

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. NICHOLAS WITH ST. JOHN BAPTIST, LINCOLN

England & Wales · Charity number 1133977

Details

Other names	PCC OF ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, ST. NICHOLAS PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-02-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Nicholas Church Newport Lincoln LN1 3DP
Phone	01522806350
Email	stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com
Website	www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Religious activities

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£109,504	£119,761	-	-
2023-12-31	£160,740	£108,816	-	-
2022-12-31	£81,804	£80,713	-	-
2021-12-31	£167,593	£8,743	-	-
2020-12-31	£164,709	£9,069	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew John Simmons		2015-03-22
Carolyn Geraldine Jones		2021-05-21
Clare Elizabeth Wise		2025-03-23
Dr Neill Christopher Hepburn		2023-03-26
Felicity Jane Ingleton		2023-03-26
JOAN BERESFORD		2025-03-25
JOSEPH ROGER HANSARD JP		2018-04-15
Janet Christine Elsmore		2014-04-06
Joanne Marie Osborne		2020-10-19
Nicholas James		2024-06-01
Paul Patrick Dominic Rees		2026-03-22
Peter John Anthony Elsmore MA, PhD		2020-03-15
Rev HANNAH REBECCA GRIVELL		2025-11-06
Sue Humphrey		2017-04-30
Susan Jacqueline Toogood		2016-04-24
Vera May Jolliffe		2026-03-22

Accounts

The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist,
Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
23rd March 2025

Registered Charity Number: 1133977

The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist, Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 23rd March 2025



INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report for the financial Year 2024 for the Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John, Newport, Lincoln. In this report you will find brief notes about church life, together with the accounts for the year 2024, duly examined (appended at the end of the document), and a budget for 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish Church of St. Nicholas is situated on the east side of Newport, Lincoln. It is within the Diocese of Lincoln in the Church of England. The correspondence address is: St. Nicholas Church, Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3DP, telephone number 01522 540614 or email stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number: 1133977.

CLERGY & LAY READERS

Vicar: Currently in Vacancy
Associate Priest: Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses
Dr. Peter Elsmore Reader & *Lay Vice-Chairman*
Dr. Neill Hepburn Reader

WARDENS

Mrs. Chris Elsmore
Mr. David Grattrick
Mr. Roger Hansard
Position Vacant

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Neill Hepburn
Position Vacant

For term to finish
2026

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mrs. Joanne Osborne	Honorary Secretary
Mrs. Sandra Grattrick	Honorary Treasurer

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

	<i>Elected for term to finish</i>
Mrs. Joan Beresford	2025
Mr. Ronald Johnson	2025
Mr. Ron Johnson	2025
Mr. Andrew Simmons	2026
Mrs. Margaret Arrand	2026
Ms. Felicity Ingleton	2026
Mrs Sue Humphrey	2027
Mrs Carolyn Jones	2027
Mrs Su Toogood	2027
Mr Nick James	2027

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to PCC.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

St. Nicholas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Church Wardens and the Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses, Associate Priest, whilst we are in vacancy, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for the care of the church building and its grounds.

The PCC meets about six times a year. A more detailed report is given elsewhere by the PCC Secretary. The PCC operates through a number of committees:

Standing Committee

As the only committee required by law, it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Worship, Discipleship & Education Committee

Oversees all matters of worship and Christian nurture.

Buildings Committee

Oversees the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

STATISTICS FOR MISSION		2023	2024
BAPTISMS		5	5
WEDDINGS		6	6
FUNERALS	Church	19	18
	Crematorium/graveside or other	8	1
	Committal/burial of ashes only	1	2
	Total Funerals	28	21
CHURCH ATTENDANCE			
1 st Sunday in October (3 services)		57	131
2 nd Sunday in October		78	58
3 rd Sunday in October		82	55
4 th Sunday in October (3 services)		70	111
USUAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (including children)		68	57

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCES

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

A new Church Electoral Roll has been completed and comprises of 47 names.

Joanne Osborne, Church Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024

This year's Annual Accounts for 2024 are presented in this report. My thanks go to Councillor Lance Pennell who stepped in to be our Independent Examiner.

Total receipts for the ordinary unrestricted funds were £109,504 and are detailed in the financial statements. This includes investment income of £41,659.

Expenditure for 2024 was £119,761 spent to provide Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our parish share of £60,000. The increase in expenditure was in part due to the major works we finally completed at a cost of £21,035. The gas and electricity charges amounted to £8,480.

We continue to overspend on a monthly basis, regardless of the successful parish giving review. I am grateful to all those who increased their giving and to the help I received from Joan Beresford.

Projected Budget for 2025

In the coming year we need to increase our income in order to maintain the running of St Nicholas Church.

In our projected budget for 2024 our Parish Share remains at £60,000. We need to manage our future expenditure to within our projected income level of £105,850.

The monies held in our deposit and investment accounts are as follows:

CCLA Investment account £81,706.97

CCLA Deposit account 1 - £59,197.07

CCLA Deposit account 2 - £42,135.14

Our current account at present holds £17,027.47

We are paying for the new sound system by instalment's the remaining amount outstanding to be paid in 2025 is £13,098.78.

Outstanding works still to be completed are for the new lighting down the passage to the centre costing £2,351. To cover these costs money will need to be transferred from the CCLA deposit account.

Sandra Grattrick, Honorary Treasurer

PLANNED GIVING

At the end of 2024 we had 67 regular givers using either the Parish Giving Scheme (our preferred option), standing orders to CAF Bank (our current account) or numbered envelopes. Of these, 57 are taxpayers who have made a Gift Aid Declaration allowing us to claim back 25% of their donations from HMRC.

	Gift Aided	Not Gift Aided	Total
PGS	26	2	28
CAF Bank	27	5	32
Envelopes	4	3	7
Total	57	10	67

PARISH GIVING REVIEW

A Parish Giving Review took place in September 2024. 100 letters and information packs were sent to friends and members of St Nicholas'. 36 pledge forms were returned and 24 of these included an increase to regular giving.

To meet our current level of spending we needed to increase our income by £29,432 per annum. The pledges received totalled £10,896, only 37% of what we need. 2025 will be another challenging year.

Please use this time to review your giving. If you have not yet joined one of our regular giving schemes, make today the day you start. If you have not increased your giving for some time, make today the day you do. If you are a taxpayer, but have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration, please ask me for a form.

Joan Beresford, Planned Giving Officer

PCC HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

We are still in vacancy, but it is hoped that a new Priest will be appointed in 2025.

We continue to work closely with St Mary Magdalene, this includes LLM's Peter Elsmore and Neill Hepburn preaching and also sharing in running the Lent and Advent courses.

A number of outstanding works have been completed, including the new Sound and Video System, replacement screen to the East Window, Defibrillator installed and the bin store area.

Pauline Francis stepped down as Sacristan after 30 years. Sally Hubbard stepped down as Verger and ALM and Adele Sheriff has moved to a new parish. Our thanks go to them for all their hard work and dedication to St Nick's over the years.

My thanks go to Fr. Alan Moses for his ministry during this period of vacancy, to the Churchwardens, Sandra Gratricks our Treasurer and Sue Humphrey, Carolyn Jones and Su Toogood for Verging at Funerals, Baptisms and Weddings and to all the people who volunteer to keep our church open and accessible for all.

Joanne Osborne, PCC Honorary Secretary

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Churchwardens have continued to maintain, improve and update both external and internal features of St Nicholas Church. This has ensured that it is a safe, welcoming place both to work in and to worship in for everyone.

We thank Sue Humphrey for her service as a Churchwarden in the last few years up to the last APCM. The ongoing projects that she worked hard on came to fruition in 2024. These included:

The final fitting of the grille to the East Window in May.

The installation of the Defibrillator which became operational in July.

In November slabs for the bin storage were installed at the side of the church in front of the church centre.

The fence had to be replaced too and the fencing specialist agreed to fix a faulty metal gate for us. This made access easier to the side entrance to the back of the Centre.

The Church Centre - From May/June we have had regular bookings in the Church Centre. We have employed Tony Hackney to keep the Centre clean. Tony has made a huge difference by making sure that all the rooms in the Centre, as well as the stairs,

toilets and any jobs he sees needs doing, are done well. Thank you, Tony, for going the extra mile.

The Sound System - The new system has improved and we can provide good quality recorded music for worship services and funerals. Both the sound levels and clarity are good. We will record services and stream them on the Internet when we have upgraded the WiFi. We intend to live stream our services or record them for particular groups of people, when requested.

Regular maintenance - In July/August, a carpenter strengthened the pews where necessary and stuck backs on many chairs upon which the glue had dried out. He also refurbished the wooden flower stands at the end of some pews and added a waterproof coating.

In late summer the carpenter made a new step for the entrance to the Boiler House to improve safety. He replaced a weather board to the Boiler House door.

In addition, the carpenter stabilised the three sides to the military altar. We want to thank Su Toogood and Carolyn Jones for sorting out the linens on the altar. We wish to thank Teresa Moses for staining the wooden floor next to, and under the military altar, as well as staining the wooden floor under the piano.

The lighting upgrade on the approach to the Church Centre is continuing because we had to apply for planning permission at an extra cost to the church.

All external church doors were repainted, re-stained and refurbished. The door locks and bolts at the West end have been lubricated and work more effectively. One drop bolt has been serviced.

The Stannah stair lift in the Church Centre has been a challenge, as it has had a variety of faults over the last year. We are grateful to Joanne in the office for her patience in arranging numerous visits by the engineers and liaising with us.

In October the front path to the church was professionally cleaned because it was dangerously slippery. The grouting between slabs will be attended to in good weather.

The sewer system at the entrance to the Church Centre has been attended to by both outside contractors and Tony Hackney to ensure it remains free flowing.

Whilst all this background work has been essential, we would like to thank Fr Alan for presiding and preaching at the majority of regular, as well as special services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. It has been a privilege to work with Fr Alan who has well-honed pastoral skills. He has taken home communion to housebound members of our congregation with Carolyn Jones, our ALM Co-ordinator. The parishioners are always very pleased

to be remembered. Thank you for this important ministry. Thank you for your thought-provoking sermons too.

Our Licensed Lay Ministers, Peter Elsmore and Neill Hepburn have made an important contribution to the life of the parish as they support our regular worship in a variety of ways. Two important examples are that they have both produced intercessions and stimulating Sermons. Both of them also preach at our sister church, St Mary Magdalene. They are also involved in leading with the Lent and Advent courses. Thank you, Peter and Neill, for your important contribution to St Nicholas's ministry.

Our links with St Mary Magdalen are improving steadily as we share Advent and Lent courses. We look forward to increasing the co-operation over the next few months too.

Can we offer our heartfelt thanks to the Choir who have given us so much pleasure over the last year. We really appreciate your hard work. Thanks to all the organists too who have supported the choir and our services.

Thank you to the three ALM's Carolyn Jones, Sue Humphrey and Chris Elsmore who contribute to the pastoral care of the parish and are involved in outreach and worship.

The team of volunteers who keep this church functioning are incredible. Thank you to the sacristans, stewards, flower arrangers, cleaners, church openers and all those who contribute in some way to producing refreshments at different events. It can't be done without your contribution.

Thank you to both the Office Administrators, Joanne and Jackie for your support throughout the year. Your help has been invaluable. Thank you to our Treasurer, Sandra Grattrick for advising us and enabling all the renovations to be done.

Can you continue to pray for and support your Churchwardens and PCC. Thank you for all your continuing support. We really value it.

The Churchwardens

WORSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

There had been an ongoing programme of review and replacement of altar linen and repair of the frontal for the military altar. Arrangements were in hand for the loan of vestments from St Peter at Gowt and St Botolphs. Two successful Songs of Praise had taken place in April and on the theme of Harvest in October, followed by a tea. The choir continued to lead services and joined with St Mary Magdalene's

choir for some special services. Felicity Ingleton had recorded a CD and kindly gave a donation from sales. The choir had also sung at Tesco's before Christmas and received donations for the Holiday Club bags. The ministry of healing continued to be offered during the 10:30am service on third Sundays. As always, volunteers would be welcome for reading, intercessions, arranging flowers and especially serving tea and coffee. Sue Humphrey had led a Taize service as we returned to the provision of an alternative evening service once a month. Sue had also made a very promising contact with the Head of RE at Mount Street School. For the last 18 months, Carolyn Jones and Sue Humphrey have been going into the Cathedral Care home for a monthly service, where they had been joined by Sandy Gould, the Anna Chaplain. There had been study groups during Advent and Lent. All in all, another busy year.

Su Toogood, Secretary

ST. NICHOLAS GUILD OF SERVERS

We welcomed Tony Hackney to our small group. Tony serves at the 9.00 am Eucharist on many Sundays and we are delighted that he has joined us. Neill Hepburn and I support the celebrant at most of the other services. I must also thank several of the men of the Simmons family who assist as members of the alter party on high days and holidays.

We found no difficulty finding Tony an alb to fit him; we have many! Males and females, child or adult, all shapes and sizes are most welcome to join us if they wish to be trained. It is not arduous! Wages? Well, there is quite extraordinary close-up view of the action on the alter and that is a privilege beyond price. Come and see.

Dr Peter Elsmore

MUSIC REPORT

The past twelve months have seen the choir continue to lead the music at the principle service on Sundays. We led a successful Songs of Praise service which was followed by tea.

The choir sang Christmas Carols at the entrance to Tesco, raising £81.89 towards the Holiday Bags scheme for children of the Uphill parishes.

Whilst there has been no growth in numbers of the choir, we have continued to cheerfully provide choral leadership to the best of our abilities. As a choir we appreciate the many positive comments from the congregation. We have not lost any members, which in itself speaks volumes about the general ethos and

close relationships which we have sustained. We now celebrate this with an annual Christmas meal together. We continue to be supported by a team of excellent organists. We are delighted that Dave Valentine has returned from a period of ill health. Tom Ellis continues to select a suitable anthem appropriate for each Sunday.

We look forward, along with the congregation, to the arrival of a new incumbent. Our hope is that the time to come will see a continuing recovery in the life of St Nicks and that the choir will be a significant part of that.

Margaret Arrand, Member of the Choir

CHRISTIANITY DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod remains the 'legal' body for administration and representation in the Diocese linking Parishes with the Diocese. The representation and reporting structure remains: Parish, Deanery, Diocese and Church of England through Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod and General Synod. Deanery Synod received reports from both Diocesan and General Synod. The Rural Dean is Revd Adam Watson and the Lay Chair is Dr Phil Williams.

Dr Williams is working to make the Deanery Synod more accessible and formulating an engaging programme of presentations, work and social events.

In February 2024 at the meeting held at St Mary le Wigford, Geoff Stratford, the Deanery Environmental Champion, challenged synod members to ensure environmental issues form part of their PCC agendas and offered to present at the PCC. This has been noted.

A summer social was held at St John on the Ermine on 22 June 2024 with posters from many showing their outreach work.

Safeguarding has been a key theme this year with reminders about DBS checks etc and a full presentation and Q&A session with Jack Redeyoff, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor at the meeting in June 2024, held at St George's Swallowbeck. This highlighted key resources, such as the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, the Parish Checklist, and the Safeguarding Hub and associated Dashboard. He also covered safer recruitment. The Diocesan Website is a good place to start for more information.

The meeting in October held at St Nicholas took a different approach where David Shelton gave a powerful and moving example of how scripture can be brought to life through drama, giving characters from well known Bible stories a voice and enabling them to tell their stories in way that hasn't been heard before. He said that through his one-man plays People of the

Passion, The Messenger and Changed he wants to share the gospel and make it accessible to as wide a cross-section of people as possible. He said that he had presented his plays to various different groups and asked people to contact him directly if interested in making a booking: trinityvicardavid@gmail.com

Dr Neill Hepburn, Deanery Synod Representative

PHOENIX GROUP

We have had another busy but interesting year, with talks covering such topics as Trading Standards advice on scams, Art Nouveau and the Edwardian Street Scene, the Natural Environment Projects Officer, Owls (complete with Barn Owl), Forensic Science and our very own Su and Carolyn presenting a Summer Medley. The number of those attending our meetings has gradually increased, which has enabled us to maintain the £3 charge to attendees for the speakers and refreshments. We welcome anyone, any age, church-goer or not, to join us. Our main meetings with speakers are held on the third Monday each month at 2pm and our Games Afternoons on the first Monday of each month for which we ask £1 for refreshments. Please note the games afternoons are spent as much on talking to each-other as playing for fun.

Our thanks go to Una Barnes who recently backed up the 'team' by helping with the refreshments and, of course, many thanks to the PCC for sponsoring the Group by allowing us to use the Centre free of charge.

Susan Pycock, Audrey Salisbury, Jean Bentley, Una Barnes and Betty Brown

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The Buildings Committee met on six occasions during 2024, overseeing the completion of several projects which had been ongoing for some time. These included:

Installation of the new external noticeboard; the upgrade and relocation of the PA system and installation of two video cameras; installation of a new protective grill to the East window; the defibrillator at the south-west corner of the main church building and of an external electricity socket to the right of the west door; replastering of the tower as required by the most recent quinquennial inspection; installation of a new bin storage area on the approach to the church centre and relocation of the cycle rack; a major clear up of the tower and west end of church; maintenance of the west door, tower door and church centre window frames; repair to damaged fencing running

alongside the path to the church centre and of the fire exit gate.

A good percentage of the cost of this work has been met thanks to an unexpected and very generous bequest.

Minor works have included the revarnishing of areas of the parquet flooring in the main body of the church, for which grateful thanks go to Theresa Moses; repair to several pew shelves and revarnishing of the shelves at the base of the columns in the nave; repair to the west door bolts.

Regular maintenance has been carried out on the church and church centre heating systems, the fire alarms and extinguishers and the gutters and paths.

Currently, the only items outstanding at present are: the upgrading of the lighting to the church centre path.

A faculty has been granted and an application for planning permission and listed building consent is currently in process with City of Lincoln Council.

A recurring, intermittent issue with the stairlift in the church centre, which is being handled by the Parish Administrator.

The Building Committee will continue to meet approximately every two months to discuss and implement any maintenance and repairs to the fabric of the church and church centre and to promote the appropriate use of St Nick's facilities wherever possible.

Sue Humphrey

ST. NICK'S NIPPERS

Nippers has continued to offer fun and friendship to pre-school children and their carers on every Thursday morning throughout 2024. This has been possible because our reliable band of volunteers, Sandra, Una, Chris and Joan have been there when needed. The numbers attending each week remain in single figures and we continue to search for new ways to meet the needs of the Parish. We still have no leader for Nippers. Please come and see us if you can help in any way.

Joan Beresford

THE CHURCH WEBSITE

The Parish website continues to be used to publicise regular and special services. It also contains a links to the weekly sheet and a donation page.

Social functions such as Phoenix Group meetings, Afternoon Teas and choral and musical performances are also advertised on a regular basis.

During the last year, details of both the church and the church centre rooms have been added in an attempt to increase the number of lettings by external users and earn some much-needed income.

The website would benefit from a general update and overhaul, should anyone in our congregation have the skills to take on the job.

Sue Humphrey

3RD LINCOLN (ST NICHOLAS) BROWNIES

Brownies has continued to run this year despite very low numbers. We have done some great activities, often joining with another unit and last Summer we went on a shared overnight pack holiday themed around animals.

We have worked on several badges including chippy challenge which saw us award the Elite Chip Shop the best chips in the area. In the Summer we had a shared Olympics night with the 22nd Lincoln Brownies which included a picnic.

We had our usual Christmas party for the girls and are looking forward to attending the Mother's Day service in March.

We are just reviewing whether Brownies can continue after July due to the low numbers. We will advise the church when we know.

Kaye Robinson, Leader in Charge

3rd Lincoln Brownies

SAFEGUARDING

The need for church workers to complete Safeguarding Training and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Services) checks remains a high priority. Both the Charity Commission and our Insurers expect us to comply with these requirements. Most of our volunteers understand the importance of this and have completed what is required of them. We continue to strive for 100% compliance.

Joan Beresford, Parish Safeguarding Officer

"NOT THE VICAR'S REPORT"

This will, I trust, be the last such report from me – after another year has passed with me being the nearest thing to a parish priest at St. Nicholas.

The Bishop of Burnley recently said of lengthy vacancies: that after six months things begin to fall apart. Well, I think we can say that has not happened here, thanks to the dedication and hard work of a significant number of people.

In the parish office we are blessed to have Jackie and Joanne (who has settled into her new duties with

commendable efficiency). They do far more than many might realise – in part because much of it is concerned with arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals – of which we have a significant number. They also deal with organising rotas of organists and readers, the weekly sheet, as well as much of the maintenance of the building and the letting of rooms.

Our Churchwardens, Chris Elsmore, David Gratrack and Roger Hansard, who effectively have to function as sidespersons as well, are anything but nominal office-holders, taking on a variety of responsibilities and supporting the clergy.

Our two Readers, Dr. Peter Elsmore and Dr. Neil Hepburn both make significant contributions to our parish life, and also assist our neighbours at St. Mary Magdalene's by preaching there. Peter also serves as lay chair of the PCC and its Standing Committee, as well as being lay convenor of our Deanery Mission Partnership. Neil serves on the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Board and the Board of Readers.

Two retired priests who live in the parish, Archdeacon Geoff Arand and Mother Gloria Steadman, have stepped into the breach on a number of occasions when I have had to be away, as have Archdeacon Gavin and Archdeacon Mark Steadman. (At Christmas the parish had no less than three archdeacons ministering to it.)

We have also had the unusual experience of having Mother Hannah with us once a month to preside and preach as part of the getting-to-know-each-other process, which will culminate with what we hope will be the successful conclusion of the formal appointment process.

