felstead, Mrs. R. Fordyce, Mrs. C. Gibbons, Mrs. M. Gillies, Mrs. A. Howlett, Mrs. D. Stiff, Mrs. L. Matthews, Mrs. J. Mason, Mrs. S. Simpson.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Acting under delegated powers (A.G.M. 2001) The P.C.C. appointed Mr. Christopher Jones, F.C.C.A., Baxter and Co. as independent examiner for the 2021 accounts.

The PCC recommends Mr. Jones's appointment for the year 2022

accounts and the A.G.M. is requested to approve this proposal.

9. GOODBYES AND THANK YOU'S.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To be notified at the beginning of the meeting.

Date and time of next A.G.M. 2023

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

As I write this we have just completed what felt like a 'normal' Holy Week and Easter, something that we have all really missed over these past two Covid dominated years.

It feels like things are slowly returning to 'normal' at St. Giles, albeit with continuing challenges and opportunities.

Every year it feels like the Church of England has been edged just that little bit further out to the peripherals of our national and local life. At St. Giles we are not immune from the secular trends that are bearing down on all churches, to a greater or lesser extent, up and down the country. For many people the Church and the Christian message remain a complete irrelevance and the cultural affinity with things Christians grows increasingly distant for those under 40. Indeed it appears at times that Western society in general is hell bent on disowning and attacking its Christian heritage, which is a pity as the values that we all appreciate and live by stem from this very legacy. In a culture dominated by narcissism and the assent of the individual, anything that speaks of community, ultimate truth and self-sacrifice does not fare well. So this is something of the background in which we are trying to do church! In times past the life of a parish church was well supported by those who had either fought in the war or were children in the war, sadly the impact of that generation weakens every year even though many churches are still sustained by their contribution! The challenge for the Church of England going forward will be for relevance, for presence and for financial sustainability in a world of cynical indifference. Sadly where the Church of England cuts back on parish clergy and combines parishes into joint benefices, they save money with one hand, but usher in decline with the other.

Here at St. Giles we too face these problems, yet we continue to do all we can to preach the Gospel and to promote the Christian faith and the life of our Church. The paradox of St. Giles is that our Church is actually held in high affection by many people. Each month we send out a bulletin to over 400 people who are hugely appreciative of St. Giles and all it stands for, yet despite all this we sometimes lack for numerical support. The problem is not hostility, or indifference or even irrelevance. Perhaps more about engagement. Modern life is busy and there is much to distract us from carving our time for church and faith. However, St. Giles is always stronger when it is refreshed with the loving commitment, reliability and engagement of those who care for it. St. Giles is the church it is today precisely because of the huge commitment that many people give to its common life and here I want to pay tribute to every single person who volunteers at St. Giles in any way, particularly over these past two years. Church attendance has indeed changed with many people attending

fortnightly or monthly. My encouragement is always the same, engage with your faith and worship, for in it you will find love, peace and meaning. Through you St. Giles is and can continue to be a light in our dark world, a place of true love and friendship. So, follow Christ and make your commitment to him your priority and the rest will follow. Jesus said, '*Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and everything else will be added unto you.*' *Matthew 6:33*. Life is made up of a myriad of choices, when you come to a fork in the road concerning how you use your time make sure that St. Giles is on one of the sign posts.

Going forward these are the aims and objectives that will guide our vision and priorities in 2022/2023:

- The PCC has now agreed to refurbish the St. Giles Centre and if possible build a modest extension on the front of the building that will include toilets that can be accessed by the congregation.
- To rebuild and consolidate our congregations post Covid.
- To continue to support and resource our work with children and young people.
- To build up the choir with the possible addition of choral scholars where necessary.
- To fully resource the volunteer requirements for the Church, especially in regard to our care for the housebound and elderly.
- To hold a stewardship campaign in the summer of 2023.

It is always unwise to start naming individuals for their contribution as someone always gets left out. I am just so grateful to everyone who helps at St. Giles and in particular my ministerial colleagues, PCC members, Churchwardens and Treasurers. They all carry a particular burden of responsibility and office and for that I am most grateful.

Before I close I would like to pay tribute to both Bill Mullenger and Graham Shaw. Bill was not only a priestly colleague but, along with his wife Sue, dear friends. He married Joanna and I and baptised Vincent and William. His support, advice, sense of humour and love were a constant source of strength for me and I miss him very much, as I know many of you do as well. Likewise Graham, who was one of only two people who knew the pressures of parish ministry at St. Giles from the inside, his wise counsel and constant concern for me and the people of St. Giles was much appreciated, we have all been diminished by his passing. Bill will be remembered at St. Giles at a Choral Matins on Trinity Sunday, June 12th at 11.15 a.m. and Graham at a Choral Evensong on Sunday 26th June at 6.30 p.m. I do hope that you will be able to attend these important occasions when we can give heartfelt thanks to God for their love and ministry amongst us.

With love in Christ,
Matthew Hughes

Rector of Farnborough Benefice

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

Although the life of the church over the past year has continued to be affected in various ways by the COVID-19 situation, with its associated restrictions, there has nevertheless also been a sense of returning to some kind of 'normality' over the past 12 months. As a church we have been

open for Sunday worship since March last year, and Diane Stiff and her team were once again able to run a successful holiday club over the summer, for the first time in 2 years. We were also able to carry out some long-awaited repairs to the concrete over the summer months, re-caulking between the concrete panels. We then had a busy Autumn at St Nicholas, celebrating Harvest Festival and marking Remembrance Sunday in person, in the church, rather than on Zoom. We were delighted that 2 of our young people were able to get confirmed at the United Confirmation Service on the 28th November. For the first time in two years we were once again able to celebrate Christmas in church, including holding a 'socially distanced' Christingle service. As we lit our Christingles and sang carols together, it felt even more significant to be able to gather together with members of the community once again. After so many months of restrictions and lockdowns, I am sure none of us took for granted the privilege of celebrating Christmas in this way.

As we have moved into 2022, we have celebrated the one year anniversary of the opening of our 'Community Larder' in February. In that month we gave out our 1000th food parcel at the Larder, and we have been incredibly grateful for the faithful group of volunteers who have made it possible to run this project week after week. As for so many congregations around the country, the two years since the first COVID lockdown have been a time of continual change. In particular, over the past couple of years we have had a number of different service patterns. For a long time we ran a weekly 9:00 Communion, followed by a 10.30 'Children and Family Worship Service', where all ages were gathered together in the hall. Having moved towards a 9am Communion and a 10.30 'Morning Worship' service last Autumn, with separate provision for children and young people at the 2nd service, we have now decided to move back to having one main service every Sunday. So from the beginning of March 2022 we have had a main 10.30am service every Sunday, with a 9.15am Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. This is roughly the same pattern of services we had pre-COVID, with slightly different timings. So far, this arrangement seems to be working well. At the same time, many of our usual activities are now up and running again, including the Toddler group, Just Babies, Mothers' Union meetings in the hall, and Messy Church. For the first time in my 6 years here, we were able in March to hold an 'Alpha away day' at St Nicholas Church on a Saturday morning. The members of the current Alpha course were able to come to this day in the church building, as we received teaching on the Holy Spirit, and enjoyed worship, prayer and a meal together. There have also been other activities such as a men's breakfast, a Passover meal, a women's breakfast, and of course our first Spring Fair - which was a resounding success. Despite all the challenges of the past two years, it continues to be a great encouragement for me as Associate Rector to see the incredible team spirit of the St Nicholas congregation, which has helped pull us through a global pandemic, financial challenges, and innumerable changes over the past 24 months. In that time, we have been delighted to welcome new families and individuals along to our Sunday worship services, and to connect with the local community in new ways. As restrictions begin to ease and we return to some sort of 'normality', my prayer is that God will continue to guide us into the next season, and reveal to us as a church what He is calling us to.

As I think about those who have served our church over the past year, I would like to express my thanks to the PCC, and in particular to Claire

Couldridge, our tireless Churchwarden, and to Nick Jolliffe, our Deputy Warden. I am also very grateful to Roger Allard, our Treasurer, and Richard Butterworth our Deputy Treasurer. I must also thank the different Lay Ministers at St. Nicholas: Diane Stiff, our Children's and Families' worker and Pastoral Assistant, and Rosemary Fordyce, our Pastoral Assistant with PTO. It has also been encouraging to see Ian Gillies, Reader with PTO, begin now to exercise a wider ministry across the Deanery. Thanks must also go to Jayne Calvert, for all her work with the music, MU and the Community Larder. Thank you also to Catherine Roffey for all she does as Church Administrator and Lettings Manager. Thank you also to all who help with the teas and coffees and the flowers on a Sunday morning, to all who have helped put on and run different events this year, including the Spring Fair and the men's and women's breakfasts. Thank you to the whole congregation of St Nicholas for their continued words of encouragement, and for the great spirit they have shown in these challenging times. As a congregation, I think we can take encouragement from God's words to Joshua in Joshua 1:9. 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'

Stephen Broadie
Associate Rector

ST. GILES MUSIC

Before the Pandemic lockdowns and restrictions began we had 21 members in the Junior Choir. We now have 17 on the books. This is rather better than we had feared it would be: younger choir members come and go - some move away, some go on to university or further education, occasionally they just leave. One therefore expects that there will always be a need to look for recruits but for the best part of two years recruitment has not really been possible.

The contribution that younger members of a choir make to the singing becomes larger as they grow older so continuity of membership is important. Several members have been in the Juniors for the 61/2 years that I have been at St. Giles. The proportion that have a good standard of music reading is higher than in the past which means that learning new music is much easier than previously.

Five members have reached the light blue stage of Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life training scheme and on Mothering Sunday they were presented with medallions, badges and ribbons. How difficult the last two years have been seemed to be summed up in one comment when I was given a workbook by one of the members who said 'I'm sorry the writing on the first few pages is not very good. I was two years younger then'.

The Summer programme has some challenging music which I know the Juniors will enjoy. Finding new Sopranos for the Senior Choir has not been easy over the last couple of years and the contribution that the Juniors make and the need for younger singers at St. Giles has never been greater.

Clive Brearley
Organist and Junior Choirmaster

ST. GILES FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

As I write this report, my memory is playing tricks on me and the past two years seem to be a blur. The Covid pandemic placed restrictions on all our

lives and that included our church life. We missed our church family, the familiarity of the church building and the routines of weekly services. Thankfully we are now back, able to meet, study, play and pray together.

My last report ended with activities sent out to families in spring 2021. On Good Friday 2021 we were able to hold our outdoor family Stations of the Cross service. This was well attended and we were all delighted to see one another again.

Our programme for the summer term continued to be emailed out and delivered at home, as church gradually opened up, initially with restricted numbers and protocols in place. Our main topic was 'Nurture.' We thought about how plants are nurtured into strong healthy growth. The children were given sunflower seeds to grow at home and some provided photos of them which were published in the church magazine. We went on to think about how we are nurtured to grow strong and healthy bodies, with nourishing food and drink, care and love. Our spiritual lives also grow in response to nurture and we summed this up as follows...

G - going regularly to church

R - reading the bible

O - obeying God

W - witnessing and sharing our faith.

During the summer months, walks were arranged for all ages of children and we concluded with a picnic and games in the Rectory Garden in July.

In September 2021 Sunday school reopened!

Our theme for the Juniors for autumn was 'God Loves Us'. The Seniors studied Mark's Gospel. It was good to be back learning together, meeting new children and welcoming old ones back. The Sunday school Christmas Eve service was a well-attended Christingle. Families had helped to make the Christingles a day or two beforehand and the children took part during the service by reading poems, prayers and passages from the bible.

In December we held our first Chocolate Box Sunday, Children were invited to donate a box of chocolates and make a Christmas card to give to an elderly, housebound member of the congregation. These were distributed in time for Christmas and were well received.

Our spring theme for Juniors was 'Jesus the Healer'. We talked about doctors and nurses who care for us when we are sick and how we can look after and show care for those around us who might be unwell. We made Get Well cards. We looked at how Jesus healed various people in the bible, including those on the margins of society. We talked about healing words and actions such as love, patience and forgiveness. The Seniors studied Luke's Gospel.

Easter again included a well-attended Friday service, with pictures for the Stations of the Cross painted by the children and young people at our Easter Workshop. A glorious Easter Day was celebrated at our Family Communion and was followed by refreshments and an Easter Egg Hunt.

This year Matthew and I set up a new Youth Group. We have met for bible study and cake in the centre and, more recently, for dinner at the Rectory. We will continue to develop our work with this age group, responding to their needs and developing their faith as they grow into young adults.

Matthew has recently reopened Lollipop Club for our youngest children.

In general, our numbers in each of the groups, are stable. Children and young people attend when they can. We have lost some families during the pandemic, but gained others since returning. These remain challenging times for children's work with so many activities available to families on Sunday mornings. We are, however, committed to developing our work and supporting families in helping their children to get to know Christ and to live in the love of God.

