

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALLINGTON, ST NICHOLAS WITH MAIDSTONE, ST PETER, MAIDSTONE

England & Wales · Charity number 1155127

Details

Other names ALLINGTON PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2013-12-24

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

Contact

Address St. Nicholas Church
Poplar Grove
Maidstone
ME16 0DE

Phone 01622299715

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Website www.stnicholasallington.org.uk

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: Church for worship and other community activities

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£131,965	£146,115	-	-
2023-12-31	£128,551	£118,665	-	-
2022-12-31	£131,284	£114,397	-	-
2021-12-31	£122,905	£121,088	-	-
2020-12-31	£116,865	£125,158	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Angela Redford		2019-04-01
DAVID JOHN SALVAGE		2013-12-12
Emily Stone		2023-05-21
Fiona Higgs		2019-01-01
Gillian Waite		2019-01-01
Helen Rogers		2023-01-23
JENNIFER CAROL STONE		2018-03-18
Jackie Wilkinson		2024-04-21
June Bagshaw		2022-04-04
Matthew John Farrington		2025-05-18
Nicola Tulip		2022-04-04
Nigel Bernard Smetham		2019-04-01
Rev Claudette Red Gayle		2025-03-24
Ruth Brind		2019-04-01
Sebastian Lincoln		2023-05-21
Thomas Bourne		2025-05-18

Accounts

2025 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CHARITY COMMISSION

Aims and purposes

St Nicholas Allington Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with our joint priest-in-charge in promoting the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church building, halls and church grounds (but not the Rectory which is the responsibility of the Diocese).

Objectives and activities

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, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit, and particularly the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. 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 and trust in Jesus through a range of formal and informal worship, with and without communion. The church is committed to providing the Church of England 'occasional offices' of baptism, marriage and funerals.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Nicholas and the Church Halls.

The PCC has complied with Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults).

Achievements and Performance

St Nicholas Church was in interregnum during 2024. Rev Claudette Gayle was appointed to the post of priest-in-charge in March 2025. During 2024, the churchwardens assisted by a core 'Hub Team', reporting to the PCC, carried out the day-to-day tasks normally managed by the priest-in-charge, with the support of the Archdeacon and Area Dean.

A new Church Electoral Roll was prepared in April 2025, as required by the Church Representation Rules. There are now 104 parishioners on the electoral roll.

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, a range of worship services from Morning Worship, Holy Communion and informal worship at Oasis Communion and Oasis with contemporary worship songs. Our reflective worship presence on Facebook remains popular.

Attendance at worship and social activities has returned to pre-pandemic levels, especially at the Christmas services. Hire of the halls and income has returned to acceptable levels. We continue to see generosity from the community for the stock of items that we manage to help supply the local Foodbank and other causes.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2025, was 117, which was a significant increase on previous years, reflecting a growing number of families attending services due to the positive impact of our outreach through children's and families work. Guide and Scout organisations continue to hold Parade Services in the church two or three times a year. We endeavour to

make our services easy for visitors to follow using Power Point projection, enlarged texts, or printed out in short booklets. The church sound system helps all visitors, as well as the hearing-impaired.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated nine baptisms in church. Six funerals were conducted during the year. No weddings were conducted, which is not unusual given the church is a modern building.

Fiona Higgs, Children, the Families & Schools Minister has continued a Chaplaincy role within our local primary schools and leads assemblies, supports classrooms and the staff. She has formed strong relationships with the schools and continued to provide the "Explorers" after school clubs at Allington and Palace Wood Primary Schools throughout the year.

St Nicholas has an active Mothers' Union group with monthly Holy Communion services. We also run St Nicholas' Fellowship, a social group for the elderly. Residential Homes are visited, and services conducted there.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. The focus of the deanery is to bring about growth through a number of initiatives known as the Maidstone Mission Mosaic but also to provide an opportunity for churches to network and be more outward looking and missional.

The Church and Church Halls

St Nicholas is open every day to our community for private prayer and is used on a regular basis.

Our present church, consecrated in 1975, is a square building mainly, recently re-ordered by the replacement of pews with chairs. The church space is used for worship every Sunday and one Wednesday per month and at other times as required. It is also used for PCC Meetings, a weekly prayer group, a monthly meeting of mums and babes and other groups, and for appropriate community activities. To one side are the clergy vestry, the Parish Office, which is used three mornings a week, and three toilets, one with disabled access. The church has kitchen facilities in the main body of the church.

There are two church halls in a building adjacent to the church that provide facilities to many local groups and businesses. These halls have a kitchen and toilet facilities, including a baby change and disabled toilets. Both church and halls have disabled access.