Our Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) Carolyn Jones and Sue Humphrey have different roles. Carolyn concentrates on our pastoral ministry to those who are housebound or in care homes, sharing with me in visiting and taking the Sacrament to them. Sue, having retired from her joint role of Churchwarden-Parish Administrator, is developing her skills at leading worship, organising the intercession rota, and has been re-establishing contacts with Mount Street Primary School, which we hope will bear fruit in the future.

The PCC has continued to function effectively during the vacancy, under the chairmanship of Dr. Peter Elsmore. Joanne has continued in her role as PCC Secretary with her customary efficiency. Sandra Gratrack has done sterling work as our Treasurer, in spite of spells of ill health. She would like to retire, but we have not yet identified a successor. With the assistance of Sandra and of Joan Beresford, we mounted a successful Parish Giving renewal effort, which has improved our financial situation; although we are not out of the woods yet. Joan, as our

Safeguarding Officer, keeps us firmly up to the mark on this important issue. Buildings do not look after themselves, and the members of the Building Sub-Committee exercise responsibility for ours on behalf of the PCC and in conjunction with the parish office.

The appearance of a church building sends an important message to those who enter it. Churches, like houses, tend to accumulate 'stuff,' so de-cluttering is needed from time-to-time. A successful 'skip day' was held to this end, and there has been further tidying up in the servery area at the back of church and areas of the floor re-varnished. We also have a splendid notice board to replace the one wrecked by inebriated vandals.

Our principal services on Sundays and Feast Days are enhanced by the choir and our rota of organists – Geoff Anderson, Brian Medcalf, Simon Clark and David Radwell. The latter are also invaluable for funerals and weddings and for occasional special services like Songs of Praise and the All-Souls Memorial Service. We have also had a kind offer of help from the Cathedral Music Department who loaned us Tom Bailey, one of the organ scholars on Christmas Day. Tom Ellis of the choir is ever-inventive in finding pieces for the choir to sing in addition to our standard mass settings and hymns.

Those who serve as vergers at weddings and funerals and assist in welcoming baptism parties play a significant role in our interaction with people who are often not regular church-goers and can be surprisingly nervous when setting foot on holy ground. Some of our funerals have been the result of tragic circumstances, so the kindness and sensitivity of our vergers and administrators has been especially important.

The sacristy team who prepares the altar, those who read lessons, lead intercessions, arrange flowers, provide coffee and refreshments, church openers, cleaners, help at Nippers and count collections all make valuable contributions to our worship. These tasks may seem unspectacular but we would miss them if they were not done. We are grateful that they are not only done, but done well and faithfully.

When I look back over the past couple of years, I realize that a number of people are no longer with us. Adele Sheriff, who played such an enthusiastic role in work with children. Kate Mitchell had already left us for the ordained ministry and is now serving as a priest in Scunthorpe. Fran Bell is following the same path and will be ordained deacon to serve in the Diocese of Newcastle this summer. To provide candidates for ordination is a sign of spiritual vitality in a parish in which we can take a proper pride.

When I was licensed at St. Nicholas', a parish with both Vicar and Curate, I did not expect to do more than help out occasionally. Well, things have not turned out quite like that! What I have tried to do, in concert with others, is not just to maintain the regular round of worship and pastoral care, but to extend its reach with some special services like 'Songs of Praise,' and also what Bishop Stephen calls raise the "spiritual temperature" of the parish through preaching and teaching, writing and study groups.

*The Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses
Warden of Spirituality, Diocese of Lincoln
Succentor, Lincoln Cathedral
Associate Priest, St. Nicholas & St. John, Newport*

**MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS &
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
2025**

**AGENDA
MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Appointment of Clerk to the meetings
3. Minutes of Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens 2024
4. Election of Churchwardens

**AGENDA
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
3. Reports:
 - a. Church Electoral Roll
 - b. Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
 - c. Financial Report
 - d. Statement of PCC funds and property
 - e. Accounts for the year 2024
 - f. Budget for the year 2025
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner
5. Proceedings of Christianity Deanery Synod
6. PCC Reports
7. Elections:
 - a. Parochial Church Councillors
 - b. Deanery Synod
8. Any matters of parochial or general church interest (by consent)
 - a. Date of next meeting
 - b. Parochial Church Council – meets immediately following the APCM
9. Closing Prayers

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING FOR THE
ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS**

held on 17 March 2024 at 11:30 am

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Tom and Jane Ellis, Roger Hansard, Margaret and Geoff Arrand, Maureen Christie, Andy Simmons, Clare Wise and Diana Mowbray.
2. **Appointment of Clerk** to the Meetings – Joanne Osborne. Proposed by Su Toogood and seconded by Chris Elsmore.

3. **The Minutes** of the 2023 Meeting of Parishioners agreed as a true record. Proposed by Adele Sheriff and seconded by John Simmons.
4. **Election of Churchwardens**

There were three nominations received for the positions of Churchwardens, David Grattrick (proposed by Peter Elsmore and seconded by Margaret Arrand), Roger Hansard (proposed by David Simmons and seconded by Joanne Osborne) and Christine Elsmore (proposed by Sue Humphrey and seconded by Betty Brown).

Peter Elsmore thanked the Churchwardens for all their hard work in the past year and for the year ahead. Sue Humphrey stood down as Churchwarden and Office Administrator. Thanks were given to Sue for all her hard work in both roles over the years.

There being no further nominations, the three nominees were duly elected, subject to being sworn in at the Archdeacon's Visitation.

There is a vacancy for a fourth Churchwarden, Chris Elsmore said that allowances would be made if someone wanted to stand, but were unsure because of being in full-time employment. Maybe someone would like to be an assistant Churchwarden and just undertake 1-2 services a month, that would also be a big help.

The Chairman then closed the Meeting of the Election of Churchwardens.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING 2024**

The meeting took place 17 March 2023 at 11:30 am

There were 24 persons attending.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Tom and Jane Ellis, Roger Hansard, Margaret and Geoff Arrand, Maureen Christie, Andy Simmons, Clare Wise and Diana Mowbray.
2. **Minutes of the APCM 2023** were accepted as a true record, with the following amendments; page 11, point 3e Accounts for the year should say 2023 and point 3f should say budget for the year 2024. Proposed by Adele Sheriff and seconded by Sue Humphrey.
3. **Reports**
 - a. **Electoral Roll.** The report was accepted by the meeting.
 - b. **Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.** The report was accepted by the meeting.

- c. **Financial Report.** Sandra Gratrack had provided a report for the meeting which was attached to the Annual Report.
- d. **Statement of PCC funds and property.** The statement was available under 'Financial Review' and was accepted by the meeting.
- e. **Accounts for the year 2023.** These were attached to the Annual Report.
- f. **Budget for the year 2024.** This was shown under 'Financial Review'.

The Accounts and Budget were unanimously accepted and thanks were recorded to the Treasurer, Sandra Gratrack, and our Independent Examiner, Capt. John Lee.

4. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.**

Capt. Lee will be stepping down as our Independent Examiner and thanks were given for his years of service in this role.

Sandra Gratrack said that John Steadman, Auditor, has agreed to be the Independent Examiner for the coming year and this was unanimously agreed. Proposed by Nick James and seconded by Betty Brown.

- 5. The report from the Christianity Deanery Synod can be found in the Annual Report.
- 6. All the **PCC Reports** could be found in the Annual Report.
- 7. **Elections**

a. **Parochial Church Councillors.** PCC members serve for a period of three years and were expected to be a member of at least one of the sub-committees of the PCC. They were Trustees of the church with some responsibility for the finance and fabric of the church. They were also expected to attend six meetings of the PCC during the year. This year Betty Brown, Sally Hubbard and Carolyn Jones had all completed their terms of office on the PCC, resulting in there being four vacancies for three-year terms.

Nominations had been received for Sue Humphrey (proposed by Adele Sheriff and seconded by Una Barnes), Carolyn Jones (proposed by Su Toogood and seconded by Sue Humphrey) and Su Toogood (proposed by Carolyn Jones and seconded by Chris Elsmore) for a three-year term and they were duly elected.

b. **Deanery Synod Representatives.** Su Toogood has stood down as a Deanery Synod Representative. A formal vote of thanks for her hard work and dedication was given by Peter

Elsmore. There had not been any nominations received to replace Su. There are currently two vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives who would join Dr Neill Hepburn who continues in this role.

8. **Matters of parochial or general church interest**

Peter Elsmore reminded the meeting that in the past year we lost a very dear friend of the parish, Susan Whate. He expressed his personal gratitude and that of the parish as a whole for her very large contribution to the life of the parish.

Sue Humphrey has stepped down as Churchwarden and Office Administrator and a very big thank you goes to her for all her hard work in both roles.

Sandra Gratrack had also informed the Chairman that she will step down as Honorary Treasurer and has given one year's notice. A very big thank you to Sandra for all her hard work over the years.

Peter Elsmore updated the meeting on the meetings that had been held with Bishops Nicholas and David regarding the appointment of a Stipendiary Priest. Rev'd. Hannah Gravell who is currently completing her training at St Wulfrums, Grantham has been identified as a possible replacement for our Priest. There will be a period of us getting to know her and she getting to know us. It has been suggested that she visit St Nicholas once a month for the rest of the year, there will then be a formal interview. This exploratory process is for both sides to see if the position is right. The next steps will be for her to meet the Church Wardens, then the PCC, then the congregation.

Safeguarding – all PCC members must undertake the relevant training to serve on the PCC.

Su Toogood wanted to offer a vote of thanks to Fr. Alan Moses for the work he has done for us whilst we are in vacancy. The meeting agreed.

David Mowbray wished everyone a happy St Patricks Day and also wanted to say thank you for the Lent Groups that had been arranged. He also asked if there was an update on Fran Bell and Kate Mitchell who were training for Ordination. Fr. Alan Moses said that he was in contact with them and was pleased to say that Kate was working in a Parish in Scunthorpe and was also Chaplin to the Royal Signals. He would also enquire as to when Fran was to be ordained.

The date of the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be announced later.

- b. The Parochial Church Council would meet directly after the meeting and the next full PCC meeting would be on 13th May 2024.

9. **Closing Prayers** were led by Fr. Alan Moses ending with The Grace.

Financial Review 2024

This year's Annual Accounts for 2024 are presented in this report. My thanks go to Councillor Lance Pennell who stepped in to be our Independent Examiner.

Total receipts for the ordinary unrestricted funds were £109,504 and are detailed in the financial statements. This investment income of £41,659.

Expenditure for 2024 was £119,761 spent to provide Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our parish share of £60,000. The increase in expenditure was in part due to the major works we finally completed at a cost of £21,035. The gas and electricity charges amounted to £8,480.

We continue to overspend on a monthly basis, regardless of the successful parish giving review. I am grateful to all those who increased their giving and to the help I received from Joan Beresford.

Projected Budget for 2025

In the coming year we need to increase our income in order to maintain the running of St Nicholas Church.

In our projected budget for 2024 our Parish Share remains at £60,000. We need to manage our future expenditure to within our projected income level of £105,850.

The monies held in our deposit and investment accounts are as follows

CCLA Investment account £81,706.97

CCLA Deposit account 1 - £59,197.07

CCLA Deposit account 2 - £42,135.14

Our current account at present holds £17,027.47

We are paying for the new sound system by instalment's the remaining amount outstanding to be paid in 2025 is £13,098.78.

Outstanding works still to be completed are for the new lighting down the passage to the centre costing £2,351.

To cover these costs money will need to be transferred from the CCLA deposit account.

Sandra Grattrick
Honorary Treasurer

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2024
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Receipts</u>	2023		2024	
<u>Incoming Resources from donors</u>				
Planned giving – Gift Aided	38101		38673	
Income Tax Received	12482		8761	
Planned Giving – not Gift aided	3349		3173	
Collections at Services	3526		3101	
Gift days & Sundry Donations	2760		2825	
Brownies	208		56	
Nippers	199		56	
Phoenix Group	100		250	
		60725		56895
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources</u>				
Grants & Legacies	80667		870	
Fund-raising	1089		1148	
Insurance claim & other Income	37		115	
		82513		2133
<u>Income from investments</u>				
Investments	1781		41659	
Interest CBF Deposit & CAF	1256		61	
		3037		41720
<u>Income from charitable & Ancilliary trade</u>				
Fees	9689		6151	
Hire of Rooms	3360		2605	
		13049		8756
		159324		109504

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2024

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	2023	2024	
<u>Income for restricted use</u>			
Christian Aid	299	80	
Children's Society	374	65	
Water Aid		319	
Collections at funerals	0	171	
Ride & Stride	0	157	
Sound System	100	2000	
Holiday Bag	172	182	
Poppy Appeal		6	
Building Project	200		
Afternoon Tea for Cancer Research	0	416	
Gifts		208	
Community Larder	75		
Food Bank		45	
Women's World Day of Prayer	196		
Wedding Fees for 2025		716	
		1416	4491
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>		160740	113995

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2024
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

9

<u>Payments</u>	Year 31/12/23		Year 31/12/204	
<u>Grants</u>				
Overseas missions	182		399	
Home missions	653		1426	
Secular Charities	319		401	
				2226
<u>Activities directly related to Church work</u>				
Diocesan Quota	59655		60000	
Clergy Expenses	1334		1020	
Church Upkeep	3470		2809	
Church Utilities expense	11212		8480	
Upkeep of services	1168		1879	
Upkeep of Churchyard	273		94	
Nippers & Level Up	120		0	
		86926		74281
<u>Trading:-</u>				
Trading for Equipment & Maint.Costs	629		1068	
Major Works			21035	
Catering & Household	871		497	
Salaries & Support Costs	11147		11161	
		12647		33761
<u>Administration</u>				
Flowers	896		985	
Photocopier	733		1219	
Bank charges	86		82	
Admin/Other	772		1114	
Phone & Broadband	501		659	
St Nicholas Insurance	5102		5433	
		8090		9492
		108816		119761

3

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2024
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	<u>Balance C/Fwd 01/01/2024</u>	Balance as at 31/12/2024
General Account	122662	118359
CCLA -CBF Deposit A/c 1	65709	59197
CCLA - Deposit A/c 2	40011	42135
CAF Cash	16942	17027
	122662	118359
Investments		
Shawbrooke Fixed Term a/c	37431	0
CCLA investment account	77738	81707

<u>Notes to Accounts On Income</u>	Year to 31/12/2023	Year to 31/12/2024
<u>Fund Raising (Major Events)</u>		
Ride & Stride	0	314
Coffee Mornings	1006	781
Centre Hire	3360	2605
Fair Trade	40	0
Donations for Flowers	896	627
Phoenix Group	100	250
Xmas Fayre		85
Cancer Research Afternoon Tea		416
<u>Expenditure</u>		
<u>Church Running Expenses</u>		
Insurance	5102	5433
Heat, Light & Water	11212	8480
Telephone & Broadband	501	659

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2024
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

I have examined the Statement of Income & Expenditure, also the Cash Book and Payments & Receipts Vouchers. These accounts accurately reflect the true financial affairs of the Church of St. Nicholas with St. John, Newport, Lincoln as at 31st December 2024

Name LANCAOT JOHN PENNELL

Signature L J Pennell

Date. 26 FEBRUARY 2025

Address CHILTERN LODGE,
SCHOOL LANE,
CANWICK,
LINCOLN
LN4 2RP

Accounts

The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist,
Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
17th March 2024

Registered Charity Number: 1133977

The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist, Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 17th March 2024



INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report for the financial Year 2023 for the Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John, Newport, Lincoln. In this report you will find brief notes about church life, together with the accounts for the year 2023, duly examined (appended at the end of the document), and a budget for 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish Church of St. Nicholas is situated on the east side of Newport, Lincoln. It is within the Diocese of Lincoln in the Church of England. The correspondence address is: St. Nicholas Church, Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3DP, telephone number 01522 540614 or email stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number: 1133977.

CLERGY & LAY READERS

Vicar: Currently in Vacancy
Associate Priest: Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses
Dr. Peter Elsmore Reader & Lay Vice-Chairman
Dr. Neill Hepburn Reader

WARDENS

Mrs. Chris Elsmore
Mr. David Grattrick
Mr. Roger Hansard
Mrs. Susan Humphrey

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

	<i>For term to finish</i>
Dr. Neill Hepburn	2026
Mrs. Susan Toogood	2024

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mrs. Joanne Osborne	Honorary Secretary
Mrs. Sandra Grattrick	Honorary Treasurer

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

	<i>Elected for term to finish</i>
Mrs. Betty Brown	2024
Mrs. Sally Hubbard	2024
Mrs. Carolyn Jones	2024
Mrs. Adele Sheriff	2025
Mrs. Joan Beresford	2025
Mr. Ron Johnson	2025
Mr. Andrew Simmons	2026
Mrs. Margaret Arrand	2026
Ms. Felicity Ingleton	2026

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to PCC.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

St. Nicholas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Church Wardens and the Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses, Associate Priest, whilst we are in vacancy, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for the care of the church building and its grounds, and responsibility for St. Matthias, Burton Road, which is used under lease by the Antiochian Orthodox Church.

The PCC meets about six times a year. A more detailed report is given elsewhere by the PCC Secretary. The PCC operates through a number of committees:

Standing Committee

As the only committee required by law, it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Worship, Discipleship & Education Committee

Oversees all matters of worship and Christian nurture.

Buildings Committee

Oversees the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

STATISTICS FOR MISSION

		2022	2023
BAPTISMS		10	5
WEDDINGS		8	6
FUNERALS	Church	24	19
	Crematorium	3	8
	Graveside Only	2	1
	Total Funerals	29	28
CHURCH ATTENDANCE			
1 st Sunday in October		62	57
2 nd Sunday in October		75	78
3 rd Sunday in October		64	82
4 th Sunday in October		49	70
USUAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (including children)		62	68

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCES

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The current Church Electoral Roll has been in place since 2019 and comprises 115 names at present. 2 names were removed during the year, and 3 were added.

Joanne Osborne, Church Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022

This year's Annual Accounts for 2023 are presented in this report. My thanks go to Capt. John Lee as our Independent Examiner.

Total receipts for the ordinary unrestricted funds were £159,324.04 and are detailed in the financial statements. This includes generous grants and legacies of £80,667 making our actual income stream £78,657.04.

Expenditure for 2023 was £108,816 spent to provide Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our parish share of £55,500. The increase in expenditure is explained by the delayed clearance payments of £6,676.26 from 2022 accounts. It is also due to an increase in gas and electricity charges amounting to £6,094. We have also completed some of our outstanding planned maintenance work of £9,694. At the end of the year this equated to an overspend of £7,698.

Projected Budget for 2024

In the coming year we need to increase our income in order to maintain the running of St Nicholas Church. In our projected budget for 2024 our Parish Share increases to £60,000. We need to manage our future expenditure to within our projected income level of £78,300.

The monies held in our deposit and investment accounts are as follows:

CCLA Investment Account £77,738.41

CCLA Deposit Account 1 £65,709.33

CCLA Deposit Account 2 £40,011.04

Our current account at present holds £48,303.34 following the maturity of one of our investment accounts. £30,000 of this will be used to pay for the outstanding planned maintenance work amounting to £28,044.92 now we have received all the approvals required. The work waiting completion is:

Replacement of damaged Noticeboard

Replacing damaged covering for East Window

External fitting of Defibrillator and external electric socket

External Bin Store

Replacement of improved sound system and streaming system

Sandra Grattrick, Honorary Treasurer

PLANNED GIVING

At the end of 2023 we had 69 regular givers using either the Parish Giving Scheme (our preferred option), standing orders to CAF Bank (our current account) or numbered envelopes. Of these, 58 are taxpayers who have made a Gift Aid Declaration allowing us to claim back 25% of their donations from HMRC.

	Gift Aided	Not Gift Aided	Total
PGS	27	2	29
CAF Bank	28	5	33
Envelopes	3	4	7
Total	58	11	69

Please use this time to review your giving. If you have not yet joined one of our regular giving schemes, make today the day you start. If you have not increased your giving for some time, make today the day you do. If you are a taxpayer, but have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration, please ask me for a form.

Joan Beresford, Planned Giving Officer

PCC HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

We are still in vacancy, but after a meeting with Bishops' David and Nicholas to discuss appointing a new Parish Priest under the Strategic Development Programme, it is hoped that a new priest will be in place early in 2025.

We welcomed Dr Neill Hepburn as a Licensed Lay Minister who works alongside Peter Elsmore to support our regular worship.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to recruit a Music Director, but a working group has been set up to look at obtaining funding and working with other Uphill churches.

Involvement in the Holiday Club Activity Bags continues, this has now moved from 6 to 3 times a year; Easter, Summer and Christmas. This is another way for us to work with other churches and also be in contact with families in the parish.

A number of planning and faculty applications have finally come to fruition with a new noticeboard, protective grille to the East window, defibrillator and external electrical socket all being fitted shortly. Thanks to Sue Humphrey for all her hard work in getting these through the numerous approvals.

A big thank you to Ron Johnson who very kindly paid for the organ to be repaired.

Sue Humphrey has decided to step down from her role as Administrator and Church Warden at this year's Annual Meeting and I would like to say a very big thank you for all her hard work, dedication, and kindness over the years.

Joanne Osborne, PCC Honorary Secretary

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF THE YEAR: 'Consolidation, Co-operation & Anticipation

As they have worked to implement the recommendations made under the Time to Change Together (TtCT) initiative and during a prolonged period of vacancy, your Churchwardens have worked alongside clergy and laity to maintain regular worship at St Nick's, to maintain a safe and welcoming church building and church centre and to be a steadying influence during a period of continuing uncertainty and re-adjustment.