Thank you to all parents and carers who continue to bring their children to church. Thank you to all in the various teams who help Matthew and I in this important work.

Irene Dancer
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker

ST. GILES SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Throughout the Covid pandemic and the various lockdowns, safeguarding work has continued within the parish and has been kept up to date.

I can confirm that our churches have adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. We have our own Parish Safeguarding Policy, which supports and illustrates this guidance and which is updated regularly, the last update being approved by the PCC in March 2022. Copies are located in both churches, in St Giles Centre and on the parish website.

As PSO I have updated my own Leadership Pathway training and, in order to support others, have also completed the basic and foundation modules. I also hold certificates in Responding well to Domestic Abuse and for Safer Recruitment and People Management. At the joint PCC meeting in March policies for Safer Recruitment were presented and adopted. These were in line with national recommendations and included scaled down forms for use with volunteers. Our two latest members of the St Giles Sunday school team were recruited in line with this, with application forms completed and references taken up.

Reminders to clergy, officers and volunteers within the church to update their training have recently been sent out. There is a requirement to update training every three years. I have asked that this be monitored at St Nicholas Church and Diane Stiff has agreed to do this.

Our Lead Recruiter and DBS administrators ensure that all relevant police checks, for volunteers and workers, are carried out in a timely fashion. These are all up to date.

I am currently completing an online system of monitoring and reporting of safeguarding procedures adopted by our church through a 'dashboard' system offered by the Diocese. As a result of this an action plan will be produced.

At Diocesan level, I have been invited to join the SEC (safeguarding executive committee) as a PSO representative. At the time of writing, I have yet to attend my first scheduled meeting.

A positive safeguarding culture is integral to the smooth and safe running of all institutions, including the Church. At St Giles and St Nicholas churches we aim to create an environment where all feel valued and are listened to. Our policies and guidelines support this aim, but it is our actions and the positive relationships we build with one another that build confidence and so reinforce those ideals and promote and reflect that culture.

Irene Dancer
Parish Safeguarding Officer

ST. GILES FLOWER ARRANGERS REPORT

2020 - 2021

This is our first report since the pandemic March 2020. During this time all flower arranging was suspended. We returned with Mothering Sunday posies in March 2021 and a modest Harvest Flower Festival in October 2021, plus Christmas displays in December 2021. We are grateful to all those who helped in difficult circumstances.

Organisation

There is now no overall leader for the Flower Arrangers, therefore the team leaders with Matthew meet quarterly to discuss challenges, plan future events, and share any actions.

There are usually 4 flower teams (each covering one Friday per month), however due to reduced numbers there are only 3 teams operational at present. There are a total of approximately 15 regular arrangers plus 10 potential additional helpers for festivals.

In addition we have dedicated resource for all flower bookings for the Book of Remembrance etc. and wedding liaison.

Recruitment

We are keen to add new flower arrangers to our teams, especially if we are to continue with a four-team rotation in 2023. In the past we have run workshops, however this has not brought in many new recruits. We have decided that word of mouth would be the best way forward, with an invitation to observe what happens on a Friday, before committing to join a group. Please encourage people, who you think would be interested, to contact a team leader. No experience is required.

Donations

We have been very lucky and continue to receive regular donations from our congregation to support the main flower festivals and in payment for the Book of Remembrance etc. Please note that any bookings that were taken and paid for during the two lockdowns were carried forward to 2021 and 2022.

Costs

The costs of supplies, and in particular fresh flowers, has really increased. The wholesaler is due to move in 2022 to new premises in Erith and many

arrangers no longer drive. Supermarkets remain our main source of flowers on a weekly basis with orders via the florist for special requests including weddings. We remain very grateful to all members who every week bring fresh foliage from their gardens.

Pricing for 2023

The budget for weekly flowers and festivals will need to be reviewed for 2023, along with pricing for all special bookings and wedding flowers.

Contact Details

Our details remain available via the Church website and Church magazine. Photos of the main flower festivals are included in both publications

Social

Given the pandemic there have been no social events

Next Events

Following our Easter Festival in April 2022 our next planned event will be floral displays to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, when the Church will be open.

St. Giles Flower Team

ST. GILES BELLRINGERS

2021 was again an almost unprecedented year.

The start of the year featured strict Covid restrictions which initially prevented any bell ringing.

As mentioned in last year's Report the installation of the two new bells was completed on Maundy Thursday, 1st April, so for Easter there was an octave of eight ringable bells in the tower. Unfortunately, the distancing restrictions prevent us from ringing all eight bells and, with spacing, we were able to ring roughly every other bell: odds or evens

As Covid restrictions started to ease we were able to ring six bells (rule of six) and eventually all eight bells most Sunday mornings prior to the Family Service.

Just two quarter peals were rung in 2021 (five in 2020), and no peals. Both QPs were rung on Tuesdays in June, one in memory of former Rector (1987-1995), Revd Graham Shaw. On 10th April the heavy Gillett and Johnston bell was tolled upon the death of the Duke of Edinburgh and again on 17th April, on the day of his funeral.

Practices have been difficult to arrange with ongoing restrictions and Covid related nervousness from many but these are being attempted on Monday evenings.

Taylor's of Loughborough, who completed the augmentation, still need to return to carry out snagging works.

The former, redundant, clock bell is currently resting on the belfry floor. Following PCC approval, a Faculty is being sought for its sale and the

placing of a radar controlled electromagnetic hammer on the big and sonorous G&J bell.

Sadly, one of our elderly band members, Audrey Allaway, previously a Sunday morning regular, died in December. Additionally, another ringer is currently indisposed so this makes it all the more important to address recruitment and training going forwards and thanks go to the members of the band that do turn up regularly to ring.

St. Giles Bellringers

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

It has been lovely over the past year, as COVID restrictions have been gradually lifted, to be able to start up children's activities again.

ST NICHOLAS TODDLER GROUP

In June 2021 we opened Toddlers again with limited numbers and over the past months we have increased these. Families have been very appreciative of having somewhere to go with young children after lockdown. We had a Christmas Party with families bringing their own packed lunches and Father Christmas came to visit. We have started doing craft activities, singing and story times again. We now have about 30 families coming along each week.

KIDS CLUB

In September we restarted KIDS CLUB during the morning service. We have a number of families with primary school children and it is lovely to get back to doing Bible stories and activities as a group again. Last term we looked at some of the miracles of Jesus, and this year we have just finished a series on Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

It was great to be able to do a Christingle service on Christmas eve last year, even though we restricted the numbers.

JUST BABIES

Just Babies is for parents with babies up to crawling age. This is now running again every Tuesday afternoon and we have a few mums with young babies who are coming along.

MESSY CHURCH

We held a couple of Messy Church sessions last year with people doing crafts in their family groups. These were well attended and after Easter we are planning to go back to monthly gatherings.

HOLIDAY CLUB

We were pleased to be able to run a three day holiday club in the summer based on the Scripture Union WONDERZONE. Even though small in number we had a great time doing various experiments and finding out more about our wonderful, creator God.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with these activities over the past year. Thank you.

Diane Stiff
Family and Children's worker St. Nicholas

MOTHERS' UNION

Once again, we have had a 'different from normal' year, although since last May, we have been able to meet up in person on the 3rd Thursday afternoon each month, which has been wonderful!

We decided to keep our monthly Monday evening meetings by Zoom, as with the darker winter evenings, no one has needed to venture into the cold to meet. It has also meant that members from other branches, both near & far, have been able to join in these Evening Prayers by Zoom. Sharing faith & fellowship through prayer is very important to us all.

Almost 2 years on from our 1st tentative introductions to Zoom, we have all now become experts!

Our Farnborough Mothers' Union group has again gone from strength to strength and has positively thrived during the COVID-19 pandemic. The group has increased by another 4 members who were enrolled last October, making our membership 28. Members who are not able to join us by Zoom get a paper copy of each service before the meeting so they can feel involved at home.

We follow the Church's year, and most of the prayers are taken from the Mothers' Union website, an excellent resource to share together. This present month of April we have shared Lent Reflections, 'Sacrifice and Resurrection'.

In December we again held our service supporting the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence entitled "No More 1 in 3", and lit candles to show solidarity with our friends who have sadly been affected, both in the UK and overseas. Many suffer in silence and are undetected in their wider community. Mothers' Union joins each year with other organisations from approximately 187 countries who participate in this campaign to raise awareness of and call for an end to gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies. Last December, several MU members from Rochester Diocese gathered in solidarity outside Rochester Cathedral with other organisations during the 16 days of Activism period.

Mothers' Union was founded in 1986 by Mar Sumner, a clergyman's wife, from a small home-group meeting she started to support young mothers who were living in her husband George's parish in Old Alresford near Winchester. In those days it was very unusual for a woman to start up any group, & even more unusual that Mary Sumner reached out to all the women in the parish, irrespective of their class. 146 years later, our beliefs and goals are still very relevant today. We have over 4 million Christian members in 84 countries in the world, and Mothers' Union continues to flourish.

On August 9th we celebrate Mary Sumner Day, and members of Rochester Diocese have always joined in a pilgrimage starting from their home Church, stopping off at various churches along the way for prayer, song

and light refreshment, finally ending up at Rochester Cathedral to share in Choral Evensong. Unfortunately, last August it wasn't possible to join in the pilgrimage in a group, but some of us did go down to Rochester Cathedral to celebrate Evensong.

Like many other charities, Mothers' Union has suffered again this past year through lack of fund raising, however our group has just participated in this year's **Make a Mother's Day** campaign. This year our theme was entitled, "Gifts of Resilience", and I am delighted to report that we raised a massive £508 for this project! Some of this money came through the generous donation of St. Giles congregation at the 10.00 a.m. Mothering Sunday service, when one of our members, Jocelyn Wright, gave a short talk about Mothers' Union.

As our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, wrote, "Two years ago, Mothering Sunday coincided with the UK's first national lockdown. The suddenness of being separated from our loved ones tested us all. Mothers' Union members everywhere, like you and me, discovered new strengths, resilience, and most of all we discovered the value of community and prayer".

Locally, several members of Farnborough Mothers' Union and other friends are still knitting colourful squares, which are then sewn up into blankets. This past year several baby cot-blankets have been given to SCBU at the PRUH, & it has also received many cardigans, hats, bootees, cannula mitts & mugs for the preterm and sickly babies needing care there. We were also asked to knot 'Anna Crosses' for the Anna Chaplains to give out to residents in Care Homes when they went to visit to give them Communion.

Two of our MU members, Jocelyn & Kate, have become the Rochester Diocesan Representatives for AFIA, our 'Away from it all' project, a scheme funded by Mothers' Union members to help people who would not otherwise have a holiday or day trip. We held a fundraising afternoon tea in the house of one of our members in July & raised £290. This coming July/August, AFIA has been chosen to be the Charity in Focus at St. Giles, so watch this space for further information!

We continue to hold our Zoom meetings on the 1st Monday in the month at 7.30 p.m. and the 3rd Thursday afternoon at 1.30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church.

If you are interested in hearing more about the Mothers' Union, & how you can get involved contact Jayne Calver on 07780664340 or email jayne_calvert@hotmail.com.

Jayne Calvert

HOUSE GROUPS

This has been another difficult year for our House Groups, but those led by Alison Reynolds, Andy Chapman, Jenny Hutson and Sue Simpson have continued meeting, but mainly online. Although they miss face to face social contact and having a shared cup of tea/coffee, it does have some advantages, e.g. members can join from their own home without the need to travel - particularly helpful for less mobile individuals (a broken hip in

one case); it also gives greater flexibility for those with dependents to look after.

The different groups have followed and discussed study guides and talks on Jonah, Christian character, Caring for Creation (very topical and highly recommended), a Passion for Christ and Lives of Great Christians. Some groups followed Matthew's 2022 Lent Course entitled, 'What makes for human flourishing?' which explored 'Coping with change', 'Anxiety & Worry', 'Forgiveness' and 'Nature and Human Creativity'. Ailsa Chapman's House Group reassembled for this (although they have been, and will continue, to keep in contact with each other). There was also another Lent Group, led by Matthew, and held at the back of the Church following the 4.00 p.m. Sunday evening service.

People have found it valuable to get together, either for read, or virtually. Sue's group has also set up a What's app group for encouraging each other and for support in between meetings which is proving successful.

I hope that the various groups manage to thrive during 2022. If you would like to join a group please contact me.

Heather Argent
House Group co-ordinator
01689 857785 / hargent@talktalk.net

ST. GILES WEBSITE

Farnborough Parish website:

www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk

The parish website was launched ten years ago, in January 2012. Following a period of reduced activity last year, it is now returning to more regular updating and higher usage following the resumption of services and events.

Photos were added following the installation of two further bells in March, and the sad death of Revd. Graham Shaw in May. A quarter peal was rung in his memory on 1st June. There are photos from the new Community Larder being run at St. Nicholas, and the resumption of Sunday School events and the St. Nicholas holiday club. New photos were added from the Churchyard team, including the working day in October and from the confirmation service in November. Right at the end of the year the sad death of Revd. Bill Mullenger was noted.

