

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

England & Wales · Charity number 1138507

Details

Other names ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-10-21

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

Contact

Address Marston Vicarage
Elsfield Road
Marston
Oxford
OX3 0PR

Phone 01865580354

Website www.stnicholasmarston.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Provides opportunities for Christian worship and teaching; maintains and provides buildings for church and community use; supports other charities financially.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£400,398	£140,875	-	-
2024-12-31	£137,751	£127,837	-	-
2023-12-31	£116,997	£147,515	-	-
2022-12-31	£130,941	£98,891	-	-
2021-12-31	£108,823	£110,752	-	-
2020-12-31	£130,741	£216,958	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Revd Skye Denno	Chair	2017-05-22
Dr EILEEN PALAYIWA		
Dr Virginia Ross		2024-04-14
Duncan Hatfield		2021-11-18
Emily Claire Meredith		2022-01-18
Ian Ross		2019-04-07
JAMES CAMERON FITZGERALD SEYMOUR LAWRIE		2024-04-14
Jacqueline Anne Whittaker		2023-04-23
Jan Lawrie		2022-04-24
Jane Burd		2026-01-18
Judith Piggott		2018-04-29
MAUREEN ROSALIE DAVIS		
MILLIUS PALAYIWA		2012-06-07
Revd Dr Andrew Graham Gabriel Gosler		2018-07-09
Tessa Hennessy		2023-04-23

Accounts



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the Year ended 31 December 2025

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

The trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas', Marston (the members of the PCC) present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Incumbent

The Revd Elizabeth (Skye) Denno

Charitable Status

All Parochial Church Councils in the Church of England are recognized as charities by the Charity Commission; PCCs such as ours, with a gross income over £100,000, are required to register with the Commission. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity.

Registered Charity Number 1138507

Legal Name of the Charity

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas Marston

Working Names of the Charity St Nicholas' PCC
PCC (of) St Nicholas, Marston

Address of the Charity

The Vicarage, Elsfield Road, Marston Oxford OX3 0PR

Independent Examiner

Mr Gerald Prickett, 6 Elsfield Road, Oxford OX3 0PR

Bankers

The Cooperative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester.

Officers

Incumbent (Vicar)	Revd Skye Denno
Curate	Revd Sam Durley (from April 2025)
Associate Priest	Revd Andy Gosler
Permission to Officiate (PTO)	Revd Stephanie Bullock
Licensed Lay Ministers	David Cranston
	Joel Denno
	Neil Barker
Churchwardens	Judith Piggott
	Jan Lawrie
PCC Chair	Skye Denno
PCC Secretary	Debbie Bailey
PCC Treasurer	Eileen Palayiwa

Representatives on Cowley Deanery Synod

Skye Denno
Isabel Fenton (to April 2026)
Millius Palayiwa

The clergy are members of Deanery Synod *ex officio*.

Members of the PCC

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, members of the PCC are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, are co-opted by the PCC, or are members of the PCC *ex officio*.

The following served as members of the PCC during the calendar year 2025:

Duncan Hatfield	Emily Meredith	Jackie Whittaker
Ginny Ross	Tessa Hennessy	Eileen Palayiwa
Maureen Davis	Jan Lawrie	Millius Palayiwa
Skye Denno	Judith Piggott	Isabel Fenton
James Lawrie	Ian Ross	Linda Prickett

Elected PCC members serve for three-year terms. The current terms of office of the elected PCC members are as follows:

Serving until 2026	Serving until 2027	Serving until 2028
Maureen Davis	Duncan Hatfield	Eileen Palayiwa
Tessa Hennessy	Emily Meredith	Ian Ross
Jackie Whittaker	Ginny Ross	
	James Lawrie	

Objectives and Governance

The parish of St Nicholas, Marston, is one of the parishes in the Deanery of Cowley, within the Diocese of Oxford. It shares a joint benefice with the separate parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield.

The Parochial Church Council ('the PCC') is governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956) as amended, and by the current version (2011) of the Church Representation Rules. Its responsibilities include that of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Nicholas'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and specifically the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing knowledge of and trust in Jesus Christ.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

Missionary activity and outreach work.

Facilitating this work depends on the voluntary work of many people, and the PCC very much appreciates their service to the church and to the local community. The incumbent receives a stipend paid by the Diocese. No other trustees are paid for their services.

A connected charity is Marston Church Properties Ltd ('MCP'), which is both a registered charity, no. 1085739, and a company limited by guarantee. Three of

the five directors of MCP are members of the PCC, and the vicar is the chair of the company by virtue of her incumbency.

Vicar's Report

As I sit in the quiet of our beautiful chancel to write this report for 2025, the sun is catching the medieval glass, reminding me of the centuries of prayer that have soaked into these stones. Yet, my mind isn't on the distant past; it's on the vibrant, messy, and beautiful life that has pulsed through St Nicholas over the last twelve months.

If 2024 was about finding our feet again in a changing political post-covid climate, 2025 has been the year we decided to walk, and sometimes run, into the calling God has for Old Marston. We have moved from asking "How do we survive and increase our numbers?" to "How do we serve and show God's love?" It has been a year of transition, but more importantly, a year of growth.

One thing that remained with me from 2024 was the call to be **constant** in prayer in all that we *do* and *be* (Romans 12:12). With this verse echoing in my mind, I was keen to make sure all meetings and services began in prayer, that we prayed in our church every day, reintroduced quiet days in preparation for our festival celebrations and Night Prayer on Thursday evenings. Thank you to Ginny Ross and Sally Richards for preparing two quiet mornings so far and making sure we plan a further two for 2026.

Looking back on the past year, I am struck by the sheer variety of ways we have seen God at work, both in our community and within the church. We have seen our 'Eco-Church' initiatives take flight, the Celtic gatherings have become a nurturing inclusive community, and our churchyard, including the Eco Hub a space of sanctuary not just for our parishioners, but for the local wildlife, echoing our role as stewards of creation. The churchyard and Reading Room area look beautiful with all the Spring flowers. Thank you to Revd Andy, Tessa and Isabel who led the Green church and to Revd Sam our Curate who has enabled us to acquire our first Eco Award (Bronze) and who is inspiring us to aim for Silver this coming year. Our hope is to have clearer eco signs in the churchyard and a community information board inside containing information on all the Eco and Creation care at St Nicholas Church and what can still be further developed.

Thank you to Helen Norman (Family and Children Minister) for continuing to build bridges in our community with families and young people. Thanks to her, and the team (Margaret Harding and Duncan Hatfield) who helped with the *Mindfulness Club*, our relationship with St Nicholas Primary School has deepened significantly with them going in each week during term time. Seeing the church filled with the chaotic, joyful energy of the *Road to Easter* and Fun Days reminded us that the heart of our mission is to pass on a living faith. Messy Church is growing thanks to a dedicated team under the care of Jane Burd. Growth hasn't just been about the young, but also the young at heart. Our Coffee Pot and Lunch Club has become a lifeline for many in the village, proving that the simplest act sharing a cup of tea and a listening ear, or providing a hot meal, is often where the Holy Spirit does her best work. Thank you to Eileen Palayiwa who oversees the Pastoral care with me and runs the Coffee Pot. Pastoral care

is a very important aspect of ministry and church life here in Marston. I am so thankful we have a Pastoral Care Network - thank you to all the leaders and to Eileen for overseeing this with me. Thank you to Jackie and Judith who run the Lunch Club and for all the helpers that make it possible each month.

We have also embraced the digital age with more confidence thanks to Duncan who manages our Website, and Joel Denno and Ginny Ross who livestream up to four services monthly. For those in our community who can no longer make it up the path to the north door, our streamed services and WhatsApp Church group have ensured that no one is left behind. We are a village church with a global reach, and that is something to celebrate. Harvey Burd has continued faithfully to make sure we can be heard each week on the Sound desk and would be very happy to have others to share this role with him.

We have two excellent Churchwardens and I am grateful to Jan Lawrie and Judith Piggott who together care for the fabric of this beautiful building, making sure she is still standing and that our worship services run smoothly. I am also grateful for their care and support, making sure I keep standing! Judith will be stepping down this year after six busy years, but she will continue coordinating the Readers/servers rota and helping with Lunch club. Thank you, Judith!

Our PCC are committed and give so much wisdom and time to meetings and many take on additional roles. Thank you to Jane Burd for taking on the Treasurer role in the New Year. We are looking for two more Deanery Representatives in 2026 APCM elections. Neil Barker retired from his role as Music Director at the end of August in 2025, and we welcomed Lewis Morrin as our new Music Director re-starting Choral Evensong once a month with a growing adult choir. Thank you to all our worship leaders, those in our choirs and in the music group. Millius Palayiwa tried to step down last year in the hope that a new Safeguarding officer would emerge, but when this didn't happen, he offered to remain until one is found. Thank you Millius for continuing in this vital role and making sure Safeguarding remains at the heart of all that we do. Debbie Bailey has continued to be our parish administrator, ensuring the church hall is booked, booklets are printed and managing the phones and visitors with care and a listening ear. Colin Harris is our Sacristan and is on duty most Sundays. At present we only have Colin and Adam serving in this role (and Adam will soon be leaving for university). If anyone would like to be a server, please speak to me or Colin to shadow a service. You are welcome to try before you decide!

It is a joy to serve the Benefice, especially working alongside a great ministry team, thank you Sam Durley, Andy Gosler, and Stephanie Bullock as fellow priests, Joel Denno, Neil Barker and David Cranston our LLM's. Matty Fearon joined us in September as our Ordinand from Sarum College and he will be with us for two years; he brings energy and insight.

LOOKING FORWARD

As we look toward 2026, I want to anchor our vision in the heartbeat of the very first church. The description of the believers in Acts 2:42-47 isn't a dusty historical record; it's a provocative, contemporary manifesto for how we should live today.

'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer'.

When the early church gathered, they weren't just attending a service. They were building a life together. As we move into the coming year, I want to challenge us to lean into these three acts of *being* an inside-out church.

Devoted to the Teaching and the Table

The world is in chaos and we need the grounding of the Word and Eucharist more than ever in our lives.

For many of us, the Tuesday small group remains an important lifeline in a busy week, as does the midweek Communion, but I would like to encourage you to think about the people and spaces with whom and where you sit and explore Scripture. In May 2026 I intend to start a monthly small group that connects scripture with the complexities of 21st-century life in Oxford and which starts with an Agape meal. Faith at St Nicholas must remain communal and I am aware that so many of us are pulled in different directions with work and responsibilities. Friendship and belonging are what is wanted and needed the most in a world that is creating distances between us.

Our Lunch Together - 'the shared Table' on the first Sunday of the month, will continue to be an important focus in our planning in 2026. Over this meal, we intentionally sit with people we don't know well, breaking down the barriers of age and background.

A People of Awe and Generosity

Acts tells us that "everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs." Do we still expect God to move us in Old Marston? This awe led the first Christians to radical generosity, 'They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.' As we face the ongoing cost-of-living challenges in our own community, St Nicholas will continue to be a hub of practical support with the Community Larder at the Giving Garage. Thank you to Linda and Gerry Prickett and all the volunteers for ensuring this practical offer of love is there each Saturday. Our partnerships with Oxford Food Banks, OMCT, PC and Marston Zero Carbon, and our own desire to share individually and together will remain central to who we are and how we express the Love of God to all.

We are not here to be a social club for the 'holy.' We are here to be a place where the curious can ask questions, the weary can find rest, and the passionate can find a purpose. We will continue to invest in our children's ministry, but we will also look at how we can better support the 'squeezed middle' those juggling careers and caring responsibilities who need the church to be a place of peace, not just another item on the to-do list.

A Call to be Family

This report is not a summary of my work as Vicar; it is a celebration of *our* work as the body of Christ. St Nicholas doesn't function because of one person; it breathes because of the wardens, the cleaners, the bell ringers, the flower arrangers, the intercessors, the coffee and cake makers, and everyone who

offers a smile at the door. I am so grateful for the gift of each person and the different abilities, insights and wisdom you all bring. We need each other, to know when we must step back and rest, but also to know and be nudged when we can step forward and offer our service.

In the words of Acts, "the Lord added to their number daily." My prayer for 2026 is that as we devote ourselves to prayer, fellowship, and service, our community will see something so different, so loving, and so authentic in us that they can't help but want to find out why.

Thank you for your courage, your faithfulness, and your friendship over this past year. The best is yet to come. *Skye Denno*

Curate's Report

Since being officially licensed in the Benefice on 1st May 2025, I have been fortunate to be involved in so much of the mission and ministry of St Nicholas Church. St Nicholas is a busy church with a very large clergy and lay ministry team, a dedicated pair of church wardens, and a dedicated and enthusiastic cohort of volunteers who lead a number of mission initiatives. All told, this leads to a vibrant church that offers a welcoming place to worship God, to deepen faith, and to offer love and care for the community. I wanted to draw out three highlights from my year that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Churches Together in Marston and Northway (CTIMN)

There is a wonderful and dedicated group of people who are committed to good relationships between the churches of Marston and Northway. St Nicholas is well represented in this group, and it is encouraging to see good attendance at the regular 'Third Thursday Together' events. I was delighted to be asked to lead one of these sessions just before Lent, and I am very encouraged to see other members of St Nicholas to be asked, too. A highlight for me was the 'Carols at Victoria Arms' during Advent, which was organized as a Churches Together initiative. This was well attended by a number of churches, and was a highly successful event. I think it is a key part of St Nicholas's ministry in the parish to support CTIMN to show our commitment to ecumenical partnership and the flourishing of God's church for all people in all places. I hope St Nicholas can continue to be so active and supportive in CTIMN.

Care for the Elderly and Isolated

St Nicholas has a number of initiatives to connect and care for the elderly and isolated in our community. There are a number of touch points during the week where people can be welcomed, shown hospitality and offered pastoral care. This includes the mid-week Communion Service, Lunch Club, Coffee Pot, and pastoral care. We are blessed with a diverse congregation, but it is my

assessment that the section of our community most in need are the elderly and isolated. In the last two months I have attempted to kick start an initiative to bring those to church who would otherwise be unable to do so on the first Sunday of the month. Since my time at St Nicholas, the lunch following the service on the first Sunday of the month has become a well-attended and well-loved fixture in the life of the church. Going forward, I think it is important that the church celebrates and embraces the importance of the Pastoral Care Network, and looks to develop and expand our offering of mission and ministry initiatives that meet the need of the elderly and the isolated in our community.

Home Groups

A particular passion of mine is to help people discuss, explore and develop their Christian faith. In the last 12 months, I have been heavily involved with three courses in the Benefice: a lent course in Elsfield, a course on the Nicene Creed, and a confirmation course. On each occasion, I was hugely encouraged by the desire and enthusiasm for these offerings to deepen an understanding of the Christian faith. Each course was well and faithfully attended, each offering interesting discussions, and, I hope, a further desire to strengthen, deepen, and develop a commitment to the beliefs of the Christian Church. Over the next year, I hope the PCC identifies opportunities and initiatives to help people ask questions about their faith and beliefs, and to offer well-informed and sensitive responses.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to be helping St Nicholas work towards a second Eco Church Award. This will require a significant body of work, mostly centering on policy documents that commit St Nicholas to operating in a sustainably and environmentally sensitive way. Aligned with the objectives of Eco Church, St Nicholas will also need to promote healthy lifestyles, reducing personal carbon emissions, and sustainable living. This is a great opportunity for St Nicholas to demonstrate to the community that, alongside other initiatives, we are committed to stewarding creation in a responsible way. *Sam Durley*

Deanery Synod Report

The synod met three times during the year, with all meetings occurring in person. There was no joint meeting with the Oxford Deanery in 2025. In February we received an update from Renew Oxford, an initiative of Oxford Community Church that aims to build collaboration between churches across the city. They talked about their 'Safe Families in Oxford' project, and highlighted their conference which was to be held in October. Over the year, they have been working on a report which they published in November (and raised in the November synod meeting). They identified 6 areas of need, with a particular

focus on children youth and families, and people in crisis. This report will feed in to the mission action plan for the deanery when that is updated. We also heard from Citizens UK, which has launched an Oxford local branch. There has been a lot of work in supporting children and young families across the deanery, with many positive stories of churches running successful activities. In terms of finance, this year was the first time of implementing a new formula for splitting the deanery share among parishes. There have been some challenges, with ongoing discussions about the new process. However, with the help of a few one-off donations from parishes the required amount was successfully raised. There were a number of changes during the year. Revd Heather Carter left Holy Family Church, Blackbird Leys. Revd Paul Niemiec is stepping down from his role at All Saints, Headington due to ill health. The long-standing Area Dean, Revd Geoff Bayliss stepped down at the end of the year and Revd Clare Hayns has taken over the role.

St Nicholas Church's representatives on the Deanery Synod are Millius Palayiwa (who is also Lay Chair and, on the Deanery, Standing Committee) and Isabel Fenton (who is also the Deanery Synod Minute Secretary). Isabel will be standing down in early 2026. *Isabel Fenton*

Diocesan Synod Report

Through their roles in Deanery Synod, both Rev Sam Durley (clergy representative) and Millius Palayiwa (laity representative) are members of the Oxford Diocesan Synod.

In 2025, there were meetings in March (in person), June (in person), and November (online). Over these three meetings the following core themes can be drawn out, all of which affect St Nicholas Church in some way:

1) Finance

Whilst the Diocese of Oxford is relatively well-off in comparison to other dioceses, it has been affected by the increase in clergy stipends (an increase in the stipend itself and the increase in national insurance contributions) and a gradual decrease in parish share contributions. Whilst the Diocese has sufficient funds in reserve to cover a deficit budget, this is not a long-term solution. Therefore, it is expected that there will be a continued increase in the parish share contributions required from St Nicholas church in the future.

2) Living in Love and Faith

The 'Living in Love and Faith' process looked to move proposals for a stand-alone service to bless (civil) same-sex marriages. During this process, 'Prayers of Love and Faith' were commended as a resource for praying for people in same-sex marriages as part of a main service. There was also a question on whether clergy could also be in same-sex

marriages, as opposed to civil partnerships. These questions were discussed as part of Diocesan Synod, particular due to the expectation that there would be significant decisions made at General Synod in February 2026. However, the LLF process has now come to an end, with the *status quo* being maintained.

3) Young People

There is a diocesan initiative to actively engage and increase the number of young disciples in the church. To this end, the diocese applied for national funding to implement a programme specifically designed to engage young people, but this bid was unsuccessful. However, new programmes to engage young people, both within school and in the community, are being rolled out. These will be reported on in 2026.

‘Amplfy’, the diocesan youth summer camp, is one such programme that St Nicholas engages with. *Revd Sam Durley*

Elsfield

During 2025, the Elsfield PCC and ministry team continued to engage members of the Elsfield village – both regular church goers and those who are not involved with church activities – looking to strengthen the both the social and spiritual aspects of this small community.

Our monthly services continue to attract a loyal congregation to celebrate matins, common worship, holy communion, evensong (including our popular Hymns and Pimm’s in June) and celebrations at Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Christmas.

Our compline services, held every Thursday evening during Lent, were well attended by members of Elsfield and Marston for a period of quiet contemplation, reflection and prayer.

Our Maundy Thursday fish and chip supper with informal communion, now a regular feature of the Elsfield calendar, was attended by 34 friends from Elsfield and Marston. This evening provides a joyous occasion with plenty of conversations as well as songs and poems.

Our village community calendar includes the ever-popular inter-village wine tasting competition on the first Saturday in February, as well as a bring-and-share Harvest supper, the Christmas fair and carols around the Christmas tree with mulled wine served through the kitchen window.

Although Elsfield is a small village in its own right, we are very well supported by members of St Nicholas Church and are pleased to feel the strengthening bonds of friendship with those “down the hill” in Marston. *James Plunkett*

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates with committees and working groups, which meet and report to it as appropriate. Participation in these groups is open to all church members.

Standing Committee

Elected annually, this comprises the Vicar, churchwardens, treasurer and such other members as the PCC agrees. It exists to conduct essential business between full meetings of the PCC.

Pastoral Care Network

We continue to provide Pastoral Care for our congregation through St Nicholas Pastoral Care Network – this is the new name for the Prayer and Care Groups, we feel it better reflects what the groups are for. Approximately 100 households are covered by this network and there are 8 leaders who keep in touch with the members of their group and bring any needs or concerns to the attention of either Skye or Eileen. Leaders meet from time to time to discuss issues but always ensure confidentiality is kept. Home Communion is provided to housebound group members who request it. *Eileen Palayiwa*

Communications

I believe the monthly Marston Times continues to be a welcomed feature of parish life. Quarterly print runs are distributed by Colin Harris' team of deliverers, while the other eight editions are circulated digitally by Debbie Bailey, who continues to print a number for the church and for loyal readers outside the parish needing a posted copy.

I must thank Colin, who receives 1800 magazines and proceeds to bundle and label them for our mature paperboys and girls to collect from St Nicholas (many thanks to them too!). Applause to Jennie Burrow, Tessa Hennessy and Colin (again) who provide material each month for our features page of poem, nature notes and recipe. Roy Peach and Tim Cann continue to provide bellringers' notes and a PC report.

Over 2025 we have also aired the credentials of (amongst others) Oxford Pro Musica singers, Marston Forest Garden, Wild Oxfordshire, the Parish Council, Old Marston library, the Repair Café and Marston's Women's Institute. The front page is always reserved for an essay by one of our estimable team of clergy and page 2 will feature our monthly timetable of church services. Further posters will highlight particular church events.

And finally...the back page continues to carry a list of local clubs, services and amenities.

I am always happy to consider material for printing in the Marston Times. marstontimes@gmail.com will find me. *Jan Lawrie*

Website

The website is an important connection within the wider community and is widely used. It provides information about all our services, events and community activities as well as the latest news, archives and past editions of the Marston Times. Website maintenance takes several hours of time each week to maintain and keep up-to-date. Checking to make sure that the information is correct and contacting Duncan to let him know of anything that is going on is essential as this is how many people find out about us and what we do.

Our Facebook page reaches a wider audience with information about all our activities. If you have any ideas regarding the website or our Facebook page or would like to contribute then please do contact us. *Duncan Hatfield*

Churches Together

St Nicholas is an active member of Churches Together in Marston and Northway (CTIMN). Our representatives during 2025 were Skye Denno, Maureen Davis, Neil Barker and Helen Meredith.

CTIMN continues to organise a range of joint activities that strengthen fellowship across our churches and serve the wider community. These include the monthly dementia-friendly service, *This is the Day*; the ecumenical *Thursday Together Fellowship*; and shared Advent and Lent study groups.

In January, St Nicholas hosted the 2025 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service. Organised by Neil Barker, the service was very well attended and provided a meaningful opportunity for worship across our congregations.

In March the World Day of Prayer service, organised by Maureen Davis, was held at St Michael's, New Marston. With the theme "*I Made You Wonderful*", the service drew on resources prepared by women from the Cook Islands and featured contributions from representatives of CTIMN member churches.

The highlight of the year was the all-age community event *Love Marston Love Life*, held at Mortimer Hall Park on Sunday 21 June. The event was a tremendous success and a joyful celebration of our local community. Revd Sam Durley chaired the programme, which featured music from the CTIMN united choirs and music band, Joel Denno's imaginative storytelling about mayflies and Simeon, and an engaging and inspiring address from guest speaker Cristo Rodríguez of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics.

A wide range of community organisations contributed stalls and activities, including Marston WI, the Oxfordshire Historic Preservation Trust and the Garne Way allotments. Children's activities were led by Helen Norman and Alison Parkinson, and the Connect team was led by Revd Cara Heafey.

The event was supported by a large team of volunteers who managed logistics and hospitality. Particular thanks are due to lead organiser Neil Barker, whose vision and dedication were instrumental in making the day possible, and to site manager Isobel Fenton for her careful coordination.

The strong community spirit and collaborative effort throughout the afternoon reflected a genuine celebration of life in Marston and the unity of our churches working together. *Helen Meredith*

Review of the Year

Church attendance

The completely new electoral roll was presented at the APCM last year. The Electoral Roll as of end of December 2025 contained 104 names of which 36 were non-resident.

Attendance at Sunday services during October 2025 was as follows:

	In church	Online views
October 5th	115	84
October 12th	62	No online
October 19th	63	20
October 26th	67	30
Average	77	34

Comparison with Sunday Services in October 2024

	In church	Online views
October 6th	129	34
October 13th	63	No online
October 20th	78	No online
October 27th	86	No online
Average	89	34

The equipment for online viewing was not working for most of October.

Statistics for occasional offices: baptisms, weddings, and funerals

Baptisms.	There were 2 baptisms (2024:0)
Confirmations.	There were 0 confirmations (2024:0)
Weddings.	There was 1 wedding. (2024:1)
Funerals.	The clergy conducted 10 funeral services. (2024:18)

Ministry Team

The team is led by Revd Skye Denno and assisted by Revd Stephanie Bullock (PTO), Revd Andy Gosler (Associate Priest), Revd Sam Durley (Curate) from April 2025 and Matty Fearon (Ordinand) from Sept 2025

Preaching was shared with licensed lay ministers David Cranston, Joel Denno, Neil Barker. Neil Barker continued to serve as Director of Music, Organist and Choir Master and to lead our informal cafe services until Sept 2025 when Lewis Morrin took over the role.

Debbie Bailey continues as Parish Administrator.

Helen Norman continues as Children and Family Minister.

Music

Music at St. Nicholas' has seen significant change in the last year. My key aims on starting as DoM were to reintroduce monthly services of choral evensong, and to continue to encourage participation and enthusiasm amongst choir members and congregants alike.

Evensong has been successfully reinstated on the final Sunday of each month, and additionally the choir has sung at numerous special services, including at the All Souls memorial and Nine Lessons and Carols. Numbers in the adult choir have remained relatively steady after the beginning of the new academic year saw a few new joiners. The junior choir continues to rehearse each week, and has joined in singing for certain special services. Numbers in this choir have struggled somewhat, but I am very interested to see how the Church of England's recent funding announcement for youth choirs will have an impact moving forwards.

The organ underwent some restoration work in October 2025 in order to improve the reliability of the pedal notes. This has been successful and the reliability of the instrument has thus been safeguarded for the near-medium term future.

Lewis Morrin

Children and Family Minister

It has been a very busy year with activities for children and families across the schools, scouts, Toddler group, Messy Church, Sunday school 'Energy', youth group 'Pulse', Holiday club and the biannual fun days.

I have continued to work with St Nicholas school and have just finished running the fifth session of Mindfulness after school club with Margaret Harding and Duncan Hadfield. It is based on a scheme written by the Diocese of Oxford entitled 'Space makers' which encourages reflection in areas of noticing, reflecting, blessing, dwelling and flourishing. The club has always been oversubscribed, and we have had full attendance of children from foundation stage (aged 3 and 4) up to year 6 (aged 11). Each session includes time for silent guided reflection, a linked art activity and collaborative group activities. Many children enjoyed the activities so much they returned to the club more than once and invited their friends. We covered a wide range of topics from noticing the natural world, to mindful colouring, flower prayers that open in water, scented playdough, creating art from found nature objects, blessing trees, exploring forgiveness through a Charlie and Lola story and pizza making.

Around once each half term with a group of volunteers the church has run 'Open the book' assemblies (where bible stories are brought to life with an interactive story and costumes), but this has reduced to around three times a year for Christmas, Easter and the Summer due to the school focusing on Outdoor learning. We will continue to see this relationship with assemblies develop over the coming year as the schools' priorities change. Many thanks to Ginny, Matty, Sam, Skye and Joel for their commitment to this venture.

This year as part of their RE lessons, sixty Year 5 children from St Nicholas school attended 'The Road to Easter' prayer stations in the church. This was a powerful opportunity to share the last week of Jesus's life through thoughtful interactive activities which included acting out the last supper, foot washing, mediating on the cross, thinking about being alone in the garden of Gethsemane and thinking of the joy of Palm Sunday and the resurrection. A big thank you to Brian, Ginny, Eileen, Matty, Sam and Margaret for the day required to set up and run this activity.

The link with the local scout group 43rd Oxford has been maintained and we hosted their annual Scout service in November with renewal of Scout Promises, an interactive bible story to raise awareness this year for The British Heart Foundation and the importance of defibrillator and CPR training. The scouts

have also played an important part in our fun days by running a fire pit and craft activities. I also took the Space makers to the beaver pack, and we ran through a meditation which used the symbolism of hands and in turn we created art and clay models of hands. *Helen Norman*

Mission in the Parish

Messy Church

Meeting monthly in the church hall, Messy Church has been busy this year, with between 45 and 50 attendees each month. Thanks to our wonderful Messy Church team, we enjoy a delicious breakfast, imaginative crafts, fun songs with a Bible story and a chance to meet a member of the church family. This year, we have joined with the congregation in church for some special moments, such as the Palm Sunday procession, a communion where the children were able to assist Sam at the altar, and the Christmas service, where Messy Church led the prayers. We also hosted the after-church coffee in July, which brought to life our story of Feeding the 5000! *Jane Burd*

Baby and Toddler Group

Baby and Toddler group meets on a Wednesday morning in term time from 9.30-11.30. We have a theme for each term and a wide range of toys suitable for toddlers and babies. The numbers for the group ebb and flow as children start nursery and pre-schools but we can have up to twenty families. Each week during notices we invite the families to church events such as carol services, fun days and Messy Church and we have seen considerable crossover into Messy Church and fun days. After struggling with volunteers, we have extra help to set up and clear away and a special thanks to Margaret Harding and Felicity for their continuing dedication as well as Carmen, Gillian and Terry for stepping in to help on a regular basis. *Helen Norman*

Energy - Junior Church

‘Energy’ Sunday school has continued with similar numbers to previous years, with crafts, singing, prayer and stories as part of each session run in the vestry on the second and fourth Sunday. A volunteer rota has been established for the group to run, with anything from zero to eight children aged from under two to seven and eight. Many families, due to time and work constraints, may attend infrequently which can make planning activities tricky. On the first Sunday of the month an activity is run on tables at the back of church near to the font with the children staying in the service. *Helen Norman*

Fun days

The biannual fun days in Autumn and Spring were both exceptionally well attended by the local communities and were days of fun and joy. There were a range of seasonal crafts at both events, face painting, hot cross buns or hot dogs as well as cake and coffee and games. This year an Easter trail following the last week in the life of Jesus and Easter egg hunt in the church and church yard was so oversubscribed we ran out of tickets! The events were generously supported by the parish council and could not have gone ahead without the large list of volunteers who so generously gave up their time from across the parish and village community. *Helen Norman*

Holiday Club

Holiday club ran successfully in July for one day with around thirty children attending and supported by more than fifteen volunteers throughout the day. The day was themed 'Caring for God's creation' and was based upon Eco church theme which covered the wonders of creation, being sustainable, fairtrade choices as well as a survey of wildlife around the church and churchyard and ways to look after the planet. The day included singing, games, craft and art and a sustainable home-made pizza lunch. The parents were very complimentary and many of the children did not want to leave at the end of the day.