We continue to be thankful for Fr Alan who, with apparently inexhaustible stamina and a wry sense of humour, has presided and preached at the majority of our regular and special services, planned the programme of hymns, chaired meetings, conducted baptisms, weddings and funerals and offered pastoral counselling and support to baptism and wedding families, comfort to grieving families and still found time to visit the sick and offer home communion to the growing number of housebound members within our congregation. All this alongside his other duties

and responsibilities at the Cathedral and for the Diocese. We are also grateful to the retired priests and our Archdeacon, who have supported St Nick's, presiding and preaching at occasional services.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to welcome Neill Hepburn to our team of Licensed Lay Ministers. Neill has worked alongside Peter Elsmore to support our regular worship in a variety of ways and, in the coming months, both our Licensed Lay Ministers will have a more active role in preaching at our Sunday services. In addition, Peter has been heavily involved in the planning and delivery of our Advent and Lent study courses, as well as preaching on a regular basis at our sister church of St Mary Magdalene and continuing his role within the TtCT initiative. Thank you, Peter and Neill, for your steadfast support of St Nick's ministry.

An enormous "thank you" is also due to all the sacristans, stewards, flower arrangers, cleaners, openers and refreshments folk who support life at St Nick's week by week, with a special thanks to Andy and Reuben Simmons, who have acted as servers on important occasions. We are also very grateful to our choir. Their dedication to our worship and willingness to respond to the various challenges they have faced in the continued absence of a Musical Director (including the vagaries of the CD player) are much appreciated, as is the support of our team of organists.

In terms of fabric, all the planning and diocesan permissions for the various projects which have been in train since before the pandemic, have progressed and we look forward to installing the new noticeboard, the protective grille to the East window, the defibrillator and an external electricity socket by the west door in the first quarter of 2024. Permissions have also been granted for an upgrade to the PA system, relocation of the PA desk from the area aptly christened "the bunker" by Fr Alan, to the back of church and the installation of video cameras to allow for live streaming of services and musical events as and when this is requested. A new bin storage area will also be created alongside the Stag's Head car park and, once that has been done, the unkempt area leading up to the church centre entrance will be developed into a wild flower area.

Other work recommended in the Quinquennial Inspection has also been completed, including some major replastering in the tower and the nave. All necessary maintenance of all our facilities has been

monitored and carried out in a timely manner, with regular servicing of church and centre heating, checking of the safety of the electrical supply, the installation of a new fuse box, tuning of the organ and piano, PAT testing, checking of fire alarms and extinguishers and servicing of the stair lift all carried out over the past year.

Our links with St Mary's continue to develop slowly but steadily, with Mthr. Julia and Lay Ministers from St Mary's leading some of the Lent and Advent meetings and members of each congregation supporting various activities in their sister churches. We look forward to increasing that co-operation over the coming months and years.

Following PCC conversations with Bishops David and Nicholas towards the end of the year and after a couple of years of "steady as she goes", it is likely that the coming year will see an addition to our clergy team. You will, of course, be kept informed of any likely changes. We ask that you continue to pray for and support your Churchwardens and all those involved in making any decisions which may affect our journey of faith together and which will hopefully enable St Nick's to flourish and remain a place in which all are made to feel welcomed and loved by God.

The Churchwardens

WORSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee has expanded to include Neill Hepburn, our second Lay Reader, and Rev. Julia Hepburn attending to facilitate joint worship with St Mary's, for example during Holy Week. There has been an ongoing programme of review, repair and replacement of alter linen and vestments. Following the successful Songs of Praise last year, another had been agreed for 21.04.24, to be followed by tea. The choir continued to lead services and organised a successful table top sale. As always, more volunteers were needed for reading, intercessions, arranging flowers and serving tea and coffee.

Su Toogood, Secretary

ST. NICHOLAS GUILD OF SERVERS

Yes! It is a plural. I'd like to thank Andrew and Reuben Simmons for their help in the sanctuary on the occasion of major services during the year.

It is such a privilege to be so close to the action on the alter. Servers need to be primary school age up to their eighties! If you feel called to join us, do please have a word with Fr. Alan or me. Full training will be given, but it's not that hard.

Peter Elsmore

MUSIC REPORT

The past twelve months have seen the choir grow in both numbers and confidence. We were pleased to welcome Claire Wise who strengthens the soprano section.

We continue our search for a new musical director. In the mean time we continue with our excellent organists who support us each Sunday. Sadly, David Lee is still unable to play for us each month due to an ongoing medical condition. We look forward to the time he will be able to play on the third Sunday in the month and take choir practice on the preceding Friday.

We now have choir practice twice a month which is led by Jane Ellis. We are also joined by Linda Hepburn-Booth who accompanies us on the piano. This is an enormous help to us as we learn new pieces. We sing an anthem each Sunday during communion which is much appreciated by members of the congregation.

Tom Ellis is in his second year of study for a music degree at Bishop Grosseteste University. Part of this degree requires him to have a work placement within a musical setting. He has agreed with the Church Wardens that this could take place within the choir here at St Nicholas on an ongoing basis until the end of May/June. Tom will continue to select and organise the music sung during communion and at our upcoming Easter Services. I know the choir will give him their full support in his endeavours.

Margaret Arrand, Member of the Choir

CHRISTIANITY DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod remains the 'legal' body for administration and representation in the Diocese linking Parishes with the Diocese. The representation and reporting structure remains: Parish, Deanery, Diocese and Church of England through Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod and General Synod. During the October 2023 meeting Canon Muriel Robinson reviewed this process and cited some examples of issues that has been taken through this process. Deanery Synod received reports from both Diocesan

and General Synod. The Dean is Canon Paul Noble and the Lay Chair is Dr Phil Williams.

As part of Time to Change Together (TtCT) the Local Mission Partnership (LMP) is co-terminus with the Deanery and the Partnership Dean is Rev Jim Prestwood and the Lay Co-Chair Dr Peter Elsmore. Whist remaining separate, both are members of Deanery Synod which should facilitate joined up working. The day-to-day issues relating to church pairings, clergy deployment, sharing resources, working together sit largely with the Partnership Deanery.

The Deanery has appointed Geoff Stratford as the volunteer Environmental Champion. Geof has a long and deep personal commitment to environmental issues and welcomes the opportunity to meet with PCCs to work with them to understand and develop their commitment to environmental issues.

Two clergy have departed during 2023: Rev Linda Harris (Birchwood) and Rev Richard Steele (St Peter in Eastgate). Elections took place for the new Deanery Synod in October 2023.

A session exploring issues of concern for synod members took place in October 2023 and identified two key themes of Safeguarding (in its broadest sense including safer recruitment and the role of Bystanders) and around Ministry of Children and young people. These will be themes for meetings in June and October 2024 respectively.

Dr. Neill Hepburn, Deanery Synod Representative

PHOENIX GROUP

I am happy to report that the Group has had another successful year, with around 25 people attending the main meetings.

We continue with the format of Games Afternoons on the first Monday of the month (except when this coincides with Bank Holidays when it will be held on the following day) and the main meeting with a speaker/entertainment on the third Monday of each month. All meetings start at 2pm and we ask for donations of £1 for the Games Afternoons and £3 for the main meetings to cover refreshments and speakers' fees.

The 2023 programme included talks on 'My Arranged Marriage', a 'Strawberry Tea', 'Experiences as a Vulcan Pilot', and 'Climate Change' and the year ended with a Christmas special comprising entertainment by Nigel and Teri together with seasonal refreshments.

The Phoenix Group is facilitated by the Church which affords us fee-free lettings as part of its outreach to everyone within the Parish and beyond, whether they are church-goers or not.

Watch out for a poster listing next year's programme once the Church's new notice-board arrives!

Betty Brown

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The Buildings Committee met on five occasions during 2023 to discuss the on-going maintenance of both the church and church centre buildings and to recommend and expedite any general maintenance and servicing work as well as work required under the 2022 Quinquennial Inspection and other projects involving the fabric. With input from the Parish Administrator, the committee also monitored the hiring of the church and church centre to external hirers.

General maintenance and inspection tasks during the year included the annual PAT testing, servicing of the church and church centre central heating systems, inspection and testing of the centre fire alarms and church and church centre fire safety equipment, servicing of the Stannah lift and Dyson vacuum cleaner, jet washing of the church and church centre paths, gutter clearance and twice-yearly tuning of the organ and piano.

Repairs to the fabric have included major work to the organ pump, repairs to the church radiators, the installation of a new fuse box at the west end of the nave following the electrical installation safety inspection, plastering in the tower and nave (recommended in the Quinquennial Report, installation of a new photocopier and jet washing of the church and church centre paths.

The committee has also spent considerable time and effort in obtaining all the necessary planning permissions and faculties for long-delayed projects including:

- The installation of metal grilles to the East Window
- The installation of a defibrillator in the church yard, at the south-west corner of the main church building; an external electrical socket to the left-hand side of the west door and the creation of a new bin storage area adjacent to

the Stag's Head car park in the "wild area" on the approach to the church centre;

- The installation of a new noticeboard in the church yard;
- The upgrade and relocation of the sound system controls to the rear of the nave and installation of two video cameras to enable live streaming of services and events as and when required;
- A retrospective faculty for the aforementioned plastering work.

In the coming year, the committee plans to compile a rolling list of internal and external repairs to the church as well as considering larger projects such as reflooring of the main church building and installation of improved lighting along the church centre path. It also intends to obtain a skip in the near future to help with clearance of any redundant/broken items in the tower and the pallets currently rotting at the rear of the church centre.

Sue Humphrey

ST. NICK'S NIPPERS

Nippers has continued to offer fun and friendship to pre-school children and their carers on every Thursday morning throughout 2023. This has been possible because our reliable band of volunteers, Sandra, Una, Louise, Alison, Joan, Chris, Kate and Joanne have been there when needed. The numbers attending decreased considerably towards the end of 2023. We are exploring new ways to discover what is needed in the Parish.

The death of our sister, Susan Whate, was keenly felt by the Nippers families whom she had loved and who loved her. Nippers was so important to her and she worked hard to make it a vital part of St Nicholas'.

Special thanks must go to our leader, Louise. As her youngest started school this year, Louise ended her time with Nippers in the summer. No new leader has been appointed yet. Is this a job that you could do for St. Nicholas'? Please come and see us if you'd like more information.

Joan Beresford

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

For the second year, St Nick's have taken an active part in the Holiday Club in a Bag (HCIAB) outreach initiative with our brothers and sisters in the other

Uphill churches. Over 200 activity bags are prepared 3 times a year and are delivered personally to families in the parishes. Thank you to all who have supported this project with bag packing and/or financial support.

Although we still don't have a regular children's group meeting on a Sunday morning, St Nick's Brownies join us for key festival Sunday mornings - Harvest, Mothering Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, and Nippers continue to meet together on a Thursday morning. In addition, there have been a few activity mornings offered - Good Friday, Summer Saturday, Advent. Numbers for this are currently low, but we continue to keep our doors open and to provide opportunities for families to come into church for fellowship.

Adele Sheriff

THE CHURCH WEBSITE

During 2023 the Parish website has been used to support the electronic distribution of the weekly sheet and to publicise regular and special services, as well as Phoenix Group activities, musical recitals by various visiting choirs and other music groups. It has also featured the various parish-outreach-related events which have taken place such as the picnic, Lego camp, craft morning and flower arranging workshop.

It is a future of parish life which would benefit from updating and refreshing in format, something, it is hoped, will be addressed in the coming months as part of our efforts to improve communication with the wider parish.

Sue Humphrey, Parish Administrator

3RD LINCOLN (ST NICHOLAS) BROWNIES

We have had another successful year at Brownies with numbers settling at 15 Brownies, we have recently seen a small drop due to a new group opening so if you have any 7-10-year-olds that would like to join us please let us know.

Last year we attended our first district Pack Holiday and Camp in May, with 9 other local Brownie units, we went to Trusthorpe to stay in Seagull house for a seaside themed weekend, getting on the beach, completing lots of crafts and some of the girls had their first tent sleepout!

Brownies have completed several badges over the year, including 'Know Yourself', and 'Painting'. We were delighted to help host a Christmas Carol Service in December with some lovely songs being sung by the

girls and lovely refreshments from the Church. We also helped decorate the tree at the coffee morning. We also held a brilliant joint fundraiser with Joan, a 'Toy Sale' which raised over £100 between us. As always, we love joining the Remembrance Services and Mother's Day.

Funding at the moment is extremely tricky for us, as it is for many other groups - our annual census payment has gone from around £38 per child to £54 which in a cost-of-living crises is not ideal. We will work hard on fundraising going forward, to try and alleviate passing on the costs to parents.

As always, we are extremely grateful and thankful for the Church's support, the use of the room every week and inviting us to take part in lots of the church activities. We are looking forward to another successful year.

*Kaye Robinson, Leader in Charge
3rd Lincoln Brownies*

SAFEGUARDING

In 2023 the Diocese added "Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse" to the list of training courses which PCC members and Authorised Lay Ministers are required to complete. This, like most Safeguarding training courses, is an online course so can be completed at a time and pace to suit the individual.

Both the Charity Commission and our Insurers expect us to comply with these requirements. Most of our volunteers understand the importance of this and have completed what is required of them. We continue to strive for 100% compliance.

Joan Beresford, Parish Safeguarding Officer

"NOT THE VICAR'S REPORT"

Another year has passed without the appointment of a new parish priest for St. Nicholas and I find myself writing this report for the Annual Meeting again, but I hope that this may be for the last time.

The fact that the life of the parish has been sustained through this long vacancy is testimony to the resilience of the congregation and the commitment of those who worship at St. Nicholas.

Our schedule of public worship has been maintained with the help of our team of retired clergy, Archdeacon Gavin (who lives in the parish, our lay readers, churchwardens, choir, organists, parish administrators, sacristans, readers and intercessors,

verger and flower-arrangers. Worship is a labour-intensive activity! As well as the regular celebrations of the Eucharist on Sundays and Wednesdays, there have been occasional special services: a Songs of Praise, a St. Nicholas's Day service for the Brownies, a Crib Service on Christmas Eve and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Pastoral Care, visiting the sick and elderly in hospital, care home or their own home, taking the sacrament of the Eucharist to those unable to come to church, has been maintained by the clergy and pastoral assistants, as well as by an informal network of friends.

The smooth running of the parish office staffed by Sue Humphrey and Jackie Jones has played a major part in sustaining parish life. They play a vital part in the organisation of both our weekly worship and the pastoral offices: the baptisms, weddings and funerals of which we have a considerable number. Much of this important facet of our ministry as a parish church goes on out of sight of the Sunday congregations.

I must pay particular tribute to Sue Humphrey as she retires from both her roles as churchwarden and parish administrator. I have found her ready support invaluable and indispensable in my ministry at St. Nick's, which has had to be juggled with work for the Bishop and the Diocese, and now the Cathedral.

We owe a great deal also to the diligent labours of Peter Elsmore who is the Lay Chair of the PCC, of Sandra Gratrack our Treasurer, Joanne Osborne the PCC Secretary, to Joan Beresford our Safeguarding Officer.

As many of you know, under the Diocese of Lincoln's '**Time to Change Together**' programme, parishes are being encouraged to share resources and join together in activities. Over the past year, we have continued to grow our relationship with our friends at St. Mary Magdalene's. In particular, clergy and readers from both churches have shared in leading the "This is our Faith" study course held last autumn and the study of St. Mark's Gospel this Lent, which have brought together people from both parishes. On a wider scale in Uphill Lincoln, we have also shared with St. John's in the Ermine and St. Giles' in the distribution of holiday activity packs to families in our parishes.

The PCC has had an initial meeting with Bishops David and Nicholas about the appointment of a new parish priest under what is called the Strategic Development Programme. This will involve us in an exploratory process with a potential priest, one of a group in the diocese who has been receiving special training for the

‘revitalisation’ of parishes. While we have been able to sustain the life of the parish post-Covid and during a long vacancy, we recognise that the congregation is both smaller and older than it was before the pandemic and this is an issue which we need to address. This process of conversation and exploration will begin after Easter and we hope that a new parish priest will be in post early in 2025.

*The Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses
Warden of Spirituality, Diocese of Lincoln
Succentor, Lincoln Cathedral
Associate Priest, St. Nicholas & St. John, Newport*

**MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS &
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
2024**

**AGENDA
MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Appointment of Clerk to the meetings
3. Minutes of Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens 2023
4. Election of Churchwardens

**AGENDA
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
3. Reports:
 - a. Church Electoral Roll
 - b. Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
 - c. Financial Report
 - d. Statement of PCC funds and property
 - e. Accounts for the year 2023
 - f. Budget for the year 2024
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner
5. Proceedings of Christianity Deanery Synod
6. PCC Reports
7. Elections:
 - a. Parochial Church Councillors 3
 - b. Deanery Synod 1
8. Any matters of parochial or general church interest (by consent)
 - a. Date of next meeting
 - b. Parochial Church Council – meets immediately following the APCM
9. Closing Prayers

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING FOR THE
ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS**
held on 26 March 2023 at 11:30 am

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Tom and Jane Ellis, Roger Hansard, Neill Hepburn, Sally Hubbard and Adie Smith.
2. **Appointment of Clerk** to the Meetings – Joanne Osborne. Proposed by Peter Elsmore and seconded by Sue Humphrey.

3. **The Minutes** of the 2022 Meeting of Parishioners agreed as a true record with the following amendments; John Simmons said the end date for him serving as a Deanery Synod representative should be 2023 and not 2024. Proposed by Sandra Gratrack and seconded by Su Toogood.

4. Election of Churchwardens

There were four nominations received for the positions of Churchwardens, David Gratrack (proposed by Susan Pycock and seconded by Una Barnes), Roger Hansard (proposed by Sue Humphrey and seconded by Joanne Osborne), Sue Humphrey (Proposed by Una Barnes and seconded by Joanne Osborne) and Christine Elsmore (proposed by David Valentine and seconded by Malcolm Bilton).

Peter Elsmore thanked the Churchwardens for all their hard work in the past year and for the year ahead.

There being no further nominations, the four nominees were duly elected, subject to being sworn in at the Archdeacon's Visitation.

The Chairman then closed the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING 2023**

The meeting took place 26 March 2023 at 11:30 am

There were 28 persons attending.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Tom and Jane Ellis, Roger Hansard, Neill Hepburn, Sally Hubbard and Adie Smith.
2. **Minutes of the APCM 2022** were accepted as a true record, with the following amendments; Sandra Gratrack said that in Section 3(c) the T2CT target was reported as £55,900 and this should have read £55,000. Betty Brown wanted to add a note on the Phoenix Committee which is still continuing even though the Social Committee has now been mothballed. This group is going strong and getting new members. There is a full programme of speakers and activities planned. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays with the 1st Monday being board games and the 3rd Monday being a speaker or activity. Everyone is welcome.
3. **Reports**
 - a. **Electoral Roll.** The report was accepted by the meeting.

- b. **Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.** The report was accepted by the meeting.
- c. **Financial Report.** Sandra Gratrack said when we issued our statement, we agreed to pay a Parish Share of £55,500, the Diocese has said that this should be £55,000. We should be able to meet our 2023 commitment, but there is a concern about lack of funds going forward. Sandra asked the PCC to approve her moving money from the investment account to the current account in order to keep us afloat if required. Proposed by Peter Elsmore and seconded by Su Toogood. All agreed.
- d. **Statement of PCC funds and property.** The statement was available under 'Financial Review' and was accepted by the meeting.
- e. **Accounts for the year 2022.** These were attached to the Annual Report.
- f. **Budget for the year 2023.** This was shown under 'Financial Review'.
The Accounts and Budget were unanimously accepted and thanks were recorded to the Treasurer, Sandra Gratrack, and our Independent Examiner, Capt. John Lee.
- 4. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.**
Capt. Lee was happy to continue as the Independent Examiner and this was unanimously agreed having been proposed by David Gratrack and seconded by Christine Elsmore.
- 5. The report from the Christianity Deanery Synod can be found in the Annual Report.
- 6. All the **PCC Reports** could be found in the Annual Report.
- 7. **Elections**
 - a. **Parochial Church Councillors.** PCC members serve for a period of three years and were expected to be a member of at least one of the sub-committees of the PCC. They were Trustees of the church with some responsibility for the finance and fabric of the church. They were also expected to attend six meetings of the PCC during the year. This year Margaret Arrand, Andrew Simmons, Adie Smith and Susan Whate had all completed their terms of office on the PCC, resulting in there being four vacancies for three-year terms. There had been no nominations received prior to the meeting.
Nominations were received from the floor for Andy Simmons (proposed by Sandra Gratrack and

seconded by Christine Elsmore), Margaret Arrand (proposed by Sandra Gratrack and seconded by Sue Humphrey) and Felicity Ingleton (proposed by Andrew Simmons and seconded by David Valentine) for a three-year term and they were duly elected.

b. **Deanery Synod Representatives.** John Simmons has stood down as a Deanery Synod Representative. A formal vote of thanks for his hard work and dedication was given by Peter Elsmore. There had been one nomination received to replace John – Dr Neill Hepburn (proposed by Sue Humphrey and seconded by David Gratrack) and he was duly elected.

- 8. **Matters of parochial or general church interest** Peter Elsmore said that there were very few Servers, any if anyone would like to do it, please speak to Peter or Fr. Alan Moses.

Safeguarding – all PCC members must undertake the relevant training to serve on the PCC.

David Mowbray said that we had two members of our Parish, Fran Bell and Kate Mitchell who were training for Ordination and it would be nice to know how they were doing. Fr. Alan Moses said that he was in contact with them and will provide an update.

Fr. Alan Moses proposed a vote of thanks to the Parish Administrators, Sue Humphrey and Jackie Jones for all their hard work.

- a. The date of the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be announced later.
- b. The Parochial Church Council would meet directly after the meeting and the next full PCC meeting would be on 13 May 2024.

- 9. **Closing Prayers** were led by Fr. Alan Moses ending with The Grace.