There was of course no fete again in 2021, which normally provides good photo opportunities. A feature recalling the Fine Music in a Fine Old Church was incorporated into the history section, which sadly then needed to be added to following the death of Ray Jewkes.

Finally, I have created a dedicated page for photos from Biliam Sarder in Bangladesh and there are some from Kerala in South India following the recent devastating floods, for which St. Giles mounted an emergency appeal.

The continuing world problems have had an impact on the number of visits to the website, which at 14,900 is down on the previous two years, but the page count was 26% up on last year, suggesting that visitors are spending more time on the site at each visit. The busiest months were March, April

and December.

Farnborough Village History website:

www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk

The history website has been updated with further old maps and photos, plus articles about Bassetts, and the development of the Starts Hill estate; housing and other developments on the parliamentary roads in Farnborough village; and some further enhancements to the Railway history pages.

Perhaps not historical, but certainly noteworthy, the retirement of Kerry and Theo Kokkinos was celebrated, after running the village shop since 1980.

Once again, I have been given permission to use relevant articles from the magazine of the Bromley Borough Local History Society, which are always of high standard and well researched.

Several new pages on the website have been used with modifications to create articles for submission to the parish magazine.

The site now contains about 110 pages, which makes it larger than the St. Giles website. The number of visitors is growing steadily year on year, and is now also larger than for the St. Giles site, although they spend less time on the site at each visit.

Nick Reynolds
nickrstgiles@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST. GILES

The Friends of St. Giles continue to support the Church in any way that they can. During the last year we made a substantial donation to the new cushions in the gallery.

We were unable to hold our usual fundraising last year so when restrictions lifted we held a very successful sale of jigsaw puzzles in the Church which raised £235. Thanks go to those who donated the puzzles and to those who bought.

We celebrated the life of our first Chairman, Stan Eperon. A new bell was cast for the tower and we had a dedication to Stan engraved upon the bell with the blessing of his family. The bell is now in the tower. A service was held to celebrate Stan's life.

Our AGM this year was held in the Church.

The 250 Club continues to thrive, but it would definitely benefit from more members. It costs £12 per year; half the proceeds go to the monthly draws with 5 prizes, the other half to the Friends. As our secretary continues to tell us, "You have to be in it to win it". Membership forms are available from Sue (07715 860504).

Julia Hoadley
Chairman

PARISH MAGAZINE

Sometime in 2021, Rosemary noticed that Editors were wanted for the Parish magazine. The magazine had been produced for almost 100 years, and nobody wanted it to stop publication. We applied; however we were unsuccessful as someone else had stepped in at that point.

In December, with all our thoughts geared towards Christmas, we received a telephone call asking if we were still interested. After discussion with Daphne we agreed we were, and subsequently met with the outgoing Editor, (Eddie Roberts), of the Parish Magazine, with a view to 'having a chat' about us taking on the position of Editors! We agreed and that is now the role we are performing with, currently, 3 issues down, and the 4th being in the throes of pre-publication layouts.

However, it has been a very steep learning curve, with an exacting time schedule - as we had to attempt to get the February issue completed in early January if we were to hit the cut-off dates and print schedules. Fortunately, we both have some experience in this area, although from different skill bases, which is why we decided to both be Co-editors, each focusing on our respective areas of specialism.

Having produced whole magazines in a commercial environment, we thought this wouldn't be a problem. How wrong we were. Like any magazine, there are budget limitations, and this was no different. Specific topics, had to be included, minimal use of colour on only two internal pages, plus the front and back pages, and Advertising placements, etc, etc. It was in fact, in some ways harder than just producing a whole magazine from scratch.

Magazines always need a good front cover in order to attract readers. We hope we can refresh the magazine, make it attractive to a wide readership and hopefully, over time, bring it into a profit-making publication for the benefit of all parties involved.

Rosie Andrews and Daphne Blyth
Editors

9. CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it
was in
the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT

ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Incumbent: Rev'd Matthew Hughes

Associate Rector: Rev'd Stephen Broadie

Principal Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc
Santander UK plc

Independent Examiner

Baxter & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT

ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS

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**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021**

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	142,927	4,225	69,251	216,403	161,532
Activities for generating funds	45,417	-	-	45,417	31,690
Investment income	5,523	14,978	-	20,501	22,073
Incoming resources from charitable activities	46,580	2,475	13,835	62,890	61,223
Other incoming resources	2,427	-	-	2,427	153
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	242,874	21,678	83,086	347,638	276,671
RESOURCES USED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	4,478	-	-	4,478	1,766
Charitable activities	218,190	9,770	44,870	272,830	255,215
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	222,668	9,770	44,870	277,308	256,981
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources pre transfers	20,206	11,908	38,216	70,330	19,690
Transfers between funds	(990)	4,785	(3,795)	-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in funds	19,216	16,693	34,421	70,330	19,690
Total funds brought forward	1,769,866	693,754	192,957	2,656,577	2,636,887
Total funds carried forward	1,789,082	710,447	227,378	2,726,907	2,656,577

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2021**

	2021	2020
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	2,155,494	2,155,494
	2,155,494	2,155,494
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments	4,567	5,134
No notice accounts	279,803	278,217
Notice Account	82,329	81,347
Cash at bank and in hand	192,273	126,763
CCLA Funds	20,746	20,735
	579,718	512,196
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(8,305)	(11,113)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	571,413	501,083
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	2,726,907	2,656,577
REPRESENTED BY:		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,789,082	1,769,866
DESIGNATED FUNDS	710,447	693,754
RESTRICTED FUNDS	227,378	192,957
	2,726,907	2,656,577

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21st March 2022

Rector

Churchwarden

Financial Accountant

Hon Treasurer

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

1 Form of Accounts and Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") FRS 102.

The Parish does not make payments for the preparation of the annual accounts and PCC trustees are not remunerated. A nominal payment of £600 was made to the independent financial examiner.

2 Diocesan Contribution

The Diocesan Contribution is an annual contribution from each parish towards Diocesan expenditure based upon what the parish can afford and includes a contribution towards clergy costs (including stipends) which are financed by the Diocese directly.

3 Policy on Reserves

The Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 require PCCs to set out their policy on Reserves. Designated and restricted reserves are established for particular, specified purposes. General reserves are held to provide for ongoing cash demands and to provide for unforeseen emergencies.

4 Parish Property Assets

- i) Consecrated properties are excluded from the accounts under Sect. 96 (2)(a) of the Charities Act, 1993. This includes the Church and churchyard.
- ii) Movable Church furnishings are held on special trust by the Wardens on behalf of the PCC and are excluded from the accounts. Such items are recorded in the parish inventory which may be inspected by appointment.
- iii) The Rectory building is the responsibility of the Diocese and therefore excluded.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

4 Parish Property Assets (cont)

- iv) The St. Giles Centre is not consecrated property. It falls within the PCC's trusteeship and is required by the Charities Act to be included in the accounts. It is recorded at its revalued amount at 31st December 2012.

Depreciation of the Centre building has not been provided in these accounts as any charge is not considered to be material on the basis that this asset has a very long useful economic life or a residual value based on its current value which is not materially different from its carrying value.

Any centre contents are not considered to be of material value.

- v) The Church Hall (St Nicholas) is included at its last insured valuation. The Church House is included at a valuation based upon an estimate of the cost to rebuild it in the event of its total loss.

Depreciation has not been provided for either property based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

- vi) An interest in a freehold property ("12 Wentworth Close") is held on trust by the Diocese of Rochester for the beneficial ownership of St Giles and is included in these accounts at its initial probate valuation as a Freehold Property. This valuation is informally reviewed annually to assess whether it remains reasonable.

Depreciation is not provided based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

5 Inter Church Transfers

Inter-Church financial transfers are dealt with by offset during the year within the two accounts in order to avoid duplication of income and expenditure at consolidation.

6 Friends of St Giles

The Friends of St Giles is a registered charity and accounts separately to the Charity Commissioners.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

7 Flower Fund

The Flower Fund Treasurer operates a separate bank account and draws down the flower fees from St. Giles from time to time as required. The Fund accounts are integrated within these financial statements.

8 Risk Policy

The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 require the PCC to set out its policy on Risk Management. The PCC has already undertaken Child Protection, Health and Safety and Fire Risk Assessments. So far as concerns financial risk, controls regulate the banking arrangements including online banking and the issue of cheques (two signatures). Cashflow is managed monthly and budgetary controls are in place.

For the broader liabilities the PCC has comprehensive insurance with the specialist insurance company, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Property assets were subject to a full survey and valuation by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company during 2012.

9 Stakeholder Pensions

The PCC has registered with the Legal and General Assurance Society as its stakeholder Pension provider. To date no eligible member of staff has expressed an interest in joining the Scheme.

10 Garden of Remembrance (Wall Fund and Plaques)

The PCC is responsible for administration of the wall memorials scheme which commenced in 2006. Funds received from the sale of each memorial provide for the cost of an installed, engraved plaque, a contribution towards the cost of building new walls and a contribution towards the general upkeep of the churchyard.

11 Independent Examination of the Accounts

Baxter & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants, provided an independent examination of the financial statements.

Honorary Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Giles the Abbot, Farnborough

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 18, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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

Signed:

*** March 2022

Accounts

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT**

***ST. GILES THE ABBOT
with
ST. NICHOLAS***

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020.**

**RECTOR:
THE REVD. MATTHEW HUGHES**

**ASSOCIATE RECTOR:
THE REVD. STEPHEN BROADIE**



Sunday 23rd May 2021

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH

ST. GILES THE ABBOT and ST. NICHOLAS

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens:
Churchwardens Philip Lovelock (St. Giles)
Claire Couldridge (St. Nicholas)
Deputy Wardens Peter Russell) St. Giles - 8.00 a.m.
Sue Rennie) St. Giles - 10.00 a.m.
Janet Palmer and)
Sally Attwood) St. Giles - 11.15 a.m.
Andrew Bailey) St. Giles - 6.30 p.m.
Sheila Munns) St. Giles - Thursdays 10.00 a.m.
Nick Jolliffe) St. Nicholas

Proposal that we allow all of our Readers to be members of Farnborough P.C.C. (It is customary across the Diocese that licensed Readers are allowed by virtue of their office to be full members of their P.C.C. This needs to be agreed at the AGM or Vestry Meeting).

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 23rd MAY 2021 - 4.00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYERS

May this meeting be in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING: *Ephesians 4: 1-16*

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.' (When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we

must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

PRAYERS

Leader: Loving God, we thank you for the fellowship of the Church - for the privilege of belonging to your people and sharing in the ministry of the Body of Christ. Unite us in love,

All: **and send us out in faith.**

Leader: We thank you for the fellowship of our Churches - for the friendship, encouragement, support and inspiration we gain from them, and for the ties that bind us together in Christ. Unite us in love,

All: **and send us out in faith.**

Leader: We thank you for one another - for the various gifts you have given us as a family and for the quirks and characteristics which make us what we are. Unite us in love,

All: **and send us out in faith.**

Leader: We thank you for the history of our Churches - all those who have run the race before us and to whom we owe our being here now. Unite us in love,

All: **and send us out in faith.**

Leader: We thank you for those whose work among us we recognise today - all who have offered spiritual guidance, nurture and inspiration, and all who have offered a practical ministry, sometimes unseen, unnoticed. Unite us in love,

All: **and send us out in faith.**

Leader: We thank you for the possibilities you set before us - new avenues of service inviting our response, and new opportunities for witness waiting to be grasped. Unite us in love,

All: **and send us out in faith.**

Leader: We thank you for those who will take up office as a result of this meeting - using their talents, their time and their energy both here among us and, above all, in the cause of Christ. Unite us in love,

All: **and send us out in faith.**

Leader: Loving God, we thank you for the fellowship of the Church - for the privilege of belonging to your people - and we ask you to help us honour that calling through all we are and do. Unite us in love,

All: **and send us out in faith.**

Leader: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 18th October 2020, *(pages 5-8)*
3. **Matters arising**
4. **Reports**
 - (a) Electoral Roll, *(page 8)*
 - (b) Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council,
(pages 9-11)
 - (c) Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report,
(pages 11-13)
 - (d) Deputy Churchwardens' Report on the goods and ornaments of the churches in the Parish, *(pages 13-14)*
 - (e) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2020 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas *(pages 14-17)*
5. **Safeguarding**
6. **Elections**
 - (a) Members for the P.C.C.
St. Giles **FOUR** vacancies
St. Nicholas **NO** vacancies
 - (b) Deanery Synod Members - **TWO** vacancies - both for St. Giles,
7. **Appointments**
 - (a) Sidespeople
 - (b) Independent Financial Examiner.
8. Goodbyes and Thank-you's.
9. **Any other business and date of next A.G.M. 2022.**

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Rector, *(pages 17-19)*
Associate Rector, *(pages 19-21)*
St. Giles Music, *(pages 21-22)*
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 22-23)*
St. Giles Safeguarding Report, *(pages 23-24)*
St. Giles Bell Ringers, *(pages 24-25)*
St. Nicholas Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 25-26)*

Mothers' Union, (pages 26-27)
House Groups, (page 28)
St. Giles Website, (pages 28-29)
Friends of St. Giles, (page 29)
Parish Magazine, (page 29-30)

The Accounts are on the Notice Boards of both Churches.

2. MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2020

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH **ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

Vestry Meeting

Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens

Churchwardens: Philip Lovelock (St. Giles)
Claire Couldridge (St. Nicholas)

Vote of thanks to Sue Simpson, the outgoing St. Nicholas Churchwarden.

Approved.

Proposed: Jenny Wilkins

Seconded: Rosemary Fordyce

Agreed: All

Deputy Wardens: Peter Russell (St. Giles - 8.00 a.m.)

Sue Rennie (St. Giles - 10.00 a.m.)

Janet Palmer

and Sally Attwood (St. Giles - 11.15 a.m.)

Andrew Bailey (St. Giles - 6.30 p.m.)

Sheila Munns (St. Giles - Thursdays, 10.00

a.m.)

Nick Jolliffe (St. Nicholas)

Approved.

Proposed: Julia Hoadley

Seconded: Helen Roberts

Agreed: All

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING **SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2020 at 4.30 p.m.**

PRESENT: The Revd. Matthew Hughes, The Revd. Stephen Broadie, Philip Lovelock, Claire Couldridge, Helen Roberts, Eddie Roberts, Roger Allard, Rosemary Fordyce, Jenny Wilkins, Julia Hoadley, Martin Parsons, Nick Jolliffe, Richard Butterworth, Carol Fryer.

1. Opening prayers.

2. Apologies for absence: These were received from Linda Montgomery, John Tinham, Jessie Tinham, Susan Midha.

3. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 28th April 2019.

Vote of thanks to Linda Montgomery for her work in taking the Minutes for the APCM and PCC Meetings.

Approved.

Proposed: Martin Parsons

Seconded: Julia Hoadley

Agreed: All.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

5. **REPORTS**

(a) **Electoral Roll Report:**

It was reported that there were 388 on the Electoral Roll as at 31.12.19 - 337 at St. Giles and 51 at St. Nicholas.

The Rector commented: a healthy level and allows us to keep in touch via internet and mail-outs.

(b) **Annual Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council:**

No comments.

(c) **Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report:**

No comments.

(d) **Deputy Churchwarden's Report on the Goods and Ornaments of the churches in the Parish:**

No comments.

(e) **The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2019 including financial statements for St. Giles and St. Nicholas: and the Report of the Independent Examiner:**

St. Nicholas Treasurer, Roger Allard: St. Nicholas hit quite badly. They have an annual income of around £100,000 - 50% from giving and 50% from rental income. From March to June/July there was no income, and since then the nursery has been back, along with a few other hirers, amounting to around £3,000. At 30.9.20 Unrestricted Funds were down £115,000 on last year.

The Rector commented: It has been a hard year which has affected all churches and dioceses, especially those reliant on lettings.

The Associate Rector commented: The impact of Covid has been massive, but we are seeing some improvement.

Roger Allard asked about the effect of being Tier 2 has had on lettings, particularly on the Guides.

Jenny Wilkins replied: The Guides are still able to meet, restricted to 15 socially distanced, subject to parental and leaders agreement.

Roger Allard confirmed the nursery was continuing.

Jenny Wilkins mentioned: The National Youth website shows which classes could continue.

The Consolidated Accounts together with the Accounts for St. Giles and St. Nicholas were formally accepted.

Vote of thanks to the Treasury Teams of both St. Giles and St. Nicholas.

Approved.

Proposed: Julia Hoadley

Seconded: Mary Compton

Agreed: All

5. **SAFEGUARDING**

The Rector commented: St. Giles met all current safeguarding criteria and requirements of the Diocese.

The Associate Rector commented: St. Nicholas also agreed. Safeguarding was raised and confirmed at each meeting.

6. **ELECTIONS**

(a) Members of the P.C.C:

St. Giles, 2 vacancies:

Nomination: Helen Roberts

Proposed: Jenny Wilkins

Seconded: Julia Hoadley

Agreed: All.

Nomination: Jo Cook

Proposed: Martin Parsons

Seconded: Mary Compton

Agreed: All.

St. Nicholas, 1 vacancy:

Nomination: Jayne Calvert

Proposed: Sue Simpson

Seconded: Claire Couldridge

Agreed: All.

(b) Deanery Synod Members - two vacancies, both for St. Giles:

Nomination: Linda Montgomery

Proposed: Martin Parsons

Seconded: Jenny Wilkins

Agreed: All.

7. **APPOINTMENTS**

(a) Sidespeople.

Vote of thanks for all the people who carry out this role for both St. Giles and St. Nicholas.

The Rector commented: Such important work.

Proposed: Julia Hoadley

Seconded: Philip Lovelock

Agreed: All.

(b) Independent Financial Examiner:

Christopher Jones from Baxters is to continue as the Parish Independent Financial Examiner. Vote of thanks for work done and continued support.

Proposed: Mary Compton

Seconded: Martin Parsons

Agreed: All.

8. **GOODBYES AND THANK YOUS**

Leaving:

Alison Lovelock - PCC Member, St. Giles

Judy Crowson - Deanery Synod Member

Sue Simpson - Churchwarden at St. Nicholas.

Vote of thanks for their hard work and support. The Associate Rector offered his personal thanks to Sue Simpson for her support.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT A.G.M. APRIL 2021**

Mary Compton raised the current position of the proposed toilets for St. Giles.

The Rector responded: Covid had delayed news on the position of toilets for the Church. Although it is highly desirable to have toilets in St. Giles, there appear to be problems that, without unlimited funding, would prove to be insurmountable. The Rector confirmed he would put all his energy, together with the help of the PCC, into resolving the question of toilet provision.

The Rector commented: St. Giles have completed all the necessary refurbishments, spending around £300,000. We now face other challenges.

The Rector commented: These are demoralising times for parish churches. We need to keep going and sustain the life of the Church. He is pleased and encouraged by all the support and enthusiasm he receives.

The Associate Rector commented: A sincere thank you to everyone and look to all pull together in these difficult times. We face numerous challenges, with a new pattern of services and attendance. He gives his full encouragement to Churchwardens, PCC and congregation.

The Rector commented: Must mention and give thanks to Nick Wilkins whose energy and enthusiasm for bell ringing resulted in him raising an amazing £26,000 for the installation of two new bells in St. Giles. St. Giles will not be an eight bell church. We look forward to the Bell Installation service when we can hear those new bells.

The Rector remembered, among others, those who have died:

Ian Fordyce

Derek Couldridge

Stanley Eperon
Arthur Edwards.

10. **CLOSING PRAYERS**

The meeting closed with prayers at 4.45 p.m.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

4. **REPORTS**

ELECTORAL ROLL Report (a)

The figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 385 (St. Giles - 336, St. Nicholas - 49). Our Electoral Roll membership continues to offer a solid base for the ongoing life of the Parish.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020 - Report (b)**

**ST. GILES THE ABBOT, FARNBOROUGH
WITH ST. NICHOLAS, ORPINGTON**

OBJECTIVES

The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Matthew Hughes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Centre complexes of St. Giles at Church Road, Farnborough and St. Nicholas at Leamington Avenue, Orpington.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") in accordance with Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC who served from 18 October 2020 until the date that this report was approved by the PCC were: -

Ex-Officio:

Rector The Revd. Matthew Hughes Chairman

Associate Rector The Revd. Stephen Broadie

Assistant Priest The Revd. Bill Mullenger

<u>Readers</u>	Mrs. Chris Hallett Mrs. Susan Midha		
<u>Wardens</u>	Mr. Philip Lovelock Miss Claire Couldridge	until APCM 2022 until ACPM 2024	St Giles St Nicholas
<u>Deputy Wardens</u>	Mr Peter Russell Mr Andrew Bailey Mrs Janet Palmer Mrs Susan Rennie Mrs Sheila Munns Mrs Sally Attwood Nicholas Jollife	Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC until APCM 2024	St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles St Nicholas
<u>Deanery Synod Rep.</u>	Mrs Linda Montgomery Ms Michelle Felstead Mrs Sue Simpson	until APCM 2024 until APCM 2021 until ACPM 2021	St Giles St Nicholas St Nicholas

Elected:

<u>Hon. Secretary</u>	Mrs Linda Montgomery	
<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mr. Roger Allard	St. Nicholas

Gift Aid Secretary Ms. Carol Fryer

<u>Members</u>	Mr Martin Parsons Mrs Jenny Wilkins Mr Andrew Fruin Mrs Linda Crisp Mrs Adele Cooke Mrs Jo Cook Mrs Helen Roberts Mr Richard Butterworth Mrs Diane Stiff	until ACPM 2021 until ACPM 2021 until ACPM 2021 until ACPM 2021 until ACPM 2022 until ACPM 2024 until ACPM 2024 until ACPM 2023 until ACPM 2022	St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles St Nicholas St Nicholas
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The United PCC (only Clergy, Wardens and Treasurers in 2020) met once during the year with an attendance of twenty four per cent. In addition, the members representing St. Giles met seven times (with an average attendance of seventy two per cent) and those representing St. Nicholas met six times (average attendance nine per cent).

COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between meetings of the PCC:

- ☐ Standing & Finance Committee - this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC
- ☐ St. Giles' Fabric Group
- ☐ St. Giles' Churchyard Group
- ☐ Ad hoc groups.

CHURCH ATTENDANCES

There were 385 names on the Church Electoral Roll for the parish as at 31st December 2020.

As a Parish, we are available at times of birth, marriage and death. In 2020, the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

9 Baptisms
0 Weddings
21 Funeral services held in church followed by burial in the churchyard or 7 Cremations
12 Graveside Funeral services
19 Funeral services held at a crematorium
22 Burials of ashes.

RECTOR'S REPORT AND REVIEW OF THE YEAR

This has been a challenging year for St. Giles and St. Nicholas. I am very grateful to all those who have worked so hard to maintain the life of our Church during the lockdowns. We have kept in touch with members of the congregation through a weekly bulletin, online services and live services when it has been permissible for the Church to open.

We have fully complied with all Safeguarding obligations.

Matthew Hughes, Rector

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Aggregated parish income for the year was £276,671 (2019-£393,688) and aggregated resources used were £256,981 (2019-£438,572). Net incoming resources amounted to £19,690 (2019-~~£44,844~~). St Giles recorded net incoming resources of £42,615 (2019-~~£57,156~~) and St. Nicholas recorded net incoming resources of (£22,925) (2019-£12,272).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (less fixed assets) which equates approximately to six months unrestricted expenditure. This was achieved as at 31st December 2020.

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS Report (c) ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD REPORT

It is more than a year since the nation went into its first lockdown due to Coronavirus. We have read many articles regarding the health of the nation and how lockdown has impacted mental health. Those who have experienced the impact of mental health only know too well the battlefield that lay before them, a cerebral 'no man's land', the possible feeling of unending struggle. I do not underestimate the impact of such feelings. However, as we know from history every battle ends and peace ensues, then the process of healing begins.

But can it be the same as before? Can the nation be the same as it was pre-Covid 19 and perhaps some would question if we want to go back as it

was. No doubt most of us have experiences regarding compassion shown during lockdown and the unrelenting determination to make our lives safe. To coin a phrase, 'not all superheroes wear capes'.

I take comfort that Spring is upon us and the shoots of new growth are apparent, new life and warmth are what we can expect. We can consider that the Spring is renewing of hope and the foundations of healing with the coming of the resurrection.

Over the next few months many would say that St. Giles and the surrounding area look most stunning at this time of year. The abundance of colour and flowers, all within this beautiful tranquil space (and we thank those who have given to the maintenance of St. Giles), we reap the rewards of their effort, commitment, and fellowship - thank you! For the miracle of Spring is divine.

There will be many memories taken from recent experience and actually some perhaps quite positive. I shall take our Remembrance Service, and how we paid our respects in a more low key, but significant gathering. Then a most amazing service outside for the Christmas Midnight Mass, with a bonfire that evoked atmosphere, and Matthew's words and readings gave life in minds to a time in Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. I shall hold this memory as particularly special as I am sure all those who were able to be present will also. Perhaps we will have the opportunity to experience such a service again.

The mission continues and with all the support of the community we shall come together once again with Matthew. The commencement of regular services will be most welcome.

Hope is thriving and it's all around us. Take care all.

Philip Lovelock
St. Giles Churchwarden

ST. GILES CHURCHYARD REPORT AS PART OF THE CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT Report (c)

The committee consists of eight people who are all members of the voluntary working team, plus a Secretary, the Rector, and Churchwardens, who are ex-officio. We meet every other month to discuss on-going maintenance in the Church, St. Giles Centre and the Churchyard. Unfortunately this past year we had to cancel some meetings, and hold others on-line with Zoom.