A wide range of social and fund-raising events are held throughout the year that are open to the larger community. The Christmas Market draws many people into our buildings and is supported by a number of small local businesses.

Each Tuesday a Community Café takes place in St Nicholas Church. This is run by a team of volunteers and is registered with Maidstone Borough Council. It is attended by up to 78 people each week and is clearly valued by many who come as a place to meet and make friends. Some who come are recently bereaved, others are new to the area, and for many it is a place of warmth and welcome.

During the week the hall is used by many local groups and organisations including a mother and toddlers' group on Tuesdays. We run a monthly Mum & Babes group in the church which has led to a Faith Explorers group led by our Children, Families & Schools Minister. Throughout the year the youth group, JAHFA, have met regularly.

Our church halls offer valuable meeting places for a wide variety of community and commercial activities, including the numerous branches of the Guide and Scout organisations. The halls are booked frequently for private bookings by local residents.

Income from hall hire is strong and the church building is also being used more as a space for use by the community.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Prayer and pastoral work has continued through a very supportive network within the congregation. The Prayer and Pastoral Care co-ordinator maintains ongoing contact with many members of the congregation, particularly the elderly. Care Home ministry is provided through the Anna Chaplaincy network that draws from all denominations across the town and visits most care homes once a month.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. St Nicholas gives monthly to a range of charities both local and abroad including Alongside Africa.

St Nicholas provides reflections three times month via Facebook which reaches many people do not regularly connect with St Nicholas in other ways.

Communication of the life and events at St Nicholas is maintained through the weekly newsletter, via the St Nicholas website, our Facebook group and page, and on the church noticeboard. These are a vital means of not just keeping people within the church informed but also a way of reaching out to the wider community. The newsletter is sent to 248 people who have requested a copy. Paper copies are also available in church and just under 20 copies are taken each week.

We maintain a significant presence in the Primary Schools, which are non-church, through the work of our Children's, Families & Schools Minister.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of Maidstone Church Leaders which involves all Christian denominations from across the town.

Financial Review

Finances are healthy with good reserves, although there are indications of potential challenges ahead. Total income for the year amounted to £131,965 (2023 - £128,551) of which £1318 related to restricted income. There was a net deficit for the year of £14,151 (2023 - £9,886 surplus), of which £13,268 deficit related to general funds, mainly due to items of expenditure on periodic improvements and maintenance. At the year-end, funds totalled £92,716 (2023 - £106,867) of which £46,865 is held in designated and restricted funds.

The condition of the fabric of the church and halls are thankfully sound, and no substantial items have been highlighted as needing urgent repair. Our halls remain popular with hirers and provide a valuable source of income.

Reserves Policy

The policy of the PCC is to maintain reserves at a level of three months of annual expenditure.

The building reserve of £25,000 is designated for major repairs, such as possible roof repairs, that may be needed in the future.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. There are many people actively involved in worship and prayer, pastoral work, leading or contributing on a working group or simply helping out on a rota. A huge thank you to everyone contributing to the life within the parish at St Nicholas in this way.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Nicholas the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our priest-in-charge), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services, the members of our congregation, are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 74%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has several committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include worship, social, halls, fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St. Nicholas Church is situated on Poplar Grove, Allington, Maidstone. It is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The parish is legally known as the Parish of St Nicholas, Allington with St Peter, Maidstone. Roughly it stretches at its western edge from the railway, either side of the London Road, toward the town centre down to the river and Lockmeadow. The river end of the parish is the area which formerly came under the previous St Peter's Church, no longer in use. The running of the parish comes under two Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council or PCC. Ministry and worship comes under a Priest-in-Charge.

The correspondence address is The Parish Office, Poplar Grove, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0DE. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Parish in vacancy between February 2022 and March 2025.

Churchwardens: Dr Nigel Smetham, Mrs Jenny Stone
Children, Families & Schools Minister: Mrs Fiona Higgs

Elected members:

Ms Helen Rogers - Treasurer
Ms Emily Stone - Secretary
Mr Michael Froude (retired November 2024)
Mrs Gill Waite
Ms June Bagshaw
Mrs Gill Poole
Mrs Martina Tidball

Mrs Nicola Tulip
Mr David Salvage
Ms Jacqueline Wilkinson
Ms Ruth Brind
Mrs Angela Redford
Mr Seb Lincoln

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Nigel Smetham (PCC Vice-Chair – Parish in vacancy during 2024).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Smetham', written in a cursive style.