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2023
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Receipts</u>	2022		2023	
<u>Incoming Resources from donors</u>				
Planned giving – Gift Aided	39681		38101	
Income Tax Received	9081		12482	
Planned Giving – not Gift aided	2848		3349	
Collections at Services	3952		3526	
Gift days & Sundry Donations	2346		2760	
Brownies	250		208	
Nippers	229		199	
Phoenix Group	100		100	
		58487		60725
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources</u>				
Grants & Legacies	500		80667	
Fund-raising	1296		1809	
Insurance claim & other Income	3703		37	
		5499		82513
<u>Income from investments</u>				
Investments	0		1781	
Interest CBF Deposit & CAF	479		1256	
		479		3037
<u>Income from charitable & Ancilliary trade</u>				
Fees	12729		9689	
Hire of Rooms	2325		3360	
		15054		13049
		79519		159324

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2023

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	2022		2023	
<u>Income for restricted use</u>				
Christian Aid	0		299	
Children's Society	87		374	
Collections at funerals	664		0	
Ride & Stride	190		0	
Recording Equipment	0		100	
Holiday Bag	85		172	
Building Project	0		200	
Defibrillator	500		0	
Gifts	584		0	
Community Larder	175		75	
Women's Day of Prayer			196	
	2285		1416	
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	81804		160740	

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2023
General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2023

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Payments</u>	Year 31/12/22		Year 31/12/2023	
<u>Grants</u>				
Overseas missions	175		182	
Home missions	1755		653	
Secular Charities	425		319	
		2355		1153
<u>Activities directly related to Church work</u>				
Diocesan Quota	45841		59655	
Clergy Expenses	2353		1334	
Church Upkeep	2061		3470	
Church Utilities expense	5118		11212	
Upkeep of services	1801		1168	
Upkeep of Churchyard	39		273	
Nippers & Level Up	91		120	
Major Works			9694	
		57304		86926
<u>Trading:-</u>				
Trading for Equipment & Maintenance Costs	495		629	
Catering & Household	1175		871	
Salaries & Support Costs	11313		11147	
		12983		12647
<u>Administration</u>				
Flowers	684		896	
Photocopier	86		733	
Bank charges	113		86	
Admin/Other	2224		772	
Phone & Broadband	316		501	
St Nicholas Insurance	4650		5102	
Investment	0	8071		8090
		80713		108816

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2023

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	<u>Balance C/Fwd 01/01/2022</u>	Balance as at 31/12/2023
General Account	70726	122662
Edentree Investment A/C	70845	0
Shawbrooke Fixed Term A/C (Jan)	36997	37431
CCLA - CBF Deposit A/c 1	34526	65709
CCLA Deposit a/c 2		40011
CCLA Investment A/c		77738
CAF Cash	36200	16942
	70726	122662

<u>Notes to Accounts On Income</u>	Year to 31/12/202	Year to 31/12/2023
<u>Fund Raising (Major Events)</u>		
Ride & Stride	197	0
Coffee Mornings	865	1006
Centre Hire	2325	3360
Fairtrade	0	40
Donations for Flowers	516	896
Phoenix Group	100	100
<u>Expenditure</u>		
<u>Church Running Expenses</u>		
Insurance	4650	5102
Heat, Light & Water	5118	11212
Telephone & Broadband	316	501

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2023

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

I have examined the Statement of Income & Expenditure, also the Cash Book and Payments & Receipts Vouchers. These accounts accurately reflect the true financial affairs of the Church of St. Nicholas with St. John , Newport, Lincoln as at 31st December 2023

Name David John Lee

Signature



Date.

21 FEB 2024

Address Mill House.
Burton Road
Lincoln
LN1 3UB

	Projected Expendit ure	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Comparison	Notes
Worship							
Music Licences	850						
Organist	5000						
Verger	1000						
Service books	150						
Ministry							
Parish Share	60000						
Clergy Expenses	200						Excludes wedding fees to Diocese
Upkeep of Services	1000						
Charitable Giving	500						
Building & Admin							
Elec & Gas & Water	11500						
Insurance	5200						
Maintenance for church & Centre	5000						
Facility & Planning Applications	1000						
Salaries	8000						
Phone & BB	600						
Photocopier	1500						
Bank charges	100						
Admin	1000						
Education & Discipleship							
Nippers	100						
Baptism	50						
Training	100						
Social							
Household	500						
Catering	700						Offset by coffee income included in sundry donations
Social groups	100						Refreshments for social events
Outreach (Holiday bags)	600						
Flowers	1000						Flower charge included in wedding fees
Yearly Total	105750	0	0	0	0		
Monthly total	8813						
Weekly total	2034						

Projected income for 2024

		Quarter 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Comparison	Notes
Planned giving	40000						
Gift Aid	13000						
Collections	3500						
Investment income	3000						
Sundry donations	3500						
Centre hire	2500						
Wedding & Funeral Fees	9000						
Fundraising	1500						
Other income	300						
Restricted income	2000						
Yearly total	78300						
Monthly total	6525						
Weekly total	1505						

Financial Review 2023

This year's Annual Accounts for 2023 are presented in this report. My thanks go to Capt. John Lee as our Independent Examiner.

Total receipts for the ordinary unrestricted funds were £159,324.04 and are detailed in the financial statements. This includes generous grants and legacies of £80,667. Making our actual income stream £78,657.04.

Expenditure for 2023 was £108,816. spent to provide Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our parish share of £55,500. The increase in expenditure is explained by the delayed clearance payments of £6676.26 from 2022 accounts. It is also due to an increase in gas and electricity charges amounting to £6094. We have also completed some of our outstanding planned maintenance work of £9694. At the end of the year this equated to an overspend of £7698.

Projected Budget for 2024

In the coming year we need to increase our income in order to maintain the running of St Nicholas Church.

In our projected budget for 2024 our Parish Share increases to £60,000. We need to manage our future expenditure to within our projected income level of £78,300.

The monies held in our deposit and investment accounts are as follows-

CCLA Investment account £77,738.41

CCLA Deposit account 1 - £65,709.33

CCLA Deposit account 2 - £40,011.04

Our current account at present holds £48,303.34 following the maturity of one of our investment accounts.

£30,000 of this will be used to pay for the outstanding planned maintenance work amounting to £28,044.92 now we have received all the approvals required.

The work waiting completion is -

Replacement of damaged Noticeboard

Replacing damaged covering for East Window

External fitting of Defibrillator and external electric socket

External Bin Store

Replacement of improved sound and streaming system

Sandra Grattrick
Honorary Treasurer

Accounts

The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist,
Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
26th March 2023

Registered Charity Number: 1133977

The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist, Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 26th March 2023



INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report for the financial Year 2022 for the Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John, Newport, Lincoln. In this report you will find brief notes about church life, together with the accounts for the year 2022, duly examined (appended at the end of the document), and a budget for 2023.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish Church of St. Nicholas is situated on the east side of Newport, Lincoln. It is within the Diocese of Lincoln in the Church of England. The correspondence address is: St. Nicholas Church, Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3DP, telephone number 01522 540614 or email stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number: 1133977.

CLERGY

Vicar: Currently in Vacancy
Associate Priest: Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses
Dr. Peter Elsmore Reader & Lay Vice-Chairman

WARDENS

Mrs. Chris Elsmore
Mr. David Grattrick
Mr. Roger Hansard
Mrs. Susan Humphrey

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

For term to finish

Mr. John Simmons	2024
Mrs. Susan Toogood	2024

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mrs. Joanne Osborne	Honorary Secretary
Mrs. Sandra Grattrick	Honorary Treasurer

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Elected for term to finish

Miss Susan Whate	2023
Mr. Adrian Smith	2023
Mrs. Margaret Arrand	2023
Mr. Andrew Simmons	2023
Mrs. Betty Brown	2024
Mrs. Sally Hubbard	2024
Mrs. Carolyn Jones	2024
Position Vacant	2024
Mrs. Adele Sheriff	2025
Mrs. Joan Beresford	2025
Mr. Ron Johnson	2025
Position Vacant	2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to PCC.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

St. Nicholas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Church Wardens and the Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses, Associate Priest, whilst we are in vacancy, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for the care of the church building and its grounds, and responsibility for St. Matthias, Burton Road, which is used under lease by the Antiochene Orthodox Church.

The PCC meets about six times a year. A more detailed report is given elsewhere by the PCC Secretary. The PCC operates through a number of committees:

Standing Committee

As the only committee required by law, it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Worship, Discipleship & Education Committee

Oversees all matters of worship and Christian nurture.

Social Committee

Oversees the social events of the church.

Buildings Committee

Oversees the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

STATISTICS FOR MISSION

		2021	2022
BAPTISMS		17	10
WEDDINGS		4	8
FUNERALS	Church	34	24
	Crematorium	9	3
	Graveside Only	4	2
	Total Funerals	47	29
CHURCH ATTENDANCE			
1 st Sunday in October		57	62
2 nd Sunday in October		111	75
3 rd Sunday in October		25	64
4 th Sunday in October		70	49
USUAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (including children)		92	62

Note: These Mission statistics for 2022 do not include the numbers attending Baptism Services on one Sunday mentioned above, which totalled 34. These will be recorded separately on the Annual Return. St Nicholas' hosted a service of Choral Evensong on the second Sunday for the Rededication of Standards, which also increased the numbers recorded.

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCES

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The current Church Electoral Roll has been in place since 2019 and comprises 115 names at present. 17 names were removed during the year, and one was added.

Joanne Osborne, Church Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022

This year's Annual Accounts for 2022 are presented in this report. My thanks go to Capt. John Lee as our Independent Examiner.

Total receipts for the ordinary unrestricted funds were £81,804 and are detailed in the financial statements. This included £2,578.85 Energy Support Grant from the Diocese. I would like to express my thanks to the congregation for their continued contributions via Parish Share, Standing Orders, Direct Debits and envelopes during these difficult times. Expenditure for 2022 was £80,713.00 spent to provide Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our parish share of £50,500. This does show a surplus for 2022 on the final accounts, however due to late

bank clearance of some December payments of £6,676.26 which included the final parish share payment we would otherwise have shown an overspend for the end of the financial year. These payments will be cleared in January 2023 and therefore show in next year's accounts. We also need to be aware of the increase in our gas and electric charges in the coming year.

Projected Budget for 2023

In the coming year we need to increase our income in order to maintain the running of St Nicholas Church. In our projected budget for 2023 our Parish Share increases to £55,500.00 and I have increased our anticipated expenditure for heating and lighting which equates to raising at least £7,874.00 per month or £1,817.00 per week to maintain the church. If we do not manage this, we will be using money held in reserve held in our CBF Deposit account which stands at £34,526.39. Within this is £10,000.00 for projected works in the pipeline for completion this year and restricted income of £8,532.68. In future we will be paying fees for any planning applications and Faculty applications. Work in progress is as follows:

Stannah Lift repair £2,113.87

Replacement of damaged Noticeboard

Replacing damaged covering for East Window

External fitting of Defibrillator

External Bin Store

Reserve accounts

CBF (Church Benevolent Fund) £34,526.39

Shawbrooke Fixed Term Account (January 2024)
£36,781.67

Edentree Investment Account £70,845.2

Sandra Grattrick, Honorary Treasurer

PLANNED GIVING

At the end of 2022 we had 78 regular givers using either the Parish Giving Scheme (our preferred option), standing orders to CAF Bank (our current account) or numbered envelopes. Of these, 64 are taxpayers who have made a Gift Aid Declaration allowing us to claim back 25% of their donations from HMRC.

	Gift Aided	Not Gift Aided	Total
PGS	28	3	31
CAF Bank	31	6	37
Envelopes	5	5	10
Total	64	14	78

Please use this time to review your giving. If you have not yet joined one of our regular giving schemes, make

today the day you start. If you have not increased your giving for some time, make today the day you do. If you are a taxpayer, but have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration, please ask me for a form.

Joan Beresford, Planned Giving Officer

PCC HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

In 2022 we continued with Time to Change Together. We are signed up as a top-grade Parish, one of only 19 out of approximately 500. Unfortunately, we are still in vacancy, but we hope that a Priest in Charge will be appointed in 2023.

The sub-committees have now re-convened after Covid. The Discipleship & Education Committee has joined with the Worship Committee. Unfortunately, the Social Committee has decided to finish due to lack of support, but it is hoped that ideas for social events can be taken to the PCC and a team proposed to run it, etc. Peter Elsmore, Lay Vice Chair of the PCC agreed to also become Chair of the Standing Committee whilst we are in vacancy.

Another decision taken by the PCC was to close the Garden of Remembrance to future burial of ashes except for those of the spouses of people whose ashes are already buried there.

We saw the taking of both kinds of Holy Communion re-introduced since Covid.

St Nicholas joined other Uphill churches in the Holiday in a Bag scheme. It's a fantastic way to connect with families and collaborate with other churches.

We said goodbye to Mother Alice Jolley who left St Nicholas in June to take up her new position as Team Vicar, Apsley End, Hemel Hempstead in the Langelei Benefice, Diocese of St Albans. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mother Alice for all her hard work, dedication, and kindness, and wish her well in her new role.

Joanne Osborne, PCC Honorary Secretary

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF THE YEAR: 'Steady as She Goes'

The Churchwardens' Review last year was entitled: "A Year of Change and Farewells". These have continued this past year, with Mother Alice's appointment as Team Vicar at St. Mary's, Apsley End, Hemel Hempstead, Coral's departure to join her and the acceptance of Fran Bell and Kate Mitchell as Ordinands in our diocese. We miss them all; we are very grateful for all their contributions to ministry in our parish and wish them every success in their future

endeavours. At the same time, we continued to adjust to Fr. Hugh's departure for his new role in the Diocese and to work through the various phases of the Time to Change Together (TtCT) process.

The challenges of the return to post-pandemic worship have continued, not so much in terms of public safety but rather in adapting to a smaller number of regular congregants and those able to volunteer for the many and varied tasks of regular parish ministry. We are extremely grateful to all those who gave so much time and effort to St Nick's in the past and to those who, in ways too numerous to mention individually, now support St Nick's ministry not only in clerical roles, but in pastoral, financial, musical, and practical ways.

Our main aims during the past year have been to steady the ship, to support Fr. Alan, visiting and retired clergy, Peter, and our congregation in maintaining regular worship and to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which to meet and worship.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Fr Alan who, with calmness, clarity and seemingly unflagging energy, in addition to his other diocesan responsibilities, has presided and preached at the majority of our regular and special services, chaired meetings, conducted numerous baptisms, weddings and funerals and made time to visit and administer Home Communion to the sick and housebound.

Our Associate Priest has been very ably supported by our Reader, Peter Elsmore, who has continued to develop in his role as Reader, preaching at St Nick's and St. Mary Magdalene and leading Advent and Lent study groups. He has also been heavily involved in both the financial and organisational aspects of the Time to Change Together Project. Thank you, Peter, for all your contributions to worship, teaching and guiding us through TtCT.

In matters practical, the Churchwardens have been involved in preparing Planning and Faculty applications for the replacement noticeboard, the protective grille to the East window, the defibrillator and bin store. Understandably, given their added responsibilities during this year of vacancy, progress has been slow. On a positive note, much of the underlying preparation work is complete and we are currently awaiting a response to our Planning Application for the

new noticeboard from the City Council. Once we have that and are in a position to assess how effective the application has been, we will submit a further, joint application for the East window grille, the defibrillator and the bin store. Faculty applications for all those projects will be submitted once planning permission has been received. Other practical matters addressed include the repair to the stairlift, now finally complete, regular monitoring and maintenance of the buildings, including the heating systems, providing access to the buildings for external users, maintaining and operating the PA system and preparing and serving refreshments following regular Sunday and mid-week services – **MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, PLEASE.**

We have so much to celebrate here at St Nick's. Our response to the challenges we have faced as a church family during the past year has been remarkable, allowing us to maintain regular worship, teaching, pastoral support and prayer. We can see signs of fresh growth as we welcome a small number of new congregants to regular worship, as we begin to develop stronger links with the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, now, officially, our partner in a Local Mission Partnership and as we look forward to the appointment of a new Priest-in-Charge, which hopefully will be later this year.

A smaller Baptism team, run by one of the Wardens, has continued to support Father Alan's work with the young families, our regular Nippers group has continued to meet every Thursday, the Phoenix Group has continued its very valuable outreach activities. St Nick's Brownies have slowly become more involved in worship and other activities and there has been great joy given and received from our involvement with other uphill parishes in the Holiday Club In A Bag Project.

We will undoubtedly face bumps in the road as we travel this path together in the coming year, but with God's grace and your prayers, your Churchwardens will continue to support the parish to the best of their ability.

The Churchwardens

WORSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has now been re-configured as the Worship, Discipleship & Education Committee under the chairmanship of Father Alan Moses. Since last year, we have seen the re-introduction of the

Ministry of Healing on 3rd Sundays and offertory procession, plus involvement with the holiday club bag scheme among the Uphill churches. Procuring a musical director has proved difficult, but much hard work has been done to find an organist each week, and the choir continue to lead the sung worship. It would be good to have more people to read, to prepare intercessions and to join the flower rota. Support at baptisms continues with new leaflets to hand out about Nippers.

Su Toogood, Secretary

ST. NICHOLAS GUILD OF SERVERS

It has been another fulfilling but rather lonely year, again, on the altar this year. When you are an altar server, the proximity to the action that happens at the altar is very powerful. It provides a very different view of the mystery of the Holy Eucharist. If you've never served before, why don't you join me one Sunday (or Wednesday) and see for yourself? There is no maximum age; males and females will be equally welcomed, full training and cassock each provided.

Peter Elsmore

MUSIC REPORT

The past twelve months was a year of challenge for the choir at St Nicks. We said a sad farewell to Christine Spencer as she returned to her beloved Sheffield. We welcomed Joy Hansard to the choir and thankfully she has kept up the number of sopranos.

Singing the services is always an honour and a pleasure. Nevertheless, it has come with some challenges! We have been accompanied by different organists, each with their own interpretation of our regular service be it tempo or which parts of the mass setting are to be sung or said. We are encouraged by our monthly choir practices with organist David Lee who has added a new dimension to our repertoire and a level of confidence to sing the occasional anthem during communion. When it has been necessary to have the pleasure of the accompanying music being on a CD, no organist being available, this brings its own concerns as we wonder whether there will be an introduction or not. This all keeps us on our toes! We offer our sincere thanks to Sue Humphrey for her tireless work in recruiting organists.

On February 28th the choir was invited to sing "The Lord is my Shepherd" (and Happy Birthday) to Josefine Macalister-Smith on her 100th birthday. It was a gratifying privilege to bring pleasure to a wonderful lady.

The choir at St Nicks is still hoping for a Musical Director, but in the meantime, we will continue to do our best.

Margaret Arrand, Member of the Choir

CHRISTIANITY DEANERY SYNOD

On 11.05.23 our former Vicar chaired his last meeting as Rural Dean and thanked people for their support. Will Harrison from the Cathedral was elected as Lay Chair and Muriel Robinson as Treasurer.

Revd. Richard Crossland introduced discussion on Time to Change Together focussing on church types, vocational conversations with the diocese to assess resources and the move from Parish Share to Covenant pledges. New Deanery Partnerships were to equate roughly with local government areas. Examples of local churches starting to work together were quoted.

The meeting on 12.10.22 was chaired by Revd. Paul Noble. Peter Elsmore was co-opted as Lay Co-Lead and elected as a Lay Rep. to Diocesan Synod.

Once again, the main subject for discussion was TtCT. Revd. Jim Prestwood and Peter Elsmore were introduced as the new Partnership Dean and Lay Co-Lead respectively. The local plan is to have one Local Mission Partnership with the same boundaries as the Deanery, except for Bracebridge Heath which had elected to go into the North Kesteven Deanery Partnership. At some point a survey is to be carried out to give feedback on TtCT to the Diocesan Synod.

Another subject of discussion was the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. Revd. Nick Buck had a poster showing where to go Monday to Friday for warm spaces, warm drinks and company. The six places included churches of different denominations and the Ermine Library. Susan Watt said Transform Lincoln were planning warm hubs across the city.

Much more detail is available from Synod minutes.

John Simmons, Deanery Synod Representative

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LINCOLN & DISTRICT

This ecumenical group, CTLD for short, has usually held 3 meetings each year, but during lockdown those that were held were on Zoom. In 2022 an effort was made to resume normality and 2 meetings were held in person. The group continued to organise the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” in January with a service each day hosted by a different church and based on the host’s style of worship. CTLD is probably better known for the Good Friday “Walk of

Witness”. Four silent processions start from the four compass points of this city. The Uphill procession starts from outside Bailgate Methodist Church. The procession meets at the Stonebow and continues to the War Memorial, where prayers and an address are given. Hymns are accompanied by the Salvation Army Band. The October meeting was considering where the group goes from here. The debate is ongoing.

John Simmons

ST. NICHOLAS SOCIAL COMMITTEE

It was a difficult task to arrange any events due to the low number of people returning to church following Covid. This was reflected in the number of active members on the Committee. However, thanks to Janice Farrell who acted as intermediary, in July we arranged for the Revd. Steve Holt to come and talk about “A Humorous Look at Life as an Anglican Priest” and what a good evening it was! We discovered what an entertainer he was as his talk was punctuated with Steve’s singing, ably supported by Ray Smith. All Proceeds went to Church funds.

Our other event was the Harvest Lunch with pizzas and salad or baked beans on the menu, followed by cakes or fruit. The pre-ordered pizzas were excellent, and everyone had an enjoyable meal.

Unfortunately, a ‘Barbers Shop’ concert never took off due to low ticket sales, but our thanks to Geoff Arrand for trying to facilitate this.

Sadly, at the Committee’s meeting on 17.10.22 the decision was taken to mothball the Committee and this decision was accepted 2 months later by the PCC on 12.12.22.