We have a volunteer team of around twelve men and eight ladies who meet every Tuesday come rain or shine. Many of them have still been coming during lockdowns, with social distancing of course.

Routine work is clearing away dead flowers; and of course in the winter picking up leaves, quite a long job; removing dead wreaths left at Christmas (180 last year); path edging; hedge cutting; and tidying grave tops with a strimmer etc. The only thing we have missed is being able to have our coffee and biscuit and a friendly chat. New volunteers are always welcome.

We dig the holes for the burials of ashes, and one of our team, Nick Reynolds, keeps the records for all burials - ashes and graves. The Churchyard has about another twelve years of use. Edward Bellamy, another team member, is responsible for the plaques on the Garden of Remembrance Walls, plenty of room still here.

We have had our Quinquennial Inspection, and I am pleased to say all is looking good, with only minor repairs, such as some re-pointing, re-painting of window ferramenta (metal window supports) and cleaning of gutters are needed. This is in hand. The main thing was re-bedding the ridge tiles, and replacing a few other broken roof tiles, which has already been done. It is twenty years since the Church roof was re-tiled, so only minor work was required. Unfortunately the major cost of any work on the roof is the hire of scaffolding. While the scaffolding was in place we had the moss and pine needles removed from the north side roof, and sprayed to prevent re-growth, another request in the Quinquennial Report. Also an electrical survey has been arranged.

Two new bells were installed in the tower, making a total now of eight bells.

We are no nearer getting a toilet. However, this is still on our agenda, and the refurbishing or rebuilding of the St. Giles Centre will be where one will have to be situated, as there is no mains sewage near the Church.

St. Giles Centre had a leak in the roof which was repaired. This has not been let during the lockdowns. The nursery school has closed.

Some trees in the wood behind the Gardens of Remembrance have been cut down, but we are still waiting for the Council to cut down the very large beech tree which is leaning on another one. We had a large free fall from the wood at the far end into the Churchyard, which the farmer at North End Farm kindly cut up for us.

Part of the flint wall by the lichgate has collapsed, we notified the Council who came out the next day and put up a barrier. Since then it has collapsed more, and several months on it is still waiting to be repaired.

The re-pointing of the War Memorial is about to take place, and the south bank, opposite the Gardens of Remembrance, has been cleared of nettles and planted with ground covering plants and bulbs.

PRO Landscapes who mow the grass, remove rubbish, and wood chip the paths, have been given the contract again, at the same price as last year, £6,900. They come twenty times between March and November.

Richard Healey
Chairman Churchyard and Fabric Group

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

It has been more than a year since the start of the pandemic. At the beginning no one could have imagined the upheaval and loss of life that there would be and none could have imagined churches having to close for health and safety reasons. Nor having to use something called Zoom to communicate with each other.

Yet in the year, certainly at St. Nicholas, we learned how to adapt to the ever changing situations that have been thrown at us, and whilst it isn't ideal we have learned how to use Facebook and Zoom to keep in contact with a vast number of our congregation. Our 9.00 a.m. is pre-recorded and posted on Facebook. The 10.00 a.m., which is our family service, is done on Zoom and is led by Diane Stiff and Stephen. The biggest surprise has been the growth of our Wednesday morning service which has just kept on growing and now spreads over the whole Parish.

Pastoral care hasn't gone amiss either with a number of people keeping in contact with those who need it.

Our latest project is a Community Larder where food that is just out of date and would be thrown out from the supermarkets is brought up to the Church, laid out and on Tuesdays people from the community can come up and take what they want, without charge, all done under the current guidelines.

Another recent project we have just started is the Bible course, run by the Bible Society, we are running on Zoom over the Parish, it explores how the Bible was put together and gives an outline of varied books over 8 weeks

As you can see it has not been a quiet year with everyone at St. Nicholas playing their part, however big or small, working together for our community

My thanks to everyone for their continued support and Nick and Stephen for all their help.

***Claire Couldridge
St. Nicholas Churchwarden***

DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT ON THE GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCHES IN THE PARISH Report (d)

This has been another busy year at St. Giles with the latter part being dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. It has been good to be part of the Churchwarden's team and I am grateful to my fellow Deputies for their continuing support of St. Giles in these difficult times.

In terms of goods and ornaments the Parish Verger, Mr. Peter Russell, kindly organised and facilitated the purchasing of two new candle sticks for the altar at St. Giles to replace the existing two which had deteriorated. We have also purchased dedication plaques for the oak storage boxes made by Jon McDonald last year to store the boards for the hymn board. These are in memory of his parents, John and Barbara McDonald.

In addition, in order to provide music during the services over the last year, we have had a number of CDs of church music purchased by individuals and donated to St. Giles.

During 2020 we have also undertaken a refurbishment of the Clergy Vestry, repainting the walls and undertaking a 'deep clean'.

Given the current emphasis on cleaning I can report that St. Giles is being cleaned with due regard to its historic materials following guidance from Historic Churches.

I can report that all the Church's goods and ornaments are in a good state of repair.

Andrew Bailey
Deputy Warden

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2020, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

In 2020, we finished with a surplus of £42,615. Our total income was £201,844 which exceeded our total expenditure of £159,299. As you all know 2020 was a difficult year but whilst our income fell by some 25%, our outgoings decreased further by over 50%.

The reasons behind our surplus are varied, but we are very grateful for the way the congregation and church community rallied behind St Giles, firstly with Covid-19 donations and later with further donations to replace the lost income from the summer fair.

The stewardship campaign we held in 2019 and the pledged response helped to provide an increase in regular donations of £2864, instead of the usual annual decrease. Unfortunately, because the church was closed for most of the year, our loose plate, wedding and funeral collections were also affected. Magazine income was also reduced, this was mainly due to a fall in advertising revenue, although restructuring of magazine production and distribution, together with an accounting procedural change, all played a part. We, of course, had our rental income from Wentworth Close which was unaffected by the fallout from Covid-19.

At the beginning of the pandemic, I was relieved because I recognised that our reserves policy meant we were in a good place to weather the storm, which at the time I believed would have a much greater effect on our finances.

During the year, Debbie Pedder was unfortunately unable to continue trading as Absolute Beginners, running the pre-school in the centre. It was with regret that I heard this news, as Debbie had been operating the pre-school in the centre for twenty-seven years. All other activities in the centre stopped and we do not expect any to re-commence until a lot later this year.

No legacies were received in 2020.

The Parish Share or Diocesan Contribution for 2020 was £64,323. Our Indicative Offer for 2020 was provisionally £74,968. However, last year the Diocese altered the rules again. Previously, the parishes have kept the DBF (Diocesan Board of Finance) fees for funerals and weddings, which was a direction of the Diocese when they made the PCC responsible for the Incumbent's salary and benefits. This was to aid in offsetting these extra costs.

Now the Diocese demand that the DBF fees are paid over, no doubt to assist in balancing their perpetual (unbalanced) budget. In response to this, the PCC unanimously decided that the amount of last year's DBF fees

(£10645) should be deducted from our Indicative Offer. This is how we arrived at the contribution for 2020.

As previously stated the St Giles's congregation continues to give generously, through planned giving, collections and specific fund raising, as well as time and skills, to the upkeep and work of the Church. Donations from funerals and wall plaques fees help fund maintenance of the Churchyard.

Previous generous legacies provide security, as well as the ability to fund major building repairs and projects, as fabric wears and needs renewing or replacing. These funds also provide security against unforeseen events similar to those we are experiencing. Therefore, these funds are not utilised for the running costs of the church and work of the church. The Rector and PCC monitor running costs with the aim always to keep expenditure below income.

As ever, many thanks to all who help with the St. Giles financial work. The finance team work especially hard, so my gratitude and appreciation goes to, in alphabetical order, Ken Butchers, Mary Compton, Linda Crisp and Carol Fryer.

Thank you to Eddie Bellamy, administrator of the Memorial Wall fund, in again providing a reliable income stream. Thanks are also due to Adele Cooke for her continued sterling work with the Parish magazine and office administration.

In addition, I would again like to thank Carol Fryer for her work as Gift Aid Secretary and Pam Stacey our Planned Giving Envelope Scheme Secretary.

Finally, thanks to David Clark for looking after the insurance policies and to Mark Auger, for preparing the Parish and St Giles Annual Accounts. Also it is important to acknowledge the work of our examiner, Chris Jones of Baxter's, Orpington.

Paul Beamiss
Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles

ST. NICHOLAS

Before the coronavirus became centre stage it was always unlikely that St. Nicholas would break even at the end of 2020 and the approved budget anticipated a deficit of £8800 for the year.

There are two key elements to the income at St. Nicholas - giving and hall hire income. Planned giving held up well during the year and we are very grateful that everyone continued to honour their pledged giving, but cash collections on Sundays where money is put in the collection bags was only two thirds of budget with the Church closed for so many weeks. With St. Nicholas shut for such a long time we lost our hall hire income and the actual for the year of £25227 was half the budget and this is by far the most significant factor in the outturn for the year.

During the closure period there was no income from other sources such as the monthly Lunch Club, the weekly term time Parent and Toddler Group, the summer Holiday Club and the Autumn Fair, but as a compensating

factor there were savings in a number of expenditure areas as a result of the closure.

On a brighter note we were able to complete the refurbishment of the main hall with new stage curtains and window blinds at a cost of almost £3000, using Restricted Funds that were set aside for that purpose. We now have a very attractive main hall available for letting once the current restrictions are over.

At the end of the year the net current assets have fallen from £95926 at 31 December 2019 to £73001 at 31 December 2020. £2582 of the £73001 are Restricted Funds to be used towards the cost of the concrete repairs to be carried out in 2021.

2021 is going to be difficult too and at the time of writing there is no certainty when St. Nicholas will be able to re-open. At this stage we have not felt able to commit to the Diocese's full Calculated Indicative Offer for 2021 of £52721, but have committed to the Ministry and Benefice Cost of £41994, whilst keeping our income and expenditure under review to see whether in due course we are able to include some or all of the Wider Diocesan Element of £10757.

Whenever St. Nicholas re-opens there will be a deficit in the year again and a further reduction of net current assets. How large that reduction is will be dependent upon the re-opening date and there being no significant additional costs for the concrete repairs to be carried out in the summer holidays.

We have been fortunate over the years in that we have been able to build up the St. Nicholas reserves such that we have had funds available to cope with the 2020 deficit and also a deficit in 2021. Once we are back to more normal times we shall need to see how we can make good and replenish the reserves.

In conclusion I would like to say a big thank you to Catherine in the St. Nicholas Office who does an excellent job with all the day to day financial work in banking the income, paying the bills, inputting all the data on to the accounting system and the role of Hall Lettings Manager. We are extremely fortunate that these parts of the financial administration are in such very good hands.

Roger Allard
Hon Treasurer, St Nicholas

5. ELECTIONS

FOUR MEMBERS FOR THE ST. GILES P.C.C.

NO MEMBERS FOR THE ST. NICHOLAS P.C.C.

TWO DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES, both for ST. GILES

6. APPOINTMENTS

SIDESPERSONS -

St. Giles:

Mrs. R. Arney, Miss S. Attwood, Mr. P. Barnes, Mrs. L. Barnes, Mrs. V. Clark, Mrs. M. Compton, Mrs. C. Coyle, Mr. M. Dancer, Mrs. I. Dancer, Mrs. C. Fryer, Mrs. A. Goodall, Mrs. J. Palmer, Mrs. S. Pugh, Reeves

Family, Russell Family, Scarlett Family, M. Sullivan, Mrs. E. Walker, Mr. J. White.

St. Nicholas:

Mr. H. Bavin, Mrs. V. Blinks, Miss I. Broadie, Mrs. P. Butcher, Mr. D. Clark, Mrs. P. Clark, Mrs. B. Couldridge, Mrs. S. Dixey, Mrs. M. Felstead, Mrs. C. Gibbons, Mrs. Anne Howlett, Mrs. L. Matthews, Mrs. S. Simpson.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Acting under delegated powers (A.G.M. 2001) The P.C.C. appointed Mr. Christopher Jones, F.C.C.A., Baxter and Co. as independent examiner for the 2020 accounts.

The PCC recommends Mr. Jones's appointment for the year 2021 accounts and the A.G.M. is requested to approve this proposal.

7. GOODBYES AND THANK YOU'S.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To be notified at the beginning of the meeting.
Date and time of next A.G.M.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

This year at St. Giles has, of course, been dominated by the Coronavirus pandemic and the various national lockdowns.

As I write this it doesn't seem that long ago that we had to close St. Giles, mothballing Church life for almost a whole year.

Undoubtedly this has been a stressful and demanding time for our whole nation and a time of great pain for the many families who lost loved ones to Covid-19, particularly those from our own community.