Helen Norman

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot meets monthly and provides an opportunity for social contact, particularly for the bereaved and those who live alone. It continues to be very popular, and many thanks are due to the excellent team who set up the hall, provide refreshments, give lifts, clear up and to those who give the short talk each month. *Eileen Palayiwa*

Lunch Club

Lunch Club meets on the last Friday of each month. Again this year the lunch club has been thriving with growing numbers. Most months the numbers exceed 45 people present. The feedback from attendees has been very positive.

We have now become part of the Community Lunch Scheme with Cook in Summertown which enables us to get a 30% discount on any purchases, but this year they have also generously donated food. However, the lunch club would not exist without the very hard-working volunteers who help in the kitchen and serve the food, with a particular thank you to Jackie for all the work she does.

As we cannot hold a Lunch Club in December (because it would fall between Christmas and New Year), we once more had a New Year meal at the Victoria Arms (on 2nd January 2026). This is sponsored by Victoria Arms and OMTC but organised by St Nicholas. This year 55 people were present and we are discussing a possibly of extending this to a summer event too. *Judith Piggott*

Pulse Youth Group

‘Pulse’ Youth Group continues to meet on the second and fourth Saturdays in term time. We said goodbye to some of our older members as they left to go to work or university, but through the holiday club, new year 7 children joined us. The group attendance can be up to twenty in their teens, and they enjoy a varied programme of games, food-based activities like ready steady cook, craft and outdoor activities with snacks and fizzy drinks available at each session. We start each session with a slot linked to the Sunday morning Gospel reading and we have successfully had Compline around the firepit, Lent pizza and prayer groups. This group continues to be a challenge in terms of the age range (11-18) as well having enough volunteers to safely run each session, but the teenagers seem to really enjoy attending and bring their friends. Six of the group attended the Amplify adventure diocese youth camp in July and seven are signed up to go again this year. Thank you to Brian, Joel, Sam and Skye for their faithfulness to volunteering at this group and to all our guests who have come to teach new skills or judge competitions. *Helen Norman*

Mission in the World

Church Mission Society

We support Andy and Kati Walsh in Brazil and we recently sent them a gift for their work. They continue to develop their prison ministry work working together with others and they also support the ministry of a local church. Copies of updates they have sent are made available in Church. *Neil Barker*

Church Fabric

As reported in the 2024 Annual Report, the question of chairs being purchased for the font area was taken to the January 2025 PCC with a recommendation to buy 10 chairs. This was agreed and the chairs were purchased with donations from members of the congregation.

Agreement for CCTV to be installed in the church was received from the Archdeacon and purchased from Christ Lewis Security. This was set up and running from March 2025. A log is kept of when the CCTV is viewed (it can only be viewed by the Vicar, Church Wardens and Data Protection Officer) and this year it has been viewed 5 times and footage supplied to the police 3 times.

We are still monitoring the heating, trying to find the right balance of warmth against costs.

The Quinquennial Survey of the building and churchyard happened in November 2025. There were some minor issues highlighted for immediate repair such as a couple of slates missing but it was generally thought the fabric was in very good condition.

At present we have a list B application with the Archdeacon to crown a number of trees in the churchyard and this is an ongoing application.

Judith Piggott and Jan Lawrie

Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues or concerns have been reported during the year. We are up to date with our DBS checks for all those who needed to be checked.

Makin Review. As reported last year the Makin Review continued to dominate Safeguarding. The publication of the report led to widespread publicity and the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The impact of the Makin Review was not found on the Church of England reputationally but also at diocesan level across the country, where there were substantive increase in contacts safeguarding teams.

Diocese wise, there was a huge increase the increase in reactive work following the Review, that figure was falling towards the end of the year. The Safeguarding Team was receiving, on average, 117 safeguarding enquiries per month (excluding training enquiries) compared with an average of 89 the previous year. The enquiries related to low level concerns, safer recruitment and advice on other areas of preventive safeguarding activity. (Congregants wondering if they should report such and such a “thing” as a safeguarding matter!) The Team was receiving an average of 33 safeguarding referrals per month. The Team supports parishes to manage the risk of those who have sexually offended.

Data Breach at APCS. However, the data breach at APCS has caused other major problems. 10 PSOs resigned following the breach. At the end of the year,

there are 60 parishes without a PSO. The Makin Review and the data breach have affected the diocese's ability to recruit PSO in particular and volunteers in general!

In total, 258 parishes in the diocese of Oxford were affected by the breach, equating to 1,908 individuals. 10 other dioceses were also affected. The Experian free credit service was offered to run for a year. 687 Experian codes were issued.

The data subjects affected were offered a 12-month free access to a credit checking and monitoring service from Experian and were advised to contact Experian Identity Plus for support.

Procurement of a new DBS Provider. Following the data breach, the Diocese advised that we pause using APCS for DBS and recommended using Thirty-one Eight instead. 148 parishes did do so that and processed 466 applications. We had only one person to process since the data breach and we did it thorough APCS.

The Diocese undertook a procurement exercise to find a new provider that they could recommend to parishes. An Invitation to Tender was issued in October. Five providers were shortlisted. One did not turn up. In the end a company called Verifile was chosen and is being recommended for use by parishes.

Out of the 808 parishes in the diocese of Oxford, 60 have chosen to use Verifile.

People. The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA), Erica Hegg covered Oxford and Dorchester areas. That has now been split up, and Sophie Harrold was appointed to be the new DSA for Oxford & Cowley deaneries. Millius will continue as St Nicholas PSO for another year whilst we look for a replacement.

Millius Palayiwa

Financial Report

Receipts

In 2025 we were exceptionally fortunate in receiving two large legacies. One, from Caroline Jones, the widow of the late Roy Jones, for £50, 000, and the second, from Jenny Wren, for £220,500. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of these two individuals and the PCC will now consider prayerfully how these monies should be spent. The legacy from Caroline Jones is restricted to Church Fabric and has been put into the fabric fund. The Wren legacy has mostly been transferred to investment funds.

The majority of our planned giving (around 80%) now comes through the Parish Giving Scheme which is a great help to the treasurer!

The accounts for 2025 have been prepared on an Accruals basis. The planned budget for 2025 had a deficit of around 16K. However, discounting the legacies of 270,500 and the loss on our investments, the deficit for the year was £10,978.

Payments

Our Parish share payment rose by about 4% but the majority of this increase as a voluntary payment which we made to help poorer parishes in the Deanery. who could not find the funds to pay the share allocated to them.

Maintenance payments were higher than expected due to organ repairs and maintenance needed for the Quinquennial Inspection. Utility bills were lower than we budgeted for and we look forward to further savings next year as we now have a cheaper, green energy contract.

WE spent more money than budgeted on Mission in The Parish but this was covered by grants from the Parish Council towards Fun Days etc.

The apparent overspend on cleaning and administration costs is actually a change in how these recorded – i.e. the income from MCP(Marston Church Properties) towards these costs is recorded separately rather than being offset against them.

Investments

The value of our investments on 31st December was £345,694 including £250K from legacies. This means that there was a loss of 4K overall.

Account Preparation 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2025

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation

(a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011, together with applicable accounting standards.

(b) The accounts are prepared on an Accruals basis, as permitted when the annual income is between £250,000 and £500,000

(c) The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor of those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2. Accounting Policies (a) The funds of a charity, under charity law, have to be categorized in one of three ways. Unrestricted funds: these contain money that can be spent in any way the PCC chooses (within general charity law)

Designated funds: these contain money that the PCC has allocated to a specific purpose. They include funds designated for maintenance of church property. Money in a designated fund can be undesignated by a subsequent decision of the PCC. Restricted funds: these contain money that has been given for a purpose specified by the donor. Such money can only be spent on the specified purpose (within the overall objectives of the PCC), or else returned to the donor.

(b) The PCC uses a number of bank accounts and investment funds General Account: This holds current funds, including General (unrestricted), Designated and Restricted Funds. The PCC holds a current account with the Cooperative Bank Investment Accounts. Reserves are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund administered by CCLA Investment Management Ltd. Investments are valued at the basic value (between bid price and offer price) on 31 December.

(c) Fixed assets Consecrated land and buildings and benefice property are not included in the accounts. Movable church furnishings which are held by the vicar and churchwardens on trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are listed in the church's inventory. Such assets are not included in the financial statements. The freehold property at 1B Mill Lane belongs to the PCC, with the deeds held on its behalf by the Diocese. It is included in the statement of overall assets and liabilities at its market value.

Signed: Revd Skye Denno – Vicar of Marston

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E Denno', written in dark ink on a light background.

Date: 4th June 2026

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS,
MARSTON
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out in pages 25-35 below.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

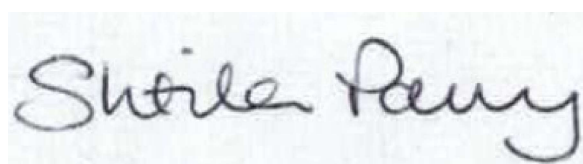
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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



Sheila Parry FCCA

Date: 5th June 2026

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	314,824	52,948	367,772	95,900	2,988	98,888
Charitable activities	4	9,660	8,734	18,394	18,785	8,812	27,597
Investments		3,494	-	3,494	3,311	-	3,311
Other trading activities	5	10,140	-	10,140	9,912	-	9,912
Other income	6	598	-	598	117	890	1,007
Total income		<u>338,716</u>	<u>61,682</u>	<u>400,398</u>	<u>128,025</u>	<u>12,690</u>	<u>140,715</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	8	<u>116,583</u>	<u>24,292</u>	<u>140,875</u>	<u>97,540</u>	<u>26,489</u>	<u>124,029</u>
Total expenditure		<u>116,583</u>	<u>24,292</u>	<u>140,875</u>	<u>97,540</u>	<u>26,489</u>	<u>124,029</u>
Net income / -expenditure		222,133	37,390	259,523	30,485	- 13,799	16,686
Transfers between funds		- 5,745	5,745	-	-	-	-
Gains / -losses on revaluation of fixed assets		- 3,966	-	- 3,966	1,792	202	1,994
Net movement in funds		<u>212,422</u>	<u>43,134</u>	<u>255,556</u>	<u>32,277</u>	<u>- 13,597</u>	<u>18,680</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forwards		<u>455,662</u>	<u>23,812</u>	<u>479,474</u>	<u>423,385</u>	<u>37,409</u>	<u>460,794</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>668,084</u></u>	<u><u>66,946</u></u>	<u><u>735,030</u></u>	<u><u>455,662</u></u>	<u><u>23,812</u></u>	<u><u>479,474</u></u>

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

		2025	2024
		£	£
	Notes		
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	9	350,000	350,000
Fixed asset investments	10	345,695	99,661
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	4,962	9,876
Cash at bank		36,863	22,517
		41,825	32,393
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	12	2,490	2,580
NET CURRENT ASSETS		39,335	29,813
NET ASSETS		735,030	479,474
FUNDS			
INCOME FUNDS			
Unrestricted Income funds	13	276,769	66,562
Designated funds	13	41,315	39,100
Revaluation reserve	13	350,000	350,000
Restricted Income funds	14	66,946	23,812
TOTAL INCOME FUNDS		735,030	479,474

Signed: Revd Skye Denno – Vicar of Marston



Date: 4th June 2026

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. ORGANISATION STATUS

The PCC of the Parish of St Nicholas, Marston is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. St Nicholas is part of the Church of England.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the charities SORP 2015.

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

This is the first year that accruals accounts have been prepared. The prior year figures have been restated from the previous receipts and payments basis.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds in which the capital must be maintained. Holy Trinity PCC does not have any such funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross and included in the SOFA.

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross and is included in the SOFA. Expenditure is included on an accruals basis.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts.
 Freehold property, 1B Mill Lane is recorded at a revalued amount, based on current market value.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	2025			2025		2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving	66,030	600	66,630	57,465	2,892	60,357
Reclaimed from HMRC	17,225	-	17,225	19,934	-	19,934
Loose cash collections	4,081	82	4,163	4,080	-	4,080
Donations	5,374	2,266	7,640	12,880	120	13,000
Legacy	221,000	50,000	271,000	1,000	-	1,000
Wall safe	510	-	510	382	-	382
Lunch Club income	418	-	418	151	- 24	127
Sundries	186	-	186	8	-	8
	314,824	52,948	367,772	95,900	2,988	98,888

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	2025			2025		2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees	7,293	-	7,293	8,382	-	8,382
Grants	1,750	8,734	10,484	9,278	8,700	17,978
Sunday morning coffee	52	-	52	161	-	161
Events	565	-	565	964	112	1,076
	9,660	8,734	18,394	18,785	8,812	27,597

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rent	<u>10,140</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,140</u>	<u>9,912</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,912</u>

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Marston Times income	<u>598</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>598</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>890</u>	<u>1,007</u>
	<u>598</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>598</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>890</u>	<u>1,007</u>

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Payments outside the Parish						
Parish share	54,133	-	54,133	51,482	-	51,482
Charitable donations	5,274	799	6,073	7,814	-	7,814
Church running expenses						
Utilities	7,709	-	7,709	14,081	-	14,081
Insurance	3,778	-	3,778	2,869	-	2,869
Maintenance	13,317	3,403	16,720	1,180	2,483	3,663
Cleaning (net)	2,104	-	2,104	1,940	-	1,940
Cost of services	1,529	-	1,529	1,525	-	1,525
Messy Church	29	39	68	114	84	198
Organists	4,783	-	4,783	4,471	-	4,471
Choir (including Junior Choir)	125	-	125	-	-	-
Gardening	2,900	1,350	4,250	-	4,650	4,650
Ministry in the Parish						
Clergy expenses	2,264	-	2,264	1,381	-	1,381
Junior Church	85	-	85	-	-	-
Youth Work	368	768	1,136	150	243	393
Lunch club	338	-	338	-	-	-
Eco Hub	310	-	310	-	53	53
Mission with the Parish	2,637	-	2,637	1,459	364	1,823
Family Minister	-	17,925	17,925	-	16,042	16,042
Fabric						
Equipment	1,187	-	1,187	-	2,241	2,241
Inspection	-	-	-	-	250	250
Other expenditure						
Administration	8,491	-	8,491	6,857	-	6,857
Marston Times	1,357	-	1,357	1,356	-	1,356
Maintenance of 1B Mill Lane	708	-	708	861	-	861
Flowers	133	5	138	-	79	79
Fees other	924	3	926	-	-	-
Curate's rent	1,200	-	1,200	-	-	-
IE and accounts prep fee	900	-	900	-	-	-
	<u>116,583</u>	<u>24,292</u>	<u>140,875</u>	<u>97,540</u>	<u>26,489</u>	<u>124,029</u>

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

8. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	26,047	26,600
Social security costs	-	-
Pension contributions	796	759
	<u>26,843</u>	<u>27,359</u>
Headcount	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

9. FIXED ASSETS

	1B Mill Lane £
COST	
At 1 January 2025	350,000
Disposals	-
Revaluation	-
Additions	-
At 31 December 2025	<u>350,000</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 January 2025	-
Disposals	-
Charge for the year	-
At 31 December 2025	<u>-</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 1 January 2025	<u>350,000</u>
At 31 December 2025	<u>350,000</u>

10. INVESTMENTS

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 January 2025	99,661	97,666
Disposals	-	-
Additions	250,000	-
Revaluation	- 3,966	1,995
At 31 December 2025	<u>345,695</u>	<u>99,661</u>

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

11. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	1,038	6,557
Gift Aid owing	2,859	2,257
Prepayments	1,065	1,062
	<u>4,962</u>	<u>9,876</u>

12. CREDITORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	<u>2,489</u>	<u>2,082</u>
	<u>2,489</u>	<u>2,082</u>

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

13. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

Current year	Bal at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Change in investment £	Transfers £	Bal at 31 December 2025 £
General funds	66,562	331,043	- 111,125	- 3,966	- 5,745	276,769
Designated funds						
Fabric	22,043	1,000	- 3,598	-	-	19,445
Marston Times	- 933	458	- 1,018	-	-	- 1,493
1B Mill Lane	17,446	5,915	- 708	-	-	22,653
Music Events	83	300	- 34	-	-	349
Lunch Club	461	-	- 100	-	-	361
	<u>39,100</u>	<u>7,673</u>	<u>- 5,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,315</u>
Revaluation reserve	350,000	-	-	-	-	350,000
	<u>455,662</u>	<u>338,716</u>	<u>- 116,583</u>	<u>- 3,966</u>	<u>- 5,745</u>	<u>668,084</u>

Prior year	Bal at 1 Jan 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Change in investment £	Transfers £	Bal at 31 Dec 2024 £
General funds	45,016	117,519	- 95,973	-	-	66,562
Designated funds						
Fabric	20,251	-	-	1,792	-	22,043
Marston Times	- 372	117	- 678	-	-	- 933
1B Mill Lane	7,887	9,912	- 353	-	-	17,446
Music Events	154	365	- 436	-	-	83
Lunch Club	449	112	- 100	-	-	461
	<u>28,369</u>	<u>10,506</u>	<u>- 1,567</u>	<u>1,792</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,100</u>
Revaluation reserve	350,000	-	-	-	-	350,000
	<u>423,385</u>	<u>128,025</u>	<u>- 97,540</u>	<u>1,792</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>455,662</u>

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

14. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

Current year	Bal at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Change in investment £	Transfers £	Bal at 31 December 2025 £
Flowers	259	-	- 5	-	-	254
Choir	146	500	-	-	-	646
Choir Treats	30	-	-	-	-	30
Fabric	- 1,867	51,660	- 3,403	-	-	46,390
Bells	14,648	-	-	-	-	14,648
Memorial Garden	- 3,879	-	- 1,350	-	5,229	-
Charity	- 613	900	- 803	-	516	-
Youth Work	461	1,024	- 768	-	-	717
Messy Church	- 4	148	- 39	-	-	105
Eco Hub	578	-	-	-	-	578
Family Minister	13,581	6,950	- 17,924	-	-	2,607
Fun Day	262	500	-	-	-	762
Warm Spaces	210	-	-	-	-	210
Total funds	23,812	61,682	- 24,292	-	5,745	66,947

Two restricted funds which were in deficit have been topped up by a transfer from general funds.

Prior year	Bal at 1 Jan 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Change in investment £	Transfers £	Bal at 31 Dec 2024 £
Flowers	1	337	- 79	-	-	259
Choir	-	350	- 204	-	-	146
Choir Treats	30	-	-	-	-	30
Fabric	- 34	650	- 2,483	-	-	- 1,867
Bells	15,680	-	- 1,234	202	-	14,648
Memorial Garden	146	700	- 4,725	-	-	- 3,879
Charity	- 110	1,217	- 1,720	-	-	- 613
Youth Work	704	-	- 243	-	-	461
Messy Church	52	22	- 78	-	-	- 4
Eco Hub	631	-	- 53	-	-	578
Family Minister	20,211	8,700	- 15,330	-	-	13,581
Fun Day	98	504	- 340	-	-	262
Warm Spaces	-	210	-	-	-	210
Total funds	37,409	12,690	- 26,489	202	-	23,812

PCC OF THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, MARSTON
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	£	£	2025 £
Fixed assets	350,000	-	350,000
Fixed asset Investment	295,695	50,000	345,695
Net current assets/liabilities	22,389	16,946	39,335
Total funds	<u>668,084</u>	<u>66,946</u>	<u>735,030</u>

16. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCC AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

Total donations from members of the PCC were £14,073.

There were no other related party transactions.

17. TRUSTEE PAYMENTS AND EXPENSES

No trustees were paid for their services or reimbursed for any expenses.

Accounts



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the Year ended 31 December 2024

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

The trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas', Marston (the members of the PCC) present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Incumbent

The Revd Elizabeth (Skye) Denno

Charitable Status

All Parochial Church Councils in the Church of England are recognized as charities by the Charity Commission; PCCs such as ours, with a gross income over £100,000, are required to register with the Commission. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity.

Registered Charity Number 1138507

Legal Name of the Charity

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas Marston

Working Names of the Charity St Nicholas' PCC
PCC (of) St Nicholas, Marston

Address of the Charity

The Vicarage, Elsfield Road, Marston Oxford OX3 0PR

Independent Examiner

Mr Gerald Prickett, 6 Elsfield Road, Oxford OX3 0PR

Bankers

The Cooperative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester.

Officers

Incumbent (Vicar)	Revd Skye Denno
Associate Priest	Revd Andy Gosler
Permission to Officiate (PTO)	Revd Stephanie Bullock
Licensed Lay Ministers	David Cranston
	Joel Denno
	Neil Barker
Churchwardens	Judith Piggott
	Jan Lawrie
PCC Chair	Skye Denno
PCC Secretary	Debbie Bailey
PCC Treasurer	Eileen Palayiwa

Representatives on Cowley Deanery Synod

Skye Denno
Isabel Fenton
Millius Palayiwa

The clergy are members of Deanery Synod *ex officio*; the other members are elected to serve until April 2025.

Members of the PCC

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, members of the PCC are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, are co-opted by the PCC, or are members of the PCC *ex officio*.

The following served as members of the PCC during the calendar year 2024:

Helen Barker (to April 24)	Duncan Hatfield	Emily Meredith
Ginny Ross (from April 24)	Tessa Hennessy	Eileen Palayiwa
Maureen Davis	Jan Lawrie	Millius Palayiwa
Skye Denno	Judith Piggott	Isabel Fenton
James Lawrie	Ian Ross	Jackie Whittaker

Elected PCC members serve for three-year terms. The current terms of office of the elected PCC members are as follows:

Serving until 2025	Serving until 2026	Serving until 2027
Eileen Palayiwa	Maureen Davis	Duncan Hatfield
Ian Ross	Tessa Hennessy	Emily Meredith
	Jackie Whittaker	Ginny Ross
		James Lawrie

Objectives and Governance

The parish of St Nicholas, Marston, is one of the parishes in the Deanery of Cowley, within the Diocese of Oxford. It shares a joint benefice with the separate parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield.

The Parochial Church Council ('the PCC') is governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956) as amended, and by the current version (2011) of the Church Representation Rules. Its responsibilities include that of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Nicholas'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and specifically the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing knowledge of and trust in Jesus Christ.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

Missionary activity and outreach work.

Facilitating this work depends on the voluntary work of many people, and the PCC very much appreciates their service to the church and to the local community. The incumbent receives a stipend paid by the Diocese. No other trustees are paid for their services.

A connected charity is Marston Church Properties Ltd ('MCP'), which is both a registered charity, no. 1085739, and a company limited by guarantee. Three of the five directors of MCP are members of the PCC, and the vicar is the chair of the company by virtue of her incumbency.

Vicar's Report

Philippians 4:v4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Dear Friends, I write this report with a grateful heart and one that rejoices in God. As I look back over 2024, I can see all that is good and that has been done to ensure we remain steadfast in faith and committed to serving our community. Our theme, if you remember for past year was patience, recognising that we as a church have a tendency to rush along, creating new services and projects which is exciting and keeps us on our toes but also means we don't always give time to hear God, or even our own needs creating a feeling of being a bit overstretched with resources and time. I felt we need to give to patience - which at times wasn't easy.

The year started with us saying goodbye to two couples who had been attending St Nicholas for many years and who served in a variety of roles. Both couples moved away from Oxford and we sent them out with prayer and cake, it's been wonderful to hear their good news. St Nicholas is a diverse, friendly church family and we give time to rejoice with all that is good, hearing exciting news of the birth of a grandchild and celebrating reaching a new milestone, a big birthday or reaching retirement! But we also try to share the pain of illness and loss together, this year we have celebrated the lives of Jenny Wren, Ernie Merritt, Philip Hosier, Jan Sanders, Lucy Moss, Ann Bailey, Bruce Wells, Bernard Masterman and Ian Fergusson all known to the church, but there were others known in the wider Community, may they rest in peace and rise in Glory!

I am so grateful for the gift of each person and the different abilities, insights and wisdom you all bring. We need each other, to know when we must step back and rest, but also to know and be nudged when we can step forward. I must now move on to saying a big thank you to everyone involved in the life and ministry of St Nicholas'. There are as many 'back stage' roles as well as those public facing ministries and it is good and right to acknowledge this. Underpinning our acts of service is the hope that lives can and are changed through the power of the Holy Spirit. Rather like the small boy who offered his small packed lunch of bread and fish to Jesus and his disciples and fed 5,000 people, we have hope that Jesus takes our acts of service blesses them and shares them in building up the Kingdom of God in this place.

It's hard to know where to begin with thanks but I will begin with our churchwardens, Jan Lawrie and Judith Piggott who together care for the fabric of this beautiful building, making sure she is still standing and that our worship services run smoothly. I am also grateful for their care and support of me, making sure I keep standing! Our PCC does sterling work, committing to meetings and many taking on further roles, Eileen Palayiwa in 2024 took on the Treasurer role after Geoff left. Along with her Treasurer roles she is also our Pastoral care Officer. Eileen will continue as Treasurer until the end of 2025 when Jane Burd will take over the role, thank you to you both. Jane has been acting as co-treasurer. Pastoral care is a very important aspect of ministry and church life. I am so thankful we have a Prayer & Care network - thank you to all the leaders and, with Eileen, overseeing this with me.

Thanks, must also go to Neil Barker our director of music and John Collier our assistant organist. Our altogethor service, every first Sunday of the month, has the biggest attendance and is led by Neil with a worship band, thanks to all our musicians as well as our choir members. Music has always been an important part of worship at St Nicholas and will continue to be into the coming year. Do consider joining the choir or music team, new members are always welcome! Thinking of music and worship I want to say thank you to our bell ringers who remind the community when services are happening and ring-in the presence of God! Other roles behind the scenes to give thanks too are our wonderful flower arrangers, cleaner who make sure this space is tidy and the many folk who run and help services and events during the week, coffee pot, Lunch club, toddlers Group, Pulse. Our annual report will have reports from all our community groups. Debbie Bailey has continued to be our parish administrator, ensuring the church hall is booked and managing the phones and visitors with care and a listening ear.

It is a joy to serve the Benefice, especially working alongside a great ministry team, thank you Andy Gosler and Stephanie Bullock as fellow priests, Joel Denno, Neil Barker and David Cranston our LLM's. Helen Norman our Family and Children Minister who has developed our links with our local schools starting an after-school mindfulness club. Colin Harris is our Sacristan and is often on duty most Sundays. At present we only have Colin and Adam serving as Sacristan. If anyone would like to be a server, please speak to me or Colin, training can be given. Millius Palayiwa has been the parish Safe-guarding lead for many years - since the role started! Over the last few years, he has taken on roles to support not only the deanery but also Oxford Dioceses as a whole. From our APCM this year in 2025 he will be stepping down and I am very grateful for his many years of service. Millius is willing to give a hand-over to next person called or encourage to take on this vital role within the Benefice. Please speak to him or me if you are interested. Other offers of thanks are to those who lead our alternative worship services; Green Church, Messy church and Celtic Services. Our worship pattern has been more stable for folk to remember with a 10am service every week, Green church has begun again with the next Green Church service being Mothering Sunday.

Every week we see new faces arrive at morning worship, some of whom it will be the first time coming to a place of worship, for many of us regular now means once a month this of course brings challenges to smaller church like ours. It is harder to find people who are willing or able to commit to even being on a rota just once a month. Judith and I are wondering if job sharing is more possible, sharing with another two people so you only have to be on a rota once every two months. I am finding the 'bread and butter' roles on Sunday morning at 10am very hard to fulfil. I am grateful for the those who do led our prayers, read Bible readings, server for communion and give welcome at the door as folk arrive, but if we need more help to ensure our worship service at 10am continues. Please pray and speak to me or Judith if you can help or have ideas as to how we can move forward.

Along with Patience - prayer has been at the heart of everything we do and surrounding not just our services and acts of worship but our groups and events too. It would be good to have a group of praying people willing to meet with me during the week for morning or evening prayer.

Looking ahead I am being drawn to the verse in Romans 12:12 *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.* There have been many green shoots in 2024 with new people joining St Nicholas which brings me much rejoicing but there are also challenges within our wider world and within the Church of England which I believe brings a level of fear and anxiety into our community. Given time to voice these concerns is important but also creating spaces to pray with intention for real change and knowing where we need to focus our energy and time. We need to pray for wisdom as we nurture these green shoots; patience is still required as we wait to see what emerges from all our engagement with families and children over the years: this will take time. New green shoots can be fragile: they are easy not to recognise and easy to step on. We are a church that likes our one-off events and services, but sometimes struggles to sit with the regular, mundane, every-Sunday stuff. Can we do the one-off big things without the regular Sunday worship? What makes us church and why is that important to us?

A few questions for us to ponder in 2025. Certainly, we can all agree it is never quiet here in Old Marston and we have much to rejoice and pray for! Blessing and thanks, Skye. *Skye Denno*

Deanery Synod Report

The synod met four times during the year, three in-person and one on Zoom. There was no joint meeting with the Oxford Deanery synod in 2024. Discussion have mainly been about future **financial** challenges facing the deanery. Synod spent a great deal of time discussion the revision of the Deanery synod formula for parish shares. A small group of people has met 3 times to look at the formula and to suggest improvements. This is on-going work and it is hope that it will be completed during 2025. When that stage is reached, a report with recommendations will be presented to synod for discussion and approval.

Discipleship, Together, Children, Youth and Family work has been on the agenda and discussed at all meetings. A group of those working with, Youth and Family, Children and Families and Schools was formed and has met on at least 3 occasions. Its purpose was to map what was already happening, consider our strengths and look at possible next steps that we could take to strengthen what is already happening in parishes. This is a major mission emphasis for both the Diocese and Deanery.

A major project in the Deanery has been the "Seeds of Hope Cowley South" (SHOCS). This is a bid by five parishes of Blackbird Leys, Cowley, Iffley, Littlemore and Sandford -on-Thames to shift their local mission for CYP ministry by developing a collaborative strategy. This has now been submitted as part of a bigger Diocesan bid for CYP work. This work will only go ahead if the Diocesan bid is successful. A decision will be made in March 2025.

Discussions on **Living in Love & Faith** (LLF) continue as they do at national level.