Betty Brown, Chair of the Social Committee

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The post-pandemic resurrection of the Buildings Committee was delayed by the departure of its Chair, Mother Alice, with the result that it only met twice during 2022. It is now chaired by Sue Humphrey, with Andrew Simmons as Secretary. Matters discussed and/or addressed included:

General Maintenance: All the necessary annual maintenance inspections and checks were completed, and a variety of small practical tasks completed.

Church & church centre hire and hire fees and running costs: post-pandemic use of the church and church centre was slowly re-introduced. Following the huge increase in gas and electricity costs in the final quarter of the year, a comparison of monthly gas

and electricity charges was completed. As a result, hire fees were increased and a notice posted at the back of church highlighting the total cost of maintaining ministry at St Nick's each week. Given the increased cost of heating the main church building in winter, an agreement was negotiated with Nippers to move to "winter quarters" in the Blenkin Room. This move isn't perfect, but the situation is frequently reviewed and may change as the weather improves and/or Nippers' numbers cannot be safely accommodated in that room.

Quinquennial Inspection: This was arranged and completed by architect, Roger Wright. His written report is still awaited, despite several reminders, but he reported verbally that there were no major issues.

Trees in the Stag's Head Car Park: The self-sown trees along the path to the church centre, which are the responsibility of the brewery, are becoming an issue as they are overhanging sections of the church roof and, as they grow, the roots may cause damage to the foundations. Discussions took place and permission was obtained from the brewery to trim back the branches. Steps are underway to complete the work. Further investigations into potential root damage are to be carried out and a plan of action is in place, should such be needed.

Planning and Faculty Applications: These are needed before we can proceed with installation of the new noticeboard, the grille to the East window, the defibrillator, and the new bin store. Please see the Churchwardens' Review for further details.

Stannah Lift: It took more than 6 months to achieve the necessary repair to the stairlift, but it is now fully operational again. As a result of the delays, credits for the cost of the annual maintenance contract and the original failed repair were obtained.

Photocopier: During a regular maintenance visit from the manufacturer, the Parish Administrator was advised that the engineer could only provide "end of life care" for the existing machine. Should a component have failed, because of the age of the machine, it would not have been possible to repair it. The performance of the machine was already problematic and since a photocopier is essential to produce the weekly sheet, orders of service and in general, quotations for a replacement were sought, obtained, and presented to the PCC. It was agreed to lease a new Sharp photocopier, and this has now been installed and is working well.

Hot Water Urn in Church: Failure of the urn one Sunday morning necessitated a replacement. This has now been installed.

Church Heating System: For historical reasons, the church central heating boiler was serviced by one company (Elco) and the heating system (radiators and pipework) by another (Dunphy's). Following a change of ownership at Dunphy's, an agreement was negotiated with Dunphy's to maintain and service both the boiler and the system.

Internal Re-organisation of the West end of church:

- **The Nave:** The west-end area of the nave had become cluttered due to lack of storage. This is an on-going issue, and the committee will continue to consider further steps to address it. In the interim, the Nippers leaders rationalised the stock of toys to liberate space in the grey cupboards and behind the bookcases and an additional, second-hand, cube storage unit was obtained for the children's area.

The area at the bottom of the tower is also very cluttered and work is on-going to resolve that issue. The position of the stairgate in the tower was changed to provide an effective barrier to the stairs.

- **Old Pews:** The committee discussed whether the old pews from the west end of the church should be removed from diocesan storage facility and disposed of. It was agreed by PCC that this was not necessary.

- **Flooring Project:** The committee was acutely aware of the need to replace the carpet on the north and south aisles of the church. Pre-pandemic, it was envisaged that this would be done as part of a larger project to replace the flooring in the nave and plans were made to visit other churches in which similar projects had recently been completed. Lockdowns prevented that from happening. Now the committee is meeting again on a regular basis, the project will be taken forward as a matter of urgency, subject, of course, to PCC approval and financial constraints.

- **Fallen Tree Branches:** There was an urgent requirement to remove several fallen branches from trees in the cemetery, which were blocking access to the fire escape and security gate on the north-eastern side of the church centre. This was resolved in a short space of time and a vote of thanks is due to those who acted so quickly to do so.

Sue Humphrey

ST. NICK'S NIPPERS

It's been a year of change for St Nick's Nippers with our friends and valued helpers Susan Whate, Janet Eastwood, Joyce Lawton and Mother Alice leaving. We wish them all well and thank them heartily for all their help and kindness.

We've enjoyed stories, play and seen friendships flourish in both the children and their parents. We are proud to have welcomed "big" Nippers in the school holidays, which has been lovely to see how they have grown.

Towards the end of the year, we moved upstairs to save energy and are enjoying our new home.

We look forward to 2023, welcoming more new families and new volunteers are always welcome to join in the fun.

Louise Vamplew, Nippers Leader

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

As was reported last year, following the Covid lockdowns our Sunday morning groups for children (Level Up) have not restarted. However, during 2022 St Nick's joined our brothers and sisters from the other Uphill churches to become part of an exciting outreach ministry project. Each school holiday, activity bags are prepared for any child, aged between 3 and 12 years old, who requests one. Each church prepares one activity and then these are collated at a 'mammoth bag packing' event. Every bag is then delivered to the child's home address by a member of one of the congregations. To date approximately 250 bags are prepared for each school break (6 a year). St Nick's congregation also shares in the funding of this important outreach ministry, and we thank all those who contributed so far – financially, practically, or both.

Our Brownies and their families continue to join us for key festivals (at the 1030hrs Eucharist), where there is more of an 'All Age' structure to the liturgy. At these services, simple crafts and activity sheets are also available in the children's area.

Adele Sheriff

ECO CHURCH ADVISORY GROUP

Unfortunately, the eco-advisory group did not meet during 2022.

Sue Humphrey

FAIR TRADE

As anticipated last year, no stalls were possible this year, but we were able to obtain for church, supplies of coffee as well as mini-Easter eggs. We were also able to take private orders for Easter Eggs and Advent calendars. The result of all this was a modest contribution to church funds in line with the last few years.

I'm taking the liberty of including the beginning of 2023 in this report as many will now know that our suppliers went into Administration in February 2023 and there is no obvious alternative to turn to. For church to maintain its Fair-Trade status, supplies will have to be sought from shops. For our personal purchases it will be up to us to do likewise.

This will be the last Fair-Trade report for the foreseeable future.

John Simmons

THE CHURCH WEBSITE

The Parish Administrators now have access to the website and various pages have been updated to remove any Covid/Lockdown information which is no longer relevant. The Administrators are also able to update the "What's On" pages on the website with details of regular services and events as well as special services, courses, and other one-off events. However, more work is needed, and steps are being taken to form a "Communications Team", the members of which will be responsible for maintaining and updating both the website and St Nick's Facebook page to make them more attractive and effective.

Sue Humphrey, Parish Administrator

3RD LINCOLN (ST NICHOLAS) BROWNIES

We currently have 16 Brownies on roll with plenty moving up from our feeder Rainbow unit on Burton Road.

We spent the autumn term learning about seasons, doing our season badge. This term we are doing our friend to animal badge with a trip to Bransby Horses before Easter. Last year we accomplished our first Brownies sleepover since Covid, just one night with an Encanto theme, as some of girls are quite young, they had a great time.

Census - our annual payment to Girlguiding has gone up dramatically in 2023, so we are having to increase our subs by another £5 from September. We are hoping to do some further fundraising to help and apply for grants.

We are going on a district pack holiday in May to Trusthorpe, with 9 girls attending from our unit. We have several helpers now, Jackie Griffiths, Charlotte Wright and Ashante Wilson, and one young leader Willow. Cassie-Mai is currently at university in Oxford but joins the unit between semesters. We wish to thank the church for their continued support of our group and look forward to attending some more services this year.

*Kaye Robinson, Leader in Charge
3rd Lincoln Brownies*

SAFEGUARDING

At the beginning of 2022 we learnt that the Church of England rules had changed, and we needed to take action to comply with the new safeguarding requirements. DBS checks (Police checks) which used to be valid for 5 years now need to be renewed every 3 years. This meant that most of our volunteers had to be re-checked.

It was also decided that more of our volunteer roles required 2 training courses where they had previously only needed the Basic course. Certain roles now need 3 training courses and the third course, the Leadership module, is a 4 hour course either via Zoom or face-to-face.

Both the Charity Commission and our Insurers demand that we comply with these measures. Most of our volunteers understand the importance of this and have completed what is required of them. We continue to strive for 100% compliance.

Joan Beresford, Parish Safeguarding Officer

“NOT THE VICAR'S REPORT”

The past year has been one in which, like other parishes, institutions and business, St. Nicholas' has been emerging gradually from Covid and 'Lockdown.' As well as the restoration of our schedule of worship, there has been a catching up with a backlog of baptisms and weddings. While we have not yet restored Sunday evening worship, Sunday and Wednesday morning celebrations of the Eucharists are firmly re-established. Morning Prayer is celebrated in church Monday to Thursday. The ministry of healing has been re-established once a month. While numbers have not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels, there is a solid core of regular worshippers on which to build in the future.

Pastoral ministry to the sick and housebound continues, with visits and regular opportunities for them to receive Holy Communion. An outstanding example of this hidden but important ministry was the

recent 100th birthday of Josefine McAllister-Smith. She received the Blessed Sacrament, accompanied by singers from the choir.

The year has, of course, seen the departure of Mother Alice to her new ministry in Hemel Hempstead. With the earlier move of The Revd. Canon Dr Hugh Jones to be Warden of the new College of St. Hugh, we have moved from having two stipendiary clergy to none.

That parish life has been able to continue, and even pick up pace in some areas, is due in large part to the level of commitment among parishioners who give so generously of their time and energy: our Parish Administrators, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary, PCC members, church-watchers, Choristers and our rota of organists, our Reader and Authorised Lay Ministers, readers and intercessors, flower-arrangers, sacristans, vergers and the team who help with baptisms, weddings and funerals, helpers with St. Nick's Nippers, the Phoenix Group, cleaners, retired clergy, the Archdeacon of Lincoln, and so on....While we look forward to the appointment of a new parish priest, we are in a much better position than many vacant parishes in the Diocese, thanks to this combination of lay people and clergy.

The future of ministry at St. Nicholas' has to be seen in the context of the Diocese's Time to Change Together programme. Our deanery of Christianity, which includes the whole city, has been designated as a single 'Local Mission Partnership.' Our 'Partnership Dean,' the Revd. Jim Prestwood, the Vicar of St. Swithin's, shares with the lay 'Partnership Co-Lead,' our own Dr. Peter Elsmore, in the task of encouraging the development of cooperative relationships in which clergy and other resources are shared between parishes in the deanery. The TtCT philosophy encourages us to discuss and make decisions about local mission and ministry at the grass roots.

Our PCC volunteered to be a “Type 1” church, which means one which can act as a resource for others. We are just beginning to explore what that will mean for us. The plan is that we should work closely together with our neighbours at St. Mary Magdalene's, and to some degree with the other “Uphill” parishes. We have already begun this with St. Mary Magdalene's with joint Advent and Lent study groups. One obvious gift we can share with our neighbours is our excellent meeting spaces. They, on the other hand, have a much greater passing 'footfall,' so we may be able to offer help with having their church open more as a place for prayer and quiet. The “Holiday Bag” scheme for children, which began at St. Giles during

Lockdown, now involves St. John's in the Ermine, St. Mary Magdalene's and St. Nicholas'.

Any programme of Church renewal must spring from a sense of our baptismal calling to share in Christ's mission. It must be rooted in worship and prayer, scripture and sacrament, and devotion to our Lord. It also calls for sacrificial generosity in our financial support of our parish. We are committed to reaching the target the Diocese has set for Type I parishes, but we have some distance to go before. This is a challenge at a time of high inflation but if we can rise to it, the parish will be in much better shape for the future, whatever it holds. We must be prepared to go where the Holy Spirit leads us. Not everything we try will work, but it is better to try and fail than not to try at all.

*The Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses
Warden of Spirituality, Diocese of Lincoln
Bishop's Spiritual Adviser & Liturgical Chaplain
Associate Priest, St. Nicholas & St. John, Newport*

**MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS &
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
2023**

**AGENDA
MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Appointment of Clerk to the meetings
3. Minutes of Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens 2022
4. Election of Churchwardens

**AGENDA
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
3. Reports:
 - a. Church Electoral Roll
 - b. Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
 - c. Financial Report
 - d. Statement of PCC funds and property
 - e. Accounts for the year 2022
 - f. Budget for the year 2023
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner
5. Proceedings of Christianity Deanery Synod
6. PCC Reports
7. Elections:
 - a. Parochial Church Councillors (6)
 - b. Deanery Synod (1)
8. Any matters of parochial or general church interest (by consent)
 - a. Date of next meeting
 - b. Parochial Church Council – meets immediately following the APCM
9. Closing Prayers

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING FOR THE
ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS**
held on 20 March 2022 at 11:30 am

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Sue Humphrey, Sally Hubbard, John Simmons, Roger Hansard, Coral Jolley, Alice Jolley, Adie Smith, John Simmons, David Simmons, Tom Ellis, Audrey Salisbury and Janice Farrell.
2. **Appointment of Clerk** to the Meetings – Joanne Osborne. Proposed by Margaret Arrand and seconded by Adele Sheriff.

3. **The Minutes** of the 2021 Meeting of Parishioners agreed as a true record. Proposed by Sandra Gratrack and seconded by Su Toogood.

4. Election of Churchwardens

Kate Mitchell stood down as Church Warden. A formal vote of thanks for her hard work and dedication was given by Peter Elsmore.

There were four nominations received for the positions of Churchwardens, David Gratrack (proposed by David Lee and seconded by Jean Lee), Mr. R Hansard (proposed by David Gratrack and seconded by Jean Lee), Sue Humphrey (Proposed by Sandra Gratrack and seconded by Susan Whate) and Christine Elsmore (proposed by Sandra Gratrack and seconded by Margaret Arrand).

There being no further nominations, the four nominees were duly elected, subject to being sworn in at the Archdeacon's Visitation.

The Chairman then closed the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING 2022**

The meeting took place 20 March 2022 at 11:30 am

There were 14 persons attending.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Alice Jolley, Roger Hansard, Sue Humphrey, Adie Smith, Sally Hubbard and John Simmons.
2. **Minutes of the APCM 2021** were accepted as a true record, being proposed by Su Toogood, seconded David Gratrack and agreed by those present.
3. **Reports**
 - a. **Electoral Roll.** The report was accepted by the meeting. The Venerable Geoff Arrand said that the Electoral Roll was showing 130 names, but there were not that name people attending church. Where were they? It was noted that some people were still too anxious to return and some never would. Fran Bell said that unless people informed her they had left the Parish she cannot remove them. The report is run every six years.
 - b. **Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.** The report was accepted by the meeting.
 - c. **Financial Report.** Sandra Gratrack said our Time to Change Together target is £59,500. Our giving needs to get better.

Peter Elsmore proposed a formal vote of thanks to Sandra Gratruck seconded by Andy Simmons.

- d. **Statement of PCC funds and property.** The statement was available under 'Financial Review' and was accepted by the meeting.
- e. **Accounts for the year 2021.** These were attached to the Annual Report.
- f. **Budget for the year 2022.** This was shown under 'Financial Review'.
The Accounts and Budget were unanimously accepted and thanks were recorded to the Treasurer, Sandra Gratruck, and our Independent Examiner, Capt. John Lee.
4. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.**
Capt. Lee was happy to continue as the Independent Examiner and this was unanimously agreed having been proposed by Andy Simmons and seconded by Christine Elsmore.
5. The report from the Christianity Deanery Synod can be found in the Annual Report.
6. All the **PCC Reports** could be found in the Annual Report.
7. **Elections**
 - a. **Parochial Church Councillors.** PCC members serve for a period of three years and were expected to be a member of at least one of the sub-committees of the PCC. They were Trustees of the church with some responsibility for the finance and fabric of the church. They were also expected to attend six meetings of the PCC during the year. This year Maureen Christie, Lucy Bright and Jo Appleton had all completed their terms of office on the PCC, resulting in there being four vacancies for three-year terms. There had been no nominations received prior to the meeting.
Nominations were received from the floor for Fran Bell (proposed by Joanne Osborne and seconded by Sandra Gratruck) and Adele Sheriff (proposed by Una Barnes and seconded by Su Toogood) for a three-year term and they were duly elected. We therefore have three extraordinary vacancies for the PCC, one for a two-year term and two for a three-year term.
 - b. **Deanery Synod Representatives.** Coral Jolley has stood down as a Deanery Synod Representative. A formal vote of thanks for her hard work and dedication was given by Peter Elsmore. There had been no nominations received to replace Coral.

8. **Matters of parochial or general church interest** Peter Elsmore said that there were very few Servers, any if anyone would like to do it, please speak to Peter or Fr. Alan Moses.

Safeguarding – all PCC members must undertake the relevant training to serve on the PCC.

Service Times – a discussion was held regarding Sunday service times and whether to move them back to pre-Covid times or for them to remain as they are currently. After some discussion and an inconclusive vote, it was decided that the service times would remain as they are currently, 0900hrs and 1030hrs until a new incumbent is appointed and it can be discussed again. It was agreed that Baptisms would start at the later time of 1230hrs (after the current bookings had taken place).

- a. The date of the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be announced later.
 - b. The Parochial Church Council would meet directly after the meeting and the next full PCC meeting would be on 16 May 2023.
9. **Closing Prayers** were led by Fr. Alan Moses ending with The Grace.

Financial Review 2022

This year's Annual Accounts for 2022 are presented in this report. My thanks go to Capt. John Lee as our Independent Examiner.

Total receipts for the ordinary unrestricted funds were £81,804 and are detailed in the financial statements. this included £2578.85 Energy Support Grant from the Diocese.

I would like to express my thanks to the congregation for their continued contributions via Parish Share, Standing Orders, Direct Debits and envelopes during these difficult times.

Expenditure for 2022 was £80,713 spent to provide Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our parish share of £50,500. This does show a surplus for 2022 on the final accounts, however due to late bank clearance of some December payments of £6676.26 which included the final parish share payment we would otherwise have shown an overspend for the end of the financial year. These payments will be cleared in January 2023 and therefore show in next years accounts. We also need to be aware of the increase in our gas and electric charges in the coming year.

Projected Budget for 2023

In the coming year we need to increase our income in order to maintain the running of St Nicholas Church.

In our projected budget for 2023 our Parish Share increases to £55,500 and I have increased our anticipated expenditure for heating and lighting which equates to raising at least £7874 per month or £1817 per week to maintain the church. If we do not manage this we will be using money held in reserve held in our CBF Deposit account which stands at £34,526.39. Within this is £10,000 for projected works in the pipeline for completion this year and restricted income of £8532.68. In future we will be paying fees for any planning applications and Faculty applications.

Work in progress is as follows:-

Stannah Lift repair £2113.87

Replacement of damaged Noticeboard

Replacing damaged covering for East Window

External fitting of Defibrillator

External Bin Store

Reserve accounts

CBF (Church Benevolent Fund) £34,526.39

Shawbrooke Fixed Term Account (January 2024) £36,781.67

Edentree Investment Account £70,845.27

Sandra Grattrick
Honorary Treasurer

Accounts

The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist,
Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
20th March 2022

Registered Charity Number: 1133977

The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist, Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 20th March 2022



INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report for the financial Year 2021 for the Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John, Newport, Lincoln. In this report you will find brief notes about church life, together with the accounts for the year 2021, duly examined (appended at the end of the document), and a budget for 2022.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish Church of St. Nicholas is situated on the east side of Newport, Lincoln. It is within the Diocese of Lincoln in the Church of England. The correspondence address is: St. Nicholas Church, Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3DP, telephone number 01522 540614 or email stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number: 1133977.

CLERGY

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Dr. Hugh Jones
Curate: The Revd. Alice Jolley
Dr. Peter Elsmore Reader & Lay Vice-Chairman

WARDENS

Mr. David Grattrick
Mr. Roger Hansard
Mrs. Susan Humphrey
Mrs. Kate Mitchell

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

For term to finish
Mr. John Simmons 2023
Mrs. Coral Jolley 2023
Mrs. Susan Toogood 2023

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mrs. Joanne Osborne Honorary Secretary
Mrs. Sandra Grattrick Honorary Treasurer

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Elected for term to finish
Mrs. Maureen Christie 2022
Mrs. Lucy Bright 2022
Ms. Jo Appleton 2022
Miss Susan Whate 2023
Mr. Adrian Smith 2023
Mrs. Margaret Arrand 2023
Mr. Andrew Simmons 2023
Mrs. Betty Brown 2024
Mrs. Christine Elsmore 2024
Mrs. Sally Hubbard 2024
Mrs. Carolyn Jones 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to PCC.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St. Nicholas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Revd. Canon Dr Hugh Jones, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for the care of the church building and its grounds, and responsibility for St. Matthias, Burton Road, which is used under lease by the Antiochene Orthodox Church.

The PCC meets about six times a year. A more detailed report is given elsewhere by the PCC Secretary. The PCC operates through a number of committees:

Standing Committee

As the only committee required by law, it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Worship Committee

Oversees all matters of worship.

Discipleship and Education Committee

Oversees Christian nurture.

Social Committee

Oversees the social events of the church.

Buildings Committee

Oversees the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

STATISTICS FOR MISSION

	2020	2021
BAPTISMS	7	17
WEDDINGS	1	4
FUNERALS		
Church	11	34
Crematorium	25	9
Graveside Only		4
Total Funerals	36	47
CHURCH ATTENDANCE		
1 st Sunday in October	107	57
2 nd Sunday in October	42	111
3 rd Sunday in October	52	25
4 th Sunday in October	42	70
USUAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (including children)	61	92

Note: These Mission statistics for 2021 do not include the numbers attending Baptism Services on three of the four Sunday's mentioned above, which totalled approximately 120. These will be recorded separately on the Annual Return. St Nicholas' hosted a Deanery Confirmation Service on the second Sunday in October and a service of Choral Evensong on the fourth Sunday, for the Rededication of Standards, which also increased the numbers recorded. There was only one Eucharist service held on the Third Sunday because of the annual cycle race.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCES

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The current Church Electoral Roll has been in place since 2019 and comprises 130 names at present. One name was removed during the year and four names have been added.