It is also true to say that through this crisis we have also discovered much to inspire and be grateful for. We have been acutely aware of our dependence on others, from hospital and supermarket staff to scientists and the neighbour next door. We have been reminded of our vulnerability and powerlessness and the importance of love, family life, friendship and our Church.

For us at St. Giles and St. Nicholas the challenge was how to adjust to the changes and demands of lockdown as quickly and effectively as possible. I am pleased to say that through the support of many people we were able to rise to the challenge of keeping the life and witness of our churches alive in ways that we could not have previously envisaged. Below are some reflections on church life through a pandemic, and to thoughts for the future.

Firstly, and most importantly, I want to acknowledge with deep gratitude the help, support and constancy of our Church Officers and volunteers throughout this crisis. Through everything they have kept going, performing their duties with their normal thoroughness and reliability. I am grateful to our Churchwardens, Verger, Treasury Team, Maintenance Team, Parish Administration, Sidespeople, PCC Members, Children's Workers, Cleaners, Magazine Team, my colleagues in Ministry/Music, and many others, for all they have done in keeping the life of our Church afloat and functioning.

I am very grateful to David Brooks - Wilkins and all those who worked so hard in producing our online services. This has been a steep learning curve, but nevertheless a godsend for those who were missing worship at St. Giles. I am sure that moving forward we will continue to produce online services as part of what we offer to our Parish, particularly for those who are not well or mobile enough to attend Church.

I am very grateful for the financial support given to St. Giles throughout the lockdowns. This was immensely helpful because we were not in receipt of our usual Sunday collections, hall fees, fundraising event income and wedding fees. On top of this I am particularly pleased that we were able to generously support a number of National and International charities.

When lockdown is finally over it will be very good to return to full Church life and to catch up with a number of events and special services that we had to postpone and cancel. In particular I am looking forward to hearing the ringing of our two new bells, which are being installed as I write. Thank you to Nick Wilkins for his enthusiasm and drive in getting this exciting project under way.

Even though this has been a very challenging and disconcerting time, I think we can still attest to the love and faithfulness of God throughout. New people have joined our online services and new people have also requested our weekly bulletin and parish magazine and many have felt well supported and spiritually sustained through times of isolation. Spiritual growth is inevitably linked to hardship and adversity.

I am also pleased to say that through the work of our Safeguarding team, Irene Dancer and Linda Montgomery, we have been able to fully comply with all Diocesan Safeguarding requirements.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As every week passes more and more people are vaccinated and this continues to underline the optimism we all have that normality and freedom will return. When full Church life is allowed to resume it will be vital that we all reaffirm our commitment to active worship and participation in the life of St. Giles and St. Nicholas. Over the past years we have all worked so hard to create the vibrant Christian communities that are St. Giles and St. Nicholas. It is important that this work is honoured and that we pick up from where we were forced to leave off. It may well be that things will not be able to return exactly as we knew them. However, our future focus should be on what I would like to call the important *RE's*

RETURN. I hope and pray that all those we worshipped with pre-lockdown will eventually return to Church when it is safe and possible to do so. Jesus prayed in John Chapter 17, 'that not one of his followers should be lost.'

RECONNECT AND REFAMILIARISE

Coming back to Church after a long absence is going to take time. We will need to give ourselves and others time to *reconnect* with the habit of church-going and to *refamiliarise* ourselves with the customs and practices of our faith. Jesus regularly attended the Synagogue on the Sabbath, 'as was his custom.' (Luke 4:16ff).

RELATE. Church is, and indeed should be, a place of relationships and relating. In this way we are able to put into practice the specific hallmark of authentic Christian community, namely that we should, 'love one another as Christ has loved us.' (John 15:12ff). Many of us have spent the last year being cut off from our family and friends, this is also true in regards to our Church family. It will be important to take time and effort to re-establish, (there's another 're' word!) the relationships that we once enjoyed with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and hopefully forge some new ones as well.

RESOURCE. As we all know churches do not run themselves but rely on a large and complex web of volunteers. Churches also need to be financially secure if they are to effectively function at the heart of their community's life. When we return there will be some gaps in our network of volunteers and some readjustments as we pick up our previous roles. It will be vital, as far as possible, that all our volunteers remain in post' during this time of retrenchment and recovery and that as far as possible we continue to encourage a collective response to St. Giles's financial needs (Two more 're' words!). As Paul writes, 'You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.' (I Corinthians 12:27).

RESTRUCTURE. The re-establishment of church life will inevitably bring up changes, challenges and opportunities, as indeed lockdown has. Moving forward there will be some areas of our Church's life which might need to be restructured. This could be in terms of our pattern of services, the types of services, the ongoing provision of online services and the weekly bulletin, the pastoral care of the elderly and housebound and, of course, decisions will need to be taken concerning the Centre. These, and I would imagine other areas of our life, will provide much for consultation and discussion. I believe that such has been the nature of this National calamity that there will be a renewed interest and hunger for the consolations of the Christian faith and therein will be our opportunity for outreach and connection with those outside the church. It is hoped that the PCC will begin to initiate this process in due course. Jesus praises the householder, 'who is able to bring out from his treasure both new and old.' (Matthew 13:51-53)

REJOICE. Finally at the heart of our faith is the desire and need to praise and love the Blessed Trinity, our Father in heaven, our Blessed Lord and Saviour and the Gracious Holy Spirit of truth and comfort. During lockdown we have had to do this at home, out on a walk, or in Church without the support of our choir and music. Rejoicing is always best done

together. We look forward once again to the time when the rafters of St. Giles will resound (last 're' word!), to our collective songs of praise. St. Paul writes, 'Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.' (Philippians 4:8ff).

Yours in Christ,

Matthew Hughes
Rector of Farnborough Benefice

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

2020 will forever be associated in our memories with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the restrictions that began in the UK with the first lockdown on 23rd March 2020. It proved to be a challenging year for St. Nicholas as a church, as we went for long periods of time without being able to meet together physically, and having to shut our building to many of the hirers who have traditionally used our premises. As a result, we found ourselves quickly having to adapt to these new circumstances. On Sunday 22nd March we used Facebook for the first time to broadcast a recorded video message, and on Wednesday 1st April we held our first ever Morning Prayer meeting on 'Zoom'. Both these activities have continued almost every Sunday and Wednesday ever since. We now regularly have between 15-20 people attending the Zoom Morning Prayer meeting, where we have been working our way through the lectionary readings for the year, praying for all the different streets of the parish, and sharing reflections on the bible passages, as well as our own prayer requests. One of the highlights of broadcasting our services on Facebook was the Christmas service, where a number of our congregation helped record a sung version of Silent Night, and over 300 people tuned in to watch. To date the most popular video on our Facebook page has been a sung version of the Lord's Prayer, 'Our Father', composed and performed by Jason Henniker, which has been watched over 600 times by people all over the world, including the Archbishop of Malta! In these and in other ways the pandemic has forced us to adapt and innovate, and somehow reach people who had never before had contact with our Church.

Once restrictions on church gathering eased last summer, we ran a couple of 'trial services' in Church, testing out new seating arrangements, implementing measures such as hand hygiene points and using 'Eventbrite' for booking. Eventually we were able to open again for regular Sunday worship, and in September settled into a pattern of having a 9 a.m. 'Informal Communion' service, and a 10.30 a.m. 'Children and Family Worship Service' every Sunday. The two services enabled us to fit everyone in under the new social distancing guidelines, while also allowing us to carry on children's work when small Sunday school classes were not possible. With the two regular Sunday services in place, we actually began to see more people attending St. Nicholas than before the pandemic, and were able to welcome some new worshippers, and some families who had not previously attended on a Sunday. Obviously many restrictions continued to pertain, and in line with many London churches we had to stop meeting in person when the Mayor of London declared a 'major incident' across London on 8th January. However, since the beginning of March we have been able to meet once again in the building, continuing to follow our pattern of two services every Sunday, with continued good attendance.

Since the beginning of February 2021 we have also opened a 'Community Larder' at St. Nicholas, working with the charity 'FareShare' and the Co-op's 'FoodShare' scheme. Every Tuesday at 11.30 a.m. we open up the Church to distribute food to the local community, giving away unused food from local supermarkets and wholesalers. To date we have given away nearly 220 food parcels, and this initiative has opened up links with local businesses (including the Co-op and Waitrose), with other churches in the Borough, and also with the local housing association, Keniston Housing. It has been great to see so many people coming forward to volunteer for this initiative, from St. Nicholas and St. Giles as well as from the local community. It has truly felt like a living demonstration of our strapline, 'transforming our community through the presence of Christ'. One other highlight of this past year has been the 'Bible Course', where 25 of us worked our way in eight weeks through a whistle-stop tour of the Bible following videos provided by the Bible Society, and with much animated discussion in our Zoom 'breakout rooms'.

There have of course been many challenges in the past year. As we have been conscious of those who have not been able to join us in person during the pandemic, we have set up a 'pastoral support' group to try and ensure that at least one person from our Church is in touch with each church member who may be isolated or housebound. Moreover, the lack of hall hirers in 2020 inevitably had a great impact on our finances, as has been outlined in the Treasurers' report. In the face of these challenges, we continue to be encouraged nevertheless by the generosity of the congregation, and as we look ahead to 2021 we will be seeking to communicate some of these financial challenges to the congregation and community and asking everyone to partner with us in ensuring that St. Nicholas continues to be an active centre of mission in this part of the parish.

As I think about those who have served our Church over the past year, I would like to express my thanks to the PCC, and in particular to Claire Couldridge, our tireless Church Warden, and to Nick Jolliffe, who has carried out his role of Deputy Warden alongside an incredibly challenging role as a frontline doctor in a major hospital. I must also thank the different Lay Ministers at St. Nicholas: Diane Stiff, our Children and Families worker and Pastoral Assistant who has been so innovative in developing resources and plans for our new CFW service while continually supporting our families throughout the crisis. Thank you also to Ian Gillies, our Reader with PTO and Rosemary Fordyce, our Pastoral Assistant with PTO. I am also very grateful to Roger Allard, our Treasurer, and Richard Butterworth our Deputy Treasurer. Thanks must also go to Jayne Calvert, our Director of Music, who has kept Mothers' Union going throughout the pandemic and has been instrumental in helping set up and run the Community Larder. Thank you also to Catherine Roffey for all she does as Church Administrator and Lettings Manager, and to David Clark for all his work with the fabric and insurance of the building. I also want to thank the whole congregation of St. Nicholas for their many words of encouragement and support over the last 12 months, and for the great adaptability and resilience they have shown in the face of so much change. In spite of all the challenges we have faced, I believe we can continue to say that 'St. Nicholas is in good spirits'.

Stephen Broadie
Associate Rector

ST. GILES MUSIC

The Junior Choir: now has 19 members, slightly up on last year. Membership is stable and there is more participation in church festivals etc. The Junior Choir continues to increase the contribution that it makes to the musical life of St. Giles. The Royal School of Church Music's 'Voice for Life' training scheme is proving to be of great benefit, with a number turning up half an hour early on practice nights. Several are near to being awarded their medals for the second stage.

The 'Let's Sing Together Group': is successful in that several members now join in with the Church choirs at festivals etc. However, we could do with a few more members, particularly on the Soprano line. I am greatly indebted to members of the Senior Choir who come along to support this venture: it is very difficult to teach people from a standing start without more experienced singers alongside - in fact it would be next to impossible. Meetings take place in St. Giles on the first Monday of the month at 19.30 and new participants are always welcome. We concentrate on music reading, different styles of Anglican Church music and singing technique but we also spend time on looking at the music that is coming up for festivals.

The Organ Restoration Project: As everyone knows, this took much longer than we envisaged for a variety of reasons, some of which were acceptable, others not. We also caused the contract period to extend somewhat by having the display pipes gilded and decorated, which, due to drying times etc. added more than a month. The organ builders took the financial hit for the bits that were down to them. However, it was all worth it. Organists and people in the trade have been impressed by the result and by the Parish's commitment to the project. We now have an instrument that is far more cohesive, a pleasure to play and it should last for many more years. A review of all the work will be undertaken before May when final regulation and fine tuning will take place but there are a couple of things that I am not yet happy with and they will be addressed before this: the under-action on one 'department' is being replaced to improve responsiveness; and a re-voiced reed stop is not yet good enough and will be looked at again after the action improvements have taken place.

To mark the finish of the work and the settling in period there will be a **Celebrity Organ Recital** by Daniel Moulton on Saturday 9th May. There will be more about this in the April and May editions of the Parish Magazine but Daniel is one of the best players in the UK and the programme should include something for everyone. In addition, Saturday 18th April is World Heritage Day and the Royal College of Organists has asked every building in the land that houses an organ to open their doors and invite people to come in and listen. That's actually thousands of buildings and only a fraction will do it but I felt that St. Giles must participate to show off what has been done. So the Church will be open on that day from 14.30-16.30 for people to come in, listen, ask questions, even 'have a go'. I shall be joined by my brother and we might even play an organ duet, if we can find where we put the music!