People There were a number of changes during the year. **Revd Martha Weatherill** was licensed at St Mary & St John in September. **Revd Paul Niemiec** was licensed to All Saints Headington in July. **Revd Clare Hayns** is now at Iffley church.

There are vacancies at Headington, St Andrews and at Holy Trinity, Quarry, Headington and Blackbird Leys.

The long-standing Deanery Lay chair, **Dr Tony Phelan** stepped down towards the end of the year and **Millius Palayiwa** was elected to replace him.

St Nicholas Church's representatives on the Deanery Synod are Millius Palayiwa (who is also Lay Chair and, on the Deanery, Standing Committee) and Isabel Fenton (who is also the Deanery Synod Minute Secretary).

Statistics The Deanery consists of 14 parishes, with 12 clergy serving a population of 104,650. *Millius Palayiwa*

Diocesan Synod Report

Diocesan synod meetings have continued to be online, with one in-person meeting during the year. Towards the end of the year, the Diocesan synod met in very sombre moods following the release of the **Makin Review** that led to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. This has shocked the church of England, and the repercussions will be long term and at present unknown.

Children & Young People are the major priority for the diocese and a great deal of time and effort is being put into developing that.

Discussions about Living in Love and Faith have continued. Environment and climate concerns are always on the agenda, as reports on mission, children and family work and schools and education. Reports from General Synod are received at one of the meetings.

The Diocese has a UKME Oversight Group (United Kingdom Minority Ethnic) that was set up following the Archbishops' Reports: **From Lament to Action** and the **Commission on Racial Equality** has been wound up in the light of the formation of a new **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee!** Millius was on the UKME group and will be on the new committee when it is formed in March 2025.

Statistics. The Diocese serves 2.5 million people. There are 808 churches with 54,600 worshippers, 60,000 children, 284 church schools, 180+ youth, children and families' workers, 1,200 clergy and 110 LLMs. *Millius Palayiwa*

Elsfield

2024 allowed us, as a PCC and as a village, to continue reinforcing the values of community both socially and spiritually.

It was with great joy that we welcomed our newest member of the village, a baby girl born on the 22nd December who. Since then, she has been a regular attendee at Sunday services and Friday morning prayers, albeit wrapped up and carried in a sling.

Whilst we typically hold only one service each month, we continue to celebrate an array of formats to suit everyone – matins, common worship, holy communion, evensong (including our popular Hymns and Pimm's in June) and celebrations at Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Christmas. In addition, our evening compline services, held every Thursday during Lent, provide a welcome period for quiet contemplation, reflection and prayer.

We particularly enjoyed hosting 36 friends from Elsfield and Marston to our Maundy Thursday fish 'n' chip supper with informal communion. This has always been a joyous occasion with plenty of conversations as well as songs and poems.

Our village community calendar includes the inter-village wine tasting competition on the first Saturday in February, bring-and-share Harvest supper, the Christmas fair and carols around the Christmas tree.

Whilst we are a small village, we bring people together when we can in the hope that, over time, we will build a stronger, supportive and more committed community. *James Plunkett*

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates with committees and working groups, which meet and report to it as appropriate. Participation in these groups is open to all church members.

Standing Committee

Elected annually, this comprises the Vicar, churchwardens, treasurer and such other members as the PCC agrees. It exists to conduct essential business between full meetings of the PCC.

Pastoral Care - Prayer and Support Network

Our prayer and care groups help to ensure that all those who wish to, stay connected with the church. There are nine groups and the leaders keep in contact with their members in whatever way each member would prefer. Group members know that they have a point of contact should they need anything and leaders will try to give them information on sources of help. Leaders will inform Skye if anyone would like her to visit. All group members are encouraged to pray for each other. *Eileen Palayiwa*

Communications

A year since my last report on the Marston Times and I'm pleased to record that the format continues to satisfy our readership.

We include a mix of regular features (What to Quote, Nature Notes and What to Cook), headed by a front-page piece, usually but not always written by Skye. St Nicholas' own timetable of services, with extra information about particular events, particularly at Christmas and Easter, receive a wide audience. Practical, month by month reminders about meetings (Coffee Pot, Lunch Club, the WI) also appear.

Roy Peach and Tim Cann send me a report on bell ringing and parish council meetings with almost no nagging! Even the back page listings are consulted by the readership.

I believe printing a quarterly, 8-page edition works well, though in these days of instant digital information some suppliers of copy need to understand that the December edition has to go to print by the third week in November.

Finally, a shout-out to Colin Harris and his loyal band of deliverers: he is always look for new volunteers. *Jan Lawrie*

Website

The website has a new look to make it easier to navigate. In addition, there is now an accessibility feature to make it easier for visitors to find the information that they are looking for. It is the place to find the latest news and events, pictures, church history, information about everything we do and about us.

The church hall and St Thomas Church are represented on the website. Some people have come to St Nicholas because of the website. You can download service programmes, the Marston Times and flyers for events.

Our Facebook page has over 2500 followers with the numbers increasing. The page is regularly updated and has information about all events and activities and links to specific items on website. I regularly post a picture from our archives which is very popular.

If you have any news, pictures, history, information related to St Nicholas Church then please do send it to me. If you have any thoughts on our website or Facebook page then please let me know. Likewise, if any information is incorrect, out of date or just needs amending then please do let me know. *Duncan Hatfield*

Churches Together

St Nicholas is a member of Churches Together in Marston and Northway (CTMN). Our representatives during 2024 were Skye Denno, Maureen Davis, Neil Barker and Helen Meredith. Joint events run by CTMN include a monthly dementia-friendly service 'This is the day', ecumenical 'Thursday together fellowship' and Advent and Lent study groups. Some of the member churches are struggling to be as involved as in the past and Rivers of Life Church have terminated their membership. St Nicholas hosted the joint 2024 World Day of Prayer service, which was organised by Maureen Davis and was very well attended. Preparations are underway for the 2025 'Love Marston, Love Life' event which will be held at Mortimer Hall Park on Sunday 21st June. *Helen Meredith*

Review of the Year

Church attendance

The completely new electoral roll will be presented at the APCM. Last year the roll presented at the annual meeting in April 2024 contained 114 names of which 45 were non-resident.

Attendance at Sunday services during October 2024 was as follows:

	In church	Online views
October 6th	129	34
October 13th	63	No online
October 20th	78	No online
October 27th	86	No online
Average	89	34

The equipment for online viewing was not working for most of October.

Comparison with Sunday Services in October 2023

	In church	Online views
October 1st	22	33
October 8th	105	20
October 15th	17	No online
October 22nd	58	20
October 29th	112	No online
Average	63	24

Statistics for occasional offices: baptisms, weddings, and funerals

Baptisms.	There were 0 baptisms (2023:5)
Confirmations.	There were 0 confirmations (2023:6)
Weddings.	There was 1 wedding. (2023:3)
Funerals.	The clergy conducted 18 funeral services. (2023:12)

Ministry Team

The team is led by Revd Skye Denno and assisted by Revd Stephanie Bullock (PTO) and Revd Andy Gosler (Associate Priest).

Preaching was shared with licensed lay ministers David Cranston, Joel Denno, Neil Barker. Neil Barker continued to serve as Director of Music, Organist and Choir Master and to lead our informal cafe services.

Debbie Bailey continues as Parish Administrator.

Helen Norman continues as Children and Family Minister.

Music

We have had another good year of musicmaking. We have been able to consolidate our Junior Choir with more young singers joining. Our choirs have continued to sing at a number of RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) events organised by Helen Meredith.

I have also particularly appreciated this year the support of Sophie and Adam Meredith with the training up and support of the Junior Choir. Also, Jane Burd's musical support with the SATB Choir, particularly at our Music for a Summer Evening concert.

A more recent highlight for our SATB Choir and friends was to sing at the Nine Lessons & Carols Christmas service which was well attended and appreciated.

Once again, we were grateful for the support of Old Marston Parish Council with a grant of £300 towards musical support and resources for our Junior Choir.

Neil Barker

Children and Family Minister

The year in St Nicholas as Children and Family Minister in May 2023 seems to have passed in a flash and connections have been established across groups and in the wider community. I find myself recognised across the parish and for some children am introduced to their parents as the lady who comes with 'Open the book', for others as a friendly face at toddlers, one of the fun days helpers or as someone who visits St Nicholas school weekly to lead a mindfulness group. A leader at holiday club or as someone they saw at the front of church during a carol concert or crib service.

Connections continue to grow in the wider community as with Skye and a team from scouts helped, we led the annual scout service on standing up to peer pressure and be firm in what you believe using a story from the book of Daniel in which a collection was also made to children in need which was attended by more than 60 young people and families. Later in November I led an act of

remembrance for the various scouting groups in Marston where poppies were laid at the war memorial in the church yard.

Ginny and I have attended training for 'Open the book' (in person and online) with the bible society and have greatly enjoyed bringing the bible to life with Skye, Sam, Ginny and Joel at St Nicholas school. We have had a yearly timetable for this and visit every half term plus Christmas and Easter, where we and a group of children dress up and re tell a bible story linked to the school value of the half term which includes four Makaton signs. The children greatly enjoy getting involved and this year we now include a start and end song as well as the chance for prayer and reflection led by a member of the clergy.

In February I attended a retreat with the Diocese in Cuddesdon which allowed me time to consider my role and purpose within the parish as well as share ideas on vision with likeminded individuals. This also enabled me to make links with other parishes within Oxford Diocese. Pulse has already enjoyed a visit from a fellow youth and children's minister from Witney, to talk about the diocesan youth camp 'Amplify' in July, which the diocese says is an 'an opportunity to find adventure and deepen faith through worship, small groups and fellowship, along with lots of activities and food, to have a voice and ... grow together in faith and discipleship'. More than six young people are interested in going which is great as only one member of Pulse attended last year.

Connections with Montessori Forest School in Elsfield have continued with visits to the school in the summer term sharing a craft and bible story using costumes and dramatic retelling followed by a discussion or craft. I was fortunate to represent the church and welcome the audience at the Montessori school Christmas show which was attended by many students and families. In the Autumn I attended the Harvest supper and helped lead the Harvest Festival service at Elsfield with Andy where members of the congregation and children took part in the intercessions.

Since September 2024 Marget Harding and I have led a weekly mindfulness club at St Nicholas Primary school with children aged 4-11. This is based on the diocesan scheme 'Space makers' which is based on Ignatius spirituality looking at noticing, reflecting, blessing, dwelling and flourishing. There is a weekly mediation, getting to know your games, encouragement 'to be' during the week as well as a sensory craft which includes smelly playdough, slime, eating different foods, listening to birdsong, creating emotion faces from natural materials, a calming jar as well as painting drawing, stone decorating, modelling with clay, printing and eating pizza. *Helen Norman*

Mission in the Parish

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to meet monthly in the church hall. We have a regular group of families (some with 3 generations) who come along plus many others who visit occasionally. We have shared excellent breakfasts, lots of interesting crafts, bible stories, songs (and dances) and stories from our church family. We love it when the congregation in the church comes across to join us for coffee, at the end of their service. It is a joy to share these times together.

Jane Burd

Baby and Toddler Group

Baby and toddler groups continues to have steady numbers of parents, carers and grandparents attend. We have lost some members as their children have started school or begun to attend a nursery and pre-school but have enjoyed new members including newborn babies, first time mums as well as welcoming back childminders or parents with second or third siblings.

Felicity continues to lead the circle time and singing sessions and has brought her guitar for Christmas carols as well as encouraging us to sing some nursery rhymes in rounds or harmonies! Joel North stepped back from helping in the summer and a couple of grandparents, Wendy and Phil and Heather have stepped in to help set up in the morning as well as tidy and clean up at the end of sessions.

Each week is themed with a relevant craft and sometimes songs and Margaret Harding brings her excellent playdough and expertise in craft activities which are displayed on the board in the church hall. In the summer the toddler group ran a session out of the Mortimer recreation ground, at Christmas we had a Christmas party attended by a real-life St Nicholas bringing gifts and Christmas stories and at Easter we will have an Easter party with Easter crafts and Easter stories.

In the notices section of the singing session, families are invited to Messy Church, family services, carol concerts as well as green church and holiday club, all of which have seen members of the toddler group attend. A lent soup lunch was run in March 2024 and will be run next week, thank you to the soup makers!

Helen Norman

Energy - Junior Church

Junior Church was relaunched during advent 2023 on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and we currently average 4-6 children. The children gather at the beginning of the service to collect candles and the children's bible, to be sent to their activity in the vestry via a prayer said with the congregation. Activities are linked to the lectionary and the children return to the service at the peace and will sometimes share their craft with the congregation at the end of the service. We are still struggling to have consistent or regular attendance at this, but numbers have been boosted by our curate Sam and Kirsty three children. Many thanks go to Harvey, Helen Barker and Margaret who make this happen each week.

During the first Sunday of the month a children's activity is linked to the service at the children's area at a table at the back of church near the font or at the front, where children's books and toys can also be found. During the first Sunday of the month children and young people are also often involved in the intercessions as well as more recently helping serve as acolytes or bringing the elements to the altar. *Helen Norman*

Fun days

We have had extremely busy fun days both last March in the Spring and in the Autumn, both supported by large grants. Each day was attended by well over two hundred people which included large numbers of children and young people and their families. The scouts and local playgroup helped and ran activities, and we included story time and Easter egg hunts in the church and church yard. The atmosphere at these events was really good, with a great sense of community. Fun crafts which were a mixture of secular and religious, eco activities such as spring or autumn bulb planting and pumpkin carving, face painting and games. For many people they entered the church for the first time for singing and stories as well as enjoying the hospitality of excellent food and drinks at the café and many commented on the community atmosphere. These days could not have been run without the generosity of numerous volunteers in baking, serving, leading crafts and games or preparing and tidying away the hall.

Helen Norman

Holiday Club

In the summer 2024 a one-day holiday club was run entitled 'God and Science' and was attended by 22 children. This was a fun packed day that included worship in the church, games in a garden, craft, art, science experiments, pizza lunch, cardboard box bridge making lots of healthy snacks and talks. This was much enjoyed by volunteers and children and many parents asked for another one to be run soon or 'more days next time'.

A day like this involves considerable planning and effort as well as resources and we benefitted from volunteers from other churches and teens from Pulse helping. It is hoped that summer 2025 will see a return of Holiday Club which has perhaps less content and intensity but still lots of fun and allowing young people to discover more about God. *Helen Norman*

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot has continued to be popular with 30-40 people attending most months. We provide hot drinks and savoury and sweet refreshments. Each month we have a short "Thought for the day" which is given by a member of the team. Coffee Pot provides an opportunity for people who might otherwise be isolated to meet and make friends. We like to welcome newcomers.

Unfortunately, there are some people who are unable to attend but can't because of disability and /or lack of transport so we are always glad of offers to help with this. We now have a wheelchair available which can be used to help transport people from cars into the hall.

We have an excellent team of helpers who provide the refreshments and try to ensure that everyone feels welcome. There is always a very happy atmosphere in the hall! *Eileen Palayiwa*

Lunch Club

Lunch Club, which meets on the last Friday of each month, has again thrived this year with growing numbers. Most months the numbers exceed 45 people present. The feedback from attendees has been very positive.

As we cannot hold a Lunch Club in December (as it would fall between Christmas and New Year), we had once more a New Year meal at the Victoria Arms (on 2nd January 2025). This is sponsored by Victoria Arms and OMTC but organised by St Nicholas. This year 55 people were present. *Judith Piggott*

Pulse Youth Group

Every second and fourth Saturday in the church hall we run a youth group for young people 11+. We have been 12 and 20 young people attending each week. We have a 15 minute 'God Slot' at the beginning of each session where we discuss and read a bible passage related to the Christian season or Sunday readings and have run 'Prayer and pizza' extra sessions during lent and advent as well as shared meals and BBQ's. Our sessions always include fizzy drinks, crisps and sweets as well as a food of the week which might be popcorn, toast, toasties, chocolate fountain or S'mores.

Each week is themed and have included, games, baking and cooking, a film night, a talk from a visiting speaker, ice and snow, cookies or art. A firm favourite is a walking meal where we wander the parish and visit prearranged homes for each course of a meal as well as a summer walk. This year we walked to St Thomas, Elsfield and had a fish and chip supper before walking back to St Nicholas.

Joel Denno, Brian North and Helen Norman run the group at present with Skye Denno and Luke Norman. Youth group is a fun couple of hours each month and we would love more volunteers to help run sessions or suggest ideas or host the walking meal. *Helen Norman*

Mission in the World

Divya Shanthi Mission Support

DSMS continued to support the work of Divya Shanthi Christian Association and Trust in Bangalore, India until February 2024. In early March 2024 the trustees of DSMS were informed that Divya Shanthi had been refused permission to extend their FCRA account by the Indian Government. The FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) account is the only permitted route for receiving overseas donations.

We were also informed that that the last two payments made by DSMS (totalling £32,000) were frozen in Divya Shanthi's FCRA account and that the process of getting these funds released would be a lengthy one.

The trustees filed a report with the Charity Commission to tell them about the situation and asked donors not to send any further donations to DSMS.

Despite efforts to get the funds released, the money remains frozen at the time of writing, though some interest has been paid to Divya Shanthi. We await further updates from Divya Shanthi and remain hopeful that the Indian government will release the money to Divya Shanthi.

In the meantime, DSMS remains dormant and unable to accept donations. Our church continues to support the work of Divya Shanthi in prayer.

Tessa Hennessy

Church Mission Society

We continue to support Andy and Kati Walsh in Brazil. They visited us while on furlough in June and we had a live video link up in church with them in November. They continue to develop their prison ministry work and also to support the ministry of a local church. Updates have also been made available in Church. *Neil Barker*

Church Fabric

As reported in the 2023 Annual Report, the Faculty granted for the removal of certain pews and carpet was extended to April 2025 while we considered whether we purchase the chairs for the area around the font. A decision had not been made by end December 2024 but will be taken to the January 2025 PCC with a recommendation to buy 10 chairs.

We are still monitoring the heating, trying to find the right balance of warmth against costs.

During this year we have had a number of acts of vandalism in the church and were forced to lock the church outside service times. This led to a decision to install CCTV inside and outside the church. Quotes were received and a List B application was submitted to the Archdeacon in December 2024.

Judith Piggott and Jan Lawrie

Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues or concerns have been reported during the year. We are up to date with our DBS checks for all those who needed to be checked. At my last count, 25 enhanced, and 1 ordinary DBS certificates had been issued. We held a well-attended “Re-fresher-Training” in September. There was positive feedback on that.

The major issue towards the end of the year was the release of the **Makin Review**. The result is that it has created more than double the amount of work

for the Safeguarding Team at Church House and for Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO). The Safeguarding Team has seen a huge increase in enquiries from clergy, parishioners and ordinary members of the public worried as to whether there is something they should have reported etc! It has created a tremendous amount of work, worry and fear. A few PSOs have resigned as a result. No numbers have been given yet.

The mood amongst PSOs is that of anger, disbelief, feelings of betrayal and annoyance at the undoing and destruction of the good work they had been doing in the parishes. The feeling is that there is **excellent work being done at parish level** and that the Review has shown that **we have been let down at the top!**

The **Review** together with the Prof Jay Report, has thrown up a great deal of confusion as to the future direction of Safeguarding work in the church. The recommendation that Safeguarding should be independent from the church is still to be debated at General Synod level.

We have kept abreast with, as much as we could, with safeguarding issues. A main and emerging concern diocesan wide, has been the rise of “financial scam” targeting the elderly and vulnerable. This seems to be a growing phenomenon.

Millius continued to be on the Diocesan PSO Working Group that advises on PSO guidelines and working.

More and more work and materials seem to be coming up all the time with the introduction of using “dashboards” etc!

People The Safeguarding Team at church house consists of 7 people. **Erica Hegg** who was our Area Safeguarding Adviser is now responsible for Dorchester and was replaced in September by **Sophie Harrold** (who happens to have some connection with St Nicholas, having been christened here and both her grandparents buried in the church yard.)

Millius has established a good working relationship with all the Area Advisers and the Head of Safeguarding. *Millius Palayiwa*

Financial Report

Receipts

At the beginning of the year we expected a very large drop in planned giving but in fact this drop was only 3.5%. This was due to a very good response to our "Giving Sunday in May". A number of people increased their regular giving and we have also gained new regular givers. We encouraged people to change over to the Parish Giving Scheme which reduces the administrative burden on the treasurer and also gives the (optional) opportunity to also increase donations in line with inflation each year. In December 2024, approximately 75% of our regular giving came through the Parish Giving Scheme and approximately 50% of the givers have opted in to inflationary increases.

We also had a number of one-off donations amounting to £8,700. Grant income increased due to a donation from the Workmen's Hall Trust when it ceased operation and additional grants from Old Marston Parish Council.

Overall there was a 14% increase in income.

Payments

The Parish share fell by 3.5% but other charitable donations rose by 16%, partly due to special collections.

Running costs increased by almost 50%. However the cross charge to Marston Church Properties for cleaning and administrative services was not made until Jan 2025. If this had been done in year the increase would have been 25% and this was largely due to increased utility costs and the costs of gardening.

Ministry and Mission costs rose as the Children and Families Minister was in post for the whole year.

Investments.

The value of our CBF investments rose by £1994 due to increases in the stock market in 2024.

Looking Ahead

At the end of 2024 we had a surplus of over £9000 of income over expenditure which was very pleasing when we had expected a significant deficit. Many thanks are due to all our supporters.

Although the surplus means that we start the year on a firm basis, we need to be aware that much of the income in 2024 will not be repeated in 2025 so we need to keep up our fund-raising efforts if we are to continue to be active in all the current areas.

We hope that we may have a curate in 2025 and if so, will have to contribute to housing costs. We therefore project that in 2025 we will have a deficit of expenditure over income. *Eileen Palayiwa*

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended December 31, 2024, which are set out in the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's report

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

Independent Examiners Statement

Examiner's unqualified report for a non-company charity preparing receipts and payments accounts with a gross income of £250,000 or less in the financial year

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out in the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the St Nicholas, Old Marston PCC. I have carried it out under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

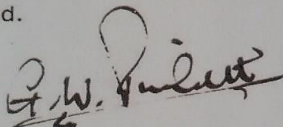
Independent examiner's statement:

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act;
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Name: Gerald Prickett

C Eng MICE

Address: 6, Elsfield Road, Old Marston, Oxford OX3 0PR

Date: 4th March 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON						
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2024						
Receipts & Payments						
2023	RECEIPTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Voluntary Receipts					
62,347	Planned giving*		58,968	1,175	0	60,143
12,968	Reclaimed from HMRC	3	17,677			17,677
1,727	Loose cash collections		3,671			3,671.00
7,029	Donations		12,880	120		13,000.00
1,000	Legacy		1,000			1,000.00
105	Sunday morning coffee		161			161
499	Wall safe		382			382
0	Junior Church					
81	Sundries		8			8
10,329	Grants	4	8,528	8,700	750	17,977
	Events		964	112		1,076
96,084			104,239	9,582	750	115,095
	Other Receipts					
7,258	Fees (net)	5	8,298			8,298
3,311	Interest & investment income		3,311			3,311
9,396	Rent			9,912		9,912
959	Marston Times	6		890	117	1,007
(11)	Lunch Club(nett)	7	152	(24)		128
20,913			11,761	10,778	117	22,656
116,997	Total receipts before transfers		116,000	20,360	867	137,751
0	Transfers (nett)		0		0	0
116,997	Total receipts after transfers		116,000	20,360	867	137,751
The Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.						
*	Includes Parish Giving 22,644					

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON						
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2024						
Receipts & Payments (continued)						
2023	PAYMENTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Payments outside the Parish					
53,396	Parish share		51,482			51,482
6,721	Other charitable donations	8	5,906		1,908	7,813
60,117			57,388	0	1,908	59,295
	Church running expenses					
6,065	Utilities		11,999			11,999
3,490	Insurance		3,727			3,727
2,926	Maintenance		2,355	1,308		3,663
1,671	Cleaning (net)	9	4,440			4,440
1,301	Cost of services		1,623			1,623
221	Messy Church		114	84		198
4,269	Organists		4,381			4,381
308	Choir (including Junior Choir)					0
3,450	Gardening			4,650		4,650
23,702			28,639	6,042	0	34,681
	Ministry in the Parish					
2,597	Clergy expenses		1,381			1,381
82	Junior Church					0
661	Youth Work		340			340
696	Eco Hub			53		53
2,184	Mission within the Parish	10	1,427	380		1,807
11,062	Family Minister			16,042		16,042
17,282			3,148	16,475	0	19,623
	Fabric					
0	Memorial Garden			0		0
882	Equipment			2,241		2,241
0	Rewiring project					0
0	Quinquennial repairs					0
0	Inspection			250		250
35,898	Church flooring and seating					0
36,780			0	2,491	0	2,491
	Other Expenditure					
6,433	Administration	11	9,684			9,684
46	Bank charges				0	0
1,688	Marston Times	6	1,017			1,017
967	Maintenance of 1B Mill Lane				967	967
500	Flowers		79			79
9,633			10,780	0	967	11,747
147,515	Total payments before transfers		99,955	25,008	2,875	127,837
0	Transfers (nett)		0		0	0
147,515	Total payments after transfers		99,955	25,008	2,875	127,837
-30,469	Surplus / Deficit		16,045	(4,648)	(2,008)	9,389
131,743	Balance b/f at January 1		44,143	45,008	42,591	131,743
9,715	Change in value of investments				9,715	9,715
110,989	Balance c/f at December 31		60,188	40,360	50,299	150,847

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON							
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2024							
Summary of Funds							
Fund	Fund type	31 Dec 20	Net Receipts	Net Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in investments	31 Dec 20
General	Unrestricted	45,164	126190.86	112,758			58,597
Flowers	Restricted	1	337.00	79			259
Choir	Restricted	(0)	350.00	204			146
Choir Treats	Restricted	30	0.00	0			30
Fabric	Designated	20,251	0.00	0		1,792	22,044
Fabric	Restricted	(34)	650.00	2,483			(1,867)
Bells	Restricted	15,680	0.00	1,234		202	14,648
Memorial Garden	Restricted	146	700.00	4,725			(3,879)
Projection system	Restricted	0	0.00	0			0
Marston Times	Designated	(372)	890.00	678			(159)
Marston Times	Restricted	0	0.00	0			0
Charity	Restricted	(110)	1216.75	1,720			(613)
1B Mill Lane	Designated	7,887	9912.00	459			17,340
Youth Work	Restricted	704	0.00	243			461
Music Events	Designated	154	365.00	436			83
Messy Church	Restricted	52	21.50	78			(4)
Eco Hub	Restricted	631	0.00	53			578
Lunch Club	Designated	449	112.00	100			461
Family Minister	Restricted	20,211	8700.04	15,330			13,581
Fun Day	Restricted	98	504.50	340			262
Warm Spaces	Restricted	0	210.00	0			210
Sabbatical	Restricted	0	0.00	0			0
			0.00	0			
Total		110,941	150,160	140,918		1,994	122,177
Summary of Accounts							
Account		31 Dec 2023	Net Receipts	Net Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in Investments	31 Dec 2024
Coop current a/c General		13,274	160,160	150,918			22,517
CBF investment a/c Fabric		97,666	10,000	10,000		1,994	99,661
Total		110,941	170,160	160,918	0	1,994	122,178

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON					
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2024					
Statement of Overall Assets & Liabilities					
31 Dec 2023				Expendable	31 Dec 2024
£				Funds	£
	Monetary Assets				
13,274	Bank Current A/cc			22,517	22517.00
97,666	CBF Investment A/cc			99,661	99661.00
110,941	Total			122,178	122,178
	Other Assets				
295,649	Freehold house at 1B Mill Lane (insured value)				295,649
295,649	Total				295649
Signed:					
Elizabeth Denno (Chair)			Eileen Palayiwa(Treasurer)		

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON	
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2024	
Notes to the Accounts	
1. Basis of Preparation	
(a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011, together with applicable accounting standards.	
(b) The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as permitted when the annual income is less than £250,000.	
(c) The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor of those that are informal gatherings of church members.	
2. Accounting Policies	
(a) The funds of a charity, under charity law, have to be categorized in one of three ways.	
Unrestricted funds: these contain money that can be spent in any way the PCC chooses (within general charity law)	
Designated funds: these contain money that the PCC has allocated to a specific purpose. They include funds designated for maintenance of church property. Money in a designated fund can be undesignated by a subsequent decision of the PCC.	
Restricted funds: these contain money that has been given for a purpose specified by the donor. Such money can only be spent on the specified purpose (within the overall objectives of the PCC), or else returned to the donor.	
(b) The PCC uses a number of bank accounts and investment funds	
General Account: This holds current funds, including General (unrestricted), Designated and Restricted Funds. The PCC holds a current account with the Cooperative Bank	
Investment Accounts. Reserves are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund administered by CCLA Investment Management Ltd. During 2023 the "Bells Fund" and "Fabric Fund" accounts were consolidated into a single account.	
Investments are valued at the basic value (between bid price and offer price) on 31 December.	
(c) Fixed assets	
Consecrated land and buildings and benefice property are not included in the accounts.	
Movable church furnishings which are held by the vicar and churchwardens on trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are listed in the church's inventory. Such assets are not included in the financial statements.	
The freehold property at 1B Mill Lane belongs to the PCC, with the deeds held on its behalf by the Diocese. It is included in the statement of overall assets and liabilities at its insured value.	