Fran Bell, Church Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2020

This year's Annual Accounts for 2021 are presented in this report. My thanks go to Capt. John Lee as our Independent Examiner.

Total receipts for the ordinary unrestricted funds were £167,593 and are detailed in the financial statements. The increase is the investment of made legacies received during the year amounting in total to £70,000. (Actual income amounts to £97,593).

Expenditure for 2021 was £154,017 spent to provide the Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our Parish Share of £44,604 and investment of £70,000. (Actual expenditure amounted to £84,017). A major expense during the year was a new boiler fitted into the Centre costing £5,325.

Due to the restrictions placed upon us this year from Covid-19, our expenditure was slightly reduced by loss of room hire, weddings and collections. I would like to thank the congregation who have continued to support us by continuing their monthly commitments via Parish Share, Standing Orders and envelopes and donations which has maintained our income stream.

Projected Budget 2022

Income we need to raise this year in order to keep St Nicholas running is as follows.

In preparation for the review through "Time to Change Together" initiative I have projected the Parish Share as £50,000 and £5,000 toward the cost of a new Organist, in the hope we can achieve this.

The new projected budget covers all expenditure to continue the running of the church and our committed expenses and keep the status quo is £75,557. Therefore, monthly we need to aim to achieve an income of £6,296 or £1,483 per week.

The following works will finally be carried out in 2022. The money to cover the cost of these long-awaited jobs is held in CBF deposit account on reserve. Due to Covid-19 these works have been delayed for the past two years.

Replacing the damaged covering for the East Window.

Installing the Defibrillator.

Storage units in the Jennifer Jackson Room.

Noticeboard.

Reserves Policy

To start the year as of January 2022 the following amounts of monies are held in various accounts:

CBF (Church Benevolent Fund) £34,494.36

Shawbrooke Fixed Term until January 2023: £36,781.67.

Edentree Investment Account: £70,000.

Sandra Grattrick, Honorary Treasurer

PLANNED GIVING

At the end of 2021 we had 92 regular givers using with the Parish Giving Scheme (our preferred option), standing orders to CAF Bank (our current account) or numbered envelopes. Of these, 76 are tax-payers who have made a Gift Aid Declaration allowing us to claim back 25% of their donations from HMRC.

	Gift Aided	Not Gift Aided	Total
PGS	29	4	33
CAF Bank	40	7	47
Envelopes	7	5	12
Total	76	16	92

Please use this time to review your giving. If you have not yet joined one of our regular giving schemes, maybe today is the day you start. If you have not increased your giving for some time, maybe today is the day you do. If you are a tax-payer, but have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration, please ask me for a form.

Joan Beresford, Planned Giving Officer

PCC HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

2021 has been another year with challenges caused by Covid restrictions. Repairs and maintenance of the church, Centre and grounds were closely monitored throughout the year.

The unreliable boiler in the Centre was replaced with a more efficient model. A new sound system was put in the church which enables different formats to be used to play music. Thank you to Maureen Christie who very kindly paid for this upgrade.

In 2021 we entered into a partnership with St Mary Magdalen. Our choirs successfully collaborated for the re-dedication of the Standards. Mother Alice and Peter Elsmore both regularly preach at St Mary Magdalen.

A Time to Change Together has been launched in the Diocese. It began the process of looking at the deployment of clergy, growth, parish share, assets and central costs. Churches have been asked to reflect prayerfully on where they see themselves fitting into the wider church. It was agreed St Nicholas would be a Category 1 Church.

We said goodbye to The Revd. Canon Dr. Hugh Jones who after nearly eight years as the incumbent at St Nicholas, has taken on a new role as Warden of the College of St Hugh. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hugh for all his hard work, dedication and kindness, and wish him well in his new role.

We also said goodbye to Anne Nugent who was Director of Music for more than 20 years. Thank you to Anne for all her hard work for St Nicholas.

Joanne Osborne, PCC Honorary Secretary

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF THE YEAR

A Year of Change and Farewells

2021/22 has been an unusual and challenging year for your four churchwardens. Some of the challenges we have faced have come from the frequent need to adapt our way of working in response to the gradual lifting of Covid restrictions, with a notably reduced number of volunteers and we are still having to adapt to the demands this and other changes have brought in their wake.

Completion of six years' service in May 2021 saw Andy Simmons and Chris Elsmore stepping down from their role. Their continued support and advice following the hand-over to newly-elected wardens Kate Mitchell and Roger Hansard has been invaluable for the new team and our thanks go to them for their understanding and willingness to help whenever asked. We also said farewell during the past year to Anne Nugent who had been our Director of Music for 20+ years and who left us to take up a full-time post in teaching. Thank you, Anne for your faithful service in playing the organ and directing the choir over so many years. We wish you well in your new post.

Although not publicly marked at the time, other goodbyes from regular duties have included those to Susan Whate as House-Keeper and Betty Brown as PCC Secretary. Sincere thanks to you both for your combined decades of service to our St Nick's family and to Joanne Osborne for taking up the mantle of PCC Secretary, which has been no mean feat in Covid times.

Happily, as restrictions in public worship were gradually removed, we were able to return to congregational singing and to welcome back our choir. Thanks go to the choir for their contribution to our regular worship and for coping with all the uncertainties which go with no longer having Anne as our Director of Music and for their forgiveness of the shortcomings of the CD player and its controllers! Thanks also go to the flower team, whose arrangements always add something quite special and to those who organise and contribute to the readings and intercessions for Sunday worship.

We are very grateful to all those who have helped with stewarding at regular and special services and would like to record an enormous vote of thanks for the intrepid band of church-openers and cleaners who, under the leadership of Joan Beresford, have kept us safe and enabled us to open the doors of St Nick's for private prayer almost every day during the past year. Thank you, Joan and all the team.

Recently, we have been able to re-introduce refreshments after our principal services and our thanks go to Coral Jolley and the team of volunteers who help with that week by week and those who are always willing to help with the washing up! We'd also like to thank the "back room" team of sacristans who, more recently, have resumed their work of faithfully preparing the elements for the Sunday Eucharist each week.

It has been a privilege to support Hugh, Alice, Alan, and Peter who, throughout all this year of change, have been constant in their hard-work, love and compassion for the entire St Nick's congregation either in person or on line and in praying for us all every day. We have been extremely fortunate to have had such a skilled and committed clergy team and, had it not been for them, we would find re-establishing a rhythm of life at St. Nick's, as we emerge from the pandemic, even more challenging.

Our long-awaited "return to normal service" suffered a major setback with the news that Hugh would be leaving the parish officially on 26th December, to take up a new diocesan role as Warden of the College of St Hugh. It is difficult to express in a few words the debt of gratitude we owe to him for his faithful service and leadership during his incumbency but particularly during the pandemic. As wardens we were witness to the sheer hard work and imagination Hugh (and Jackie) put into maintaining (and indeed growing on-line) our congregation and Hugh's kindness, encouragement and humour are greatly missed. Thank you, Hugh for all you have done for us and good luck in your new role.

Unlike many sister churches currently in vacancy, we are very fortunate in still having a skilled and caring clergy team in Alan, Alice, our Licensed Lay Reader, Peter Elsmore and Geoff Arrand who are working together to deliver regular worship at St Nick's during the interregnum as well as conducting frequent occasional services such as baptisms, funerals and weddings. Re-establishing a pattern of worship which is sustainable in terms of clergy and musical resources has been a challenge. The pattern we have at the moment seems to fit the bill but will remain under review.

As wardens, we are very conscious that our recent connection with St Mary Magdalene and our involvement in the Diocesan Time To Change Together initiative, may have an impact on patterns of worship over the coming months and years, subject, of course, to PCC approval. Much will depend on the length of time we are in vacancy, especially given that Alice is hopeful of moving on to pastures new in the summer, to take up responsibility for her own

parish. They will be very fortunate to have you, Alice and we will miss you very much.

Regardless of the changes in public worship over the last year, members of our pastoral team, led by Carolyn Jones, have worked tirelessly to support members of our congregation who have been unable to attend weekly services or who have needed practical or pastoral support in any way. Thank you all.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge that all the public facing aspects of life at St Nick's would be so much more difficult to achieve, without the backroom support of two very important people:

Our Treasurer, Sandra Grattrick, is the best steward of St Nick's finances we could hope for and her skills in preparing and overseeing our accounts and investments is invaluable. The responsibility is great and the hours she gives to the job are endless. We would be in a perilous position without her. Thank you.

Our Parish Administrator, Jackie Jones, has continued to work tirelessly at a time of great personal change since Christmas. Recently she has begun to take over the weekly e-church mailing and preparing pre-recorded music when needed. In addition, she continues to produce the weekly sheet and readings and undertake a multitude of additional backroom tasks with characteristic modesty and quiet efficiency. We are so grateful you decided to stay on in the job, Jackie. Thank you for all your hard work.

We thank you all for your continued support during this time of uncertainty and, whilst acknowledging that there are challenging times ahead, we look forward to continuing to serve the parish, to seizing any opportunities which may allow us to develop our ministry in this place and to welcoming a new incumbent in the not-too-distant future.

The Churchwardens

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee last met in October 2019 as the scheduled meeting for February 2020 was postponed by the Chair. Of course, the Minutes of that meeting are now a historical record.

The business of the meeting ranged over worship, mission and growth; worship planning; new worship offerings such as Hugh's new mass setting and of course, upcoming liturgical year events such as Advent and Christmas services 2019 and so into the next year. Interestingly, Hugh spoke of the 150 people who regard our parish as their main place of worship.

The PCC has recently asked to rejuvenate the parish's committee structures and this is proper, given the end of some of the dislocation of the pandemic, if not the end of the pandemic itself. Please prayerfully consider joining (or re-joining) this committee.

Peter Elsmore (Secretary)

DISCIPLESHIP & EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Unfortunately, the Discipleship & Education Committee did not meet during 2021.

Christine Elsmore

ST. NICHOLAS GUILD OF SERVERS

I hope that it has been noted that I have used the plural here in referring to servers! For a variety of reasons, we have very few people who have come forward to serve on God's altar during the Eucharist now that our Sunday (and Wednesday) services have been restored to us. It is high time that we reinstituted acolytes and crucifers. The tasks that we perform on the altar are very simple but they do assist the celebrant (and so also the congregation) in the commemoration, the remembering, of Jesus' Last Supper.

The view of the action on the altar is very different from where the altar servers see it, compared with the congregation's view. If you don't believe me, come and see! You need no qualifications to become a server, just a willingness to learn the few simple tasks we perform. We are able to teach you what to do and how to do it. If you are over seven years of age (but also under one hundred and ninety-nine years of age) then you are eligible. Please give this chance to serve on God's altar prayerful consideration – for you, or your children or grandchildren.

Peter Elsmore

MUSIC REPORT

The past year and more has been a time of tremendous challenge for the choir. Our wonderful and dedicated organist and musical director Anne Nugent returned to full time teaching and so was unable to commit the time required to the music at St Nicholas. Her retirement in July 2021 as musical director was a great loss to both the choir and the congregation.

The choir also lost Lydia Neilan, who sadly died, and the retirement of Maureen Christie and Jane Stokes after many years commitment to the choir. Other younger members have moved on with their lives to university, etc.

Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions the choir was again able to sing with the Sunday Eucharist, but with a variety of organists – or no organist – it has not been possible to sing either the mass setting or anthems during communion.

We have had a successful joint venture with St Mary Magdalens, led by Chris Brooke. The first service in October 2021 was a choral evensong for the rededication of the Regimental Standards. There was also a joint advent carol service at St Mary Magdalene and our own festival of nine lessons and carols here at St Nicholas. We look forward to further joint choir practices with Chris Brooke and subsequent choral services.

Those of us remaining in the choir are still hoping for the return of former members. We, the choir, are desperate to see the appointment of an organist/musical director. We hope and pray for additional choir members to come forward to enhance the choir. A rich variety of music lies at the heart of the worship at St Nicholas and is being sorely missed by us all.

Margaret Arrand, Member of the Choir

CHRISTIANITY DEANERY SYNOD

There has not been a Deanery Synod meeting recently, below is an update provided by Hugh Jones after the last meeting held in November 2021.

As you will all know, the Resourcing Sustainable Church - Time to Change Together process continues. Thank you to everyone for their hard work in responding to the Church Categorisation exercise, and to those who have so far had a conversation with a Covenant Pastor about what they can reasonably pledge to the work of the church in our area. One of the next things that will happen is that a Deanery Partnership Steering Group will be established. This will consider, in the first instance, the boundaries of the Deanery Partnership. If you have thoughts about this, please let me know, recollecting that the starting point is to achieve a rough alignment with Local Authority Boundaries.

We still have a number of vacancies for roles within the Deanery, most particularly Deanery Lay Chair, Deanery Treasurer and a lay vacancy on the Standing and Pastoral Committee. Anyone standing unopposed will be automatically elected.

Hugh Jones

ST. NICHOLAS SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Unfortunately, the Social Committee did not meet during 2021.

Betty Brown, Chair of the Social Committee

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Unfortunately, the Buildings Committee did not meet during 2021.

Mother Alice Jolley

ST. NICK'S NIPPERS

St Nick's Nippers was re-launched in September 2021, with a renewed publicity push on social media and among local groups for families. Since then, we have grown from a core group of 4 families to a wider group of 20 families – some who come every week, some every other week, once a month, etc. We have seen an increase in the diversity of families attending Nippers, which is a great joy. I'm hopeful that Nippers will continue to grow and flourish this year. Our current volunteers do a fab job, however, a few more volunteers may be needed as the year goes on.

Mother Alice Jolley

LEVEL UP

Following the pandemic, unfortunately Level Up on a Sunday morning has not returned at St Nicholas. However, as a church we continue to provide weekly activities in our children's worship space for any families attending one of the Sunday services and for Nippers on a Thursday. These are related to the Lectionary (themes of the day/week) and are often based on the materials provided by 'Roots', the worship resource we subscribe to. There are usually 2 or 3 differentiated activities to engage children of pre-school and primary school age. We also have a comfortable space, a well-stocked bookcase, soft toys and games for any families to access as they wish.

Adele Sheriff

ECO CHURCH ADVISORY GROUP

The eco-advisory group reconvened in person for the first time since Covid-19 restrictions came into force. An audit of St Nicholas Eco-Church award application status identified that our priority for 2022-3 should be to put in place small changes to the church land to encourage biodiversity.

The aim of the Eco-Church award scheme is to embed a Christian response to environmental concerns in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other projects and programmes, particularly with reference to the 5th mark of mission. We also identified that it would be advantageous to develop our community engagement to secure a silver award, over and above the planned annual parish litter pick.

We are currently working on a project plan for presentation to the PCC, following establishing a road map towards our priorities. It is anticipated that the wider mission and evangelism of the church will be enhanced through articulating an ecological commitment to our local parish and encouraging members of the wider community to engage with us. We will be exploring with stakeholders' ways in which to mitigate and minimise the ecological impact of St Nicholas Church, while enhancing and celebrating God's gift of creation in our local context.

Kate Mitchell

FAIR TRADE

How many reports will begin with “due to Covid-19 restrictions”? This one is no exception. No stalls were possible in church and I’m sorry to say this is a permanent change. However, we were able to take orders for Easter eggs, Advent calendars and other goods for private orders, as well as supplying the church with coffee. As a result, the sum generated for church funds was in line with that for 2020 and much reduced from previous years. We can but hope for better things in 2022.

John Simmons

THE CHURCH WEBSITE

The website continues to develop, a facility for online donation has now been added. We encourage everyone to share our website details with friends. It’s a really good way for people to dip their toes in the St Nicholas water.

St Nicholas Church

3RD LINCOLN (ST NICHOLAS) BROWNIES

2021 saw Brownies remain closed for the first part of the year. We were delighted to be able to go back for our final term and we have stayed open ever since (bar one week when the Leader caught Covid).

We have a steady stream of girls that come to us from Burton Road Rainbows keeping our numbers around 15 per term. Financially we were hit quite hard during Covid as were many groups, so in the summer term of 2021 we held a fundraiser fitness workout with all proceeds going to the Church. We also had a Brownie show for the parents in July and handed £300 to Hugh Jones as a thank you for letting us use the room.

September to December saw us focus on our knowledge badge and skills builder and astrology, we had a wonderful trip to the Lincoln Observatory. We had our usual Christmas festivities and enjoyed taking part in the Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day services in church.

We welcomed a new Leader called Charlotte and Cassie Mae re-joined us too, however she is going to Oxford University shortly so will be joining us between terms, the extra pairs of hands are much appreciated.

2021 overall was a successful year for us despite a closure at the beginning and our finances are looking up to keep us as sustainable as possible. We are grateful for the continued use of the room and to the support from Sue Humphrey and Joan Beresford when re-opening last year. Without your help we couldn’t continue, so thank you.

Kaye Robinson, Brownie Leader

SAFEGUARDING

It has been another year with restrictions to church activities and no new volunteers have been recruited. Efforts have been made to ensure that Safeguarding training is updated on time so that all our volunteers are equipped for their roles.

Joan Beresford, Parish Safeguarding Officer

VICAR’S REVIEW

Canon Jones wrote last year that it had been “a very challenging year.” The principal challenge came from the Covid pandemic. We have learned to be cautious in assuming that the worst is over, but we can hope that parish life is beginning to return to something like “normal” at last.

Our schedule of worship is now re-established. However, we have had to postpone our plans for a weekly ‘family eucharist.’ We recognized that we simply did not have the resources of time,

personnel and talents to do this well. We hope to keep the memory of this intention alive with occasional family-oriented services. The first of these will be on Mothering Sunday. However, “St. Nick’s Nippers”, led by Mother Alice is back in action and has grown from four to twenty families.

As you know, we have no organist at the moment, and our efforts to find one have so far not been successful. We are grateful to those who step in on Sundays and to play for weddings and funerals.

We have a significant number of funerals which require a good deal of clergy time. At the same time, we are catching up with the backlog of baptisms and weddings deferred by the pandemic.

All this is made possible by the support of our parish administrators, churchwardens and other volunteers. When I was a parish priest, I always said that were I to be given the choice of having a second curate or a parish administrator, I would opt for the latter. The sheer amount of work involved in managing a parish, organizing its activities, maintaining its building, complying with regulations, and dealing with unexpected enquiries, could easily absorb most of a priest’s time and energy. This would be to the detriment of all of us because it would use up time which should be devoted to pastoral care, preaching and teaching (which requires hours of preparation if it is to be done well), and prayer. And this is before we even begin to think about expanding our work in the parish. St. Nick’s is blessed to have so many committed and gifted lay people.

But that is not the only challenge we face. Together with the rest of the Diocese of Lincoln, we are involved in what began as **Resourcing Sustainable Church** and has now become **Time to Change Together**. Churches were asked to decide which of a number of categories we belong, or aspire, to.

Our PCC decided that we should be a Type 1 church; that is, one which could offer its gifts to the wider church community. Part of the TTCT programme is the establishment of “Local Mission Partnerships.” We have made a first step in this direction with our link with our neighbours at St. Mary Magdalene’s. Mother Alice and Peter Elsmore both preach there, and we have begun a joint Lent Group on St. Mark’s Gospel called “Read, Mark, Learn.” The clergy of the Uphill parishes – St. Giles, St. Peter’s, St. John’s, St. Mary Magdalene’s and St. Nicholas have begun meeting to explore how we might support each other in our mission and ministry.

When Bishop Stephen came to preside at the Eucharist on Ash Wednesday, he asked me: “Does the parish pay its way?” I had to own up that we do not. While our giving record is better than that of many parishes in the diocese (not a very high bar, it must be said), we do not pay our full clergy costs for one priest, let alone two. That means we are being subsidised by the diocese. So, there is another challenge, and at a time when energy prices are rising rapidly and we have no idea what the consequences of the war in Ukraine might be.

A challenge which we did not expect was that we would be doing this without a Vicar, because of the appointment of Canon Hugh Jones to be Warden of the new College of St. Hugh. The timing of his departure, over the Christmas period, meant we had to ask him back in the New Year to say our farewells and show our gratitude for all that he has given to the parish. His new role is a critical one for the future of the diocese, and a huge task, combining, as it does, the work of the Lincoln School of Theology and the former departments of Mission and Ministry. He is continuing in his roles as Priest-in Charge of St. Mary Magdalene’s and, for the time being, as Rural Dean of Christianity. I suspect we will see him from time to time as the College is moving some of its office and library into the Board of Education building across from the church. Please keep him in your prayers.

We should not feel too sorry for ourselves. In comparison with many parts of the diocese, even without a parish priest, we are quite well-staffed: with Mother Alice (at least for the next few months); Archdeacon Gavin (who lives in the parish) has offered to be with us one Sunday each month; some retired clergy willing to help; and I will give as much time as I can spare from my day jobs. We also have our Reader, Peter, and our team of Authorised Lay Ministers who make a significant contribution to pastoral care. There are some deaneries in the diocese which have to cover dozens of churches with smaller teams.