18th May 2025

ALLINGTON P C C

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

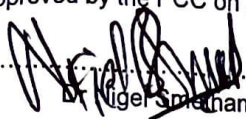
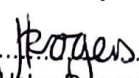
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Notes	2024			2023
		General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£
Voluntary Receipts					
<i>Regular Giving</i>					
Pledged giving		42090			42090
Income tax recovered		11221			11221
Collections in church		5272		975	6247
		58583		975	59558
Other voluntary receipts	3a	3137		343	3480
Activities for generating funds	3b	4053			4053
Receipts from Church activities	3c	63356		0	63356
Interest on Deposits		1517			1517
		130647	0	1318	131965
					128551
PAYMENTS		£	£	£	£
<i>Church activities</i>					
Diocesan Parish Share		59752			59752
Other Payments	3d	84162	2000	201	86363
		143914	2000	201	146115
Surplus/(deficit) before transfers		-13268	-2000	1117	-14151
Transfers between funds		-5000	5000		
Surplus/(deficit) for year after transfers		-18268	3000	1117	-14151
Cash Balances at 01/01/24		64119	42143	605	106867
Cash Balances at 31/12/24		45851	45143	1722	92716

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2024			2023
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
<i>Cash Funds</i>				
Bank Current Account	21153			21153
CBF Deposit Fund	12759			12759
Bequest Account	27060			27060
Goodbox	115			115
Liquidity Manager	30024			30024
Cash	1605			1605
	92716	0	0	92716
<i>Other Monetary Assets</i>				
Paye				0
Diocese	5568			5568
Halls lettings due	1450			1450
	7018			7018
<i>Liabilities</i>				
Pension payment	944			944
Amounts collected for Charity Appeals	1327			1327
	2271	0	0	2271

Approved by the PCC on 3/3/25 and signed on their behalf by :

 signed  signed
 Nigel Smitham (PCC Chairman) and Mrs Helen Rogers (PCC Treasurer during 2024)

NOTES

1. Fixed Assets retained for church use are written-off in the year of purchase.
 The two church halls previously shown in restricted fixed assets have an insured value of approximately £2,600,000.

2. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance
Designated: Building fund	20000			5000	25000
Bequest fund (unrestricted)	22143		2000		20143
	42143	0	2000	5000	45143
Sunday Lunch Club	172		172		0
Fellowship	424		29		395
Special charity appeals	9	1318			1327
	605	1318	201	0	1722

3. Receipts and Payments analysis

a. Other voluntary receipts

Donations

b. Activities for generating funds

Fund Raising

c. Receipts from Church activities

Halls Income

Sunday Lunch Club

	2024			2023	
General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds	
3137	0	343	3480	4217	
3137	0	343	3480	4217	
4053	0	0	4053	4684	
4053	0	0	4053	4684	
63356	0	0	63356	57819	
			0	486	
63356	0	0	63356	58305	

3. Receipts and Payments analysis ctd

d. Church activities - payments

Charitable payments
Overseas
Christian Relief and Development
Home Mission

Fees
Church running expenses
Halls running expenses
Salaries, wages and honoraria
Training
Administration expenses
Youth Work
Fundraising
Sunday Lunch Club
Fellowship
Sundries
Halls Deposit

	2024			2023
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	595			1000
	1400			2400
	295			400
	2290	0	0	3800
	715			416
	17637			9641
	16979			19402
	42120	2000		26373
	177			0
	3803			3000
	198			138
	242			391
			172	724
			29	6
			0	27
			0	200
	84162	2000	201	86363
				60318

4. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No other payments were made to PCC members.

Gemma Sturley

CIMA Chartered Accountant

Independent examiner's report to Allington PCC

I have completed my examination of the accounts of Allington PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Gemma Sturley
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

33 Larking Drive, Allington ME16 0UT

29th April 2025

Accounts

2024 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CHARITY COMMISSION

Aims and purposes

St Nicholas Allington Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with our joint priest-in-charge in promoting the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church building, halls and church grounds (but not the Rectory which is the responsibility of the Diocese).

Objectives and activities

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, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit, and particularly the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. 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 and trust in Jesus through a range of formal and informal worship, with and without communion. The church is committed to providing the Church of England 'occasional offices' of baptism, marriage and funerals.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Nicholas and the Church Halls.

The PCC has complied with Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults).

Achievements and Performance

St Nicholas Church is currently in interregnum whilst the PCC seeks a new priest-in-charge following the retirement of the previous incumbent, Rev Chris Lavender, in February 2023. The churchwardens assisted by a core 'Hub Team', reporting to the PCC, have been undertaking the day-to-day tasks normally carried out by the priest-in-charge, with the support of the Archdeacon and Area Dean.