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON									
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2024									
Note 3	Money reclaimed from HMRC								
	2023								2024
	£	RECEIPTS							£
	12,065	Income tax reclaimed on Gift Aid donations							16,990
	903	Money claimed under GASDS							687
	12,968								17,677
Note 4	Grants								
	2023								2024
	£	RECEIPTS							£
	300	Old Marston Parish Council (for Marston Times)							500
	0	Old Marston Parish Council (for Choir)							350
	1,000	Old Marston Parish Council (for Cycle Racks)							0
	92	Old Marston Parish Council (for Bell Ropes)							0
	400	Old Marston Parish Council (for Fun Days)							400
		Old Marston Parish Council for Youth Work							350
		Old Marston Parish Council for Messy Church							350
		Old Marston Parish Council for CCTV							500
		Old Marston Parish Council for Toddler Group							350
	300	Brett's Trust (for Youth Work)							0
	230	Oxfordshire Historic Churches (for Church Fabric)							325
	500	Oxford City Council (for Earth Day/Eco Hub)							0
	0	Oxford City Council (for Warm Spaces)							0
	874	Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (for Warm Spaces)							0
	5,733	Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (for Family Minister)							7,983
	1,000	Gladiator Trust (for Carpets/Fabric)							0
	200	Old Marston Charities (for Coffee Pot/Lunch Club)							0
	10,629								11,108
Note 5	Parochial Fees: Receipts & Payments								
	2023								2024
	£	RECEIPTS							£
Statutory	9,350	Total fees (Statutory+Additional)							11,292
Additional	2,109								0
	11,459								11,292
		PAYMENTS							
	2,905	Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance							2,764
	1,296	Others (clergy, organist, flowers, choir, bells, vergers)							146
	4,201								2,910
	7,258	Surplus / (Deficit)							8,382

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON									
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2024									

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON							
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2024							
Note 8	2023		Other Charitable donations		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£				£	£	£
			Overseas & worldwide				
	1,500		Church Mission Society		1,500		1,500
	3,865		Divya Shanthi		0	0	0
	1,094		Christian Aid		2,122		2,122
	0		Patchwork Support Trust		1,000		1,000
	0		Water Aid		531		531
	0		Medecins Sans Frontiers		189		189
	6,459				5,342	0	5,342
			National				
	0		Scripture Gift Mission				0
	0		Inclusive Church Network		100		100
	0		Children in Need		283		283
	0				383	0	383
			Local				
	0		Oxford Churches Debt Centre				0
	0		Aspire		188		188
	0		Restore				0
	263		Asylum Welcome		2000		2,000
	0		St Nicholas the Wonderworker				0
	0		Oxford Hospitals Charity				0
	0		SOFEA				0
	263				2,188	0	2,188
	6,721		Total		7,913	0	7,913

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON						
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2024						
Note 9	Cleaning: Receipts and Payments					
2023						2,024
£	RECEIPTS					
2,507	Marston Church Properties (salary contribution)				0*	
2,507						
	PAYMENTS					
4,178	Salaries and fees					4,440
0	Materials					0
4,178						
1,671	Net payments					4,440
	The PCC employs a Cleaner and supplies cleaning services to Marston Church Properties at cost.					
Note 10	Mission within the Parish					
2023						2,024
£	PAYMENTS					
204	Advertising and printing					
1,035	Fun Days (includes materials etc 2024)					1,236
448	Music events					40
498	Other expenses					531
2,184						1,807
Note 11	Administration: Receipts and Payments					
2023						2,024
£	RECEIPTS					
2,505	Marston Church Properties (salary contribution)				0*	
2,505						
	PAYMENTS					
7,514	Salaries					7,979
268	Licence and other fees					242
805	Photocopier					1,368
0	Bank card reader (net of refund)					0
350	Other					93
8,938						
6,433	Net payments					9,682
	*The PCC employs a Parish Administrator and supplies administration services to Marston Church Properties at cost.2024 Invoices sent and Paid Jan 25					

Accounts



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the Year ended 31 December 2023

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

The trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas', Marston (the members of the PCC) present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Incumbent

The Revd Elizabeth (Skye) Denno

Charitable Status

All Parochial Church Councils in the Church of England are recognized as charities by the Charity Commission; PCCs such as ours, with a gross income over £100,000, are required to register with the Commission. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity.

Registered Charity Number 1138507

Legal Name of the Charity

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas Marston

Working Names of the Charity St Nicholas' PCC
PCC (of) St Nicholas, Marston

Address of the Charity

The Vicarage, Elsfield Road, Marston Oxford OX3 0PR

Independent Examiner

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straws Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 0DL

Bankers

The Cooperative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester.

Officers

Incumbent (Vicar)	Revd Skye Denno
Associate Priest	Revd Andy Gosler
Permission to Officiate (PTO)	Revd Stephanie Bullock
Licensed Lay Ministers	David Cranston
	Joel Denno
	Neil Barker
	Geoff Hale
Churchwardens	Judith Piggott
	Jan Lawrie
PCC Chair	Skye Denno
PCC Secretary	Debbie Bailey (from April)
PCC Treasurer	Geoff Hale

Representatives on Cowley Deanery Synod

Skye Denno
Maureen Davis (to 23 April)
Isabel Fenton (from 23 April)
Millius Palayiwa

The clergy are members of Deanery Synod *ex officio*; the other members are elected to serve until April 2024.

Members of the PCC

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, members of the PCC are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, are co-opted by the PCC, or are members of the PCC *ex officio*.

The following served as members of the PCC during the calendar year 2023:

Helen Barker	Andy Gosler	Emily Meredith
Jane Burd (to 23 April)	Geoff Hale	Eileen Palayiwa
Maureen Davis	Duncan Hatfield	Millius Palayiwa
Skye Denno	Tessa Hennessy (from 23 April)	Judith Piggott
Isabel Fenton	Jan Lawrie	Ian Ross
		Jackie Whittaker (from 23 April)

Elected PCC members serve for three-year terms. The current terms of office of the elected PCC members are as follows:

Serving until 2024	Serving until 2025	Serving until 2026
Helen Barker	Geoff Hale	Maureen Davis
Duncan Hatfield	Eileen Palayiwa	Tessa Hennessy
Emily Meredith	Ian Ross	Jackie Whittaker

Objectives and Governance

The parish of St Nicholas, Marston, is one of the parishes in the Deanery of Cowley, within the Diocese of Oxford. It shares a joint benefice with the separate parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield.

The Parochial Church Council ('the PCC') is governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956) as amended, and by the current version (2011) of the Church Representation Rules. Its responsibilities include that of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Nicholas'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and specifically the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing knowledge of and trust in Jesus Christ.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

Missionary activity and outreach work.

Facilitating this work depends on the voluntary work of many people, and the PCC very much appreciates their service to the church and to the local community. The incumbent receives a stipend paid by the Diocese. No other trustees are paid for their services.

A connected charity is Marston Church Properties Ltd ('MCP'), which is both a registered charity, no. 1085739, and a company limited by guarantee. Four of the five directors of MCP are members of the PCC, and the vicar is the chair of the company by virtue of her incumbency.

Vicar's Report

As 2023 began, I was still recovering from Covid. As a result, I had not been able to work the last few days before Christmas of the previous year. It was not quite what I had imagined, but thanks to the sterling efforts of the team, especially the church wardens, Andy Gosler and Sofia Denno (my daughter), worship carried on and only two services were cancelled. By New Year I was back on my feet for a New Year Baptism, our New Year Lunch at the Victoria Arms, and the planned PCC focus morning on Saturday the 21st January. Here are the main points from the morning along with brief progress reports on how they unfolded over the rest of the year.

- a) **We exist because God has formed us into a community, to be the church in our place.** *A desire to reconnect to one another* - We acknowledged that St Nicholas was still a dispersed community; attendance had changed and 'regular' for most now meant once or twice a month. This, along with a variety of services, means folk were no longer seeing each other as often as they did. It was hard to ensure all had received communications, and most importantly folk missed each other. The result of this discussion at our PCC focus morning was the launching of our **All-Together** Communion Services on the 1st Sunday of the month, with a shared lunch following. This has been a welcome new addition to our worship pattern and I'm grateful to Neil Barker (our Music director) worship band and Choirs for their help in leading worship; more recently the church wardens have helped in organising hot food. A huge thank you to you all.
- b) **Review of the worship pattern to make it easy to remember** - *different starting times were confusing and it was hard to remember what Sunday it was!* - Feedback from the questionnaire indicated that a variety of services on the whole were very welcomed, but the time differences and not having a 10am service every Sunday was difficult for some to remember. Following the PCC we ensured all Sundays had a 10am; on the third Sunday of the month, which is rather busy, this service is lay led. This has proved to be helpful, not only for those who attend the church regularly, but also for visitors.
- c) **St Nicholas church is simply to be welcoming, inclusive & friendly.** During the PCC focus morning I asked the question; What is the thread that connects all our doing and being as church? It was apparent that one of the most important factors was simply that St Nicholas remains welcoming, inclusive and friendly to all. This factor has been a driving force in joining the Inclusive Network and why I am so grateful to Sally Richards for being our Inclusive Church advocate and writing our statement - '*St Nicholas is an Inclusive Church. This means we are welcome and affirm everyone in the name of Jesus Christ, whoever they are and wherever they may be on their*

spiritual Journey'. All our advertising now features the Inclusive Network logo and we will review our efforts regularly. We are still at the start of this journey and have much to do. I am grateful for the increased accessibility resulting from the removal of the pews around the font.

- d) **We need to prioritise outreach with a focus on children and family.** The fourth point to draw our attention to from the PCC focus morning was the need to engage with families in our community. To have facilities for children on a Sunday and to develop the Toddler Group, Youth group and our Fun Days. We were so blessed to have Helen Norman join the St Nicholas Ministry Team in April. Helen has brought with her a wealth of experiences in teaching and working with Children. It was wonderful to leave the youth group and Autumn Fun Day - 4th November - in her capable hands. Thank you to Helen, Gill Hale and all those who volunteer with our Children, Young people and fun days.

The early part of last year included preparing for my Sabbatical, which meant I was away for June, July and August. It was a wonderful time of resting, painting, reading and walking. To be able to step away from church and know she is in safe hands, is a beautiful gift. Judith Piggott and Jan Lawrie, as churchwardens were fantastic, as were the ministry team, Stephanie Bullock, Andy Gosler, Joel Denno, David Cranston, Neil Barker and Geoff Hale who was both treasurer and covered all funerals for me whilst I was away. Thank you so much taking on extra so that I could have this precious time of recharging the batteries. I am grateful also for the guest speakers and presiders that came during this time to help cover my sabbatical and for all the PCC members. I know St Nicholas church community is helped by so many volunteers who give their time and their talents, those who deliver hospitality, those who flower arrange, those who help clean, polish and tidy inside the church, those who pick up folk and take them home, those who serve during the services, at Communion and at community events, our wonderful Bell ringers, the list could go on... Thank you and please know I am grateful and I see what you do. We are always looking for more volunteers and helpers for a variety of things so do look at the pew sheet or have a chat with me. Debbie has been our administrator for the past year and continues to be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thanks to her we have our pew sheets, a busy and well used hall and lots of booklets, flyers and posters printed ready to be used and circulated.

Marston and Elsfield continue to work together in showing God's love to our communities, and the shared services have been a highlight in our worship as a unified Benefice. Mothering Sunday service at St Thomas was very special with the Jr choir from St Nicholas leading our worship, and the compline services during Lent and the Songs of Praise in the summer have a wonderful congregation from across the two parishes.

2023 has been a busy year but also a year to pause, pray and prepare. For 2024, the word pause has been replaced with **patience**. A time to pause has provided the opportunity to take stock, to reflect and review where we are as a church family, to offer spiritual emotional and pastoral support and to provide worship in a variety of ways to increase accessibility and be more missional. A time to practice patience is a time of waiting with God after the pause, to see new shoots emerging from beneath the winter ground, because there is so much life and new growth.

A time to pray is linked very much into this, with the opportunity to look backwards and forwards and to ask for God's guidance and wisdom for the future; all that we do must be grounded in prayer. A time to prepare is the opportunity to reshape and think through what we might need to do for the future. To prepare for mission and ministry both in church and digitally, a hybrid mixture of worship, to re-establish fellowship and friendship and explore how we can reach out to our local community, especially families and those isolated and alone. *Skye Denno*

Deanery Synod Report

The Synod met four times during the year, all in-person. There was no joint meeting with the Oxford Deanery Synod in 2023. Discussion have mainly been about future **financial** challenges facing the deanery. This has implications for the level of parish shares payable in the future. A **review** of the parish share form will be undertaken during 2024.

The future **financial challenges** facing the Deanery are due to the fact that for the year 2024, the Deanery share has been calculated at **£505,532**. This is the amount the Deanery pays to the Diocese. From that, the Diocese pays the clergy stipendiaries, pensions and housing. The Deanery gets its money from parish shares paid by each parish.

The Deanery has spent a great deal of time looking at the possibility of **Pastoral Re-organisation**. This would mean and might lead to the **reduction of the number of Clergy** in Cowley Deanery. A similar exercise was undertaken in 1975 to reduce the number of Clergy in the Deanery to 14, as recorded in the minute of St Nicholas Parish Church of the 4th September 1975. This will be a major exercise and will occupy the Deanery for most of 2024.

At present, the Deanery has **14 parishes**, and 12 **stipendiary clergy**, serving a population of 104,650. Four clergy vacancies occurred during the year.

Your representatives on the Deanery Synod are Millius Palayiwa (who is also on the Deanery Standing Committee) and Isabel Fenton (who is also the Deanery Synod Minute Secretary). *Millius Palayiwa*

Diocesan Synod Report

Diocesan Synod meetings have continued to be online, with one in-person meeting during the year. Discussions about Living in Love and Faith have continued. Environment and climate concerns are always on the agenda, as reports on mission, children and family work and schools and education. Reports from General Synod are received at one of the meetings. The Diocese has a UKME Oversight Group (United Kingdom Minority Ethnic) that meets four times a year and is chaired by the bishop. The group was set up following the Archbishops' Reports: **From Lament to Action** and the **Commission on Racial Equality**. Millius is on that group. *Millius Palayiwa*

Elsfield

2023 allowed us, as a PCC and as a village, to continue reinforcing the values of community both socially and spiritually.

We have been fortunate to welcome two new families to the village in 2023, with members of both joining our congregation as well as offering to join our PCC.

Whilst we typically hold only one service each month, we celebrate an array of formats to suit everyone – matins, common worship, holy communion, evensong (including our popular Hymns and Pimm's in June) and celebrations at Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Christmas. In addition, our evening compline services, held every Thursday at 8.00pm during Lent, provide a welcome period for quiet contemplation and reflection.

We particularly enjoyed hosting 32 friends from Elsfield and Marston to our Maundy Thursday fish 'n' chip supper with informal communion. This has always been a joyous occasion with Neil Barker leading us in song.

Our village community calendar includes the inter-village wine tasting competition on the first Saturday in February, bring-and-share Harvest supper, the Christmas fair and carols around the Christmas tree.

Whilst we are a small village, we bring people together when we can in the hope that, over time, we will build a stronger, supportive and more committed community. *James Plunkett*

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates with committees and working groups, which meet and report to it as appropriate. Participation in these groups is open to all church members.

Standing Committee

Elected annually, this comprises the Vicar, churchwardens, treasurer and such other members as the PCC agrees. It exists to conduct essential business between full meetings of the PCC.

Pastoral Care - Prayer and Support Network

The Prayer and Care groups have continued to function well and are ensuring that all the members have a point of contact in the church who will make sure they are kept informed about what is happening in church. The group leader will also pray for them and inform the vicar of cases of illness. One or two of our leaders have had to give up during the year so we would welcome offers of help in this area.

A number of church members who cannot get to services are visited for Home Communion.

A small Bereavement Support Group ran during 2023 and this was appreciated by the members, who were able to share their feelings and difficulties more easily in this sort of setting and who were also able to provide mutual support. We will offer this again when there is a need. *Eileen Palayiwa*

Communications

The Marston Times is now printed four times a year: March, June, September and December. The intervening months are produced electronically and sent by email on request and made available on the website. We post a few copies to some who can't access emails and receive a donation towards the cost. Regular articles What to Quote, Nature Notes and What to Cook have proved very popular together with the Vicar's letter and information. News from the Parish Council and Marston Community Gardening have returned to their regular format. *Jan Lawrie*

Website

The church website is an important link between the church and the community. A lot of people rely on it to find out what is happening in the church and what the church is doing in the community. On the website you can find out what is happening and see pictures of the various activities. We have received a lot of positive feedback. The website provides a way of contacting us. It runs parallel with our Facebook page. A lot of church members have come to rely upon it more if they are unable to attend services and unable to pick up a pew sheet. You can also download the latest Marston Times. Keeping it up-to-date can take a lot of time sometimes. *Duncan Hatfield*

Churches Together

St Nicholas is a member of Churches Together in Marston and Northway (CTMN). Our representatives during 2023 were Skye Denno, Maureen Davis and Geoff Hale. In May we held a 'Love Marston Love Life' event for the local community with musical items, magician, bouncy castles and stalls. It was very well attended. Other joint events include a monthly dementia-friendly service, and ecumenical fellowship and study groups which meet each month and weekly through Advent and Lent. However, it is noticeable that some of the member churches are struggling to be as involved as in the past. *Geoff Hale*

Review of the Year

Church attendance

The new roll presented at the annual meeting contained 114 names (2022: 117), of whom 45 were non-resident (2022: 44). The gradual decline continues year on year (2005: 207; 2012: 155).

Attendance at Sunday services during October was as follows:

	In church	Online views
October 1	109	33
October 8	53	20
October 15	71	No online
October 22	60	20
October 29	116	No online
Average	82	24

Comparison with Sunday Services in October 2022

	In church	Online views
October 2	22	18
October 9	105	46
October 16	17	18
October 23	58	24
October 30	112	15
Average	63	24

Statistics for occasional offices: baptisms, weddings, and funerals

Baptisms.	There were 5 baptisms (2022: 4)
Confirmations.	There were 6 confirmations (2022: 0)
Weddings.	There were 3 weddings. (2022: 2)
Funerals.	The clergy conducted 12 funeral services. (2022: 10)

Ministry Team

The team is led by Revd Skye Denno and assisted by Revd Stephanie Bullock (PTO) and Revd Andy Gosler (Associate Priest).

Preaching was shared with licensed lay ministers David Cranston, Joel Denno, Neil Barker and Geoff Hale. Neil Barker continued to serve as Director of Music, Organist and Choir Master and to lead our informal cafe services.

Debbie Bailey continues as Parish Administrator.

Helen Norman was appointed as Children and Family Minister.

Music

We have had another wonderful year of musicmaking. It is pleasing that we have been able to consolidate our Junior Choir and we have seen the bass section of the Youth Choir develop over the year. Our SATB choir particularly enjoyed singing at some special choral evensongs shared with St Mary's Iffley and with Holy Trinity, Headington Quarry.

Our choirs have also sung at a number of RSCM events organised by Helen Meredith. I have also particularly appreciated this year the support of Sophie Meredith with the training up of the Junior Choir and also Jane Burd's musical support as needed with all our choirs.

One highlight for all the choirs was singing at our Love Marston Love Life event one Sunday summer afternoon. A more recent highlight for our SATB & Youth Choir was the Nine Lessons & Carols service which was well attended and appreciated.

Once again, we were grateful for the support of Old Marston Parish Council with a grant of £300 towards music resources for our Junior and Youth choristers.

Children and Family Minister

I joined St Nicholas as Children and Family Minister in May 2023 and have been warmly welcomed into your church community. I have been busy helping run already established and flourishing groups for toddlers, babies and youth. Hopefully building new links across the provision and making connections with the local community. With Skye I have been involved in helping families prepare for a family member to be baptized. With Gill Hale I helped plan and organize a baptism celebration BBQ, as well as visiting St Nicholas School with a termly Open the book assembly (where we retell a bible story linked to the school values with the children dressing up in character). I promoted children and young people activities at 'Love Marston, Love Life' and the Mortimer Hall Community days. Helped organize a scout service, made Christingles with the 43rd beavers as well as the Christmas Nativity service and carols around the tree. I have had the opportunity to attend training and have reflection time with the Diocese in the

church house which allowed me time to consider my role and purpose within the parish as well as share ideas on organization and vision. Connections with Montessori Forest School in Elsfield have also been developed with an Autumn visit and scavenger hunt at St Thomas as well as six weekly visits to retell a bible story with crafts to the junior school. I have seen the creativity of the Messy Church team led by Jane Burd as well as been impressed by the varied breakfast on offer organized by Harvey Burd. By the lively songs and music chosen by Duncan and the support and prayer of the rest of the team, Brian, Sue, Alison, Jennie, Dianne, Margaret, Alison and Pauline. In addition to this I have had the delight together with Jackie Whittaker of planning and organizing the Autumn Fun Day with crafts, raffle, hot dogs and games and look forward to the Spring Fun Day which is planned for the 23rd March. These events could not run without enthusiastic and keen volunteers and I am immensely thankful for all their efforts and care they have in future generations. *Helen Norman*

Mission in the Parish

Messy Church

We have been meeting monthly in the church hall through the year. We have a regular group of families who come along plus many others who visit occasionally. We love to share a great breakfast, lots of interesting crafts, bible stories, songs (and dances) and stories from our church family. This year we interviewed such interesting folk, with stories of God in their work, studies, health and their community. It's been a joy to share these times together. *Jane Burd*

Baby and Toddler Group

It has been a busy year at toddler group and it continues to be a delight to welcome new members and see the group grow. We have a wide range of adults from parents, grandparents, nannies and child minders and all the children and babies they care for and we average around twenty children each week. We were sad to see Geoff and Gill leave but Felicity Dendy has continued to lead the singing session every week with her giant book of songs and we have a few new adults who will help Joel North and Helen Norman set up and clear away after each session.

We have been donated a number of new toys including dressing up clothes, ride-ons, books, craft supplies and a wooden Noah's ark as well as purchasing a tuff spot, in which we have been able to extend our provision of messy play (for example spaghetti, gloop, ice blocks and finger painting). Each term has had a theme and weekly craft activity often devised and resourced by Margaret Harding. The children have enjoyed contributing to our new display board and

see their work continuing to grow. In the Summer Holiday we had an extended session and picnic at Mortimer recreation ground and we have plans for one off termly lunch following a session. *Helen Norman*

Energy - Junior Church

Junior church was relaunched during advent 2023 on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and we currently have two regular members. The children gather at the beginning of the service to collect candles and the children's bible, to be sent to their activity in the vestry via a prayer said with the congregation. Activities are linked to the lectionary and the children return to the service at the peace and will share their craft with the congregation at the end of the service.

During the first Sunday of the month an activity is linked to the service at the children's area at the front of church, where children's books and toys can also be found. The number of children in this service has risen due to siblings of members of the junior choir. Additional activities are left in the children's area and during the week a number of the crafts are completed and taken away. Helen and Margaret are currently running this activity with support from Adam Meridith and additional volunteers would be much appreciated. *Helen Norman*

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot continues to be very popular and has over 30 people attending each month, many of whom live alone. There is always a happy atmosphere of people enjoying meeting friends over delicious refreshments! Many thanks to the fantastic team who together make this such an enjoyable event. *Eileen Palayiwa*

Lunch Club

Lunch Club, which meets on the last Friday of each month, has been thriving this year with growing numbers. Most months the numbers exceed 40 people present. As we cannot hold a Lunch Club in December (as it would fall between Christmas and New Year), we have a New Year meal at the Victoria Arms. This is sponsored by Victoria Arms and OMTC but organised by St Nicholas. This year over 50 people were present. *Judith Piggott*

Pulse Youth Group

Every second and fourth Saturday in the church hall we run a youth group for young people 11+ and we have been 12 and 20 young people attending each week. We have a 'God Slot' at the beginning of each session where we discuss and read a bible passage related to the Christian season or Sunday readings. There are always snacks and drinks available, board and card games, pool,

table football and a table tennis table as well as a themed food of the evening which have ranged from chocolate fountain, toasties, s'mores, smoothies, toast and spreads and pancakes. In addition to this we have an activity of the evening, these are diverse and range from games, quiz, escape room, bake off, pastry making, star gazing, bell ringing and craft activities. In addition to these sessions, we have had a Christmas shared meal, Summer BBQ and an Autumn walking meal. Joel Denno, Brian North and Helen Norman run the group at present with Skye Denno and Luke Norman. Youth group is a fun and rewarding space to be part of and we always welcome new ideas or volunteers. *Helen Norman*

Mission in the World

Divya Shanthi Mission Support

DSMS has continued to support the work of Divya Shanthi Christian Association and Trust in Bangalore, India. Divya Shanthi provides free and subsidised education, a home for vulnerable children, free medical and family support and vocational training in impoverished parts of Bangalore. Divya Shanthi faced many challenges in 2023 including extreme weather, rising inflation and a difficult political background which does not favour the work of Christian organisations. Despite this, they were able to:

- Open a new Health and Wellness clinic which undertakes community health work and provide a clinic staffed by volunteer doctors;
- Provide extra teaching for high school children in Hindi and Kannada and in science and maths to help students succeed in the state exams;
- Open an outreach centre in the Nandini Layout. The centre provides a pre-school creche, a women's tailoring unit, extra tuition in English for school children and a prayer group;
- Run a vocational training programme for young people who have lost their jobs and need to re-train; and
- Celebrate Christmas in four locations as part of their outreach efforts.

In Marston, DSMS continues to support Divya Shanthi through a programme of child sponsors (with 40 children currently sponsored), a loan scheme for higher education students (via the Hazel Sargeant Memorial Fund) and donations towards their wider charitable work. *Tessa Hennessy*

Church Mission Society

We continue to support Andy and Kati Walsh in Brazil. Regular updates have been made available in Church. *Neil Barker*

Church Fabric

As reported last year, we submitted a Faculty to remove the pews from the South Aisle back (by the font) and to restore the floor in the church. This was approved and the work started in June this year and completed in 6 weeks. The carpet was only replaced in the central aisle of the nave and the pews removal provided us with welcome space near the door. The Faculty has been extended to April 2025 while we consider whether we purchase the chairs for the area around the font.

The bicycle racks were installed in the churchyard and planted up for spring and autumn.

We are still monitoring the heating trying to find the right balance of warmth against costs. *Judith Piggott and Jan Lawrie.*

Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues or concerns have been reported during the year. We are up to date with our DBS checks for all those who needed to be checked.

We have kept abreast with, as much as we could, with safeguarding issues. The main concern diocesan wide, has been the rise of “financial scam” targeting the elderly and vulnerable. This seems to be a growing phenomenon.

A major event during the year was A Services for Safeguarding Parish Officers (PSO) that was held at Christ Church Cathedral on 19th November. The event started at 2.00pm with workshops on “Spiritual Abuse” and on “Managing Risk”, followed by a service in the Cathedral, addressed by the bishop. Millius is on the Diocesan PSO Working Group that advises on PSO guidelines and working.

More and more work and materials seem to be coming up all the time with the introduction of using “dashboards” etc.

Millius has established a good working relationship with the Team Adviser for Oxford and have met from time to time to review Safeguarding issues in general.
Millius Palayiwa

Financial Report

Receipts

There was a small reduction of 1% in planned giving, but we received an increased level of grants including £5,733 from the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance towards the costs of employing the Family Minister

Net parochial fees were higher than in 2022. The rent on 1B Mill Lane was increased in line with inflation. Overall, there was a 10% increase in receipts, not counting the special gift of £25,000 received in 2022.

Payments

The deanery suspended individual assessments of Parish Share and increased them all in line with increased costs. Meanwhile, our other charitable donations decreased by 21%.

Running expenses and the cost of church ministry decreased by 4%. The PCC reimburses the vicar for telephone and broadband costs.

Meanwhile, there was a significant increase in the costs of Ministry and Mission in the Parish following the appointment of a Family Minister in May 2023. These extra costs were met from the special gift received in 2022 and the ODBF grant.

We spent £35,898 on a project to remove some pews and restore walls and flooring. This was met from reserves that had been allocated for repairs to the fabric.

Investments

There was a net gain of £9,715 in our CBF investments due to the increase in stock markets during 2023.

At the Year End

At the end of 2023 we had a balance of £45,164 in the General fund (unrestricted), equivalent to about four months expenditure. There was a balance of £15,680 in the Bell fund and £50,097 in other restricted and designated funds.

Looking Ahead

Following an appeal in November 2022, seven members pledged to increase their planned giving. There have been no additional pledges since then. There are currently 46 regular donors, but several of them are no longer worshipping at the church and others are expected to leave during 2024. The church needs to increase its regular donor base if it is to meet its future financial commitments. Parish Share for 2024 has been assessed based on the previous formula and is expected to reduce by 3.6% compared with 2023.

Electricity costs increased sharply in Oct 2023 with a new fixed term contract and will typically be about £1,500 per month in the winter, even with a reduced level of heating.

Due to falling income and increasing costs, we project a budget deficit of about £13,000 in 2024. *Geoff Hale*

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended December 31, 2023, which are set out in the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any

such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met, or

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

(Signed)

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straws Lane
Headington
Oxford
OX3 0DL

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2023

Receipts & Payments

2022	RECEIPTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Voluntary Receipts					
63,081	Planned giving		60,187	2,160		62,347
14,412	Reclaimed from HMRC	3	11,774	1,045	149	12,968
99	Loose cash collections		1,479	248		1,727
30,012	Donations		1,769	4,547	713	7,029
3,000	Legacy			1,000		1,000
0	Sunday morning coffee		105			105
1,119	Wall safe		499			499
0	Junior Church					0
132	Sundries		81			81
2,108	Grants	4		10,129	200	10,329
113,962			75,893	19,129	1,062	96,084
	Other Receipts					
4,022	Fees (net)	5	7,258			7,258
2,966	Interest & investment income		3,311			3,311
9,084	Rent				9,396	9,396
647	Marston Times	6		300	659	959
259	Lunch Club (net)	7			(11)	(11)
16,978			10,569	300	10,044	20,913
130,941	Total receipts before transfers		86,462	19,429	11,106	116,997
0	Transfers		0		0	0
130,941	Total receipts after transfers		86,462	19,429	11,106	116,997

The Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2023

Receipts & Payments (continued)

2022	PAYMENTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Payments outside the Parish					
51,760	Parish share		53,396			53,396
8,466	Other charitable donations	8	3,500	3,221		6,721
60,226			56,896	3,221	0	60,117
	Church running expenses					
4,297	Utilities		4,591	1,474		6,065
3,248	Insurance		3,490			3,490
6,104	Maintenance		2,318	608		2,926
1,607	Cleaning (net)	9	1,671			1,671
1,662	Cost of services		1,301			1,301
194	Messy Church			221		221
3,824	Organists		4,269			4,269
340	Choir (including Junior Choir)				308	308
3,300	Gardening		1,500	1,950		3,450
24,574			19,141	4,253	308	23,702
	Ministry in the Parish					
1,377	Clergy expenses		1,972	625		2,597
0	Junior Church		82			82
850	Youth Work			661		661
840	Eco Hub			696		696
1,806	Mission within the Parish	10	816	870	498	2,184
460	Family Minister			11,062		11,062
5,332			2,870	13,914	498	17,282
	Fabric					
0	Memorial Garden			0		0
30	Equipment			882		882
-1,937	Rewiring project					0
450	Quinquennial repairs					0
0	Church flooring and seating			4,037	31,861	35,898
-1,457			0	4,919	31,861	36,780
	Other Expenditure					
4,965	Administration (net)	11	6,010	423		6,433
18	Bank charges		25		21	46
1,457	Marston Times	6		300	1,388	1,688
3,534	Maintenance of 1B Mill Lane				967	967
241	Flowers		500			500
10,215			6,535	723	2,376	9,633
98,891	Total payments before transfers		85,441	27,030	35,044	147,515
0	Transfers		0		0	0
98,891	Total payments after transfers		85,441	27,030	35,044	147,515
32,050	Surplus / Deficit		1,021	(7,601)	(23,938)	(30,517)
112,722	Balance b/f at January 1		44,143	45,008	42,591	131,743
-13,029	Change in value of investments				9,715	9,715
131,743	Balance c/f at December 31		45,165	37,407	28,369	110,941

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2023

Summary of Funds

Fund	Fund type	31 Dec 2022	Net Receipts	Net Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in investments	31 Dec 2023
General	Unrestricted	44,144	90,663	89,642			45,164
Flowers	Restricted	1	0	0			1
Choir	Restricted	(0)	0	0			(0)
Choir Treats	Restricted	30	0	0			30
Fabric	Designated	32,397	10,000	31,861		9,715	20,251
Fabric	Restricted	1,216	3,669	4,919			(34)
Bells	Restricted	16,435	92	848			15,680
Memorial Garden	Restricted	555	1,781	2,190			146
Projection system	Restricted	0	0	0			0
Marston Times	Designated	357	659	1,388			(372)
Marston Times	Restricted	0	300	300			0
Charity	Restricted	56	3,055	3,221			(110)
1B Mill Lane	Designated	9,458	(604)	967			7,887
Youth Work	Restricted	1,064	300	661			704
Music Events	Designated	120	862	827			154
Messy Church	Restricted	273	0	221			52
Eco Hub	Restricted	606	1,000	975			631
Lunch Club	Designated	259	1,233	1,043			449
Family Minister	Restricted	24,540	6,733	11,062			20,211
Fun Day	Restricted	33	400	335			98
Warm Spaces	Restricted	200	1,474	1,674			0
Sabbatical	Restricted	0	625	625			0
Total		131,743	122,242	152,759		9,715	110,941

Summary of Accounts

Account	31 Dec 2022	Net Receipts	Net Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in Investments	31 Dec 2023
Coop current a/c General	13,792	152,242	152,759			13,274
CBF investment a/c Fabric	117,951	(30,000)			9,715	97,666
Total	131,743	122,242	152,759	0	9,715	110,941

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2023

Statement of Overall Assets & Liabilities

31 Dec 2022 £		Expendable Funds	31 Dec 2023 £
	Monetary Assets		
13,792	Bank Current A/cc	13,274	13,274
117,951	CBF Investment A/cc	97,666	97,666
131,743	Total	110,941	110,941
	Other Assets		
256,336	Freehold house at 1B Mill Lane (insured value)		282,230
256,336	Total		282,230

Signed:

Elizabeth Denno (Chair)

Geoff Hale (Treasurer)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2023

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation

(a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011, together with applicable accounting standards.