*The Revd. Prebendary Alan Moses
Warden of Spirituality, Diocese of Lincoln
Bishop's Spiritual Adviser & Liturgical Chaplain
Associate Priest, St. Nicholas & St. John, Newport*

**MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS
AND
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2022**

**AGENDA
MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Appointment of Clerk to the meetings
3. Minutes of Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens 2021
4. Election of Churchwardens

**AGENDA
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2021 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
3. Reports:
 - a. Church Electoral Roll
 - b. Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
 - c. Financial Report
 - d. Statement of PCC funds and property
 - e. Accounts for the year 2021
 - f. Budget for the year 2022
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner
5. Proceedings of Christianity Deanery Synod
6. PCC Reports
7. Elections:
 - a. Parochial Church Councillors (4)
 - b. Deanery Synod (1)
8. Any matters of parochial or general church interest (by consent)
 - a. Date of next meeting
 - b. Parochial Church Council – meets immediately following the APCM
9. Closing Prayers

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS**

held on 23rd May 2021 at 11:30 am

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Mrs. J Plenty, Mr. T Ellis, Mrs. J Ellis, Miss S Whate, Mrs. M Christie and Mrs. M Arrand.
2. **Appointment of Clerk** to the Meetings – Mrs. J Osborne.
3. **The Minutes** of the 2020 Meeting of Parishioners agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mrs. S Gratrack and seconded by Mrs. S Toogood.
4. **Election of Churchwardens**

Two people reached the end of their maximum term, Mrs. C Elsmore and Mr. A Simmons. A formal vote of thanks for their hard work and dedication was given by Revd. H Jones. Proposed by Mrs. S Humphrey and seconded by Mrs. S Gratrack.

There were four nominations received for the positions of Churchwardens, Mr. D Gratrack (proposed by Mrs B Brown and seconded by Mrs. S Humphrey), Mr. R Hansard (proposed by Mrs. C Elsmore and seconded by Mrs. B Brown), Mrs. S Humphrey (Proposed by Mrs. S Gratrack and

seconded by Mrs. J Beresford) and Mrs. K Mitchell (proposed by Mrs. S Humphrey and seconded by Mrs. F Bell).

There being no further nominations, the four nominees were duly elected, subject to being sworn in at the Archdeacon's Visitation.

The Chairman then closed the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING 2021**

The meeting took place 23rd May 2021 at 11:30 am

There were 30 persons attending.

1. **Apologies** for absence as above.
2. **Minutes of the APCM 2020** were accepted as a true record, being proposed by Mrs. K Mitchell, seconded by Mr. A Simmons and agreed by those present.
3. **Reports**
 - a. **Electoral Roll.** The report was accepted by the meeting.
 - b. **Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.** The report was accepted by the meeting.
 - c. **Financial Report.** Revd. Jones said that St Nicholas has seen an increase in planned giving which included gift aid. It is a moving testimony of the support we receive from our community. He proposed a formal vote of thanks to Mrs. S Gratrack and Mrs. J Beresford. Seconded by Mr. A Simmons.
 - d. **Statement of PCC funds and property.** The statement was available under 'Financial Review' and was accepted by the meeting.
 - e. **Accounts for the year 2020.** These were attached to the Annual Report.
 - f. **Budget for the year 2021.** This was shown under 'Financial Review'.

The Accounts and Budget were unanimously accepted and thanks were recorded to the Treasurer, Mrs. S Gratrack, and our Independent Examiner, Capt. John Lee.

4. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.**

Capt. Lee was happy to continue as the Independent Examiner and this was unanimously agreed having been proposed by Mr. D Gratrack and seconded by Mr. J Simmons.
5. The report from the Christianity Deanery Synod can be found in the Annual Report.
6. All the **PCC Reports** could be found in the Annual Report.
7. **Elections**
 - a. **Parochial Church Councillors.** PCC members serve for a period of three years and were expected to be a member of at least one of the sub-committees of the PCC. They were Trustees of the church with some responsibility for the finance and fabric of the church. They were also expected to attend six meetings of the PCC during the year. This year Mr. P Hutchings, Miss. S Pycok, Mr. M Tarling and Mr. R Hansard had all completed their terms of office on the PCC, resulting in there being four vacancies for three-year terms. Three nominations had been received prior to the meeting for Mrs. C Jones (proposed by Mrs. S Toogood and seconded by Mrs. F Bell), Mrs C Elsmore (proposed by Mr. A Simmons and seconded by Mrs. J Beresford) and Mrs. B Brown (proposed by Miss. S Whate and seconded by Mrs. S

Gratrick). A vacancy had also arisen for a two-year term due to the sad death of Mrs. L Neilan.

Further nominations were received from the floor for Mrs. S Hubbard (proposed by Mr. A Simmons and seconded by Mrs. K Mitchell) and Mr. A Simmons (proposed by Dr. P Elsmore and seconded by Mrs. S Hubbard) for the two-year term and they too were duly elected. We therefore have two extraordinary vacancies for the PCC.

b. **Deanery Synod Representatives.** Dr. P Elsmore who served as a Deanery Synod Representative has now become a PCC member because of his status as a Reader. Revd. Jones asked if there was anyone who would like to take on the role of Deanery Synod Representative in Dr. P Elsmore's place. Mrs. S Toogood volunteered (proposed by Mrs. C Elsmore and seconded by Mrs. S Humphrey).

c. **The Sidesmen** no changes to report.

8. **Matters of parochial or general church interest** Mrs. S Humphrey proposed a vote of thanks for the dedication, love and care that Revd. Jones, Mrs J Jones, Revd. A Jolley and Mrs. C Jolley had shown over the last very difficult year, with daily prayer and support for the Parish, which was unanimously agreed.

a. The date of the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be announced later.

b. The Parochial Church Council would meet directly after the meeting and the next full PCC meeting would be on 5th July 2021.

9. **Closing Prayers** were led by Revd. Jones ending with The Grace.

Finance Report for 2021 Annual Report

This years Annual Accounts for 2021 are presented in this report. My thanks go to Capt. John Lee as our independent examiner.

Total receipts for the ordinary unrestricted funds were £167,593 and are detailed in the financial statements. The increase is the investment of a legacies received during the year amounting in total to £70,000. (Actual income amounts to £97,593)

Expenditure for 2021 was £154,017 spent to provide the Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our Parish share of £44,604 and investment of £70,000. (Actual expenditure amounted to (£84,017) A major expense during the year was a new boiler fitted into the Centre costing £5,325.

Due to the restrictions placed upon us this year from COVID-19 our expenditure was slightly reduced by loss of room hire, weddings and collections. I would like to thank the congregation who have continued to support us by continuing their monthly commitments via Parish Share, Standing orders and envelopes and donations which has maintained our income stream.

Projected Budget for 2022

Income required to keep St Nicholas running for the coming year.

In preparation for the review through "Time for Change" initiative I have projected the parish share as £50,500 and £5,000 toward the cost of a new Organist, in the hope we can achieve this.

The new projected budget covers all expenditure to continue the running of the church and our committed expenses and keep the status quo is £75,557. Therefore monthly we need to aim to achieve an income of £6,296 or £1,483 per week.

The following works will finally be carried out in 2022. The money to cover the cost of these long awaiting jobs is held in CBF deposit account on reserve.

Due to Covid these works have been delayed for the past two years.

Replacing the damaged covering for the East Window.

Installing the Defibrillator

Storage Units in the Jennifer Jackson Room

Noticeboard

Reserve policy

To start the year as of January 2022 the following amounts of monies are held in various accounts.

CBF £34,494.36

Shawbrooke Fixed term until January 2023 - £36,781.67

Edentree Investment Account £70,000

Sandra Gratricks

Treasurer

Finance Report for 2021 Annual Report

This years Annual Accounts for 2021 are presented in this report. My thanks go to Capt. John Lee as our independent examiner.

Total receipts for the ordinary unrestricted funds were £167,593 and are detailed in the financial statements. The increase is the investment of a legacies received during the year amounting in total to £70,000. (Actual income amounts to £97,593)

Expenditure for 2021 was £154,017 spent to provide the Christian ministry for St Nicholas Church including our Parish share of £44,604 and investment of £70,000. (Actual expenditure amounted to (£84,017) A major expense during the year was a new boiler fitted into the Centre costing £5,325.

Due to the restrictions placed upon us this year from COVID-19 our expenditure was slightly reduced by loss of room hire, weddings and collections. I would like to thank the congregation who have continued to support us by continuing their monthly commitments via Parish Share, Standing orders and envelopes and donations which has maintained our income stream.

Projected Budget for 2022

Income required to keep St Nicholas running for the coming year.

In preparation for the review through "Time for Change" initiative I have projected the parish share as £50,500 and £5,000 toward the cost of a new Organist, in the hope we can achieve this.

The new projected budget covers all expenditure to continue the running of the church and our committed expenses and keep the status quo is £75,557. Therefore monthly we need to aim to achieve an income of £6,296 or £1,483 per week.

The following works will finally be carried out in 2022. The money to cover the cost of these long awaiting jobs is held in CBF deposit account on reserve.

Due to Covid these works have been delayed for the past two years.

Replacing the damaged covering for the East Window.

Installing the Defibrillator

Storage Units in the Jennifer Jackson Room

Noticeboard

Reserve policy

To start the year as of January 2022 the following amounts of monies are held in various accounts.

CBF £34,494.36

Shawbrooke Fixed term until January 2023 - £36,781.67

Edentree Investment Account £70,000

Sandra Grattrick

Treasurer

Accounts

The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist,
Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
23rd May 2021

Registered Charity Number: 1133977

The Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John Baptist, Newport, Lincoln

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 23rd May 2021



INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report for the financial Year 2020 for the Parish of St. Nicholas with St. John, Newport, Lincoln. In this report you will find brief notes about church life, together with the accounts for the year 2020, duly examined (appended at the end of the document), and a budget for 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish Church of St. Nicholas is situated on the east side of Newport, Lincoln. It is within the Diocese of Lincoln in the Church of England. The correspondence address is: St. Nicholas Church, Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3DP, telephone number 01522 540614 or email stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number: 1133977.

CLERGY

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Dr. Hugh Jones

Curate: The Revd. Alice Jolley

WARDENS

Mr. Andrew Simmons

Mrs. Christine Elsmore

Mrs. Susan Humphrey

Mr. David Grattrick

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

For term to finish

Mr. John Simmons 2023

Mrs. Coral Jolley 2023

Mr. Peter Elsmore 2023

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mrs. Joanne Osborne Honorary Secretary

Mrs. Sandra Grattrick Honorary Treasurer

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Elected for term to finish

Mr. Philip Hutchings Lay Vice-Chairman 2021

Miss Susan Pycok 2021

Mr. Matthew Tarling 2021

Mr. Roger Hansard 2021

Mrs. Susan Toogood 2022

Mrs. Maureen Christie 2022

Mrs. Kate Mitchell 2022

Mrs. Lucy Bright 2022

Miss Susan Whate 2023

Mr. Adrian Smith 2023

Mrs. Margaret Arrand 2023

Post Vacant 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are

encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to PCC.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St. Nicholas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Revd. Canon Dr Hugh Jones, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for the care of the church building and its grounds, and responsibility for St. Matthias, Burton Road, which is used under lease by the Antiochene Orthodox Church.

The PCC meets about six times a year. A more detailed report is given elsewhere by the PCC Secretary. The PCC operates through a number of committees:

Standing Committee

As the only committee required by law, it has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Worship Committee

Oversees all matters of worship.

Discipleship and Education Committee

Oversees Christian nurture.

Social Committee

Oversees the social events of the church.

Buildings Committee

Oversees the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

STATISTICS FOR MISSION

	2019	2020
BAPTISMS	19	7
WEDDINGS	4	1
FUNERALS		
Church	25	11
Crematorium	12	25
Total Funerals	37	36
CHURCH ATTENDANCE		
1 st Sunday in October	141	107
2 nd Sunday in October	121	42
3 rd Sunday in October	122	52
4 th Sunday in October	122	42
USUAL SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (including children)	127	61

Note: Mission statistics for 2020 reflect Covid-19 restrictions on numbers permitted to attend. Most Baptisms and Weddings were re-scheduled, and numbers in church during October were limited by regulations.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCES

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The current Church Electoral Roll has been in place since 2019 and comprises 127 names at present. Seven names were removed during the year and no names have been added.

Fran Bell, Church Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2020

This year's Annual Accounts for 2020 are presented in this report. My thanks go to Capt. John Lee as our Independent Examiner.

Total receipts for the ordinary unrestricted funds were £163,770 and are detailed in the financial statements. The increase is made up of two legacies received during the year amounting in total to £92,006.

£74,651 was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Nicholas Church including the Diocesan parish share of £44,604.

Due to the restrictions placed upon us this year from Covid-19, our income has decreased by loss of room hire, weddings and collections. I would like to thank the congregation who have continued to support us by continuing their monthly commitments via Parish Share, Standing Orders and envelopes and donations.

Budget 2021

Income we need to raise this year in order to keep St Nicholas running is as follows.

Diocesan Parish Share for 2021 is £44,604.45; this is paid on a monthly basis.

The minimum amount to continue the running of the church covering our committed expenses and keep the status quo is £72,465. Therefore, monthly we need to receive income of £6,039 or £1,394 per week.

Income remains an issue, therefore to maintain our expenditure I shall be using some of our reserve monies in the coming year.

The following works will need to be carried out in 2021 which will involve using the money held in our CBF account.

This work involves replacing the covering for the East Window as per the condition in our insurance policy. The quote we have received is £6,090 excluding VAT. A new boiler is required for the Centre, we are awaiting a quote for this. Damage to South side wall.

Reserves Policy

We have the following amounts of monies held in various accounts:

CBF £24,066.

Shawbrooke Fixed Term until January 2022: £41,507.

Shawbrooke Fixed Term until June 2021: £44,000.

Scottish Widows Fixed Term until June 2021: £36,013.42.

Sandra Grattrick, Honorary Treasurer

PLANNED GIVING

Throughout 2020 we had 106 regular givers using either the Parish Giving Scheme (our preferred option), standing orders to CBF Bank (our current account) or numbered envelopes. Of these 88 are tax-payers who have made a Gift Aid Declaration allowing us to claim back 25% of their donations from HMRC.

	Gift Aided	Not Gift Aided	Total
PGS	32	3	35
CAF Bank	45	7	52
Envelopes	11	8	19
Total	88	18	106

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected our income from envelopes as several people have been unable to return to church yet.

Please use this time to review your giving. If you have not yet joined one of our regular giving schemes, maybe today is the day you start. If you have not increased your giving for some time, maybe today is the day you do. If you are a tax-payer, but have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration, please ask me for a form.

Joan Beresford, Planned Giving Officer

PCC HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

This is my first report as PCC Secretary as I was appointed to the role in October 2020. 2020 has been a very difficult and challenging year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are thankful that when the church was allowed to open it has had a 100% Covid free record.

Restrictions to the number of people allowed to attend services when the church re-opened has meant income has decreased.

A card reader for contactless payments is now in use in the church and Parish Office and is proving very useful. It is also hoped that a 'Donate Now' button can be added to the church website.

Repairs and maintenance of the church, centre and grounds were closely monitored throughout the year. The unreliable boiler in the centre is to be replaced for a more efficient model. It was also agreed that the East Window shielding repair will go ahead using steel mesh and it is hoped this is completed soon.

The ECO Church Advisory Group asked permission to include St Nicholas Church in the Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean, which was granted. A litter pick has been arranged for June 2021.

First Aid training had been arranged for May 2020, but due to Covid restrictions has now been put on hold until they can re-booked.

The future of St Matthais Church is ongoing, we are still trying to get a date when they can take the building over.

The service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving could not go ahead in its normal format because of restrictions, so the church was opened between 2-6pm on 1st November for people to visit and light a candle. An audio CD was played with music and the names of those to be remembered spoken.

The Christingle and Crib Service were combined as it was not possible to have lots of children in and dressing up. The service was held 3 times during the day in order to accommodate as many people as allowed.

Some high points in the year were the Ordination of Revd Alice Jolley and Dr Peter Elsmore becoming a Reader.

Thank you to Hugh, Betty and the PCC Committee for helping me in my new role.

Joanne Osborne, PCC Honorary Secretary

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Throughout 2020 the Churchwardens have continued to work as team using our individual skills to contribute to the running of the church and the centre. David Grattrick re-joined our team after a year's break and it's like he's never been away! Welcome back David. Sue Humphrey has joined our team and is a dedicated Warden as well as a good link with the office. Welcome Sue.

We have encouraged each other to carry out the very different duties throughout this very unusual year during the Covid-19 pandemic. Only Clergy were allowed in the church in the first lockdown. It was very frustrating that we had to leave everything to Hugh and Jackie Jones to inspect the building weekly to ensure there weren't any leaking pipes, etc. Thank you for your hard work, Hugh and Jackie. Additionally, Hugh presided at 7 weekly private Eucharists on behalf of the congregation where he prayed for us all. Later in 2020, although the church wasn't open for services, it was open for individual prayer. Some of the Wardens were able to be part of the opening team during that period.

When the church opened, measures were put in place to ensure everyone stayed safe by following procedures that we are all familiar with today. Sue Humphrey and Jackie Jones carried out their administrative duties brilliantly. Later Sue produced detailed lists of those attending church services to ensure everyone's safety. Our thanks to both of you.

The Churchwardens have been involved in staffing the services alongside other members of the congregation as stewards. Everyone stayed safe following the procedures that Hugh and the Safety Officer, Joan Beresford devised. This continued throughout the next lockdown, as well as over the Christmas period.

Andrew Simmons and Chris Elsmore have both completed 6 years as Churchwardens and they are now stepping down. We would like to thank both Andrew and Chris for bringing their unique experience, interest and commitment to the office of Churchwarden, and for being good team members. Thank you both for all your time and hard work in carrying out your duties as Churchwardens over the last 6 years. Your sense of humour Andrew will be missed too.

It has been a privilege to meet and get to know different members of the congregation throughout the last year, even though we have missed many people who have had to self-isolate for health reasons throughout the pandemic.

It has been a pleasure supporting Revd. Canon Dr Hugh Jones, Revd Alice Jolley as well as our Reader, Dr Peter Elsmore and Sue Humphrey when they have led services. A big thank you to Hugh and Alice for leading worship on-line and enabling congregants to become involved by reading and producing prayers for the services. We want to congratulate them on their hard work, and the time and effort it took to produce the professional standard e-church services.

Once the congregation returned to worshipping in the church building and the e-church services continued, it was special to see how amiable and how much love, care and enthusiasm both Hugh and Alice still possessed in very stressful circumstances. Hugh's responsibilities as a Rural Dean have also taken up a large amount of his time and energy, yet his good humour has prevailed.

The Wardens have liaised with the ALM's on pastoral matters by phone. We particularly want to thank the ALM's for their excellent work keeping in regular pastoral contact with members of the congregation throughout the pandemic. The ALM's are led by Carolyn Jones, and her team members are Chris Elsmore, Peter Elsmore, Sally Hubbard, Sue Humphrey and Susan Whate.

Finally, but importantly, we give our warmest congratulations to Revd Alice Jolley on her Ordination and to Dr Peter Elsmore on becoming a Reader.

Thank you for your continuing support throughout the year.

The Churchwardens

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee met only once in 2020. The decisions made and plans laid at that meeting were rapidly overtaken by the

first Covid lockdown. The closure of the church building for public worship required the clergy rapidly to devise ways of encouraging and facilitating the worship of the parish using technology, and thus e-Church was born. A series of half-hour videos featuring bible readings, prayers, homilies and hymns was prepared and distributed via a newly established YouTube channel, and grew in reach from just over 80 people to well over 140, with some 200+ 'watches' per video. Over time, it became possible to include contributions from members of the congregation who recorded readings and prayers to support this ministry. I am grateful to them, to my colleagues Alice and Peter, and to Archdeacon Gavin and Fr Alan Moses who have contributed sermons. I am especially grateful to my extraordinarily patient and gifted family who have sat in my study recording and re-recording the hymns.

Presiding at the Eucharist in church with only my wife Jackie in the congregation taught me afresh the meaning of what it is for a priest to bring the needs of the church and the world to the altar.

The resumption of public worship in church over the summer required complex procedures to ensure Covid safety. I want to pay tribute most especially to those who have tirelessly cleaned and re-cleaned the church, and to everyone who has tolerated the rules in the interests of keeping everybody safe. Of all the restrictions we have had to endure, perhaps the most keenly felt is not being able to sing God's praises together.

Despite all the restrictions, we had the great joy of hosting an Ordination, a first Mass, and a Reader Licensing in quick succession and it was a joy to see Alice and Peter stepping into these new phases of their vocations. Our thanks go also to Bishop Nicholas for his ministry during that period.

For the future, Covid has taught us some lessons that will shape our worship even once the virus is long passed. We are still working on this and I look forward to sharing in the process of prayer and discernment with the Committee through 2021.

Hugh Jones

DISCIPLESHIP & EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Discipleship Committee met only once in 2020. Most of the plans laid and decisions made were, as with the Worship report, overtaken by the Covid lockdown, although we were able to hold the first few sessions of our Lent Course on the Lord's Prayer and to deliver the Lent Saturday Worship events in person and then later online. My thanks to Alice for the latter.

Our Team of Pastoral Lay Ministers really came of age during the year. When the first lockdown began, we made a commitment to ring every person for whom we had a phone number, and contact everyone else by email or hand-delivered post. In the space of just a few days, we made over 100 phone calls. Many of those phone calls established pastoral relationships that have endured. My heartfelt thanks to Carolyn Jones for leading this excellent work. We were also able to gather a team of volunteers to respond to calls for practical help and support. Thanks to Alice for co-ordinating this.

We were able to run Advent Courses for adults and teenagers using Zoom. Again, thanks to Alice for taking the lead on both of these, as well as to all who assisted her and who took part.

With very few exceptions, most of those who were expecting to bring children for baptism or to get married in church this year have postponed until better times, often more than once.

Alice kept Nippers going as best could be managed, partly on Zoom, partly in person, but Covid-restrictions made this very difficult. We look forward to a big re-launch in the Autumn.