Clive Brearley
Organist and Junior Choirmaster

ST. GILES FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

Our church families are an integral part of our Church community and its children make a lively and vital contribution to its life. Their spiritual development is a key component of our usual weekly Church services and meetings and so it was with a sad heart that we had to close our groups at the end of March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

However, it was considered a priority that we should attempt to keep in touch with our church families and to provide spiritual support and friendship wherever it might be needed. With that in mind, regular emails were sent out to families with Sunday School children, initially just as a means of keeping in touch, but soon these included links to useful websites offering family friendly faith-based ideas. Moving on from there, since April 2020 Sunday School 'lesson plans' have been emailed out to both Junior and Senior Sunday School parents to help them support their children's spiritual development at home. Of course, these have been entirely voluntary but have been available as and when needed.

Throughout 2020 we covered a number of topics....

Junior age children looked at some Old Testament characters and then went on to think about the themes of Harvest, Advent and Christmas. This was approached through the use of stories and practical activities. Families were sent crosswords, word searches and colouring sheets; craft ideas for pictures, collages and models, masks, friendship bracelets and crowns; recipe ideas; games such as 'pairs' and how to make a jigsaw. The aim was to provide activities that were light-hearted and fun to carry out.

Seniors started off by following the bible readings allocated to the Sundays they would have been attending Sunday School. Although based around bible study, opportunity was provided for families to discuss as many or as few questions provided and to support the study through practical application. For example, when studying Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8 'spreading the gospel through team work' as well as questions to help with understanding the passage, they were also encouraged to talk about teams they supported or were in themselves. The children could then create an 'advert' for the role of disciple or decorate an old T shirt showing that they were on God's team. This group then also went on to look at the themes as for the juniors, but at an appropriate age level.

After the first lockdown, I attended a Zoom meeting run by the Diocese regarding opening up churches for children's and youth work. With our small church and hall buildings, doing this at St. Giles presented us with particular difficulties. Families were sent a questionnaire asking how they would like to continue with Sunday School. There was even some tentative thought that we might be able to meet again as groups, albeit in a bigger space than the Centre. Of all the suggestions sent out, an organised, socially distanced walk was by far the most popular. While some families were all 'zoomed out' and others not keen on meeting indoors, the majority were keen to meet outside if possible and also to continue to receive activities via email. Two walks were organised, one for each age group, and we managed to fit in one before the second lockdown. A group of Junior children and parents met outside the Centre for a walk around High Elms. They were given craft packs with everything they needed for bark rubbings, leaf collection and picture making around the theme of autumn. Juniors who were not able to accompany us had their craft packs

delivered to their homes so that they could take part with their families when convenient. You may have seen some of the pictures the children produced in the magazine or on the website.

Christmas craft resources and ideas for all ages were posted out or hand delivered and again, you may have seen some of their work printed.

This brings us to 2021 and the third lockdown. At the time of writing, two email shots have been sent out. In January, both Sunday Schools followed the theme of 'beginnings' and in February, 'hope'. The older children looked at bible references for each topic, while the younger ones looked more generally at what these words mean. We attempt to apply what we learn from the bible into our everyday lives. For 'hope' we discussed the difference between a wishful thinking kind of optimism and the confident expectation that God's promises for us will be fulfilled

And for our younger children we asked....when you pray, who do you hope is listening? God **is** listening but we have to talk to him in the first place for Him to hear.

The March mailout based on the theme of 'nurture' included a pack of sunflower seeds for each family. We looked at nurture in relation to nature, human growth and spiritual development.

We have all experienced many challenges and changes in our lives over the past year. Families have had to work, teach and learn from home and I am grateful to those who have kept in touch with emails of their news, their response to our survey and my email lessons and resources. As a Church we remain committed to supporting our families in developing the faith of their children whatever circumstances we may all face.

Irene Dancer
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker

ST. GILES SAFEGUARDING REPORT

This is the first such report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to be included in the AGM papers.

I can confirm that our churches have adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. In addition to this we have our own Parish Safeguarding Policy, which supports and illustrates the above guidance. Copies of this are located in both churches, in St. Giles Centre and on the parish website.

Safeguarding is integral to the smooth and safe running of all institutions, not least the Church. In our parish, safeguarding is taken seriously and we seek to treat all with respect and to ensure that all who come here feel safe and protected.

Since becoming the PSO I have completed the appropriate training and have sought to ensure that all those who are in roles of responsibility also do so. Our Lead Recruiter and DBS administrator ensure that all relevant police checks, for volunteers and workers, are carried out in a timely fashion.

Following a Diocesan request for a safeguarding audit a Safeguarding Action Plan was produced and agreed by the PCC. The implementation of this has been disrupted because of the current Covid pandemic.

Throughout the year the Diocese has kept us updated with new training requirements, modules and dates and these have been disseminated as appropriate. We have been made aware of changes to Safeguarding personnel at Rochester. Our notices around the churches will reflect this once church has reopened. A copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy, a Training Matrix and Parish Safeguarding Handbook (produced by the National Safeguarding Team) have been circulated to all current members of the PCC. The updated Parish Safeguarding Policy has been forwarded to the web manager.

Prior to lockdown I had updated the church notice boards with the required Safeguarding Policies and contact details and placed 'here to help' notices in toilets and was about to include the choir and clergy vestry. Matthew and I were planning a programme of briefing sessions with church groups and discussing other ways to extend the opportunities within the parish to discuss and inform about this important issue. All policies and notices will be updated once Church is fully open.

Irene Dancer
Parish Safeguarding Officer

ST. GILES BELLRINGERS

2020 was a year like no other and the Coronavirus restrictions impacted severely on the country as a whole, the church and inevitably bell ringing.

The initial restrictions started in March and this effectively put an end to normal ringing. During those first weeks of 2020 the bells were rung every Sunday morning prior to the Family Service and, also during that time Wednesday afternoon teaching practices continued to take place. As reported last year, these practices are highly successful and well attended with the timing of 3.30 p.m. deliberately designed to be convenient to children straight after school.

Five quarter peals were rung in 2020 (28 in 2019), all on Tuesdays from about 11.00 a.m. mainly with visiting ringers plus NW and four peals (nine peals in 2019) including one on Saturday 29th February. Those much-reduced totals reflected the effective ceasing of normal ringing from March.

After the complete lockdown restrictions were eased a little moving into late summer and early autumn 2020 it was possible, after carrying out a Risk Assessment, to ring a limited number of bells. The conditions were that ringing could only be for services for a maximum of 15 minutes, ringers to be spaced 1.5m apart (unless a family) staying with the same bell for all the ringing session including ringing up and down and wearing masks. On this basis we were able to ring three bells but occasionally more with a family group and NW ringing two bells. Even this ringing ceased towards the end of 2020.

As previously reported, everyone who visits St. Giles likes the bells which are physically easy to ring and extremely popular with young and old and this is one of the main reasons that the Wednesday afternoon ringing sessions are so well attended. With the popularity of these practices, we

have often found there were more people in the ringing chamber than there are bell ropes. In order to address this situation, prices were obtained for augmenting the bells to a peal of eight and on 16th March 2020 the PCC approved this proposal. Taylor's of Loughborough, who installed the six bells in 2012 have been instructed for a 'Top and Tail' augmentation involving the casting of a new treble, a heavier tenor and tuning the 4th bell down half a note. A Faculty was obtained in September 2020.

Reductions to the headline price are offered by Taylor's for self-help and in this connection the 4th bell was removed from the tower by volunteers on 26th October and taken to Loughborough. The expected final cost is likely to be approximately £25k and for which funding has been secured. A Just Giving Page was set up to aid fund raising and an article drawing attention to this project was produced by NW and published in June 2020 in the bell ringers weekly magazine, The Ringing World. Without a doubt the profile of the project and hence the flow of contributions, was helped enormously by the association of the project with the late John Barnes, a prominent ringer of over 70 years who resided in Leamington Avenue in this Parish. John spent decades helping parishes with bell restoration projects and it is fitting that the new treble will bear his name.

Pleasingly the installation of the necessary extra framework and hanging of the two new bells commenced on Monday 22nd March and was completed on Maundy Thursday, 1st April, so for Easter there was an octave of eight ringable bells in the tower. Unfortunately, the distancing restrictions prevent us from ringing all eight bells and, with spacing, we can ring roughly every other bell: odds or evens.

Finally, I'd again like thank Matthew for his continued enthusiasm and support, the members of the band that turn up regularly to ring and all those involved with the successful augmentation.

Nick Wilkins
Tower Captain

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

I'm sure that many reports will comment on the unprecedented year that we have just had due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many activities have had to be cancelled or done in a different way, we have had to get to grips with zoom and pre-booking services.

ST NICHOLAS TODDLER GROUP

Unfortunately it has not been possible for this group to meet since March 2020. We are hoping that as restrictions are lifted we may be able to meet again in the summer with number restrictions in place.

KIDS CLUB

This last year it has not been possible to do KIDS CLUB as before, but we have been running a Children and family worship service on weeks when there has been no lockdown. This has worked well, families stay in their groups and there are activities to do that have been prepared in advance. Families book in advance via Eventbrite so we know how many are coming each week. When we have been unable to meet in Church we have either run online or zoom services for families.

Families have been involved with creating a giant poppy wreath on the Church doors, decorating and putting up nativity pictures in the windows of their houses, colouring Holy Week Easter Egg pictures to go on our

outside noticeboard and creating an outside Easter garden. There have also been Christmas and Easter trails to complete.

JUST BABIES

Just Babies is for parents with babies up to crawling age. This is deemed to be a support group and it is planned to start again after Easter with families booking in advance.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church was cancelled for most of 2020 but we did a Christmas session modelled on our Sunday morning family worship. Families booked in advance, stayed in their groups and did craft packs that had been prepared. We watched a video clip of the Christmas story. In March we held an Easter session in the same way and we plan to do a couple more in the summer term.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the children's holiday club, 'Light and Bright', and the Easter activity morning. We are hoping if the easing of restrictions continues in the way that is planned that we will be able to run some sort of children's activity in the summer.

I would like to thank the families at St. Nicholas for their support and encouragement and Lynne Henniker for all her help throughout the year. Thank you.

Diane Stiff

Family and Children's worker St. Nicholas

MOTHERS' UNION

Well, what a difference a year makes! Who would have thought we would all have become proficient with Zoom meetings? Our Farnborough Mothers' Union group has gone from strength to strength and has positively thrived during this COVID-19 pandemic. The group has increased by three new members who were enrolled earlier this year, and one transferred from another Orpington branch. Our total membership stands at 25. We have met together twice a month over Zoom to share faith and fellowship. Those who are not able to join us in person get a paper copy of each service so they can feel involved at home. Several members from other MU branches in Orpington regularly join us, so we are truly united in fellowship.

We follow the church's year and have just had a very successful Lady Day and Mothering Sunday Zoom meeting. We were lucky enough to have our Diocesan President, Julia Jamieson and her husband Mark, join us.

In February we had a meeting that included Lent Reflections to prepare us for Easter. Jocelyn also gave a very interesting account of her recent trip to New Zealand, complete with pictures.

In December we held our service supporting the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, entitled "No More 1 in 3", and lit candles to show solidarity with our friends who have sadly been affected, both in the UK and overseas. Many suffer in silence and are undetected in their wider community. Mothers' Union joins each year with other organisations from approximately 187 countries who participate in this campaign to raise awareness of, and call for, an end to gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies.

Even though our organisation was formed in 1876 by Mary Sumner, a Clergyman's wife, from a small home-group meeting to support young mothers living in her husband George's parish in Old Alresford near Winchester, our beliefs and goals are still very relevant to today. We have over 4 million Christian members in 83 countries in the world, but Mothers' Union still continues to flourish.

On August 9th we celebrate Mary Sumner Day, and members from Rochester Diocese have always joined in a pilgrimage starting from their home Church and stopping off at various churches for prayer, fellowship and light refreshment, before ending up at Rochester Cathedral to share in Choral Evensong. Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to join in the pilgrimage last year in person, but we did celebrate her life via a Zoom meeting. It was also a shame that we were not able to hold our normal Charity Lunch last June. This is usually very well attended by members from other Mothers' Union groups, and people from Farnborough Parish. Who knows what this year will bring?

Like many other charities, Mothers' Union has suffered this last year through lack of fund raising, however our group has just participated in this year's Make a Mother's Day campaign. This year our theme, "Gifts of Togetherness", at a time when the chance to come together has been more precious than ever before.

Our small Mothers' Union group here in Farnborough has raised £347 for this campaign. With that money we have been able to purchase:

- Empowerment classes for young girls in Ethiopia, enabling a girl to attend a weekly empowerment group that helps her to stay in school.
- Savings and business skills to help mothers in Tanzania have the gift of independence, by enabling a woman to attend a savings group workshop to grow her family income, giving them greater access to better healthcare and education.
- Parenting classes in the UK to give the gift of support, companionship and friendships to help their families flourish.
- Passionate about parenting, enabling a woman in Uganda to attend a series of parenting classes, so her children can have a brighter future.
- Trauma-healing journey, helping communities recover from trauma, shock and grief in a safe environment, after one of the worst cyclones on record to hit Africa in 2019 ripped through Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.
- An AFIA (Away From It All) Experience day in UK for a family to help them get away from the stresses of daily life.