(b) The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as permitted when the annual income is less than £250,000.

(c) The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor of those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2. Accounting Policies

(a) The funds of a charity, under charity law, have to be categorized in one of three ways.

Unrestricted funds: these contain money that can be spent in any way the PCC chooses (within general charity law)

Designated funds: these contain money that the PCC has allocated to a specific purpose. They include funds designated for maintenance of church property. Money in a designated fund can be undesignated by a subsequent decision of the PCC.

Restricted funds: these contain money that has been given for a purpose specified by the donor. Such money can only be spent on the specified purpose (within the overall objectives of the PCC), or else returned to the donor.

(b) The PCC uses a number of bank accounts and investment funds

General Account: This holds current funds, including General (unrestricted), Designated and Restricted Funds. The PCC holds a current account with the Cooperative Bank

Investment Accounts. Reserves are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund administered by CCLA Investment Management Ltd. During 2023 the "Bells Fund" and "Fabric Fund" accounts were consolidated into a single account.

Investments are valued at the basic value (between bid price and offer price) on 31 December.

(c) Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and benefice property are not included in the accounts.

Movable church furnishings which are held by the vicar and churchwardens on trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are listed in the church's inventory. Such assets are not included in the financial statements.

The freehold property at 1B Mill Lane belongs to the PCC, with the deeds held on its behalf by the Diocese. It is included in the statement of overall assets and liabilities at its insured value.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2023

Note 3

Money reclaimed from HMRC

2022		2023
£	RECEIPTS	£
13,552	Income tax reclaimed on Gift Aid donations	12,065
860	Money claimed under GASDS	903
<u>14,412</u>		<u>12,968</u>

Note 4

Grants

2022		2023
£	RECEIPTS	£
300	Old Marston Parish Council (for Marston Times)	300
300	Old Marston Parish Council (for Choir)	0
0	Old Marston Parish Council (for Cycle Racks)	1,000
0	Old Marston Parish Council (for Bell Ropes)	92
645	Old Marston Parish Council (for Fun Days)	400
500	Brett's Trust (for Youth Work)	300
163	Oxfordshire Historic Churches (for Church Fabric)	230
0	Oxford City Council (for Earth Day/Eco Hub)	500
200	Oxford City Council (for Warm Spaces)	0
0	Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (for Warm Spaces)	874
0	Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (for Family Minister)	5,733
0	Gladiator Trust (for Carpets/Fabric)	1,000
0	Old Marston Charities (for Coffee Pot/Lunch Club)	200
<u>2,108</u>		<u>10,629</u>

Note 5

Parochial Fees: Receipts & Payments

2022		2023
£	RECEIPTS	£
7,158	Statutory Fees	9,350
<u>1,115</u>	Additional Fees (organist, flowers, choir, bells, verger)	<u>2,109</u>
<u>8,273</u>		<u>11,459</u>
	PAYMENTS	
3,421	Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance	2,905
<u>830</u>	Others (clergy, organist, flowers, choir, bells, verger)	<u>1,296</u>
<u>4,251</u>		<u>4,201</u>
<u>4,022</u>	Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>7,258</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2023

Note 6

Marston Times: Receipts & Payments

2022		2023
£	RECEIPTS	£
71	Subscriptions and donations	20
<u>576</u>	Advertisements	<u>639</u>
<u>647</u>		<u>659</u>
In addition, a grant of £300 from OMPC is recorded in Note 4		
	PAYMENTS	
1,391	Printing	1,599
<u>66</u>	Postage & stationery	<u>89</u>
<u>1,457</u>		<u>1,688</u>
<u>(810)</u>	Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>(1,029)</u>

Note 7

Lunch Club: Receipts & Payments

2021		2022
£	RECEIPTS	£
<u>859</u>	Contributions	<u>1,033</u>
<u>859</u>		<u>1,033</u>
In addition, a grant of £200 from Old Marston Charities is recorded in Note 4		
	PAYMENTS	
<u>599</u>	Expenses	<u>1,043</u>
<u>599</u>		<u>1,043</u>
<u>259</u>	Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>(11)</u>

In addition, £ 193 was received and £ 155 was paid in cash,
the balance was kept as a cash float

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2023

Note 8	2022	Other Charitable donations	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£		£	£	£
		<u>Overseas & worldwide</u>			
	1,000	Church Mission Society	1,500		1,500
	2,236	Divya Shanthi	2,000	1,865	3,865
	500	Christian Aid		1,094	1,094
	500	Embrace the Middle East			0
	500	The BEARR Trust			0
	250	Franciscan Aid Fund			0
	<u>4,986</u>		<u>3,500</u>	<u>2,959</u>	<u>6,459</u>
		<u>National</u>			
	250	Scripture Gift Mission			0
	250	Inclusive Church Network			0
	230	Shelter			0
	<u>730</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>Local</u>			
	500	Oxford Churches Debt Centre			0
	500	The Porch			0
	250	Restore			0
	500	Asylum Welcome		263	263
	500	St Nicholas the Wonderworker			0
	250	Oxford Hospitals Charity			0
	250	SOFEA			0
	<u>2,750</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>263</u>
	<u>8,466</u>	Total	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,221</u>	<u>6,721</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2023

Note 9	Cleaning: Receipts and Payments	
	2022	2023
	£	£
	RECEIPTS	
	2,410	Marston Church Properties (salary contribution) 2,507
	<u>2,410</u>	<u>2,507</u>
	PAYMENTS	
	4,017	Salaries and fees 4,178
	0	Materials 0
	<u>4,017</u>	<u>4,178</u>
	1,607	Net payments 1,671

The PCC employs a Cleaner and supplies cleaning services to Marston Church Properties at cost.

Note 10	Mission within the Parish	
	2022	2023
	£	£
	PAYMENTS	
	452	Advertising and printing 204
	1,238	Fun Days 1,035
	0	Music events 448
	116	Other expenses 498
	<u>1,806</u>	<u>2,184</u>

Note 11	Administration: Receipts and Payments	
	2022	2023
	£	£
	RECEIPTS	
	2,033	Marston Church Properties (salary contribution) 2,505
	<u>2,033</u>	<u>2,505</u>
	PAYMENTS	
	6,151	Salaries 7,514
	602	Licence and other fees 268
	331	Photocopier 805
	(328)	Bank card reader (net of refund) 0
	241	Other 350
	<u>6,998</u>	<u>8,938</u>
	4,965	Net payments 6,433

The PCC employs a Parish Administrator and supplies administration services to Marston Church Properties at cost.

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended December 31, 2023, which are set out in the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met, or

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

(Signed)

DocuSigned by:

A6FC308C63E348A...

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straws Lane
Headington
Oxford
OX3 0DL

Accounts



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the Year ended 31 December 2022

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

The trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas', Marston (the members of the PCC) present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Incumbent

The Revd Elizabeth (Skye) Denno

Charitable Status

All Parochial Church Councils in the Church of England are recognized as charities by the Charity Commission; PCCs such as ours, with a gross income over £100,000, are required to register with the Commission. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity.

Registered Charity Number 1138507

Legal Name of the Charity

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas Marston

Working Names of the Charity St Nicholas' PCC
PCC (of) St Nicholas, Marston

Address of the Charity

The Vicarage, Elsfield Road, Marston Oxford OX3 0PR

Independent Examiner

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straws Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 0DL

Bankers

The Cooperative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester.

Officers

Incumbent (Vicar)	Revd Skye Denno
Curate	Revd Andy Gosler
Assistant Priest	Revd Stephanie Bullock
Licensed Lay Ministers	David Cranston
	Joel Denno
	Neil Barker
	Geoff Hale
Churchwardens	Judith Piggott
	Jan Lawrie
PCC Chair	Skye Denno
PCC Secretary	Isabel Fenton
PCC Treasurer	Geoff Hale

Representatives on Cowley Deanery Synod

Skye Denno
Maureen Davis
Millius Palayiwa

The clergy are members of Deanery Synod *ex officio*; the other members are elected to serve until April 2023.

Members of the PCC

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, members of the PCC are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, are co-opted by the PCC, or are members of the PCC *ex officio*.

The following served as members of the PCC during the calendar year 2022:

Helen Barker	Andy Gosler	Emily Meredith
David Black (to 24 April)	Geoff Hale	Eileen Palayiwa
Jane Burd	Duncan Hatfield	Millius Palayiwa
Maureen Davis	James Lawrie (to 24 April)	Judith Piggott
Skye Denno	Jan Lawrie (from 24 April)	Ian Ross
Isabel Fenton		

Elected PCC members serve for three-year terms. The current terms of office of the elected PCC members are as follows:

Serving until 2023	Serving until 2024	Serving until 2025
Jane Burd	Helen Barker	Eileen Palayiwa
Geoff Hale	Duncan Hatfield	Ian Ross
Isabel Fenton	Emily Meredith	(vacant)

Objectives and Governance

The parish of St Nicholas, Marston, is one of the parishes in the Deanery of Cowley, within the Diocese of Oxford. It shares a joint benefice with the separate parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield.

The Parochial Church Council ('the PCC') is governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956) as amended, and by the current version (2011) of the Church Representation Rules. Its responsibilities include that of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Nicholas'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and specifically the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing knowledge of and trust in Jesus Christ.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

Missionary activity and outreach work.

Facilitating this work depends on the voluntary work of many people, and the PCC very much appreciates their service to the church and to the local community. The incumbent receives a stipend paid by the Diocese. The curate is unpaid. No other trustees are paid for their services.

A connected charity is Marston Church Properties Ltd ('MCP'), which is both a registered charity, no. 1085739, and a company limited by guarantee. Four of the five directors of MCP are members of the PCC, and the vicar is the chair of the company by virtue of her incumbency.

Vicar's Report

2022 seemed to flash past my eyes with such speed it is almost easy to forget what we managed to achieve and celebrate as the church here in Marston. It was not the easiest year as we were still holding much of the pain and anxiety of the previous (Covid) years. This meant coping with adjustments made to worship patterns and mission to accommodate those who were struggling to get to church or those were catching up with family or managing areas and new responsibilities. This meant we were not only doing all that we had done - including the changes and extra services and events, but also adding to it by bringing some kind of normality for people to connect with, like Lunch Clubs. Thank you, Jackie Whittaker, for making Lunch Club happen; it is an example of one of the places we can Pause and catch our breath.

We offered a series of 'Pause' spaces: "Pause for Thought"; 'Pause for Prayer' and "Pause for More". 'Pause for thought' proved to be very successful and gave a wonderful platform to share gifts and knowledge as well as a space to re-connect with one another in the local community. We had talks on such diverse subjects as Biblical Poetry, Eco Initiatives and Grief Support. 'Pause for Prayer' was a space that felt the most needed, but wasn't always well attended. For those of us who did go, it was a well of refreshment and space to 'be'. The most successful one was when Joel and I put poetry, music and reflection/silence together. 'Pause for More' started well with a few regular online members but this quietened down so it was stopped and later replaced with Faith exploring courses. Although not all the 'Pause' events were as well attended in person we were able to record and upload on our YouTube channel and this proved popular.

Geoff Hale, Joel Denno and Neil D'Monte have continued to faithfully live-stream for us over 2022 and I know it hasn't always been plain sailing. I am grateful for their commitment and time to help those unable to attend in person to feel included. For 2023, we will be reviewing the live-streaming, collecting data on how many people still require the service, so that resources can be focused where they are most needed.

It was a year of chasing our tails and feeling a little behind on the planning, but we still managed to do two Eco Markets (both very well attended), the Queen's Jubilee BBQ and Celebration in partnership with the Parish Council, and a Big Autumn Fun Day for which Marks and Spencer generously donated 115 pumpkins. Thank you to all the helpers and volunteers for each of these events. The Giving Garage grew to include a full-time Community Larder. Linda and Gerry Prickett help to manage this, and again we are grateful for all our volunteers. It is open every Saturday 9-11 am and is a very practical way of

showing God's love in our community. It is such a joy to use the Vicarage for these events.

One of the impacts of the last few years has been the growing number of people needing pastoral care, both in the wider community and amongst our regular attenders. Our Pastoral Prayer and Support Team continue to do sterling work under the supervision of Eileen Palayiwa and home visits continue every month with Home Communion offered to those unable to get to church.

2022 continued with a worship calendar that was diverse, creative and exciting, with regular outdoor Green Church services, Celtic gatherings, Taizé, BCP Communion, Messy Church, CW Communion, and Evensong. All of this wonderful diversity in worship and music is only possible because of the Ministry team and worship leaders. A huge thank you to Andy Gosler and Stephanie Bullock our Associate Priests. Andy finished his curacy successfully in June and stayed with us to serve as Associate Priest. Thank you to Joel Denno, Geoff Hale, Neil Barker and David Cranston, who, as Lay Ministers, preach and lead worship. There are others who help lead services at Messy Church, Green Church and Celtic worship under the support of our Ministry team so a big thank you to each of you. Neil has continued to lead our choirs over 2022 and we have seen Junior Choir flourish as a result of his proactive measures in encouraging new young people to join and making the choir accessible. Thanks to all those who lead worship in both our choirs, who play the organ to cover funerals (John Collier) and who are part of the worship band.

We have struggled this year with volunteers, but those who have faithfully polished the church, created beautiful flowers displays, led us in prayers, read Bible lessons, served the chalice or served behind the altar have enabled worship to continue. As we do need more volunteers, do please let me or one of the Church Wardens know if you feel a nudge from God to offer help. Speaking of Church Wardens: Judith Piggott and Jan Lawrie have seen us through 2022 despite the difficulties of a busy year and both remain to serve us into 2023. A big thank you to both of them for their care and commitment, which enabled me to take time off over August to rest. Thank you to each of our PCC members who have served St Nicholas church, especially to those who take on dual roles in helping our finances (Geoff Hale), Website design (Duncan Hatfield), and Safeguarding (Millius Palayiwa). Jane Burd is leaving the PCC at the APCM and we thank her for her wisdom, especially in the area of mission for our children and families.

There are so many things to be thankful for, and despite 2022 feeling like a busy, tough year which I was unable to finish satisfactorily (as a result of contracting Covid just before Christmas), I can see the many blessings and joys as well. It

continues to be an honour to serve this parish and I am really excited about 2023. We had a very fruitful PCC and Ministry team focus morning in January 2023, one that will help guide our vision, mission and worship in being a church for Everyone. More of this in the Annual report for next year ... *Skye Denno*.

Curate's Report

Looking back on my last report I am reminded of how far, together, we've come, since when I wrote that I expected it to be my last. I won't go into the details of why I chose to stay with you in the Benefice of Marston & Elsfield, save to say that I saw God's hand in the byzantine goings on it that led me back; it was the right decision and I have no regrets. I shall, however, just report the time-line for the end of my curacy. I submitted my final folder on 27 April, which was signed off by Revd Peter Day on 18 May. I learned that I had formally completed my curacy when I received a lovely email from Bishop Steven on 27 May. I remember that moment distinctly because I was in the physiotherapy waiting room at the JR awaiting an appointment to help my recovery from a broken leg. When my physiotherapist told me, "Well Andy, I don't think there's anything more we can do for you", I realised that within just 20 minutes I had been signed off as fit to serve by both the Church and the NHS!

My physiotherapist had been surprised by the speed of my recovery, and in relation to that, I would like to thank all in the church who supported me during that difficult time, whether through your good wishes and prayers, acceptance of my need to rest, or in real tangible ways, in one case taking me for my covid booster just a few weeks post-op when Caroline wasn't available to help (thank you Sally!), and in writing reports for the church, on characteristically convoluted feedback forms, and at too short notice on my time as curate. Thank you Judith and Tessa – your words were picked up by Revd. Day in his report so proving that they were read and carried weight. Of course all this kindness and support played a part in my realisation that, for the foreseeable future at least, my place is with you. All that is reflected also in the last paragraph of my report last year. So I was licensed by Archdeacon Jonathan to the Benefice (at Elsfield) on 18 September with no stated end date. And now, maybe you're wondering why, if I've completed my curacy, this text is entitled Curate's Report? The answer is that with my metamorphosis to Associate Priest (please think butterfly rather than frog), my title has changed from Assistant Curate in training, to simply Assistant Curate. Clearly a beautiful example of how less is more, and I feel blessed to serve that title with you. *Andy Gosler*

Deanery Synod Report

The synod met four times during the year. In-person meetings have resumed. One of the meetings was joint with Oxford Deanery. Discussions were mainly on the effect of Covid-19 on congregation numbers and therefore giving, with parishes noticing a big decrease in Sunday collections. This has huge implications for Parish shares. Parish share discussions took a great amount of time during the year, and will continue into 2023.

A Deanery Plan was produced during the year. As a result, there was, there was a presentation by the Revd Dr Keith Hebden of Citizens UK, to consider a possible strategy to address key issues raised in the Plan. The possibility of the Deanery joining with Citizens UK for a trial period of 3 years was considered, which would cost £3,000 a year! No decision was made. *Millius Palayiwa*

Diocesan Synod Report

Diocesan Synod meetings have continued to be on Zoom. It has been decided that this will continue, but with one meeting a year in-person, and that to be longer and include a lunch.

Discussions about Living in Love and Faith (LLF) have continued, and more so following the Bishop's Essay "Together in Love and Faith." The Essay, which is 49 pages, explores the issue of whether the church should marry and/or bless same-sex partnerships. The Essay has attracted a great deal on media interest, as can be expected. There has been a "strong" 46-page response by the Rector of St Ebbs, Vaughan Roberts.

At all its meetings, the Synod was updated and received reports on Christ Church governance and related "conflict." There was also a detailed briefing on the 2022 Lambeth Conference. During the year, a motion was passed to pay Licenced Lay Ministers (LLMs) and Self-Supporting Ministers (SSMs) for certain services as is the practice with retired clergy starting in 2023. Budget and governance issues are always on the agenda. *Millius Palayiwa*

Elsfield

Having emerged from the uncertain and unsettling period of Covid, without the opportunities to gather and celebrate together, 2022 reinforced the values of community both socially and spiritually. Our plans for 2023 build on this sense of belonging and togetherness with services encompassing an array of formats to suit everyone – matins, common worship, holy communion, evensong (including Hymns and Pimm's in June) and celebrations at Mothering Sunday, Harvest

Festival and Christmas. In addition, we will enjoy evening compline during Lent (a welcome period for contemplation and reflection held every Thursday at 8.00pm). We particularly look forward to welcoming friends from Marston to our Maundy Thursday fish 'n' chip supper with informal communion. This has always been a joyous occasion with Neil Barker leading us in song.

Our village community calendar includes the recent inter-village wine tasting competition, St George's supper, Harvest supper, the Christmas fair and carols around the Christmas tree.

Whilst we are a small village, we bring people together when we can in the hope that, over time, we will build a stronger, supportive and more committed community. *James Plunkett*

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates with committees and working groups, which meet and report to it as appropriate. Participation in these groups is open to all church members. However, meetings and activities were greatly curtailed during the year

Standing Committee

Elected annually, this comprises the Vicar, churchwardens, treasurer and such other members as the PCC agrees. It exists to conduct essential business between full meetings of the PCC.

Pastoral Care - Prayer and Support Network

The Prayer and Care groups are still functioning well with group leaders ensuring that their members stay informed about church events and praying for them regularly. They inform the vicar of cases of illness or people who would like a visit or home communion and will try to point members to sources of help when needed. Some members of the congregation have been trained in distributing communion at home and this is appreciated by those who receive it.

During 2023 we plan to start a Bereavement Support Group for those who have been bereaved during the last two years and who feel they would benefit from an opportunity to share their experiences and support each other. *Eileen Palayiwa*

Communications

The Marston Times is now printed four times a year: March, June, September and December. The intervening months are produced electronically and sent by

email on request and made available on the website. We post a few copies to some who can't access emails and receive a donation towards the cost. Regular articles What to Quote, Nature Notes and What to Cook have proved very popular together with the Vicar's letter and information. News from the Parish Council and Marston Community Gardening have returned to their regular format. *Judith Piggott & Jan Lawrie*

Churches Together

St Nicholas is a member of Churches Together in Marston and Northway (CTMN). Our representatives are Skye Denno and Geoff Hale. We enjoyed meeting again at the Palm Sunday walk between our churches (complete with donkey) and the outdoor Good Friday Celebration. However, the annual meeting was very sparsely attended and could not elect new officers. It is noticeable that some of the member churches are struggling to be as involved as in the past. If CTMN is to continue its work, there is a need for younger people to be engaged.

In May 2023 we plan to hold another 'Love Marston Love Life' and hope that this will be an even better community event than in the past. *Geoff Hale*

Review of the Year

Church attendance

The new roll presented at the annual meeting contained 117 names (2021: 119), of whom 44 were non-resident (2021: 45). The gradual decline continues year on year (2005: 207; 2012: 155).

Attendance at Sunday services during October was as follows:

	In church	Online views
October 2	22	18
October 9	105	46
October 16	17	18
October 23	58	24
October 30	112	15
Average	63	24

Comparison with Sunday Services in October 2021

	In church	Online views
October 3	40	30
October 10	73	35
October 17	69	n/a
October 24	56	29
October 31	110	13
Average	70	27

Statistics for occasional offices: baptisms, weddings, and funerals

Baptisms.	There were 4 baptisms (2021: 4)
Confirmations.	There were 0 confirmations (2021: 5)
Weddings.	There were 2 weddings. (2021: 2)
Funerals.	The clergy conducted 10 funeral services. (2021: 23)

Ministry Team

The team is led by Revd Skye Denno, assisted by Revd Stephanie Bullock (assistant priest), and Revd Andy Gosler (assistant curate).

Preaching is shared with licensed lay ministers David Cranston, Joel Denno, Neil Barker and Geoff Hale. Neil Barker continued to serve as Director of Music, Organist and Choir Master and to lead our 4 pm services.

Gill Hale continues to coordinate the Junior Church and other children's activities.

Alison Gray retired and Debbie Bailey was appointed as Parish Administrator.

Music

We have had a wonderfully full year of musicmaking this year. We were pleased to welcome a good number of younger choristers to the Junior Choir in September and our music group for the 4 pm service has grown and developed over the year. Our SATB choir particularly enjoyed singing at special evensong for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of our late Queen as well as joining with Holy Trinity, Headington Quarry for some choral evensong services.

The choir has also sung at a number of RSCM events organised by Helen Meredith. I have also appreciated Helen's continued support of the Junior & Youth choirs along with Sophie and Jane Burd who agreed to help when the new junior choristers joined.

One highlight for all the choirs was singing at our Music for a Summer Evening event when other singers and musicians joined us. A more recent highlight was the Nine Lessons & Carols service which combined with our 900th church anniversary celebrations. With Robert Fletcher's support in choosing music from across the centuries and bringing along the 'Spare Parts' quartet, our choir and numerous friends who joined with us were able to sing music both old and new: well-known favourites and those that challenge us to sing to new heights.

Once again, we appreciated the support of Old Marston Parish Council with a grant of £300 towards music resources for our Junior and Youth choristers.

I continue to be encouraged by the joyful commitment that choristers and musicians show throughout the year and the welcoming atmosphere in our times together. We look forward to more joyful music making in 2023. *Neil Barker*

Mission in the Parish

Messy Church

Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that includes creativity, celebration and hospitality. We are delighted that Messy Church in Marston was able to start up again in March, following a break because of Covid. We have a number of regulars who attend and enjoy a delicious breakfast, crafts, songs

(and dances), Bible stories, personal stories from members of the church and a lot of fun. *Jane Burd*

Baby and Toddler Group

Gill, Geoff, Margaret and Joel North enjoyed a busy and happy year at Baby and Toddler Group. We enjoyed the company of our regular members, welcomed some baby brothers and sisters and were pleased to meet new families who had moved into the area. We received some generous gifts of toys, including baby dolls, ride-ons and a lovely easel, and we have a new helper, Felicity, who has particularly contributed to our singing time. We have been pleased to see some of our toddlers come along to Messy Church and we all appreciated Joel Denno coming to tell us the Christmas story in December. *Gill Hale*

Junior Church

By the end of lockdown, a number of our Junior Church members were too old for the group, and with very small numbers we decided that instead of meeting in the church hall we would have tables in the church where younger members of the congregation could find new activities each week, along with creche toys for those under three. *Gill Hale*

Coffee Pot and Lunch Club

Coffee Pot has run normally throughout 2022 with over 30 people attending sessions. Those who come appreciate the opportunity to meet others as many of them live alone.

We also started a monthly lunch club, organised by Jackie Whittaker, which has been fully booked up throughout the year. *Eileen Palayiwa*

Pulse Youth Group

Every second and fourth Saturday 7-9 pm in the Church Hall we run a youth group for young people of secondary school age. It continues to be a friendly and informal group, building on the relationships that began during lockdown when we met online. We spend the first 20-30 minutes discussing a passage from the Bible, usually using the gospel reading for the following day. After this, the young people have free time to play and enjoy a food-based activity. At the end of each session, we ask the young people what they would like for next meeting. We have crisps, sweets, drinks and variety of board games out on the tables. There is also a table tennis table and a popular pool table in the upper room.

The young people who attend Pulse are a wonderful group, who get along well together and join in with the Bible conversation and other activities. Joel Denno, Brian North, and Skye run the group at present but we would love more helpers to join us - training will be provided and you will need to obtain a DBS check.
Skye Denno

Faith Exploring and Confirmation

At the start of the year, we were still running a monthly online group called 'Come and See Some More'. This basically took the format which Bishop Steven had used for the 'Come and See' course launched to engage with those people who had discovered or rediscovered church through internet services during lockdown. Bishop Steven had provided short talks on the basics of the Christian faith for the course that he introduced and then discussion and contemplative prayer followed. For 'Come and See Some More', we asked the members of the groups for topics to discuss and then the leader prepared a short talk or presentation on that topic. 'Come and See Some More' was attended by two or three people and we ran it until April 2022. It was successful in providing Christian fellowship and prayer for people who did not usually attend church services.

In October, we started a course to prepare people for Confirmation. The 'Come and See Some More' course fed one member into the Confirmation course. The Confirmation course is delivered in two sessions. The first is designed for young people and is held at the Vicarage. There are five young people attending this course and the discussions have been fruitful, with all of the young people contributing. The second session is held online and is designed for adults. There are two people attending the online course and they have been engaged in questions and conversations about God and faith. We are looking forward to the Confirmation Service in 2023 and after that, we will consider when to run another faith exploring course. *Skye Denno*

Mission in the World

Divya Shanthi Mission Support

DSMS supports for the work of Divya Shanthi Christian Association and Trust in Bangalore India providing education, shelter, medical and family support for impoverished children and families. Over the past year, Divya Shanthi in Bangalore has continued to work really hard for their local community.

- The school has provided extra teaching before and after school to enable children to catch up on education missed due to Covid.

- The special needs school is now at capacity with 45 children and there is a training programme running for the parents of these children.
- The vocational training programme continues, with classes in tailoring, cooking and candle making.
- The community health work has grown rapidly, supporting people with diabetes and those recently recovered from leprosy and tuberculosis.
- Divya Shanthi is running a shelter for 21 older women, who would otherwise be homeless.

Challenges for 2023 – the health of Vinay and Colleen Samuel has not been good and we are asked to pray for them. Also, the Indian government has introduced new financial laws, making it difficult to receive grants from overseas.