Hugh Jones

SIDESMEN'S REPORT

Services have been restricted under Covid-19 rules, consequently the services of those who volunteer for Sidesmen duties have not been required. Hopefully this will change in the not-too-distant future. Will you therefore let me know that you are happy to remain on the list? Should you decide otherwise may I thank you for your past service. We are always happy to see new volunteers.

Maureen Christie

ST. NICHOLAS GUILD OF SERVERS

For the year just finished, this will be a record-breaking brief and unique report. There were no Servers in this year! We look forward to a much better year of corporate worship during the forthcoming months.

Peter Elsmore

MUSIC REPORT

Our normal musical activities were curtailed at the start of the first Covid lockdown and have yet to resume. For most of the year covered by this report, we have relied on pre-recorded music and have been unable to sing together in the church building. This has been a source of real grief and we look forward to an every fuller return of music making in due course. The new year has seen an encouraging start to this for which I'm very grateful for our Director of Music, Anne Nugent.

Hugh Jones

CHRISTIANITY DEANERY SYNOD

Synod's meetings and activities were curtailed by the Covid pandemic. However, the Synod met and additional Deanery level meetings took place to discuss *Resourcing Sustainable Church*. This diocesan project seeks to address the £4m annual overspend by tackling, in an integrated way, the five inter-related issues of: stipendiary clergy deployment; growth; parish giving; assets; and costs. The final report of the first phase of this work was presented to Diocesan Synod in May of 2021.

Hugh Jones

ST. NICHOLAS SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The first event of 2020 was a Chinese New Year Quiz which took place on 25th January. This was to be our first and last event of the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our ARK and Film & Fellowship activities suffered the same fate and the Phoenix Group with associated Games Afternoons fared only slightly better with 3 Games Afternoons, a talk by Keith Hanson on "The Crown Jewels" and a visit to Lincoln CCTV.

We look forward to swinging into action again once restrictions are lifted completely.

Betty Brown, Chair of the Social Committee

ST. NICK'S NIPPERS

St Nick's Nippers continued on Zoom during the first lockdown and resumed in person, in a restricted format, when permitted. We look forward to a grand re-launch in the autumn. Huge thanks to Alice, Janet and Susan for their hard work in really challenging times.

Hugh Jones

LEVEL UP

Although we haven't been able to meet together on a Sunday morning, Level Up did manage a weekly Zoom session during Advent 2020. It was lovely to be able to 'see' the children and young people back together again and to catch up on their news.

Adele Sheriff

ECO CHURCH ADVISORY GROUP

The group did not meet again in 2020 after presenting its report to the PCC in March that year, due to the pandemic. As restrictions are relaxed, members of the group will pick up the threads of the work which needs to be done to strengthen St Nick's application for the Bronze ECO Church Award. The group has organised a Parish Litter Pick on 5th June. Thank you, Kate Mitchell, for leading on this.

Sue Humphrey

MOTHERS' UNION

Our Mothers' Union branch was formally closed in 2020 and membership is now directly with Lincoln Diocese Mothers' Union. Sadly, the lockdowns and restrictions due to Covid have disrupted us arranging fellowship and other meetings, though we have continued to keep in touch with each other informally.

Diocesan meetings have been taking place online and although that is better than nothing, we are all looking forward to being able to meet together again in person.

Diana Mowbray and Julie Plenty

FAIR TRADE

Two stalls were held this year, one in February and one in March, before lockdown brought things to a halt. Later in the year we were able to take orders for and supply Advent Calendars and some other goods. As a result, we were able to generate the much-reduced sum of £25 for church funds. It will be for the PCC to decide if we continue to donate this money to the Fair Trade Foundation.

John Simmons

THE CHURCH WEBSITE

The first Covid lockdown required us to move rapidly to establish a new website with the functionality required to host worship videos and give the church a more dynamic online presence. This was achieved thanks to a lot of hard work and good will from Gareth Thomas, Fiona Stafford-Baker-Thomas, and Arthur Makin.

Following the establishment of the new website, Arthur stood down as webmaster. We record here our thanks to him for his many years of excellent service in this capacity.

The website continues to develop, with the next big development being the inclusion of a facility for online donation. We encourage everyone to share our website details with friends. It's a really good way for people to dip their toes in the St Nicholas water.

Hugh Jones

3RD LINCOLN (ST NICHOLAS) BROWNIES

Brownies ceased to meet as of the national lockdown in March 2020. We managed to have a socially distanced picnic in July with Brownies and parents joining in and it was lovely to be able to play some games. Girlguiding did move online, but none of my girls wanted to do that so until April 2021 we haven't met, but I have dropped activity packs off at significant events throughout the year, Easter, Mother's Day and Christmas.

This has had a tremendous effect on our finances, but luckily all the parents contributed to our annual census and we are spending time between now and Summer fundraising for our contribution to the church.

It is great to be back meeting face to face again and we have our 100th birthday on 2nd June. More detail will follow and we hope to involve the church community in our celebrations too.

Kaye Robinson, Brownie Leader

SAFEGUARDING

Although no volunteers were recruited during 2020 and church activities were severely curtailed for most of the year, we have kept up-to-date with Church of England rules for Safeguarding. Our volunteers should feel confident that, when we get back to business in 2021, they will have all the support they need to work in a safe environment.

Joan Beresford, Parish Safeguarding Officer

VICAR'S REVIEW

In all that we read above we see that this has been a very challenging year for St Nicholas Church. But we also see that we have risen to the challenge in some truly inspiring ways. Business as usual was interrupted in the middle of March when, in the space of just a few days, we were required to lock the doors of our church building and find new ways to offer worship, pastoral care and help people to learn more about the Christian way of life.

We have, in my opinion, achieved this with a remarkable degree of success. We have established e-Church, a video worship resource that has been valued very highly by our regular congregation and many others all over this country and elsewhere in the world. We have hugely extended our pastoral reach, offering phone-based support to a great many people. We have run courses and other events online. And we have managed to stay Covid free on our return to the church building.

All of this is a testament to a great many people whose names have been mentioned already in the foregoing – I thank them all from the bottom of my heart.

We have also been richly blessed in the level of financial support that we have continued to receive from so many people. I am so grateful to every single one of you.

In this report last year, I wrote that the key to our future is growth. That truth remains. A church is not a club. As William Temple famously said, it exists entirely for the benefit of those who are not yet its members. I urge you all, once again, to consider the contribution that you can make to the future of this church by sharing the good news of what happens here with others.

This year, albeit a bit later than originally planned, we rejoiced with Alice as she was ordained to the priesthood and presided at the Eucharist for the first time. Alice's ministry continues to contribute so much to our shared life. We rejoiced also with Peter Elsmore when he was licensed as a Reader and we were delighted to welcome Alan Moses as Honorary Assistant Priest.

The numbers at the front of this report show that we have seen our regular congregations fall dramatically this year, although this is almost entirely down to the restrictions imposed by Covid. Nevertheless, the imperative to grow is clear.

We had to say our final farewells to some treasured friends within the calendar year, among them Laura Hedger, Des Hinchcliffe, Bill Crewe, Derek Draper, Connie Chapman, Dorothy Middleton, and Canon Brian Barnes, and this calendar year has also seen the loss of some of our nearest and dearest including Lydia Neilan, Anne

Faulding, Colin Weaver, and Canon Andrew Stokes. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.

We hope in 2020 to invite and welcome more and more people into our community as we continue to worship the living God together and to celebrate his extraordinary love and grace made known to us in Jesus Christ.

The Reverend Canon Doctor Hugh Jones, Vicar

**MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS
AND
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2021**

**AGENDA
MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Appointment of Clerk to the meetings
3. Minutes of Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens 2020
4. Election of Churchwardens

**AGENDA
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
3. Reports:
 - a. Church Electoral Roll
 - b. Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
 - c. Financial Report
 - d. Statement of PCC funds and property
 - e. Accounts for the year 2020
 - f. Budget for the year 2021
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner
5. Fabric, goods, ornaments of the Church
6. Proceedings of Christianity Deanery Synod
7. PCC Reports
8. Elections:
 - a. Parochial Church Councillors (4)
 - b. Sidesmen
9. Any matters of parochial or general church interest (by consent)
 - a. Date of next meeting
 - b. Parochial Church Council – meets immediately following the APCM
10. Closing Prayers

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF
CHURCHWARDENS**

held on 15th March 2020 at 11:25 am

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Ms Carolyn Jones, Mr. A. Simmons, Mrs. J. Ellis and Mr. D. Simmons.
2. **Appointment of Clerk** to the Meetings – Mrs B Brown.
3. **The Minutes** of the 2020 Meeting of Parishioners agreed as a true record, having noted that under item 4 omit the words 'for a four consecutive year term'.
4. **Election of Churchwardens**
There were only three nominations for Mr Andrew Simmons (proposed by Mr. Tom Ellis and seconded by Miss Susan Whate), Mrs Chris Elsmore (proposed by Mrs Maureen Christie and seconded by Mr. David Valentine) and Mrs. Susan Humphrey (proposed by Mr David Simmons and seconded by Mr Nick James).

(Mrs. Coral Jolley jointed the meeting at this point)

A further nomination was accepted from the floor, Mr. David Gratruck (proposed by Mrs. Pauline Francis and seconded by Mr. Philip Hutchings). There being no further nominations,

the four nominees were duly elected, subject to being sworn in at the Archdeacon's Visitation.

The Chairman then closed the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING 2020**

The meeting took place 15th March 2020 at 11:25 am

There were 42 persons attending.

1. **Apologies** for absence as above.
2. **Minutes of the APCM 2019** were accepted as a true record, being proposed by Mr. Tom Ellis, seconded by Mr. Peter Elsmore and agreed by those present.
3. **Reports**
 - a. **Electoral Roll.** The report was accepted by the meeting.
 - b. **Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.** The report was accepted by the meeting, having noted that on page 2 under Objectives and Activities it should read 'Antiochene Orthodox Church'.
 - c. **Financial Report.** Revd. Jones stressed that the year had been extremely difficult and this had been the first time we had had to call on our financial reserves during his time at St. Nicholas Church. Regular outgoings were all increasing in price and our income was falling. Since the Autumn, a number of measures had been introduced to try and close the gap. The situation would remain tight unless we could 'grow' the church. The Diocese would also be asking for more money in the near future.
 - d. **Statement of PCC funds and property.** The statement was available under 'Financial Review' and was accepted by the meeting.
 - e. **Accounts for the year 2019.** These were attached to the Annual Report.
 - f. **Budget for the year 2020.** This was shown under 'Financial Review'.
The Accounts and Budget were unanimously accepted and thanks were recorded to the Treasurer, Mrs. Gratruck, and our Independent Examiner, Capt. John Lee.
4. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.**
Capt Lee was happy to continue as the Independent Examiner and this was unanimously agreed having been proposed by Mrs. Janice Farrell and seconded by Mr. John Simmons.
5. **Fabric, goods and ornaments of the church.**
The report was accepted by the meeting.
6. **Proceedings of Christianity Deanery Synod**
The Vicar informed the meeting that the next three years would be a very important period. We were likely to be asked how we could reduce the number of Clergy in the Diocese.
7. All the **PCC Reports** could be found in the Annual Report including a new section on the 'Eco Church Advisory Group'.
8. **Elections**
 - a. **Parochial Church Councillors.** PCC members serve for a period of three years and were expected to be a member of at least one of the sub-committees of the PCC. They were Trustees of the church with

some responsibility for the finance and fabric of the church. They were also expected to attend six meetings of the PCC during the year. This year Mrs. Joan Beresford, Mrs. Audrey Salisbury, Mrs. Susan Humphrey and Mrs. Pauline Francis had all completed their terms of office on the PCC, resulting in there being four vacancies for three-year terms. Only one nomination had been received prior to the meeting for Ms. Lydia Neilan (proposed by Mr. David Simmons and seconded by Mrs. Fran Bell), who was therefore duly elected. Further nominations were received from the floor for Miss Susan Whate (proposed by Ms. Felicity Ingleton and seconded by Mrs. Janice Farrell), Mr. Adrian Smith (proposed by Mrs. S. Humphrey and seconded by Mr. David Valentine), and Mrs. Margaret Arrand (proposed by Mr. Nick James and seconded by Ms. Su Toogood) and they too were duly elected.

- b. **Deanery Synod Representatives.** The outgoing Representatives, Mr. John Simmons, Mrs. Sally Hubbard and Miss Susan Whate were thanked. Nominations had been received for Mrs. Coral Jolley (proposed Mr. Peter Elsmore and seconded by Mrs. Sandra Gratrack), Mr. Peter Elsmore (proposed by Mr. Tom Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Betty Brown) and Mrs. John Simmons (proposed by Ms. Su Toogood and seconded by Mr. David Gratrack), all of whom were duly elected.
 - c. **The Sidesmen** were re-elected en bloc including Mrs. Lenice Hunter who had stood down for a while but was now back on the team.
9. **Matters of parochial or general church interest** The retiring Churchwardens and the PCC Hon. Secretary were all thanked for their services to the church.
- a. The date of the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be announced later.
 - b. The Parochial Church Council would meet directly after the meeting and the next full PCC meeting would be on 11th May 2020.
 - c. Thanks were expressed to the donors of the new hymn books, the new settings used in the Eucharist services and Mrs. Anne Nugent (Director of Music) for her contribution to the services.
 - d. The Venerable Geoff Arrand proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, which was unanimously agreed. He also explained that there was no such office as 'Deputy Churchwarden' (a point which had been raised during the Churchwardens' elections) but noted that this would come under the duties of the Sidespersons.
10. **Closing Prayers** were led by Revd Jones ending with The Grace

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Receipts</u>	2019		2020	
<u>Incoming Resources from donors</u>				
Planned giving – Gift Aided	37030		42344	
Income Tax Received	8462		12829	
Planned Giving – not Gift aided	3961		2910	
Collections at Services	5825		1810	
Gift days & Sundry Donations	2938		1572	
Brownies	250		0	
Women's Fellowship/ Phoenix Gp.	200		0	
Nippers	368		58	
		59034		61523
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources</u>				
Grants & Legacies	3852		92006	
Fund-raising	1764		1306	
Insurance claim & other Income	624		3699	
		6240		97011
<u>Income from investments</u>				
Interest CBF Deposit	188		112	
		188		112
<u>Income from charitable & Ancilliary trade</u>				
Fees	9555		3937	
Hire of Rooms	5146		1187	
Rotary Concert	278		0	
Gesualdo Singers	57		0	
Lindum Concert	23		0	
Choral Society Concert	0		0	
Beevox Singers	0		0	
		15060		5124
		80521		163770

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Income for restricted use</u>				
Christian Aid	393		25	
Children's Society	669		27	
Collections at funerals	2628		630	
Ride & Stride	140			
Recording Equipment	200			
Sleep out (Church Urban Fund)	180			
Organ Repair and Choir Robes	0			
Building Project	40			
Nomad & Community Larder	61			
Hymn Books	0			
Defibrillator	1077			
Archdeacons Visit	0			
Women's Refuge	106			
Community Larder			257	
		5494	939	
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>		86015	164709	

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Payments</u>	Year 31/12/2019		Year 31/12/20	
<u>Grants</u>				
Overseas missions	393		25	
Home missions	3573		887	
Secular Charities	1302		60	
		5268		972
<u>Activities directly related to Church work</u>				
Diocesan Quota	45055		44604	
Clergy Expenses	1899		1447	
Church running expenses	8398		6138	
Upkeep of services	4433		1207	
Upkeep of Churchyard	39		39	
Nippers & Level Up	116		259	
		59940		53694
<u>Trading:-</u>				
Trading for Equipment & Maintenance Costs	10712		454	
Catering & Household	1133		883	
Salaries & Support Costs	14535		12330	
		26380		13667
<u>Administration</u>				
Flowers	849		118	
ARK	18		0	
Photocopier	214		111	
Bank charges	343		119	
Admin/Other	765		1005	
Phone & Broadband	342		414	
St Nicholas Insurance	4738		4551	6318
Investment	40495	47764	80000	
		139352		154651
<u>Additions (Reductions) in Funds for Year End</u>		-12843		9119

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	<u>Balance C/Fwd 01/01/20</u>	Balance as at 31/12/2020
General Account	46928	51111
100 Club	38	0
Coffee fund (Cash)	76	100
Shawbrooke Fixed Term A/C (Jan 21)	40495	41020
CBF Fund	20969	24067
Shawbrooke Fixed term a/c (June 21)		44000
Scottish Widows Fixed term a/c (June 21)		36013
Lloyds Bank	3375	0
CAF Cash	22584	27044
	46928	51111

<u>Notes to Accounts On Income</u>	<u>Year to 31/12/2019</u>	<u>Year to 31/12/2020</u>
<u>Fund Raising (Major Events)</u>		
Quiz	0	396
Community Challenge	0	666
Ride & Stride	140	
Harvest Lunch	222	
Christmas Market	159	
Coffee Mornings	384	98
Centre Hire	5146	1187
Fairtrade	92	27
Donations for Flowers	577	220
Lent Lunches	224	119
ARK & Games Afternoons	47	
Wedding Dress sale & Table Top Sale	210	
Level Up Cake Stall	218	
Mystery Evening	68	

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Expenditure</u>		
<u>Church Running Expenses</u>		
Insurance	4738	4551
Heat, Light & Water	6372	4104
Telephone & Broadband	342	414

I have examined the Statement of Income & Expenditure, also the Cash Book and Payments & Receipts Vouchers. These accounts accurately reflect the true financial affairs of the Church of St. Nicholas with St. John , Newport, Lincoln as at 31st December 2020

Name David John Lee

Signature



Date. 22/01/2021

**Address Mill House.
Burton Road
Lincoln
Ln1 3UB**

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Receipts</u>	2019		2020	
<u>Incoming Resources from donors</u>				
Planned giving – Gift Aided	37030		42344	
Income Tax Received	8462		12829	
Planned Giving – not Gift aided	3961		2910	
Collections at Services	5825		1810	
Gift days & Sundry Donations	2938		1572	
Brownies	250		0	
Women's Fellowship/ Phoenix Gp.	200		0	
Nippers	368		58	
		59034		61523
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources</u>				
Grants & Legacies	3852		92006	
Fund-raising	1764		1306	
Insurance claim & other Income	624		3699	
		6240		97011
<u>Income from investments</u>				
Interest CBF Deposit	188		112	
		188		112
<u>Income from charitable & Ancilliary trade</u>				
Fees	9555		3937	
Hire of Rooms	5146		1187	
Rotary Concert	278		0	
Gesualdo Singers	57		0	
Lindum Concert	23		0	
Choral Society Concert	0		0	
Beevox Singers	0		0	
		15060		5124
		80521		163770

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Income for restricted use</u>				
Christian Aid	393		25	
Children's Society	669		27	
Collections at funerals	2628		630	
Ride & Stride	140			
Recording Equipment	200			
Sleep out (Church Urban Fund)	180			
Organ Repair and Choir Robes	0			
Building Project	40			
Nomad & Community Larder	61			
Hymn Books	0			
Defibrillator	1077			
Archdeacons Visit	0			
Women's Refuge	106			
Community Larder			257	
		5494	939	
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>		86015	164709	

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Payments</u>	Year 31/12/2019		Year 31/12/20	
<u>Grants</u>				
Overseas missions	393		25	
Home missions	3573		887	
Secular Charities	1302		60	
		5268		972
<u>Activities directly related to Church work</u>				
Diocesan Quota	45055		44604	
Clergy Expenses	1899		1447	
Church running expenses	8398		6138	
Upkeep of services	4433		1207	
Upkeep of Churchyard	39		39	
Nippers & Level Up	116		259	
		59940		53694
<u>Trading:-</u>				
Trading for Equipment & Maintenance Costs	10712		454	
Catering & Household	1133		883	
Salaries & Support Costs	14535		12330	
		26380		13667
<u>Administration</u>				
Flowers	849		118	
ARK	18		0	
Photocopier	214		111	
Bank charges	343		119	
Admin/Other	765		1005	
Phone & Broadband	342		414	
St Nicholas Insurance	4738		4551	6318
Investment	40495	47764	80000	
		139352		154651
<u>Additions (Reductions) in Funds for Year End</u>		-12843		9119

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	<u>Balance C/Fwd 01/01/20</u>	Balance as at 31/12/2020
General Account	46928	51111
100 Club	38	0
Coffee fund (Cash)	76	100
Shawbrooke Fixed Term A/C (Jan 21)	40495	41020
CBF Fund	20969	24067
Shawbrooke Fixed term a/c (June 21)		44000
Scottish Widows Fixed term a/c (June 21)		36013
Lloyds Bank	3375	0
CAF Cash	22584	27044
	46928	51111

<u>Notes to Accounts On Income</u>	<u>Year to 31/12/2019</u>	<u>Year to 31/12/2020</u>
<u>Fund Raising (Major Events)</u>		
Quiz	0	396
Community Challenge	0	666
Ride & Stride	140	
Harvest Lunch	222	
Christmas Market	159	
Coffee Mornings	384	98
Centre Hire	5146	1187
Fairtrade	92	27
Donations for Flowers	577	220
Lent Lunches	224	119
ARK & Games Afternoons	47	
Wedding Dress sale & Table Top Sale	210	
Level Up Cake Stall	218	
Mystery Evening	68	

ST NICHOLAS WITH ST JOHN'S CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

<u>Expenditure</u>		
<u>Church Running Expenses</u>		
Insurance	4738	4551
Heat, Light & Water	6372	4104
Telephone & Broadband	342	414

I have examined the Statement of Income & Expenditure, also the Cash Book and Payments & Receipts Vouchers. These accounts accurately reflect the true financial affairs of the Church of St. Nicholas with St. John , Newport, Lincoln as at 31st December 2020

Name David John Lee

Signature



Date. 22/01/2021

**Address Mill House.
Burton Road
Lincoln
Ln1 3UB**