As our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper wrote, *"Mothering Sunday is a day when we can show love, gratitude and appreciation for all the*

wonderful mothers and caregivers, both past and present, at home and around the world”..

Locally, several members of Farnborough Mothers' Union and others are still knitting colourful squares, which are then sewn up into blankets. This past year several blankets have been given to Haiti, and SCBU at the PRUH has received many baby cot- blankets, cardigans and other clothing for the preterm and sickly babies needing care there.

I want to thank my friends in the Mothers' Union group for supporting me so generously when I was providing toiletries for the staff at the PRUH working in ITU with the seriously ill Covid -19 patients, both last Spring, and again earlier this year in January and February. Such activities demonstrate that we are showing God's love through Mothers' Union in Action.

We continue to hold our Zoom meetings on the 1st Monday evening in the month at 7.30 p.m., and the 3rd Thursday afternoon at 1.30 p.m. Hopefully, we may soon be able to return to proper meetings at St. Nicholas Church. It will be wonderful to meet up in person again!

If you are interested in hearing more about the Mother's Union, contact:

Jayne Calvert on 01959 439153 or 07780664340

HOUSE GROUPS

In my house group report for 2020 I recalled that we had set up 4 extra small groups, in addition to the 12 on-going house groups, to follow Matthew's Lent course, 'A Stone in my Pocket'. These had just got going when Covid 19 arrived and lockdown, so sadly any further meetings, including the culminating workshop to paint and inscribe a pebble, had to be abandoned.

Fast forward to January 2021 and we knew it would not be possible to hold our usual in-person Lent studies because of the continuing pandemic. Instead, Matthew wrote a course on the Letter of James; the Bible reading, a reflection and some questions to ponder are included with the weekly St. Giles bulletin and service sheet which is either posted or emailed to all those who wish to receive it. Matthew also recorded and posted each session online. In this way everyone who wished to take part could do so, albeit on their own and not with a group.

During lockdown house group leaders have kept in touch with their members by phone and email and a few 'technically savvy' ones have continued to lead their groups using zoom, including following the Lent course. Well done!

Going forward I think it will be helpful to consider the different ways in which we have produced this year's Lent course. Perhaps there are some lessons here for the future? *(Please let Matthew or me know your thoughts on this)*. One area is the benefits of online services/study groups etc, not to replace meeting up physically, but rather to enable more people to participate, particularly those who are not able to attend in person.

Heather Argent
House Group co-ordinator

ST. GILES WEBSITE

The normal smooth management of the website was interrupted by two technical challenges:

Firstly, the software that I had been using to publish the website to the internet since 2011 stopped working. This was caused by changes made with no prior warning by our hosting company that the old software I was using couldn't cope with. Fortunately Alison and I were staying with our daughter Annabel at the time, and in readiness for just this type of eventuality she had had the foresight some years before to link up with and later marry Matt, a network specialist. He was able to help me get an alternative method up and running early in 2020.

Later in the year I was again unable to publish any updates, due to further changes made supposedly in the interests of security by the hosting company, and again with no prior warning (do you detect a theme?). This was resolved following a call to their helpdesk, but as they were very short staffed due to Covid. this took some days, and it started recurring on a regular basis. The permanent solution was to migrate to using 'secure ftp' for publishing. This was a sound idea anyway, but beyond me. However again a friend came to the rescue, this time a former work colleague, also a network specialist, who knows all about these things. It turned out later that the only people who would have been affected by the change made were those with a BT internet connection, as these are apparently highly prone to hacking attempts and therefore BT apply additional security.

An enhanced solution has now been implemented, but as my friend keeps reminding me I have not yet, due to Covid19, been able to buy him the promised pub lunch.

FARNBOROUGH PARISH WEBSITE:

www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk

The parish website has continued despite the above, although with a much lower frequency of updates, for obvious COVID-19 reasons. Details of services were suspended for some months, because there weren't any, and the normal steady flow of updates about forthcoming events and photos following events dried up.

This has had its impact on usage volumes: which after a strong start to the year finished overall up to 13% down on the previous year.

FARNBOROUGH HISTORY WEBSITE

www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk

The history website has continued through the year, with updates including a profile of Sheila Grant Duff, the history of Tubbendence, the disposal of properties owned by the Fox family after the bankruptcy of the brewery business, aerial photographs of Farnborough taken in the 1950s and exciting details about milestones and coal-tax posts. There are also now a number of historical maps of the area.

Once again, I have been given permission to use relevant articles from the magazine of the Bromley Borough Local History Society, which are always of high standard and well researched.

Several new pages on the website have been used with modifications for submission to the parish magazine.

The site now contains about 105 pages, currently larger than the St. Giles website,

Nick Reynolds
nickrstgiles@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST. GILES

The aim of the Friends has always been to support the Church. This year, along with the PCC, we have been investigating the idea of providing broadband into the Church following a suggestion from a member at our last Friends AGM.

The 250 Club continues to flourish as no social distancing is needed for that!

All other activities have been postponed until the appropriate time.

Julia Hoadley
Chairman

PARISH MAGAZINE

The magazine has undergone a complete overhaul since April 2020.

Until Covid struck T&C printed the magazines and these were delivered by an army of willing volunteers. Overnight the order was given that magazines could no longer be delivered in this way and T&C had to stop printing. Unfortunately April was also the month when people were asked to renew their annual subscriptions. Adèle Cooke took on the task of producing a magazine which was sent out via email to those who have email and used a print and post service to those who didn't. It was very difficult to ascertain who should receive magazines as many of our readers are not on the electoral roll and missed out on the information in the weekly bulletins. Sadly we have lost touch with many of them.

In January we were able to resume working with T&C to produce the A4 printed version. In order to cover the cost of producing and delivering the magazine, the price had to be increased but a pdf of the magazine was available via email at a much reduced price.

There are still many people in the community who would like to receive the magazine and slowly word is trickling through and the number of subscribers is increasing. We are hopeful that in time we will reach many more.

With regard to the content of the magazine, we are very grateful to Matthew and Stephen for their leaders. We should also like to thank Lynne Henniker, Lindsay Barnes and Patsy John for keeping us updated with their monthly contributions; to Nick Reynolds and Alex Fordyce for their interesting articles and Sheila Munns for her articles about birds. Margaret Thurgood has written some thought provoking stories and Bob Donovan keeps us amused with his outlook on life! We have had very good feedback on the number and variety of all the articles so please keep them coming.

We look forward to the time when we can once again have monthly news from Irene Dancer and Diane Stiff about the children's activities, and all the social events put together by Carol Fryer.

Despite everything we were able to enter for the 2020 National Parish Magazine awards and put forward the January and April 2020 magazines in the A4 category. We were delighted to once again find ourselves in the top ten and achieved 7th place from 262 entries. We are grateful to Danny and the team at T&C for helping to produce such a result.

Eddie and Helen Roberts
Editors

9. CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it
was in
the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT

ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Incumbent: Rev'd Matthew Hughes

Associate Rector: Rev'd Stephen Broadie

Assistant Priest (Hon.): Rev'd Bill Mullenger

Principal Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc
Santander UK plc

Independent Examiner

Baxter & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT

ST. GILES THE ABBOT
ST. NICHOLAS

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Honorary Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Giles the Abbot, Farnborough

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 18, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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

Signed:

Baxter & Co
*** May 2021

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	125,170	-	36,362	161,532	223,540
Activities for generating funds	31,690	-	-	31,690	71,680
Investment income	5,853	16,220	-	22,073	21,264
Incoming resources from charitable activities	41,296	9,559	10,368	61,223	71,087
Other incoming resources	153	-	-	153	6,117
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	204,162	25,779	46,730	276,671	393,688
RESOURCES USED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	1,766	-	-	1,766	16,021
Charitable activities	212,994	8,523	33,698	255,215	422,551
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	214,760	8,523	33,698	256,981	438,572
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources pre transfers	(10,598)	17,256	13,032	19,690	(44,884)
Transfers between funds	(8,557)	(19,131)	27,688	-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in funds	(19,155)	(1,875)	40,720	19,690	(44,884)
Total funds brought forward	1,789,021	695,629	152,237	2,636,887	2,681,771
Total funds carried forward	1,769,866	693,754	192,957	2,656,577	2,636,887

**PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH, KENT
ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020**

	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	2,155,494	2,155,494
	<u>2,155,494</u>	<u>2,155,494</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments	5,134	10,163
No notice accounts	278,217	237,463
Notice Account	81,347	79,969
Cash at bank and in hand	126,763	141,183
CCLA Funds	20,735	20,648
	512,196	489,426
LIABILITIES		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(11,113)	(8,033)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>501,083</u>	<u>481,393</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	<u>2,656,577</u>	<u>2,636,887</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,769,866	1,789,021
DESIGNATED FUNDS	693,754	695,629
RESTRICTED FUNDS	192,957	152,237
	<u>2,656,577</u>	<u>2,636,887</u>

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23rd May 2021

Rector

Churchwarden

Financial Accountant

Hon Treasurer

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

1 Form of Accounts and Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") FRS 102.

The Parish does not make payments for the preparation of the annual accounts and PCC trustees are not remunerated. A nominal payment of £600 was made to the independent financial examiner.

2 Diocesan Contribution

The Diocesan Contribution is an annual contribution from each parish towards Diocesan expenditure based upon what the parish can afford and includes a contribution towards clergy costs (including stipends) which are financed by the Diocese directly.

3 Policy on Reserves

The Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 require PCCs to set out their policy on Reserves. Designated and restricted reserves are established for particular, specified purposes. General reserves are held to provide for ongoing cash demands and to provide for unforeseen emergencies.

4 Parish Property Assets

- i) Consecrated properties are excluded from the accounts under Sect. 96 (2)(a) of the Charities Act, 1993. This includes the Church and churchyard.
- ii) Movable Church furnishings are held on special trust by the Wardens on behalf of the PCC and are excluded from the accounts. Such items are recorded in the parish inventory which may be inspected by appointment.
- iii) The Rectory building is the responsibility of the Diocese and therefore excluded.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

4 Parish Property Assets (cont)

- iv) The St. Giles Centre is not consecrated property. It falls within the PCC's trusteeship and is required by the Charities Act to be included in the accounts. It is recorded at its revalued amount at 31st December 2012.

Depreciation of the Centre building has not been provided in these accounts as any charge is not considered to be material on the basis that this asset has a very long useful economic life or a residual value based on its current value which is not materially different from its carrying value.

Any centre contents are not considered to be of material value.

- v) The Church Hall is included at its last insured valuation. The Church House is included at a valuation based upon an estimate of the cost to rebuild it in the event of its total loss.

Depreciation has not been provided for either property based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

- vi) An interest in a freehold property ("Wentworth Close") is held on trust by the Diocese of Rochester for the beneficial ownership of St Giles and is included in these accounts at its initial probate valuation as a Freehold Property. This valuation is informally reviewed annually to assess whether it remains reasonable.

Depreciation is not provided based upon similar considerations to those outlined in iv) above.

5 Inter Church Transfers

Inter-Church financial transfers are dealt with by offset during the year within the two accounts in order to avoid duplication of income and expenditure at consolidation.

6 Friends of St Giles

The Friends of St Giles is a registered charity and accounts separately to the Charity Commissioners.

THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
ST. GILES THE ABBOT

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

7 Flower Fund

The Flower Fund Treasurer operates a separate bank account and draws down the flower fees from St. Giles from time to time as required. The Fund accounts are integrated within these financial statements.

8 Risk Policy

The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 require the PCC to set out its policy on Risk Management. The PCC has already undertaken Child Protection, Health and Safety and Fire Risk Assessments. So far as concerns financial risk, controls regulate the banking arrangements including online banking and the issue of cheques (two signatures). Cashflow is managed monthly and budgetary controls are in place.

For the broader liabilities the PCC has comprehensive insurance with the specialist insurance company, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

Property assets were subject to a full survey and valuation by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company during 2012.

9 Stakeholder Pensions

The PCC has registered with the Legal and General Assurance Society as its stakeholder Pension provider. To date no eligible member of staff has expressed an interest in joining the Scheme.

10 Garden of Remembrance (Wall Fund and Plaques)

The PCC is responsible for administration of the wall memorials scheme which commenced in 2006. Funds received from the sale of each memorial provide for the cost of an installed, engraved plaque, a contribution towards the cost of building new walls and a contribution towards the general upkeep of the churchyard.

11 Independent Examination of the Accounts

Baxter & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants, provided an independent examination of the financial statements.

Honorary Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Giles the Abbot, Farnborough

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Baxter & Co
*** May 2021