In Marston, we continue to support Divya Shanthi through a programme of child sponsorship and fundraising. Our supporters currently sponsor 40 children, paying for school fees etc. We held another successful Christmas Fair (outside in the cold) and raised over £1250. *Jane Burd*

Church Mission Society

In Feb 2022, after years of planning and preparation our link partners Andy and Kati Walsh travelled to Brazil to work among prisoners and socially excluded people. But as they were preparing to leave, Andy's sister Bernadette tragically died in childbirth. With this dreadful grief, they have continued faithful to their call and engaged with hospital, rehabilitation centres, a favela and particularly a remand centre and penitentiary for serious offenders where Andy has been preaching, leading worship and bringing men to know Christ. *Geoff Hale*

Baptist Mission Society and International Nepal Fellowship

Pippa and Toby Vokuhl have been working in Nepal for several years. Toby is a construction engineer and is guiding and training local people to rebuild homes and community buildings destroyed by earthquakes. With his help, a new 30-bed leprosy facility at Pokhara is nearly complete and will be named the 'Eileen and Betty Centre' to honour two pioneering missionaries who first brought the gospel and treatment for leprosy sufferers in the 1950s. If they can obtain the necessary visas, Toby and Pippa hope to continue to work with INF into 2023. *Geoff Hale*

Church Fabric

There were no major new projects during 2022 but we have been working on adjusting heating to keep it as economical as possible (this is a work in progress

still). There have been one or two issues with the furniture of the church: furniture beetle and death watch beetle have both been treated recently.

We have permission from the Diocese to install bicycle racks in the churchyard behind the tower and hope to undertake this work in the Spring.

A faculty application has been submitted to remove pews in the South Aisle around the font, provide some chairs and install bookshelves. We have also asked to remove the carpet, apart from in the central aisle where it will be replaced. The floor would then be restored and protected. *Judith Piggott and Jan Lawrie.*

Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues or concerns have been reported during the year.

We have kept abreast, as much as we could, with safeguarding issues posed by Covid-19 and the resultant lockdowns; being mindful of dangers posed to children and vulnerable adults. Lockdowns left some of our most vulnerable in society lonely, isolated, and open to abuse and exploitation but it is still early to measure these effects.

Financial scams have increased and are more likely to do so with the cost-of-living crisis.

The Diocesan team has kept us informed and up to date with developments and policy changes. There have been rapid changes of personnel among the team at Church House.

November 20th was national designated as “Safeguarding Sunday”. Due to other events, we did not observe it at St Nicholas, but plan to do so in March 2023.

In October, the lengthy report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) was published. *Millius Palayiwa*

Financial Report

Receipts

There was a significant reduction of 9.6% in planned giving, but we received a special gift of £25,000 earmarked for the cost of appointing a Children and Youth Minister.

We received grants from Old Marston Parish Council of £300 for Junior Choir, £300 for Marston Times and £645 for Fun Days. We received £500 from Brett's Trust for Youth Work, £163 from Oxfordshire Historic Churches for church fabric and £200 from Oxford City Council for providing warm spaces.

Net parochial fees were 10% lower than in 2020. The rent on 1B Mill Lane was increased by 2% in line with inflation. Overall, there was a 3% decrease in receipts, not counting the special gift.

Payments

The deanery suspended individual assessments of Parish Share and kept them all at the 2021 level. We voluntarily contributed an additional £1,000 to assist parishes that were unable to afford their share. Meanwhile, our other charitable donations decreased by 16%.

Running expenses and the cost of ministry increased by 9%. The PCC reimburses the vicar for telephone and broadband costs.

We spent very little on fabric and maintenance and received a VAT refund for work carried out in 2021. As a result, our total expenditure was 11% lower than in 2021.

Investments

There was a net loss of £13,029 in our CBF investments due to the fall in stock markets during 2022.

At the Year End

At the end of 2022 we had a balance of £44,144 in the General fund (unrestricted), equivalent to about five months expenditure. There was a balance of £16,435 in the Bell fund and £71,164 in other restricted and designated funds.

Looking Ahead

Following an appeal in November, 7 members pledged to increase their planned giving in 2023. However, with the loss of other donors, this means that projected income is about the same as in 2022.

Once again, Parish Share for 2023 was not individually assessed, but a flat increase of 3.16% was imposed, based on our share assessed for 2020 *plus* the

voluntary contributions that we made in 2020 and 2021. The treasurer objected to the lack of consultation and arbitrariness of this scheme, but it was approved by the PCC.

In 2021 and 2022, electricity costs made up about 4.5% of our total expenses. Unless we can reduce our usage, this will rise sharply from Oct 2023 when our fixed price contract will be renewed.

Due to falling income and increasing costs, we project a significant budget deficit of about £16,000 in 2023. *Geoff Hale*

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended December 31, 2022, which are set out in the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

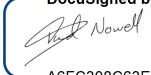
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met, or

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

(Signed)

DocuSigned by:

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14-Mar-2023 | 08:37 GMT

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straws Lane
Headington
Oxford
OX3 0DL

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2022

Receipts & Payments

2021	RECEIPTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Voluntary Receipts					
69,744	Planned giving		60,741	2,340		63,081
14,448	Reclaimed from HMRC	3	13,167	1,212	33	14,412
90	Loose cash collections		99			99
811	Collections & donations for charity					0
1,788	Donations		2,723	27,075	215	30,012
1,000	Legacy		3,000			3,000
0	Sunday morning coffee					0
802	Wall safe		1,119			1,119
0	Junior Church					0
88	Sundries		132			132
3,972	Grants	4		2,108		2,108
92,743			80,981	32,734	248	113,962
	Other Receipts					
4,465	Fees (net)	5	4,022			4,022
2,690	Interest & investment income		2,966			2,966
8,904	Rent				9,084	9,084
21	Marston Times	6			647	647
0	Lunch Club (net)	7			259	259
16,080			6,988	0	9,990	16,978
108,823	Total receipts before transfers		87,969	32,734	10,238	130,941
0	Transfers		0		0	0
108,823	Total receipts after transfers		87,969	32,734	10,238	130,941

The Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2022

Receipts & Payments (continued)

2021	PAYMENTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Payments outside the Parish					
50,770	Parish share		51,760			51,760
10,052	Other charitable donations	8	7,000	1,466		8,466
60,822			58,760	1,466	0	60,226
	Church running expenses					
5,230	Utilities		4,297			4,297
3,093	Insurance		3,248			3,248
2,936	Maintenance		5,471	633		6,104
1,585	Cleaning (net)	9	1,607			1,607
1,147	Cost of services		1,638	24		1,662
0	Messy Church			194		194
3,650	Organists		3,824			3,824
490	Choir (including Junior Choir)		39	300		340
4,284	Gardening		1,950	1,350		3,300
22,414			22,073	2,501	0	24,574
	Ministry in the Parish					
1,702	Clergy expenses		1,377			1,377
0	Junior Church		0			0
527	Youth Work			850		850
802	Eco Hub			840		840
1,967	Mission within the Parish	10	801	612	392	1,806
0	Family Minister			460		460
4,999			2,179	2,762	392	5,332
	Fabric					
0	Memorial Garden			0		0
1,763	Equipment			30		30
5,649	Rewiring project			312	(2,249)	(1,937)
3,927	Quinquennial repairs			450		450
3,401	Church seating					0
14,740			0	792	(2,249)	(1,457)
	Other Expenditure					
4,756	Administration (net)	11	4,965			4,965
0	Bank charges		18			18
899	Marston Times	6		300	1,157	1,457
2,062	Maintenance of 1B Mill Lane				3,534	3,534
59	Flowers		152	89		241
7,776			5,135	389	4,691	10,215
110,752	Total payments before transfers		88,147	7,910	2,835	98,891
0	Transfers		0		0	0
110,752	Total payments after transfers		88,147	7,910	2,835	98,891
-1,929	Surplus / Deficit		(178)	24,824	7,403	32,050
101,387	Balance b/f at January 1		44,321	21,751	46,650	112,722
13,264	Change in value of investments			(1,567)	(11,462)	(13,029)
112,722	Balance c/f at December 31		44,143	45,008	42,591	131,743

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2022

Summary of Funds

Fund	Fund type	44,561	Net Receipts	Net Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in investments	44,926
General	Unrestricted	44,321	92,219	92,397			44,144
Flowers	Restricted	2	88	89			1
Choir	Restricted	0	300	300			(0)
Choir Treats	Restricted	30	0	0			30
Fabric	Designated	36,610	5,000	(2,249)		(11,462)	32,397
Fabric	Restricted	(2)	2,179	961			1,216
Bells	Restricted	18,027	0	24		(1,567)	16,435
Memorial Garden	Restricted	100	1,900	1,445			555
Projection system	Restricted	369	0	369			(0)
Marston Times	Designated	868	647	1,157			357
Marston Times	Restricted	0	300	300			0
Charity	Restricted	(100)	1,622	1,466			56
1B Mill Lane	Designated	8,908	4,084	3,534			9,458
Youth Work	Restricted	1,414	500	850			1,064
Music Events	Designated	264	248	392			120
Messy Church	Restricted	467	0	194			273
Eco Hub	Restricted	1,445	0	840			606
Lunch Club	Designated	0	859	599			259
Family Minister	Restricted	0	25,000	460			24,540
Fun Day	Restricted	0	645	612			33
Warm Spaces	Restricted	0	200	0			200
Total		112,722	135,791	103,741		(13,029)	131,743

Summary of Accounts

Account	44,561	Net Receipts	Net Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in Investments	44,926
Coop current a/c General	6,742	135,791	128,741			13,792
CBF investment a/c Bells	11,606		10,039		(1,567)	0
CBF investment a/c Fabric	94,374	35,039			(11,462)	117,951
Total	112,722	170,829	138,779	0	(13,029)	131,743

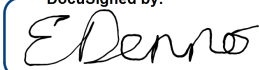
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2022

Statement of Overall Assets & Liabilities

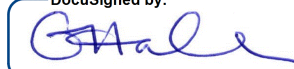
31 Dec 2021 £		Expendable Funds	31 Dec 2022 £
	Monetary Assets		
6,742	Bank Current A/cc	13,792	13,792
105,980	CBF Investment A/cc	117,951	117,951
112,722	Total	131,743	131,743
	Other Assets		
231,145	Freehold house at 1B Mill Lane (insured value)		256,336
231,145	Total		256,336

Signed:

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Elizabeth Denno (Chair)

22-Mar-2023 | 10:21 GMT

DocuSigned by:

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Geoff Hale (Treasurer)

14-Mar-2023 | 08:30 GMT

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2022

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation

(a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011, together with applicable accounting standards.

(b) The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as permitted when the annual income is less than £250,000.

(c) The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor of those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2. Accounting Policies

(a) The funds of a charity, under charity law, have to be categorized in one of three ways.

Unrestricted funds: these contain money that can be spent in any way the PCC chooses (within general charity law)

Designated funds: these contain money that the PCC has allocated to a specific purpose. They include funds designated for maintenance of church property. Money in a designated fund can be undesignated by a subsequent decision of the PCC.

Restricted funds: these contain money that has been given for a purpose specified by the donor. Such money can only be spent on the specified purpose (within the overall objectives of the PCC), or else returned to the donor.

(b) The PCC uses a number of bank accounts and investment funds

General Account: This holds current funds, including General (unrestricted), Designated and Restricted Funds. The PCC holds a current account with the Cooperative Bank

Investment Accounts. Reserves are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund administered by CCLA Investment Management Ltd. During 2023 the "Bells Fund" and "Fabric Fund" accounts were consolidated into a single account.

Investments are valued at the basic value (between bid price and offer price) on 31 December.

(c) Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and benefice property are not included in the accounts.

Movable church furnishings which are held by the vicar and churchwardens on trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are listed in the church's inventory. Such assets are not included in the financial statements.

The freehold property at 1B Mill Lane belongs to the PCC, with the deeds held on its behalf by the Diocese. It is included in the statement of overall assets and liabilities at its insured value.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2022

Note 3		Money reclaimed from HMRC	
	2021		2022
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	14,401	Income tax reclaimed on Gift Aid donations	13,552
	47	Money claimed under GASDS	860
	<u>14,448</u>		<u>14,412</u>
Note 4		Grants	
	2021		2022
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	0	Old Marston Parish Council (for Marston Times)	300
	300	Old Marston Parish Council (for Choir)	300
	300	Old Marston Parish Council (for Messy Church)	0
	500	Old Marston Parish Council (for Eco Hub)	0
	0	Old Marston Parish Council (for Fun Days)	645
	500	Brett's Trust (for Eco Hub)	0
	0	Brett's Trust (for Youth Work)	500
	222	Oxfordshire Historic Churches (for Church Fabric)	163
	2,000	Oxford City Council (for Eco Hub)	0
	0	Oxford City Council (for Warm Spaces)	200
	150	Old Marston Charities (for Coffee Pot)	0
	<u>3,972</u>		<u>2,108</u>
Note 5		Parochial Fees: Receipts & Payments	
	2021		2022
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	6,816	Statutory Fees	7,158
	779	Additional Fees (organist, flowers, choir, bells, verger)	1,115
	<u>7,595</u>		<u>8,273</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	2,574	Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance	3,421
	556	Others (clergy, organist, flowers, choir, bells, verger)	830
	<u>3,130</u>		<u>4,251</u>
	<u>4,465</u>	Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>4,022</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2022

Note 6		Marston Times: Receipts & Payments	
	2021		2022
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	21	Subscriptions and donations	71
	0	Advertisements	576
	<u>21</u>		<u>647</u>
In addition, a grant of £300 from OMPC is recorded in Note 4			
		PAYMENTS	
	721	Printing	1,391
	178	Postage & stationery	66
	<u>899</u>		<u>1,457</u>
	<u>(878)</u>	Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>(810)</u>
Note 7		Lunch Club: Receipts & Payments	
	2021		2022
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	0	Contributions	859
	<u>0</u>		<u>859</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	0	Expenses	599
	<u>0</u>		<u>599</u>
	<u>0</u>	Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>259</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2022

Note 8	2021	Other Charitable donations	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£		£	£	£
		<u>Overseas & worldwide</u>			
	1,000	Church Mission Society	1,000		1,000
	2,777	Divya Shanthi	1,500	736	2,236
	500	Christian Aid	500		500
	500	Link to Hope			0
	500	Barnabus Fund			0
	250	Embrace the Middle East	500		500
	500	Water Aid			0
	0	The BEARR Trust	500		500
	0	Franciscan Aid Fund	250		250
	<u>6,027</u>		<u>4,250</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>4,986</u>
		<u>National</u>			
	500	Christians Against Poverty			0
	250	Scripture Gift Mission	250		250
	250	Wheelpower			0
	113	The Children's Society			0
	0	Inclusive Church Network	250		250
	0	Shelter		230	230
	<u>1,113</u>		<u>500</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>730</u>
		<u>Local</u>			
	500	Oxford Churches Debt Centre	500		500
	0	The Porch	500		500
	500	Viva Doorsteps			0
	250	Restore	250		250
	250	Musical Youth Company Oxford			0
	500	Helen & Douglas House			0
	913	Asylum Welcome		500	500
	0	St Nicholas the Wonderworker	500		500
	0	Oxford Hospitals Charity	250		250
	0	SOFEA	250		250
	<u>2,913</u>		<u>2,250</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>2,750</u>
	<u><u>10,052</u></u>	Total	<u><u>7,000</u></u>	<u><u>1,466</u></u>	<u><u>8,466</u></u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2022

Note 9		Cleaning: Receipts and Payments	
	2021		2022
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	1,755	Marston Church Properties (salary contribution)	2,410
	<u>1,755</u>		<u>2,410</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	3,315	Salaries and fees	4,017
	25	Materials	0
	<u>3,340</u>		<u>4,017</u>
	<u>1,585</u>	Net payments	<u>1,607</u>

The PCC employs a Cleaner and supplies cleaning services to Marston Church Properties at cost.

Note 10		Mission within the Parish	
	2021		2022
	£	PAYMENTS	£
	375	Advertising and printing	452
	1,044	Holiday Club and Fun Days	1,238
	399	Eco Hub supplies	0
	150	Other expenses	116
	<u>1,967</u>		<u>1,806</u>

Note 11		Administration: Receipts and Payments	
	2021		2022
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	1,581	Marston Church Properties (salary contribution)	2,033
	<u>1,581</u>		<u>2,033</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	4,742	Salaries	6,151
	150	Licence and other fees	602
	588	Photocopier	331
	232	Computer	0
	410	Bank card reader (net of refund)	(328)
	214	Other	241
	<u>6,336</u>		<u>6,998</u>
	<u>4,756</u>	Net payments	<u>4,965</u>

The PCC employs a Parish Administrator and supplies administration services to Marston Church Properties at cost.

Accounts



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the Year ended 31 December 2021

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

The trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas', Marston (the members of the PCC) present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Incumbent

The Revd Elizabeth (Skye) Denno

Charitable Status

All Parochial Church Councils in the Church of England are recognized as charities by the Charity Commission; PCCs such as ours, with a gross income over £100,000, are required to register with the Commission. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity.

Registered Charity Number 1138507

Legal Name of the Charity

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas Marston

Working Names of the Charity St Nicholas' PCC
PCC of St Nicholas, Marston

Address of the Charity

The Vicarage, Elsfield Road, Marston Oxford OX3 0PR

Independent Examiner

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straw's Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 0DL

Bankers

The Cooperative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester.

Officers

Incumbent (Vicar)	Revd Skye Denno
Curate	Revd Andy Gosler
Assistant Priest	Revd Stephanie Bullock
Licensed Lay Ministers	David Cranston
	Joel Denno
	Neil Barker
	Geoff Hale
Churchwardens	Eileen Palayiwa
	Judith Piggott
PCC Chair	Skye Denno
PCC Secretary	Judith Piggott
PCC Treasurer	Geoff Hale

Representatives on Cowley Deanery Synod

Skye Denno
Maureen Davis
Millius Palayiwa

The clergy are members of Deanery Synod *ex officio*; the other members are elected to serve until May 2022.

Members of the PCC

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, members of the PCC are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, are co-opted by the PCC, or are members of the PCC *ex officio*.

The following served as members of the PCC during the calendar year 2021:

Helen Barker (from 18 April)	Skye Denno	Emily Meredith (from 18 April)
David Black	Andy Gosler	Eileen Palayiwa
Jane Burd	Geoff Hale	Millius Palayiwa
Jane Campbell (to 18 April)	Colin Harris (to 18 April)	Judith Piggott
Maureen Davis	Duncan Hatfield (from 18 April)	Ian Ross
Isabel Fenton	James Lawrie	

Elected PCC members serve for three-year terms. The current terms of office of the elected PCC members are as follows:

Serving until 2022	Serving until 2023	Serving until 2024
David Black	Jane Burd	Helen Barker
Ian Ross	Geoff Hale	Duncan Hatfield
James Lawrie	Isabel Fenton	Emily Meredith

Objectives and Governance

The parish of St Nicholas, Marston, is one of the parishes in the Deanery of Cowley, within the Diocese of Oxford. It shares a joint benefice with the separate parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield.

The Parochial Church Council ('the PCC') is governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956) as amended, and by the current version (2011) of the Church Representation Rules. Its responsibilities include that of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Nicholas'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and specifically the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing knowledge of and trust in Jesus Christ.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

Missionary activity and outreach work.

Facilitating this work depends on the voluntary work of many people, and the PCC very much appreciates their service to the church and to the local community. The incumbent receives a stipend paid by the Diocese. The curate is unpaid. No other trustees are paid for their services.

A connected charity is Marston Church Properties Ltd ('MCP'), which is both a registered charity, no. 1085739, and a company limited by guarantee. Four of the five directors of MCP are members of the PCC, and the vicar is the chair of the company by virtue of her incumbency.

Vicar's Report

2021 began in a similar vein to much of 2020 with a surge of Covid cases and an unknown January ahead of us. We had a desire to keep to outdoor services as much as possible with a promise to remain online when services were indoors. The approach to the whole of 2021 was very much 'take each month as it comes', not really knowing who would be attending and how successful the live-streaming would be. It has been a year of change and activity; planning has been almost impossible.

For our Churchwardens, Leaders and Ministry Team there have been times when it's been a tiring and exhausting journey, involving moments of frustration when the wifi disappeared at the last minute, or the struggle to find readers and trying to decide what services to put on week to week. I think we all forgot what Sunday it was occasionally, but in the midst of this there have been many moments of bright hope and new growth. To name a view, our youth group has grown, the Eco Hub has flourished and we have new people in our church. These positives make all of the hard moments worthwhile.

A big reason for the positives is the great support I have received through the Church Wardens and Ministry Team and I want to say thank you to them for all their commitment and hard work as we moved through this year jumping between online and in-venue and covering services at last minute when I had Covid in November. We really do have a wonderful Leadership Team!

Eileen Palayiwa will be stepping down this year as Church Warden, but remaining on the PCC and will continue in her role as Pastoral Care Officer which proved to be a vital role in 2021, with an increasing number of our congregation feeling isolated and having restrictions on mobility. Over 25 people are now visited in their homes for Holy Communion or for conversation and support and we believe this number may go up in 2022. A big thank you to David Black and James Lawrie for all their efforts on the PCC as they step down and have a rest from PCC duties.

Geoff Hale, who was already our dedicated treasurer, was also licensed as Lay Minister on the 6th of November and is helping Joel Denno (another LLM) with live-streaming. I know this has been a huge task and a lot of extra work. I think you will all join me in saying thank you to them both for making services inclusive and flexible. It really has been appreciated.

Throughout the year, we have been blessed by our musicians, bell ringers and singers! Whether leading us in outdoor worship at REFRESH, singing in the choir stalls, or braving the rain for carol singing, our Music Director Neil Barker and

Choirs have kept our spirits high! Thank you to you all. I would also like to thank John Collier who has played for so many funerals this year and continues to support me in 2022. It has been wonderful to hear the bells again and for a team to be so flexible with ringing for each service, changing times to suit us. Thank you for your care and dedication!

It has not been an easy year and I know the uncertainty has affected us in different ways; the changes in worship patterns combined with a yearning for things to be as they were bringing some anxiety and worry. Making sure we have clear and good communications therefore has been vital - thank you to Alison Gray our Administrator, Duncan Hatfield for the improved website and Jan Lawrie and the Marston Times/Messenger Team. I know with the hundreds of posters and notices it is so easy to feel out of the loop and feel that church may not be what it was and that perhaps you cannot belong in such a place. But — wonderfully — nothing eternal has changed. God is still faithful, Jesus is still our Saviour, the Bible is still true, forgiveness is still available, grace is still free, and our future is still secure. In such changing and challenging times, it is good to remind ourselves of these truths. *Skye Denno*.

Curate's Report

As my four-year placement draws towards its close, this is my last annual report as your curate. What a hybrid of a year it was, with times of lockdown, or at least restriction, and too short times of freedom. The lockdowns saw me continuing to record sermons and occasional services from home. I have learned that there is a curious intimacy in praying the Compline service online in one's study or bedroom at home with a candle and an iPad. But the more complex services involved us all working collectively to edit together the principal liturgy with the hymns, intercessions, sermon and readings. Whether we were actively involved in editing these services together, or just contributing our part, I think we became yet more aware than usual of what a community activity is our worship, and that, in itself, was a blessing.

But no such blessing can compare with that experienced by our times of freedom, when we could pray together without the intervention of internet technology. Freedom for me included my being able at last to conduct my first wedding and baptism services, both high points of my year. An ongoing joy for me also was the success of the Green Church outdoor services, launched on St Francis Day (4 October) 2020, partly as an activity to reconnect with creation, and to be visible serving the community, but also to have a simple and regular outdoor service we could continue through the pandemic. I know that for some, for whom health concerns meant they couldn't risk an indoor service, this has been the only live service they could attend, so for this also I am thankful that we

could do this. I am delighted also to be leaving the service in safe hands, largely lay led, and giving it the freedom to evolve. I hope the service will grow in popularity, and that you will support its new leaders with ideas and suggestions as you have supported me.

Thankfulness brings me, if I may, to my last points. Covid notwithstanding, I have enjoyed this time of curacy immensely, and that is largely thanks to the warmth, friendship, love and support, not to mention, at times, tolerance, of you good people in Marston and Elsfield. You have taught me so much of real lasting value, beyond the technical details of where not to start Psalm 119, that I know I go on from here with the best training. That is in no small measure thanks also to Geoff, Neil, Joel and Stephanie, from whom I learned much, especially about evensong! In Skye, though, I have not only had the best TI (Training Incumbent), but the best possible mentor and role model, far more friend than colleague, though both are true, and I feel truly blessed to have been able to serve my curacy here with you. Thank you. *Andy Gosler*

Deanery and Diocesan Synods Report

Meetings for both were held on Zoom. Elections were held for both synods for the next Triennium. The Deanery synod consulted on the Parish Share Review 2021. The consensus was that, although little change was necessary, some adjustments might be made to the current system rather than start from scratch. It was decided that the Deanery would keep the Parish share allocation for 2022 the same as for 2021. The Diocese was doing the same.

Both the Diocesan and Deanery Synods welcomed and stressed the importance of the 'Living In Love & Faith' report and encouraged parishes to positively engage with it.

During the year, the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce produced a report 'From Lament To Action'. The Diocese has set up a group to advise the Bishop and Diocese how to take forward and implement its recommendations.

The Diocese also produced a report on Addressing Poverty and Inequality. The theological imperative is connected to Jesus' words in John 10:10: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." *Millius Palayiwa*

Elsfield

Our sister church of St Thomas of Canterbury at Elsfield continued to hold services in-venue and online through the year, supported by the churchwardens, lay ministers and organist. Despite the challenges of Covid new people joined

the congregation and a steady and committed number come each month to worship together with other connections through by Facebook and Zoom.

Highlights included the village decorated with colourful bunting and flowers at Easter, Hymns and Pimms service on 22 August, Harvest Festival on 22 September and a brilliant Christmas Market, raising much-needed funds and enjoying time together, seeing some in person for the first time that year!

2022 is looking brighter, with Easter around the corner, St George's Day in the diary and more planned - bringing back ACE with Cassandra, coffee mornings and a picnic in July. *Skye Denno*

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates with committees and working groups, which meet and report to it as appropriate. Participation in these groups is open to all church members. However, meetings and activities were greatly curtailed during the year

Standing Committee

Elected annually, this comprises the Vicar, churchwardens, treasurer and such other members as the PCC agrees. It exists to conduct essential business between full meetings of the PCC.

Pastoral Care - Prayer and Support Network

The Prayer and Care Groups have continued to play a vital role in providing pastoral support throughout 2021. Each member has a leader whom they can approach if they need help and there is also a great deal of mutual support happening within groups. They have helped to counter the feelings of isolation experienced by many during these difficult times as well as helping people to find practical support and information. Especial thanks are due to all the group leaders for their commitment. *Eileen Palayiwa*

Communications

The Elsfield and Marston Messenger continued monthly online production for the first half of 2021. However, as we emerged from full lockdown strictures it was decided to produce a quarterly eight-page printed Marston Times, to be circulated to the whole parish, free of charge. After an initial July edition, the MT was printed in September and December. Editions in March, June, September and December are planned for 2022, with the online newsletter format of the Elsfield and Marston Times to appear in other months. *Jan Lawrie*

Other committees

Due to the pandemic, the Welcome and Pastoral Care, Worship and Faith, Mission and Hospitality and Social Justice and Environment committees were not able to operate as usual.

Churches Together

St Nicholas is a member of Churches Together in Marston and Northway (CTMN). Our representatives are Skye Denno and Geoff Hale. Our usual joint events were curtailed by the Covid pandemic, but we were able to enjoy a great time of celebration at 'Love Marston Love Life' in September. Meanwhile, member churches adapted to online services in different ways and we were able to join together for Lent and Advent courses. *Geoff Hale*

Review of the Year

Church attendance

The new roll presented at the annual meeting contained 119 names (2020: 122), of whom 45 were non-resident (2020: 43).

Attendance at Sunday services during October was as follows:

	In church	Online views
October 3	40	30
October 10	73	35
October 17	69	N/A
October 24	56	29
October 31	110	13
Average	70	27

Due to the pandemic, attendance in person was restricted and services were live-streamed. The situation was very different from normal.

Comparison with Sunday Services in October 2020

	In church	Online views
October 6	42	226
October 13	38	147
October 20	38	118
October 27	36	69
Average	38.5	140

Statistics for occasional offices: baptisms, weddings, and funerals

Baptisms.	There were 4 baptisms (2020: 06)
Confirmations.	There were 5 confirmations (2020: 0)
Weddings.	There were 2 weddings. (2020: 2)
Funerals.	The clergy conducted 23 funeral services. (2020: 20)

Ministry Team

The team is led by Revd Skye Denno, assisted by Revd Stephanie Bullock (assistant priest), and Revd Andy Gosler (curate).

Preaching is shared with licensed lay ministers David Cranston, Joel Denno and Neil Barker and Geoff Hale (from Nov 2021). Neil Barker continued to serve as

Director of Music, Organist and Choir Master and to lead our informal evening services.

Gill Hale continues to coordinate the Junior Church and other children's activities.

Alison Gray was appointed as Parish Administrator.

Music

This year has again seen some challenges to keep the live work going of our choirs and musicians. We were pleased to welcome during the year some younger choristers to the Junior Choir and we have been to carry out more live singing at practices and services. However, we did have another significant period earlier in the year when we had singing practices online and provided recorded music for our YouTube services.

We were very pleased that we were able to sing at the Love Marston Love Life event which was a well-attended outdoor community event after we had come out of a time of restricted gatherings. We also enjoyed a Choral Evensong with the joint choir of ourselves at Holy Trinity, Headington Quarry in October and also an earlier than usual Nine Lessons and Carols service before gatherings were restricted again at the end of December.

Once again, we appreciated the support of Old Marston Parish Council with a grant of £300 towards music resources for our Junior and Youth choristers.

I have again been grateful for the joyful commitment that choristers and musicians have shown throughout the year and the welcoming atmosphere in our times together.

We look forward to more live music making in 2022. *Neil Barker*

Mission in the Parish

Messy Church

Messy Church has been on hold during 2021, thanks to Covid restrictions. We are hoping to start up again in Spring 2022. Watch this space! *Jane Burd*

Baby and Toddler Group

Gill, Geoff, Margaret, Joel North and Joel Denno were all very pleased to be able to open our Baby and Toddler group again in June 2021 and it has been very well attended since then. We have enjoyed indoor and outdoor play (we have had a lot of healthy fresh air to improve distancing and ventilation!). Each week we have refreshments, crafts, seasonal activities, lots of chat and a time together for songs at the end. The group has been a great resource for babies and toddlers who missed the usual early social activities because of the lockdowns and restrictions. We particularly enjoyed our Christmas party with special songs, the Christmas story and some unseasonal out door giant bubbles! *Gill Hale*

Junior Church

By the end of lockdown, a number of our Junior Church members were too old for the group, and with very small numbers we decided that instead of meeting in the church hall we would have tables in the church where younger members of the congregation could find new activities each week, along with creche toys for those under three. *Gill Hale*

Holiday Club

This year we ran a one day 'Bank Holiday Club' on the August bank holiday, taking the theme of the fruit of the Spirit. After a 'Fruit beauty contest' drama, a fruity treasure trail and some songs and stories we enjoyed a picnic lunch and games together followed by crafts in the church hall. *Gill Hale*

Coffee Pot

We resumed Coffee Pot meetings in July this year. The first meeting had a small attendance, however numbers attending subsequent meetings rose and are almost at pre-pandemic levels. We have a number of new members and everyone is very glad of the opportunity to meet others after the long period of restrictions. *Eileen Palayiwa*

Pulse Youth Group

Pulse is a friendly and welcoming youth group that meets every second and fourth Saturday for secondary age young people. Skye, Joel and Brian North lead the group.

For the first part of 2021, Pulse was online and proved to be very successful, with roughly 15 young people attending at a time. We started with a Bible chat on

the Sunday Gospel reading, followed by a quiz or game organised by one of our young people. This was then concluded with a time of prayer. In September the Youth Group moved back into the building and there were concerns around the transition, but in fact it went very well and now has grown in numbers. The first half an hour is our Bible chat and then the remaining time is given over to free play and activities. Moving back into the building meant we could meet for the two hours again and give more time to games and food! Both of which are a highlight with volunteers as well as our young people! *Skye Denno*

Community events and outreach

The Spring Fun Day was cancelled due to Covid, but we had a very successful 'Love Marston, Love Life' in June where the Community came together and Churches across different denominations worshipped under one banner - our theme was Caring for God's Creation. At the end of October, we hosted our Autumn Fun Day across three venues (church, hall and Eco Hub) and thanks to our fab volunteers, this was the most well attended fun day yet; it included pumpkin carving, bread making, egg hunts and harvest prayer stations.

Linking with St Nicholas Primary School, and their home link officer we started a new project called Blessing Boxes. These are full of toiletries (toothpaste, nappies, shampoo and sanitary towels etc) to give to families and individuals at the school and in our parish. They have proved to be a great help in showing love and care to all.

Under the ethos of Caring for God's creation, we also hosted two Eco Markets in July and September and plan to hold three in 2022 from 11.30 am to 3 pm on the third Sunday of May, July and September. The Eco Market's 'eco-friendly' label can be understood as meaning products that have no (or minimal) plastic content or packaging (no single-use/disposable plastic); items that are up-cycled, second-hand, handmade, biodegradable, home-grown/edible (especially vegetarian or vegan); or those that contribute to helping us live a less wasteful, less consumerist lifestyle. Stall holders are often local to Marston or Oxford and subsequently we have enjoyed meeting many new people in our parish and introducing them to the St Nicholas Church family. *Skye Denno*

Marston Eco Hub

It amazing to see how this joint community adventure - the Church and Marston Community Gardeners - has grown in 2021! The Sesi refill has continued to be well supported by the community with 18 products available from fabric conditioner to olive oil. A big thank you to Jane Patten for her co-leadership with this. Book swap shop was started in July and looked after by Ginny Ross and we

had successful plant swaps through 2021 with the community space around the Marston Eco Hub being used for church services and Eco Markets. The Giving Garage was open, although a full launch is happening in Spring 2022 and the Community Larder over the Summer proved to be valued by a wide range of parishioners. My hope is for this to return in 2022. I continue to be grateful to all those who help and volunteer at the Eco Hub and to everyone who uses it! *Skye Denno*

Mission in the World

Divya Shanthi Mission Support

DSMS supports for the work of Divya Shanthi Christian Association and Trust in Bangalore India providing education, shelter, medical and family support for impoverished children and families. Over the past year, they have continued to focus their work on support for families affected by the pandemic, providing medical care, food and pastoral support for those in need.

Teaching at the school has been mostly online, with a return to in-person teaching in the Autumn and the challenge of persuading families to send their children back to school. The monsoon season was longer and more extreme which has caused extra hardship, particularly for families living on the streets. A nearly new shop (inspired by the Giving Garage in Marston) has provided household items and clothes for those on low or no income and has been a great success.

DSMS continued to receive financial support from our regular donors and sponsors with the number of children sponsored rising to 38, 23 having a named sponsor. Our outdoor Christmas Market in December raised over £1,400. *Judith Piggott.*

Church Mission Society

Our link partners Andy and Kati Walsh continued their preparations to work among prisoners and socially excluded people and started intensive training with CMS in September 2021. We were delighted to welcome them to a service in December prior to their return to Brazil in February 2022. *Geoff Hale*

Baptist Mission Society and International Nepal Fellowship

Pippa and Toby Vokuhl returned to Kathmandu in Spring 2021. Toby is a construction engineer and is guiding and training local people to rebuild homes and community buildings destroyed by the earthquakes. Pippa is a

physiotherapist and is able to use her skills to help mentor local practitioners.

Geoff Hale

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week was hit again by Covid. We didn't manage any door-to-door collections, but Skye did run a special online service about the work of Christian Aid. The church gave a donation to Christian Aid of £500. *Jane Burd*

Church Fabric

At the end of 2020 we had a Quinquennial Inspection which identified a number of items of maintenance which needed to be completed. Much of this work has been done, but we are waiting for permission from the Diocese to complete the other items which are mostly indoors and of less urgency.

The heating and lighting project was completed in 2021 and we are very pleased with the end result. We are still adjusting the settings of the new storage heaters to try and find a balance between comfort and economy! The lights on the lychgate which were rather unsightly have been replaced.

A section of the Memorial Garden wall has been repointed.

After long delays due to Covid, the report on the Church Pews was received. It contains a lot of interesting history and concluded that the pews at the back of the North Aisle were a rare survival of Children's Pews and that the significance of the Aisle pews is low to medium. The PCC is now considering removal of pews at the back of the North and South aisles and how best to use the space.

We have obtained permission from the diocese to permanently site the Wifi router outside the church under the eaves. This will mean that the stand at the altar rail which was holding it as a temporary solution will be removed. This was completed in early 2022. *Eileen Palayiwa and Judith Piggott*

Safeguarding

No Safeguarding issues or concerns have been reported during the year.

We have kept abreast, as much as we could, with safeguarding issues posed by COVID – 19 and the resultant lockdowns; being mindful of dangers posed to children and vulnerable adults. Lockdowns have left some of our most vulnerable in society lonely, isolated and open to abuse and exploitation. The

Diocesan Team has kept us informed and up to date with developments and policy changes.

During the year we had a Safeguarding “training session” with the Prayer & Care Group on: Safeguarding Older People from Abuse and Neglect. A factsheet is available from the Safeguarding Officer or the Administrator. It explains the law to help you decide what to do if you think an older person may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

A new guidance policy on Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance (2021) was introduced. Its aim is to raise awareness of the C of E Safer Recruitment and People management, and its implication for parishes and churches across the Diocese. It is focused on roles that include substantial contact with children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Everyone, in the church/PCC who may interview for a position, either paid or voluntary must do the course. It is compulsory for all those recruiting and supervising postholders in roles within the scope of the Guidance It is to extend the “safer “element” into “people management” systems. We intend to run a short training session during 2022.

During 2021, there were some key changes to safeguarding policies:

- DBS Renewals are to be every 3 years. Currently it is every 5 years.
- DBS Portability. People must use the DBS Update Service. You must register for that.
- Confidential Declaration Forms are to be used ONLY for roles eligible for and Enhanced DBS check.

The implementation date for these changes is 1st January 2022, with the DBS changes offering a two-year window from the implementation date. *Millius Palayiwa*

Financial Report

Receipts

There was a small increase of 2.6% in planned giving, but there were no loose cash collections for most of the year as the church was closed and additional donations were reduced as the special projects of 2020 had been completed.

We received grants from Old Marston Parish Council of £300 for the Junior Choir, £300 for Messy Church and £500 for the Eco Hub. We received £500 from

Brett's Trust and £2,000 from Oxford City Council for the Eco Hub. We received a grant of £222 from Oxfordshire Historic Churches for the church fabric and £150 from Old Marston Charities for the Coffee Pot group.

Net parochial fees were about 26% higher than in 2020, partly because some volunteers waived their fees. Investment income was further reduced as we had raided our reserves for the rewiring project. The rent on 1B Mill Lane was increased by 1% in line with inflation. Overall, there was a 17% decrease in receipts, but the 2020 total had been higher due to fundraising for the rewiring project

Payments

Our Parish Share assessment was reduced, but we voluntarily maintained the same level as in 2020 to support other parishes in the deanery. Our charitable donations increased by 8%. With the church starting to open up again, running expenses and the cost of ministry increased by 19%. The PCC reimburses the vicar for telephone and broadband costs.

The Marston Times was not distributed for most of the year. The PCC agreed to waive subscription fees in 2021.

During 2021 we completed the rewiring project, purchased new equipment for livestreaming and made a good start on repairs recommended in a quinquennial review.

Investments

There was a net growth of £13,264 in our CBF investments.

At the Year End

At the end of 2020 we had a balance of £44,321 in the General fund (unrestricted), equivalent to about five months expenditure. There was a balance of £18,027 in the Bell fund and £50,374 in other restricted and designated funds.

Looking Ahead

Our Parish Share in 2022 was to have remained the same, but we volunteered to contribute an additional £1,000 to support other parishes in our deanery. In general, our basic income and expenditure is anticipated to be similar to that in 2021. *Geoff Hale*

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended December 31, 2021, which are set out in the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

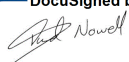
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met, or

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

(Signed)

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11-Apr-2022 | 15:22 BST

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straws Lane
Headington
Oxford
OX3 0DL

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2021

Receipts & Payments

2020	RECEIPTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Voluntary Receipts					
67,949	Planned giving		62,094	7,650		69,744
18,546	Reclaimed from HMRC	3	13,703	745		14,448
878	Loose cash collections			90		90
0	Collections & donations for charity			811		811
9,788	Donations		621	1,167		1,788
0	Legacy		1,000			1,000
11	Sunday morning coffee					0
397	Wall safe		802			802
0	Junior Church					0
95	Sundries		88			88
14,300	Grants	4		3,972		3,972
111,963			78,308	14,435	0	92,743
	Other Receipts					
3,542	Fees (net)	5	4,410	55		4,465
4,167	Interest & investment income		2,690			2,690
8,820	Rent				8,904	8,904
2,249	Marston Times	6			21	21
18,777			7,100	55	8,925	16,080
130,741	Total receipts before transfers		85,408	14,490	8,925	108,823
0	Transfers		-5,000		5,000	0
130,741	Total receipts after transfers		80,408	14,490	13,925	108,823

The Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2021

Receipts & Payments (continued)

2020	PAYMENTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Payments outside the Parish					
50,770	Parish share		50,770			50,770
9,270	Other charitable donations	7	9,026	1,026		10,052
60,040			59,796	1,026	0	60,822
	Church running expenses					
3,704	Heating & lighting		5,230			5,230
3,344	Insurance		3,093			3,093
4,970	Maintenance		2,478	458		2,936
1,251	Cleaning (net)	8	1,585			1,585
1,109	Cost of services		1,147			1,147
3,632	Organists		3,650			3,650
524	Choir (including Junior Choir)		194	296		490
1,930	Gardening		1,784	2,500		4,284
20,464			19,160	3,254	0	22,414
	Ministry in the Parish					
1,465	Clergy expenses		1,702			1,702
3	Junior Church		0			0
208	Youth Work			527		527
0	Eco Hub			802		802
895	Mission within the Parish	9	1,002	965		1,967
2,571			2,704	2,295	0	4,999
	Fabric					
8,541	Memorial Garden			0		0
2,400	WiFi and Livesteam			1,763		1,763
116,206	Rewiring project			5,511	138	5,649
-869	Photocopier (depreciation)			0		0
0	Quinquennial repairs			1880	2,047	3,927
0	Church seating				3,401	3,401
126,278			0	9,154	5,586	14,740
	Other Expenditure					
5,498	Administration (net)	10	4,756			4,756
1,026	Marston Times	6			899	899
1,081	Maintenance of 1B Mill Lane				2,062	2,062
0	Flowers			59		59
7,606			4,756	59	2,961	7,776
216,958	Total payments before transfers		86,417	15,788	8,547	110,752
0	Transfers		0		0	0
216,958	Total payments after transfers		86,417	15,788	8,547	110,752
-86,218	Surplus / Deficit		-6,009	-1,298	5,378	-1,929
183,113	Balance b/f at January 1		50,330	21,596	29,461	101,387
4,491	Change in value of investments			1,453	11,811	13,264
101,387	Balance c/f at December 31		44,321	21,751	46,650	112,722

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2021

Summary of Funds

Fund	Fund type	31 Dec 2020	Net Receipts	Net Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in investments	31 Dec 2021
General	Unrestricted	50,330	80,408	86,417			44,321
Flowers	Restricted	60	-	59			2
Choir	Restricted	- 4	300	296			-
Choir Treats	Restricted	-	30	-			30
Fabric	Designated	20,385	10,000	5,586		11,811	36,610
Fabric	Restricted	1,943	7,209	9,154		-	2
Bells	Restricted	17,033	-	458		1,453	18,027
Memorial Garden	Restricted	250	2,350	2,500			100
Projection system	Restricted	369	-	-			369
Marston Times	Designated	1,745	21	899			868
Charity	Restricted	- 13	939	1,026		-	100
1B Mill Lane	Designated	7,066	3,904	2,062			8,908
Youth Work	Restricted	1,792	150	527			1,414
Music Events	Designated	264	-	-			264
Messy Church	Restricted	167	300	-			467
Eco Hub	Restricted	-	3,063	1,617			1,445
Coffee Pot	Restricted	-	150	150			-
Total		101,387	108,823	110,752		13,264	112,722

Summary of Accounts

Account	31 Dec 2020	Net Receipts	Net Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in Investments	31 Dec 2021
Coop current a/c General	8,671	108,823	110,752			6,742
CBF investment a/c Bells	10,154				1,453	11,606
CBF investment a/c Fabric	82,563				11,811	94,374
Total	101,387	108,823	110,752	-	13,264	112,722

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2021

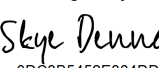
Statement of Overall Assets & Liabilities

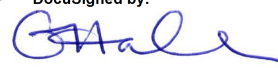
31 Dec 2020 £		Expendable Funds	31 Dec 2021 £
	Monetary Assets		
8,671	Bank Current A/cc	6,742	6,742
92,717	CBF Investment A/cc	105,980	105,980
101,387	Total	112,722	112,722
	Other Assets		
230,915	Freehold house at 1B Mill Lane (insured value)		231,145
230,915	Total		231,145

Signed:

Elizabeth Denno (Chair)

Geoff Hale (Treasurer)

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2021

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation

(a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011, together with applicable accounting standards.

(b) The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as permitted when the annual income is less than £250,000.

(c) The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor of those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2. Accounting Policies

(a) The funds of a charity, under charity law, have to be categorized in one of three ways.

Unrestricted funds: these contain money that can be spent in any way the PCC chooses (within general charity law)

Designated funds: these contain money that the PCC has allocated to a specific purpose. They include funds designated for maintenance of church property.
Money in a designated fund can be undesignated by a subsequent decision of the PCC.

Restricted funds: these contain money that has been given for a purpose specified by the donor. Such money can only be spent on the specified purpose (within the overall objectives of the PCC), or else returned to the donor.

(b) The PCC uses a number of bank accounts and investment funds

General Account: This holds current funds, including General (unrestricted), Designated and Restricted Funds. The PCC holds a current account with the Cooperative Bank

Investment Accounts. Reserves are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund administered by CCLA Investment Management Ltd

Investments are valued at the basic value (between bid price and offer price) on 31 December.

(c) Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and benefice property are not included in the accounts.

Movable church furnishings which are held by the vicar and churchwardens on trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are listed in the church's inventory. Such assets are not included in the financial statements.

The freehold property at 1B Mill Lane belongs to the PCC, with the deeds held on its behalf by the Diocese. It is included in the statement of overall assets and liabilities at its insured value.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

for the Year

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Note 3		Money reclaimed from HMRC	
	2020		2021
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	17,414	Income tax reclaimed on Gift Aid donations	14,401
	1,132	Money claimed under GASDS	47
	<u>18,546</u>		<u>14,448</u>
Note 4		Grants	
	2020		2021
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	300	Old Marston Parish Council (for Marston Times)	0
	300	Old Marston Parish Council (for Choir)	300
	200	Old Marston Parish Council (for Messy Church)	300
	0	Old Marston Parish Council (for Eco Hub)	500
	500	Brett's Trust (for Eco Hub)	500
	3,000	Allchurches Trust (for Rewiring)	0
	10,000	Oxfordshire Historic Churches (for Church Fabric)	222
	0	Oxford City Council (for Eco Hub)	2,000
	0	Old Marston Charities (for Coffee Pot)	150
	<u>14,300</u>		<u>3,972</u>
Note 5		Parochial Fees: Receipts & Payments	
	2020		2021
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	7,337	Statutory Fees	6,816
	104	Additional Fees (organist, flowers, choir, bells, verger)	779
	<u>7,441</u>		<u>7,595</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	3,562	Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance	2,574
	337	Others (clergy, organist, flowers, choir, bells, verger)	556
	<u>3,899</u>		<u>3,130</u>
	<u>3,542</u>	Surplus / Deficit (-)	<u>4,465</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

for the Year

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Note 6		Marston Times: Receipts & Payments	
	2020		2021
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	1,581	Subscriptions and donations	21
	668	Advertisements	0
	<u>2,249</u>		<u>21</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	710	Printing	721
	316	Postage & stationery	178
	<u>1,026</u>		<u>899</u>
	<u>1,222</u>	Surplus / Deficit (-)	<u>-878</u>

Production and delivery of the Marston Times was suspended in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The surplus was used to fund production during 2021 without charge to subscribers or advertisers

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2021

Note 7	2020	Other Charitable donations	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£		£	£	£
		<u>Overseas & worldwide</u>			
	500	Church Mission Society	1,000		1,000
	2,090	Divya Shanthy	2,026	751	2,777
	1,000	Christian Aid	500		500
	1,000	Viva			0
	500	Link to Hope	500		500
	500	Bible Society			0
	0	Barnabus Fund	500		500
	0	Embrace the Middle East	250		250
	25	Lifewords			0
	500	Water Aid	500		500
	<u>6,115</u>		<u>5,276</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>6,027</u>
		<u>National</u>			
	1,000	Christians Against Poverty	500		500
	0	Scripture Gift Mission	250		250
	0	Wheelpower	250		250
	0	The Children's Society		113	113
	<u>1,000</u>		<u>1,000</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>1,113</u>
		<u>Local</u>			
	0	Oxford Churches Debt Centre	500		500
	500	The Porch			0
	0	Viva Doorsteps	500		500
	0	Restore	250		250
	250	Musical Youth Company Oxford	250		250
	250	Oxfordshire Association for Blind			0
	155	Cowley Deanery			0
	500	Helen & Douglas House	500		500
	500	Asylum Welcome	750	163	913
	<u>2,155</u>		<u>2,750</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>2,913</u>
	<u>9,270</u>	Total	<u>9,026</u>	<u>1,026</u>	<u>10,052</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

for the Year

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Note 8			
Cleaning: Receipts and Payments			
	2020		2021
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	0	Marston Church Properties (salary contribution)	1,755
	<u>0</u>		<u>1,755</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	1,083	Salaries and fees	3,315
	168	Materials	25
	<u>1,251</u>		<u>3,340</u>
	<u>1,251</u>	Net payments	<u>1,585</u>
The PCC employs a Cleaner and supplies cleaning services to Marston Church Properties at cost.			
Note 9			
Mission within the Parish			
	2020		2021
	£	PAYMENTS	£
	214	Advertising	375
	647	Holiday Club and Fun Days	1,044
	33	Messy Church	0
	0	Eco Hub supplies	399
	0	Coffee Pot expenses	150
	<u>895</u>		<u>1,967</u>
Note 10			
Administration: Receipts and Payments			
	2020		2021
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	2,274	Marston Church Properties (salary contribution)	1,581
	<u>2,274</u>		<u>1,581</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	6,691	Salaries	4,742
	465	Licence and other fees	150
	588	Photocopier	588
	0	Computer	232
	0	Bank card reader	410
	28	Other	214
	<u>7,772</u>		<u>6,336</u>
	<u>5,498</u>	Net payments	<u>4,756</u>
The PCC employs a Parish Administrator and supplies administration services to Marston Church Properties at cost.			

Accounts

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

The trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas', Marston (the members of the PCC) present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Incumbent

The Revd Elizabeth (Skye) Denno

Charitable Status

All Parochial Church Councils in the Church of England are recognized as charities by the Charity Commission; PCCs such as ours, with a gross income over £100,000, are required to register with the Commission. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity.

Registered Charity Number 1138507

Legal Name of the Charity

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas Marston

Working Names of the Charity St Nicholas' PCC
PCC (of) St Nicholas, Marston

Address of the Charity

The Vicarage, Elsfield Road, Marston Oxford OX3 0PR

Independent Examiner

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straws Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 0DL

Bankers

The Cooperative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester.

Officers

Incumbent (Vicar)	Revd Skye Denno
Curate	Revd Andy Gosler
Assistant Priest	Revd Stephanie Bullock
Licensed Lay Ministers	David Cranston
	Joel Denno
	Neil Barker
Churchwardens	Eileen Palayiwa
	Judith Piggott
PCC Chair	Skye Denno
PCC Secretary	Alison Edwards
PCC Treasurer	Geoff Hale

Representatives on Cowley Deanery Synod

Skye Denno
Maureen Davis
Millius Palayiwa

The clergy are members of Deanery Synod *ex officio*; the other members are elected to serve until May 2021.

Members of the PCC

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, members of the PCC are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ('the annual meeting'), are co-opted by the PCC, or are members of the PCC *ex officio*.

The following served as members of the PCC during the calendar year 2020:

David Black	Skye Denno	Eileen Palayiwa
David Bullock (to 15 Nov)	Andy Gosler	Millius Palayiwa
Jane Burd	Geoff Hale	Judith Piggott
Jane Campbell	Colin Harris	Sally Richards (to 15 Nov)
Maureen Davis	James Lawrie	Ian Ross
Isabel Fenton (from 15 Nov)		

Elected PCC members serve for three-year terms. The current terms of office of the elected PCC members are as follows:

Serving until 2021	Serving until 2022	Serving until 2023
Jane Campbell	David Black	Jane Burd
Colin Harris	Ian Ross	Geoff Hale
	James Lawrie	Isabel Fenton

Objectives and Governance

The parish of St Nicholas, Marston, is one of the parishes in the Deanery of Cowley, within the Diocese of Oxford. It shares a joint benefice with the separate parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield.

The Parochial Church Council ('the PCC') is governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956) as amended, and by the current version (2011) of the Church Representation Rules. Its responsibilities include that of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Nicholas'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and specifically the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge of and trust in Jesus Christ.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

Missionary activity and outreach work.

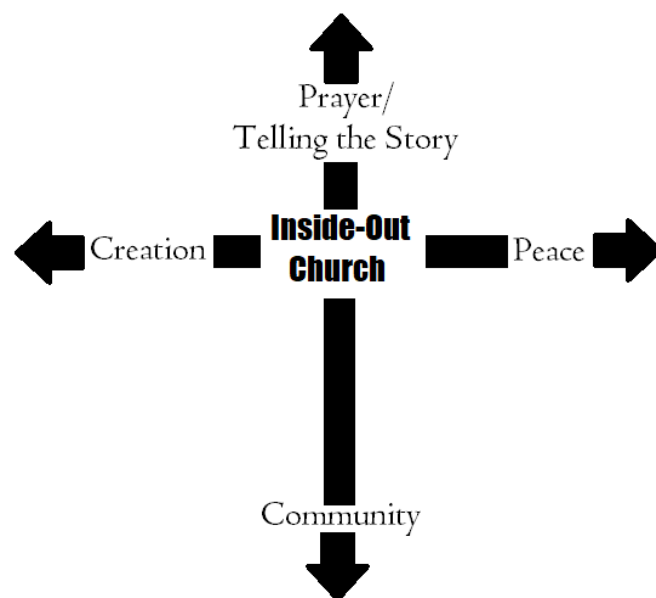
Facilitating this work depends on the voluntary work of many people, and the PCC very much appreciates their service to the church and to the local community. The incumbent receives a stipend paid by the Diocese. The curate is unpaid. No other trustees are paid for their services.

A connected charity is Marston Church Properties Ltd ('MCP'), which is both a registered charity, no. 1085739, and a company limited by guarantee. Four of the five directors of MCP are members of the PCC, and the vicar is the chair of the company by virtue of her incumbency.

Vicar's Report

The last year has been dominated by three factors. First, the coronavirus pandemic and the associated restrictions which have changed our church life significantly since March 2020 - we have all learnt to follow the mantra of 'Happy Birthday' whilst washing our hands. Secondly, in responding to the pandemic we have needed to provide not only online worship, but also to embark on a steep learning curve in a number of areas. We have suddenly had to use Facebook LIVE and edit countless videos for YouTube and also to create Worship at Home resources (booklets, prayers and activities) for our major festivals and ordinary time to keep people connected. All of which has had a major impact on the shape of ministry. Thirdly, and most fundamentally, the faithfulness and love of our God has been shown time and time again in the way we have served each other and helped our fellow neighbour.

Almost anticipating the change that was about to happen, I ended the report last year with two focuses for mission and outreach for 2020. One was our work and care among families and young children who are attending church in diminishing numbers each year; and the second was to reach out to those who feel isolated and lonely. These priorities were fashioned from our PCC away day on the 18th of January and have proved to be so important in all our discussions, both after the first lockdown and then later on when I led a series of conversations in September around what church needs to be and look like for our Marston community. In our PCC discussions in September, I presented a short paper with my ideas for an Inside-Out Church, heavily influenced from data collected in our parish questionnaire and from conversations around the parish. To summarise the paper, I felt we needed to be an Inside-Out Church that looked to the community and wasn't confined to the church building. The Inside-Out Church expresses itself in four main ways, through **community**, **prayer**, **peace** and **creation** and these four themes combine to shape our aspirations in Worship and Mission.



The desire to reach out to young families as well as others who are vulnerable and isolated in our **community** has been a driving force behind many initiatives that have included Poster competitions, Food bank parcels, Outside Worship Activities, Pulse Youth group, Online Holiday Club & Sunday Club, Nativity Trail, Advent Windows, Carol Singing and

many more. For all those who have helped in making these happen or supported the events by spreading the word - a big thank you to you all.

It was so disappointing to cancel our Easter/Spring Community Fun Day (and subsequent Fun Days in 2020) especially as we were launching the new Marston Eco Hub with workshops and Swap Shop and the Giving Garage in partnership with Alistair Morris and all Marston Community Gardeners. However, my dream to encourage our love of **creation** by using less plastic and setting up a refill station came to fruition through working with Jane Patten, a member of the MCG. Thanks to Jane's assertiveness, in September the SESI refill station began and has gone from strength to strength each month. Recently we have been able to add new products. This initiative neatly fulfils our desire to care for Creation and along with this we have started our Green Church led by Andy Gosler who I know will develop this new space for creative worship next year. The church looks out through **community**, rather than in to itself, understanding its meetings (Wednesday, Sunday etc.) not as services themselves, but as refuelling points to enable us for the works of service out-side our building. It's been wonderful working with Andy in 2020 and exploring outdoor worship and the tangible healing qualities of nature and I know he is keen to continue this in the coming year.

Prayer and worship continue to be an important part of how we maintain and sustain our faith. Through its acts of **prayer** and worship, the Inside-Out Church tells its story of God's redemption for all people, always asking itself how these acts relate to those who are not in attendance. After each Government announcement a new public notice was written and our worship pattern was reviewed and changes were made that were necessary. I'm going to be honest, towards the first lockdown I was too quick to make changes which meant I ended up making too many - I got better with time and realised I didn't need to rush. Our services online developed a Benefice feel to cater for our two churches and it was wonderful to rely on a wide number of people to help with Intercessions and readings. Thank you to Neil Barker and all the choir for recording and arranging music for our online worship and also for organising choir practices and accommodating the need to go on a sign-up sheet when we were restricted in numbers in our church building. Thank you also to the Ministry Team who have helped in many ways - from online talks, leading services, writing down names and cleaning pews and generally being a wise and caring team who have made this year possible. I should also add an extra thank you to Joel who took on the role of sound and recording engineer, hours spent on editing our pre-recorded services. We are looking to develop a sound and recording team in 2021 - to help with re-cording our services LIVE so we can continue to be present online for those who will not be able to return to the building. Do let me know if you can help with this.

The Inside-Out Church looks to be a **peace**-making church, not just a peace-loving one, actively searching out broken relationships to mend and inviting the involvement of the excluded. As such our Prayer and Care Leaders have taken on a huge role during the past 18 months - ringing round members and passing on resources and information. I know the role of pastoral care is seen as important by all at St Nicholas' and because of COVID I decided in APRIL to fold our sub-committees and give time and resources to our pastoral care with the *Prayer and Care Network* and to communications through *Marston and Elsfield Messenger*. Along with saying thank you to all our Prayer and Care leaders, I would like to mention Jan Lawrie and the team that have produced the Messenger each month - it has certainly helped with keeping us together despite being dispersed.

Meanwhile, this year's PCC has served an extra-long period of time, and I am grateful for their wisdom and support through a very tricky period of ministry. Thank you to Geoff Hale our treasurer for keeping us afloat and making sure we look outwards not only at our needs but to the mission projects we support. Most significantly, however, I am very grateful indeed to Judith Piggott and Eileen Palayiwa for their time as churchwardens and for their support for me in particular — it has at times been very hard and stretching, but they have served faithfully and sacrificially in the service of our church. Not only overseeing project X (heating, lighting, electrical) to its completion, but also the path to the memorial garden and countless Heath and safety forms and faculties to deal with.

The initial response to the lockdown restrictions from March onwards involved a significant amount of online ministry, as well as a reshaping of our pastoral and practical church support. By and large, this was well received and enabled the church's ministry to adapt quickly and meet the needs both of the church congregations and of those in the wider community we were enabled to serve and engage with for the first time. Although with vaccinations are underway, we expect to be living with some restrictions until well into next year, and some of the longer-term implications may stay with us for a generation. It is even harder than usual to look ahead and make predictions about the church's life. In many senses, our priorities are unchanged: we look to preach the good news, to serve those in need, and to find ways to be faithful and fruitful in an increasingly demanding culture. As much as ever, we need Almighty God to be at work, and so I hope you will join with me in a closing prayer, using the words from our Prayer and Care booklets:

Dear God, I pray that our love for each other will overflow more and more, and that we will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding. Amen.

Curate's Report

In my university work I teach students about the nature of adaptation; 2020 tested all our abilities to adapt, and in ways none of us ever imagined. It's certainly been an interesting year to be a curate, with online services, learning and teaching, and learning yet new ways to juggle. During the year I discovered more than ever what it means to have transferable skills, since a steep learning curve for creating teaching materials for my university work found unexpected use in recording sermons and services at home. I never expected my first use of the home communion set you so generously gave me to be when I presided at a eucharist in our own front room, whilst recording the event on an iPad!

Adapting means recognising the opportunities as well as the challenges, and whilst times of exile from church have been hard in so many ways, and no doubt differently for every one of us, it has guided us to new ways of thinking, worshiping and being community. To take one example: when the first lockdown started, I was due to lead compline at Elsfield every Wednesday evening during Lent, and I'd prepared and sent the orders of service, based on a different Celtic service each week, for printing. Then it couldn't happen. But somehow, we later discovered that we could take compline via Facebook live, with the potential to reach more people and in their own homes. There is a different intimacy in this, and of course Christ is no less present. I think we also found new meaning in the old scriptures, how for example on the now rare occasions that I drive through Oxford its emptiness resonates with the Book of Lamentations' description of Jerusalem deserted after that exile.

The short times of release offered new opportunities too. Many recognised how much they'd missed the sound of birdsong when it had to compete with traffic noise. It was always there, believe me, but now in the quiet of the first lockdown, the birds were all people heard and they discovered and forged a new relationship with nature and how they are themselves within creation. Against that background, it was wonderful to lead three outdoor services, on the first Sunday of the month, starting appropriately on 4 October, St Francis Day. These services typically start and end with prayers in the churchyard and in between, we undertake some outdoor activity, such as planting or harvesting. Working with Alistair Morris of Marston Community Gardens (MCG) in this has added an exciting dimension for our mission as well as ministry. For example, several people in the MCG Facebook group who are not connected with the church have said how they'd like these services to be advertised on that page as well as the church pages as they totally appreciated the link and would love some explicitly spiritual dimension to their gardening work. Whilst we have had to stop temporarily because of the latest lockdown, we have every intention to continue and build on this. I hope one day soon that I can lead a bird walk as part of this

ministry. I've had some wonderfully close encounters with birds in our garden whilst recording sermons for church services, illustrating yet more clearly how the Holy Spirit is moving in all things, all relationships and at all times. I believe strongly that it is how we are with nature, and in nature, that reflects most truly how we are as disciples of the creator God who breathes through every living being (yes even plants, and especially fungi!).

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates with committees and working groups, which meet and report to it as appropriate. Participation in these groups is open to all church members. However, meetings and activities were greatly curtailed during the year

Standing Committee

Elected annually, this comprises the Vicar, churchwardens, treasurer and such other members as the PCC agrees. It exists to conduct essential business between full meetings of the PCC.

Pastoral Care - Prayer and Support Network



Prayer & Care Groups

I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding.

Philippians 1: 9

**working definition:
Helping one another grow in the love of God,
likeness to Christ and fruitful service in the
whole of life.**



The Prayer and Support Network is open to everyone. Those who chose to join are included in a group for prayer and care. Our leaders are Theresa Black, Judith Piggott, Desi Choi, Claire Addison, Eileen Palayiwa, David Blair, Colin Harris, Elizabeth How, Maureen Davis, Sally Richards and Gill Hale. Skye oversees the group made up of these leaders and, more recently, Eileen has taken on the role of Pastoral Officer, the first port of contact for those who need pastoral care urgently. Our Prayer and Care leaders have worked very hard these past 18 months; we have all felt the effects of three lockdowns, the rise of mental health concerns and the need for practical support of food and medicine. Our Prayer and Care leaders have been amazing and continue to be an outward sign of God's love in action.

At the beginning of 2021 we are offering a refresher course for the leaders and will be updating a new Prayer and Care booklet which will be available as both a hard or a digital copy from March 2021.

If you would like to be added to a Prayer and Care Group please let Skye know.

Communications

The Marston Times, edited again by Jan Lawrie, with the assistance of Jennie Burrow, and printed by Solopress, only appeared in the months January to April and December (delivered to all households in the parish), because of lockdown/pandemic restrictions. Remaining at 30p per issue, subscriptions were almost complete when lockdown was imposed. It was agreed that 2020 subscriptions should be rolled over until 2021, so no new subscriptions would be collected until 2022.

During the pandemic, the editorial committee met virtually to produce a monthly newsletter, the 'Marston & Elsfield Messenger', delivered to church members via email on request, with some posted (free) to those not online. The newsletter was not intended to replace the Marston Times in terms of content, but provide an opportunity for the Church to reach out to its members with details of church services, supplemented with items of an uplifting nature with special reference to the month of issue.

Other committees

Due to the pandemic the Welcome and Pastoral Care, Worship and Faith, Mission and Hospitality and Social Justice and Environment committees were not able to operate as usual.

Churches Together

St Nicholas is a member of Churches Together in Marston and Northway (CTMN). Our representatives are Skye Denno and Geoff Hale. Our usual joint events were greatly curtailed by the Covid pandemic and the Palm Sunday donkey walk, Good Friday service and 'Love Marston Love Life' were all cancelled. However, all the member churches adapted to online services in different ways and we were able to join together for Lent and Advent courses.

Review of the Year

Church Openings and Closures

During 2020 COVID-19 restrictions restricted our use of the Church building and much of the worship took place online. Restrictions changed throughout the year so that there were periods when the buildings were used for private prayer only and others when in-person services were permitted. As regulations changed we ensured that we comply and kept the church building as safe as possible by performing Risk Assessments, carrying out thorough cleaning, and keeping records for “Test and Trace”. We were able to use the times of closure constructively to have building work done (see below).

Church attendance

The new roll presented at the annual meeting contained 122 names (2019: 122), of whom 45 were non-resident (2019: 43).

Attendance at Sunday services during October was as follows:

	In person	Online views
October 6	42	226
October 13	38	147
October 20	38	118
October 27	36	69
Average	38.5	140

Due to the pandemic, attendance in person was restricted and services were live-streamed. The situation was very different from normal.

Comparison with Sunday Services in October 2019

	8 am		10 am		6 pm		
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Total
October 7	8	0	61	5	13	0	79
October 14	5	0	32	5	23	1	66
October 21	6	0	67	12	22	4	111
October 28	8	0	68	3	21	0	100
Average	6	0	57	6	20	1	89

Statistics for occasional offices: baptisms, weddings, and funerals

Baptisms.	There were 0 baptisms (2019: 6)
Confirmations.	There were 0 confirmations (2019: 0)
Weddings.	There were 2 weddings. (2019: 2)
Funerals.	The clergy conducted 20 funeral services. (2019: 14)

Due to the pandemic, all baptisms and confirmations were postponed.

Ministry team

The team is led by Revd Skye Denno, assisted by Revd Stephanie Bullock (assistant priest), and Revd Andy Gosler (curate).

Preaching is shared with licensed lay ministers David Cranston, Joel Denno and Neil Barker and authorized preacher Geoff Hale. Neil Barker continued to serve as Director of Music, Organist and Choir Master and to lead our informal evening services.

Gill Hale continues to coordinate the Junior Church and other children's activities.

Alison Edwards was the Parish Administrator.

Elsfield

Following a PCC away day in October 2019 many social events had been planned, but due to the pandemic little could be done. A Coffee Morning on 25 Jan was a great success and gives hope more can be planned in 2021.

For several months Andy and I led an online service with a distinctly Elsfield-focus, but we felt we were chasing the same readers every month so we made all our online services Benefice Services. It's just a shame that I set up the YouTube channel with St Nicholas' name on it only. I am hoping I can rectify this and make it clear it is for Marston and Elsfield.

After our in-person Arts and Crafts in Elsfield (ACE) stopped, Cassandra and I organised a Zoom coffee morning and ACE online. This has been a highlight and point of contact with the community.

All Souls and Remembrance services were held before we went back into lockdown, but we were able to enjoy an outdoor Carol Service with a sparkly tree!

It's been hard to remain motivated to implement all the plans which were made but we are looking forward to opening up again in May

Music

It has been a very different year for our choirs, musicians and our worship.

In January we hosted the annual Churches Together New Year's Praise service at which our choirs and musicians took part. It turned out to be the last Churches Together live event for the year due to the Covid restrictions on larger gatherings.

During the lockdown we developed Zoom choir practices, and ways of recording individuals singing and playing instruments at home, to produce music for our YouTube services. We were particularly grateful to Nancy Gladstone who helped with mixing the different voices and instruments in lockdown to produce the final recordings.

Once again, we appreciated the support of Old Marston Parish Council with a grant of £300 towards music resources for our Junior and Youth choristers.

The year ended with our first video choir recording for a Comfort and Joy Christmas YouTube service concert giving a special opportunity to reflect on the Christmas message.

Neil Barker, director of music, is always grateful for the commitment that choristers and musicians show throughout the year despite the lockdown and the joyful atmosphere in our times together even when they have been online. He continues to be grateful for the support and encouragement of Helen Meredith with the Youth and Junior Choir.

We look forward to live music making in 2021.

Mission in the Parish

Messy Church

In January 2020, we started a monthly Messy Church service in the Church Hall on a Sunday morning. Each event started with a delicious cooked breakfast; we

had several crafts, a story, lots of songs and a testimony from a church member. Thanks to the contacts that have been built up locally through the Baby and Toddler Group, Community Fun Days, and just by word of mouth, we had around 50 people of all ages at each service. Sadly, we had to stop due to Covid after the March gathering. We look forward to starting again.

Baby and Toddler Group

Owing to the level of restrictions during the year, sadly toddler group did not meet after the end of March.

Junior Church

After several months of being unable to offer a 'live' Junior Church, the leaders decided that we would continue to follow the Roots course and offer a short online session each week (except the first Sunday of the month when there would be 'green' church for all ages or an online all age service.) We called this Sunday Club and the weekly sessions can be accessed from the church website. Advantages of the online format have been some inspiring guest appearances, particularly from Desi, and the way we have been joined by children from other places, especially from the Divya Shanthi home. As well as our bible story, videos, activities and prayers we have craft or colouring for our members to complete in their own time. We'd like to give special thanks to Eileen and Duncan for all their extra help over the last two terms.

Holiday Club

"A Better World" was the theme of our online Holiday Club in 2020 and we thought about the ways God's kingdom would be that better world, with daily themes like feeding the hungry, healing the sick, helping outcasts and working for peace and justice. Our great team of helpers rose to the challenge of online presentation. Alison Parkinson created wonderful packs of crafts which were delivered to the participants and was filmed showing them how to make them. People found very creative ways for presenting storytelling and quizzes online. Our songs, filmed in the vicarage garden, were lively. We had exercises every day and a whole range of things to bake, from healthy bread to Mars bar crunch. One of our best innovations was daily experiments, ably filmed by Harvey and Tim Burd. My favourite was the potato-powered lights! We were grateful for permission by a number of charities to use their videos, and our holiday clubbers particularly liked seeing the work of Mary's Meals giving hungry children their school dinners in many impoverished communities. We were able to make our days interactive, and children sent in pictures and videos of themselves taking part. There was also a treasure hunt around the parish and a nature I Spy in the

churchyard. We finished the week with an online Holiday Club service and nobody missed out on their prizes! We are really hoping for a 'live' Holiday Club this year though.

Coffee Pot

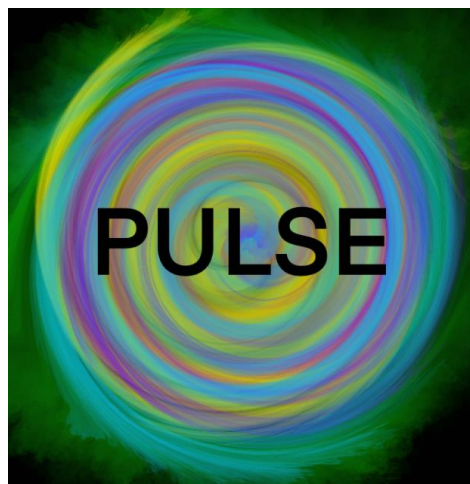
Coffee Pot met in January and February 2020 but was cancelled from March to September due to COVID restrictions. In October we were able to resume meetings but only in groups of six. There were four of these meetings which gave all those who wanted to an opportunity to attend but as the restrictions changed again, we were unable to meet again in 2020.

The monthly lunch outing, the Summer Get Together, Open the Book and Community Fun Days have not happened this year either.

Pulse Youth Group

PULSE - logo designed by Oscar Pocock

Joel and I have continued to lead Pulse every 2nd and 4th Saturday during 2020. This has taken an online platform as meeting in person wasn't allowed and the young people were very happy to meet via Zoom. Pulse has increased in numbers over this period and we now have 23 young people on our books, although not everyone comes to every session.



Over 2020 we followed a simple structure that lasts for just over an hour. We begin with a time of looking at scripture - often the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday. This is led using open questions to encourage the young people to share their thoughts. I always come away with something to ponder during the week, as our young people have much to offer in their wisdom. Following our Bible time, we have a quiz which is led by a different young person each session. This is then followed by an online game or two. To conclude we look at our next session and plan who is doing what and then have a short time of prayer. I know our young people appreciate this space together and for Joel and me it continues to be a highlight in our week. A huge thank you to Bretts Charity, which gave us a grant to buy a little gift for each young person at Christmas. Our hope is to do the same for this coming Easter. It's a tough time to be a teenager and it's good to remind them how proud we are of all their achievements - just choosing to get up each morning is awesome!

Parish Living Advent Calendar

This went ahead very successfully with socially distanced meetings around the windows and with brief ceremony.

Mission in the World

Divya Shanthi Mission Support

This charity provides support for the work of Divya Shanthi Christian Association and Trust in Bangalore India which provides education, homes, medical and family support for impoverished children and families in the area. This past year their work has centred very much on support for such families during the Coronavirus pandemic – providing medical support and food parcels for those in the area. For example, at Christmas time 350 families were given provisions.

The school was closed for a number of months during this year but schooling was provided online following the training of teachers and provision of mobile devices. DSMS continued to receive financial support from our regular donors and sponsors and the number of children sponsored by the charity this year was 34 (24 children with named sponsors and 10 without). Despite the pandemic, fundraising continued with an online Facebook event which raised over £1000 and an online Christmas Bazaar which raised over £2000.

Church Mission Society

Our link partners Andy and Kati Walsh continue their preparations to return to Brazil to work among prisoners and socially excluded people and hope to start intensive training with CMS in Sep 2021. We still hope to be able to support them when possible.

Baptist Mission Society and International Nepal Fellowship

Pippa and Toby Vokuhl had to return home from Nepal due to their visa limitations. The hope to return to Kathmandu in Spring 2021. Toby is a construction engineer and will be guiding and training local people to rebuild homes and community buildings destroyed by the earthquakes. Pippa is a physiotherapist and is able to use her skills to help mentor local practitioners.

Christian Aid

We were unable to run our regular events this year, including the house-to-house envelope collections. So, instead we offered an online quiz and an online recipe

book, full of delicious soup recipes. We raised £1590, thanks to our generous supporters.

Church Fabric

During the year we were granted Faculties for gravel in the Memorial Garden and additional spaces for interments, an accessible path to the Memorial Garden, replacement of the old wiring, and new heating and lighting fittings.

The first (the gravel) was completed in May; the path was finished in August and the heating and lighting are almost complete (we are only waiting paperwork and one replacement for a faulty heater). We are still waiting for a report on the significance of the pews at the rear of the North and South Aisles which will determine whether these can be removed. It seems unlikely that we will be able to remove the pews at the back of the North Aisle as we have been told that they are the only examples of Children's Pews in England. However, we hope we will be given permission to remove those at the rear of the South Aisle.

Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues or concerns have been reported during the year.

We tried to keep abreast as much as we could with safe guarding issues posed by the lockdown. We put into place guidance in line with that provided by the Diocese, on "online/zoom" safeguarding.

During the year, 8 members of the PCC as well as all members of the ministry team attended the "online" leadership Safeguarding training. All those with pastoral and/or safeguarding responsibilities or who work directly with vulnerable children or adults have now received the appropriate level of training.

There was only one volunteer application. It was processed in line with the recruitment and safeguarding policy, by completing an application form, an appointment and declaration form and two references were taken.

We adopted a "Lone Working Policy" for use and guidance of all concerned.

We are up to date with DBS checking and renewal of certificates, using Access Personal Checking Services (APCS) as the Umbrella Body. We continue to review our Safeguarding Policy annually, together with updating relevant guidance and policies from the Diocese.

Financial Report

Consolidation of funds and accounts

We continued to simplify our funds by closing the 'Chancel Repair Fund' which was invested in a CBF Investment account held by the Diocesan Board of Finance. This fund represented the capital payment received many years ago in discharge of Chancel Repair liabilities. The proceeds were used towards the costs of rewiring the church and replacing the heating and lighting systems.

Receipts

There was a small decrease of 2% in planned giving, but there were no loose cash collections for most of the year as the church was closed. Additional donations were received towards the cost of a new path to the memorial garden and rewiring project.

We received grants from Old Marston Parish Council of £300 for the Junior Choir, £300 for the Marston Times and £200 for Messy Church. We received £500 from Brett's Trust for youth work and grants of £3,000 from All Churches Trust and £10,000 from Oxfordshire Historic Churches towards the costs of rewiring the church.

Few weddings meant that net parochial fees were 25% lower, and investment income was also reduced as we drew on reserves. The rent on 1B Mill Lane was increased by 1% in line with inflation. Overall, there was a 5.7% increase in receipts.

Payments

Our Parish Share decreased by 9%. Our core level of charitable donations decreased by 15% (an additional donation of £1,000 was still under review by the PCC). With the church being closed for most of the year, running expenses decreased by 13% and the cost of ministry in the parish decreased by 30%. The PCC reimburses the vicar for telephone and broadband costs.

The Marston Times was not distributed for most of the year. The PCC agreed to waive subscription fees in 2021.

The main expenses during the year were for some major projects: £8,541 for provision of a new path to the memorial garden, £2,400 for provision of a Wifi connection and £116,206 for the rewiring project.

Investments

Despite the volatility of investments during 2020, there was a net growth of £4,491 in our CBF investments. However, we sold shares to the value of £86,423 to pay for the rewiring project

At the Year End

At the end of 2020 we had a balance of £51,106 in the General fund (unrestricted), equivalent to about six months expenditure. There was a balance of £17,033 in the Bell fund and £34,024 in other restricted and designated funds.

Looking Ahead

Our Parish Share in 2021 was to have been reduced, but we volunteered to contribute the same as in 2020 so support other parishes in our deanery. In general, our basic income and expenditure is anticipated to be similar to that in 2020. As the rewiring project is completed, we expect additional costs of about £10,000.

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended December 31, 2019, which are set out in the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met, or

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

(Signed)

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straws Lane
Headington
Oxford
OX3 0DL

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Receipts & Payments

2019	RECEIPTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Voluntary Receipts					
69,275	Planned giving		59,959	7,990		67,949
15,248	Reclaimed from HMRC	3	15,661	2,885		18,546
5,212	Loose cash collections		878			878
579	Collections & donations for charity					0
4,005	Donations		551	9,237		9,788
1,610	Legacy					0
502	Sunday morning coffee			11		11
1,237	Wall safe		346	51		397
27	Junior Church					0
86	Sundries		95			95
5,612	Grants	4		14,300		14,300
103,394			77,489	34,474	0	111,963
	Other Receipts					
4,626	Fees (net)	5	3,542			3,542
4,402	Interest & investment income		4,167			4,167
8,689	Rent				8,820	8,820
2,595	Marston Times	6			2,249	2,249
20,313			7,709	0	11,069	18,777
123,707	Total receipts before transfers		85,198	34,474	11,069	130,741
0	Transfers		-10,000	0	10,000	0
123,707	Total receipts after transfers		75,198	34,474	21,069	130,741

The Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Receipts & Payments (continued)

2019	PAYMENTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Payments outside the Parish					
55,759	Parish share		50,770			50,770
10,897	Other charitable donations	7	8,667	603		9,270
66,656			59,437	603	0	60,040
	Church running expenses					
3,820	Heating & lighting		2,998	706		3,704
3,296	Insurance			3,344		3,344
6,708	Maintenance		2,861	2,110		4,970
1,120	Cleaning		1,251			1,251
3,276	Cost of services		1,073	36		1,109
3,863	Organists		3,314	317		3,632
858	Choir (including Junior Choir)		220	304		524
575	Gardening		511	1,419		1,930
23,515			12,228	8,236	0	20,464
	Ministry in the Parish					
1,638	Clergy expenses	8	1,398	67		1,465
26	Junior Church		3			3
279	Youth Work		184	24		208
1,713	Mission within the Parish	9	862	33		895
3,656			2,446	125	0	2,571
	Fabric					
304	Home communion set					0
0	Memorial Garden			8,541		8,541
0	WiFi connection				2,400	2,400
2,400	Rewiring project			82,844	33,362	116,206
-1,737	Photocopier (depreciation)			-869		-869
0	Other					0
967			0	90,516	35,762	126,278
	Other Expenditure					
7,965	Administration (net)	10	5,029	469		5,498
1,774	Marston Times	5			1,026	1,026
716	Maintenance of 1B Mill Lane				1,081	1,081
204	Flowers					0
10,659			5,029	469	2,107	7,606
105,452	Total payments before transfers		79,140	99,949	37,870	216,958
0	Transfers		0		0	0
105,452	Total payments after transfers		79,140	99,949	37,870	216,958
18,255	Surplus / Deficit		-3,942	-65,474	-16,801	-86,218
140,395	Balance b/f at January 1		51,315	86,426	45,373	183,113
24,463	Change in value of investments		2,957	1,534		4,491
183,113	Balance c/f at December 31		50,330	22,485	28,572	101,387

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Summary of Funds

Fund	Fund type	31 Dec 2019	Receipts	Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in investments	31 Dec 2020
General	Unrestricted	51,315	81,371	84,537	776	2,957	50,330
Non-share	Restricted	-	5,000	5,000			-
Flowers	Restricted	-	60	-			60
Choir	Restricted	-	300	304		-	4
Parish Admin	Restricted	-	-	-			-
Fabric	Designated	41,148	15,000	35,762			20,385
Fabric	Restricted	40,105	45,304	83,465			1,943
Bells	Restricted	26,398	10,000	559		1,194	17,033
Memorial Garden	Restricted	1,566	1,885	3,201			250
Projection system	Restricted	223	-	-			223
Marston Times	Designated	369	2,549	1,026			1,891
Charity	Restricted	0	590	603		-	13
1B Mill Lane	Designated	4,327	3,820	1,081			7,066
Youth Work	Restricted	1,316	500	24			1,792
Music Events	Designated	264	-	-			264
Messy Church	Restricted	-	200	33			167
Path	Restricted	-	6,759	6,759			-
Chancel Repair	Restricted	16,083	16,423	-		341	0
Total		183,113	136,914	222,355		4,491	101,387

Summary of Accounts

Account	31 Dec 2019	Receipts	Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in Investments	31 Dec 2020
Coop current a/c General	8,465	223,337	222,355	776		8,671
CBF investment a/c Bells	18,960		10,000		1,194	10,154
CBF investment a/c Fabric	139,606		60,000		2,957	82,563
CBF investment Chancel Repair	16,083		16,423		341	0
Total	183,113	223,337	308,778	776	4,491	101,387

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Endowment Funds: Receipts & Payments

2019 £		2020 £
	Chancel Repair Fund	
	Receipts	
468	Dividends	358
468		358
	Payments	
468	PCC General Fund	358
468		358
0	Surplus / Deficit (-)	0

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Endowment Funds: Statement of Assets & Liabilities

31 Dec 2019 £		Change in year	31 Dec 2020 £
	Chancel Repair Fund		
16,083	CBF Investment Fund	-16,083	0
16,083	(2019: 839 shares @ 1916.91p)	-16,083	0
16,083	Total of all Endowment Funds	-16,083	0
	Allocated as follows:		
16,083	CBF Investment A/cc	-16,083	0
16,083		-16,083	0

Following a resolution of the PCC, the Fund was closed and the capital was allocated to the Fabric Fund to be used towards the costs of the Rewiring project

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Statement of Overall Assets & Liabilities

31 Dec 2019 £		Expendable Funds	Endowment Funds	31 Dec 2020 £
	Monetary Assets			
8,465	Bank Current A/cc	8,671		8,671
174,649	CBF Investment A/cc	92,717	0	92,717
0	Shares			0
183,113	Total	101,387	0	101,387
	Other Assets			
869	Photocopier (after depreciation at 33.33% per annum)			0
179,176	Freehold house at 1B Mill Lane (insured value)			230,915
180,045	Total			230,915

Signed:

Elizabeth Denno (Chair)

Geoff Hale (Treasurer)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation

(a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011, together with applicable accounting standards.

(b) The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as permitted when the annual income is less than £250,000.

(c) The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor of those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2. Accounting Policies

(a) The funds of a charity, under charity law, have to be categorized in one of three ways.

Unrestricted funds: these contain money that can be spent in any way the PCC chooses (within general charity law)

Designated funds: these contain money that the PCC has allocated to a specific purpose. They include funds designated for maintenance of church property. Money in a designated fund can be undesignated by a subsequent decision of the PCC.

Restricted funds: these contain money that has been given for a purpose specified by the donor. Such money can only be spent on the specified purpose (within the overall objectives of the PCC), or else returned to the donor.

(b) The PCC uses a number of bank accounts and investment funds

General Account: This holds current funds, including General (unrestricted), Designated and Restricted Funds. The PCC holds a current account with the Cooperative Bank

Investment Accounts. Reserves are held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund administered by CCLA Investment Management Ltd

Endowment Fund Account. Capital of the Chancel Repair Fund was held by the Diocesan Board of Finance in a CBF Investment Account on behalf of the PCC. This account was closed in 2020 and the capital was used to contribute to replacement of electrical systems in the chancel.

Investments are valued at the basic value (between bid price and offer price) on 31 December.

(c) Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and benefice property are not included in the accounts.

Movable church furnishings which are held by the vicar and churchwardens on trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are listed in the church's inventory. Such assets are not included in the financial statements.

The freehold property at 1B Mill Lane belongs to the PCC, with the deeds held on its behalf by the Diocese. It is included in the statement of overall assets and liabilities at its insured value.

A photocopier was purchased in 2017. Its value was depreciated in a straight line over 3 years

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Note 3		Money reclaimed from HMRC	
	2019		2020
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	12,698	Income tax reclaimed on Gift Aid donations	17,414
	2,550	Money claimed under GASDS	1,132
	<u>15,248</u>		<u>18,546</u>

Note 4		Grants	
	2019		2020
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	375	Old Marston Parish Council (for Marston Times)	300
	300	Old Marston Parish Council (for Choir)	300
	0	Old Marston Parish Council (for Messy Church)	200
	500	Brett's Trust (for Youth Work)	500
	4,437	Marston Church Properties (for Parish Administrator)	0
	0	Allchurches Trust (for Rewiring)	3,000
	0	Oxfordshire Historic Churches (for Rewiring)	10,000
	<u>5,612</u>		<u>14,300</u>

Note 5		Parochial Fees: Receipts & Payments	
	2019		2020
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	7,472	Statutory Fees	7,337
	1,120	Additional Fees (organist, flowers, choir, bells, vergers)	104
	<u>8,592</u>		<u>7,441</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	3,053	Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance	3,562
	913	Others (clergy, organist, flowers, choir, bells, vergers)	337
	<u>3,966</u>		<u>3,899</u>
	<u>4,626</u>	Surplus / Deficit (-)	<u>3,542</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Note 6	Marston Times: Receipts & Payments		
	2019		2020
	£	RECEIPTS	£
	1,822	Subscriptions and donations	1,581
	773	Advertisements	668
	<u>2,595</u>		<u>2,249</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	3,151	Printing	710
	143	Postage & stationery	316
	<u>3,294</u>		<u>1,026</u>
	<u>-698</u>	Surplus / Deficit (-)	<u>1,222</u>

Production and delivery of the Marston Times was suspended in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is planned to use the surplus to fund production during 2021 without charge to subscribers or advertisers

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Note 7	2019	Other Charitable donations	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£		£	£	£
		<u>Overseas & worldwide</u>			
	500	Church Mission Society	500		500
	2,557	Divya Shanthy	1,487	603	2,090
	859	Christian Aid	1,000		1,000
	0	Viva	1,000		1,000
	500	Link to Hope	500		500
	500	Bible Society	500		500
	1,000	Nina Jankucic (Croatia)	0		0
	0	Lifewords	25		25
	0	Water Aid	500		500
	<u>5,916</u>		<u>5,512</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>6,115</u>
		<u>National</u>			
	1,000	Christians Against Poverty	1,000		1,000
	250	Ozanne Foundation			0
	250	Council of Christians & Jews			0
	250	Bible Reading Fellowship			0
	250	Wheelpower			0
	145	The Children's Society			0
	<u>2,145</u>		<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>
		<u>Local</u>			
	255	Oxford Winter Night Shelter	0		0
	580	The Porch	500		500
	1,000	Viva Doorsteps	0		0
	500	Pennyhooks	0		0
	250	Musical Youth Company Oxford	250		250
	250	Oxfordshire Association for Blind	250		250
	0	Cowley Deanery	155		155
	0	Helen & Douglas House	500		500
	0	Asylum Welcome	500		500
	<u>2,836</u>		<u>2,155</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,155</u>
	<u>10,897</u>	Total	<u>8,667</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>9,270</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2020

Note 8			
2019		Clergy Expenses	2020
£		PAYMENTS	£
1,187		Incumbent & deputizing clergy	1,465
451		Curate	0
<u>1,638</u>			<u>1,465</u>
Note 9			
2019		Mission within the Parish	2020
£		PAYMENTS	£
574		Advertising	214
839		Holiday Club and Fun Days	647
300		Bell ringers	0
0		Messy Church	33
<u>1,713</u>			<u>895</u>
Note 10			
2019		Administration: Receipts and Payments	2020
£		RECEIPTS	£
0		Marston Church Properties (salary contribution)	2,274
<u>0</u>			<u>2,274</u>
		PAYMENTS	
6,656		Salaries	6,691
139		Licence and other fees	465
835		Photocopier	588
335		Other	28
<u>7,965</u>			<u>7,772</u>
<u>7,965</u>		Net payments	<u>5,498</u>

The PCC employs a Parish Administrator and supplies administration services to Marston Church Properties at cost.