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, a range of worship services from Morning Worship, Holy Communion and informal worship at Oasis Communion and Oasis with contemporary worship songs. Our online worship presence on Facebook remains popular and this will continue.

Attendance at worship and social activities has generally reached pre-pandemic levels, especially at the Christmas services. Hire of the halls has also recovered and income has returned to acceptable levels. We continue to see generosity from the community for the stock of items that we manage to help supply the local Foodbank and other causes.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2023, was 73, but this number increased at festivals including Christmas. Guide and Scout organisations continue to hold Parade Services in the church two or three times a year. We endeavour to make our services easy for visitors to follow using Power Point projection, enlarged texts, or printed out in short booklets. The church sound system helps all visitors, as well as the hearing-impaired.

At present there are 123 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. Two names were added during the year and five were removed either through death or because they moved away from the parish.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated seven baptisms in church. Five funerals were conducted this year, which is fewer than previous years due to the church being without a priest-in-charge. No weddings were conducted, which is not unusual given the church is a modern building.

Fiona Higgs, Children, the Families & Schools Minister has continued a Chaplaincy role within our local primary schools and leads assemblies, supports classrooms and the staff. She has formed strong relationships with the schools and continued to provide the "Explorers" after school clubs at Allington and Palace Wood Primary Schools throughout the year.

St Nicholas has an active Mothers' Union group with monthly Holy Communion services. We also run St Nicholas' Fellowship, a social group for the elderly. Residential Homes are visited, and services conducted there.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. The focus of the deanery is to bring about growth through a number of initiatives known as the Maidstone Mission Mosaic but also to provide an opportunity for churches to network and be more outward looking and missional.

The Church and Church Halls

St Nicholas is open every day to our community for private prayer and is used on a regular basis.

Our present church, consecrated in 1975, is a square building mainly, recently re-ordered by the replacement of pews with chairs. The church space is used for worship every Sunday and one Wednesday per month and at other times as required. It is also used for PCC Meetings, a weekly prayer group, a monthly meeting of mums and babes and other groups, and for appropriate community activities. To one side are the clergy vestry, the Parish Office, which is used three mornings a week, and three toilets, one with disabled access. The church has kitchen facilities in the main body of the church.

There are two church halls in a building adjacent to the church that provide facilities to many local groups and businesses. These halls have a kitchen and toilet facilities, including a baby change and disabled toilets. Both church and halls have disabled access.

A wide range of social and fund-raising events are held throughout the year that are open to the larger community. The Christmas Market draws many people into our buildings and is supported by a number of small local businesses. This year we held another Christmas Tree Festival which was supported by several local groups and organisations as well as church groups. The event which was open for three days attracted a good number of people from across the community.

Communication of the life and events at St Nicholas is maintained through the weekly newsletter, via the St Nicholas website, our Facebook group and page, and on the church noticeboard. These are a vital means of not just keeping people within the church informed but also a way of reaching out to the wider community.

The St Nicholas Sunday Lunch Club, working to the stringent health and safety requirements with a 5* food hygiene rating, allowed us to continue the old people's luncheon club during the year with on average 45

people regularly attending. However, with the organising team stepping down at the end of the year after several years' service, it was decided to have a review of the future for this group.

Each Tuesday a Community Café takes place in St Nicholas Church. This is run by a team of volunteers and is registered with Maidstone Borough Council. It is attended by up to 75 people each week and is clearly valued by many who come as a place to meet and make friends. Some who come are recently bereaved, others are new to the area, and for many it is a place of warmth and welcome.

During the week the hall is used by many local groups and organisations including a mother and toddlers' group on Tuesdays. We run a monthly Mum & Babes group in the church which has led to a Faith Explorers group led by our Children, Families & Schools Minister. Throughout the year the youth group, JAHFA, have met regularly.

Our church halls offer valuable meeting places for a wide variety of community and commercial activities, including the numerous branches of the Guide and Scout organisations. The halls are booked frequently for private bookings by local residents.

Income from hall hire is strong and the church building is also being used more as a space for hire to the community.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Prayer and pastoral work has continued through a very supportive network within the congregation. The Prayer and Pastoral Care co-ordinator maintains ongoing contact with many members of the congregation, particularly the elderly. Care Home ministry is provided through the Anna Chaplaincy network that draws from all denominations across the town and visits most care homes once a month.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. St Nicholas gives monthly to a range of charities both local and abroad including Alongside Africa.

St Nicholas provides a weekly online service via Facebook and the church website to over 250 people, the majority of whom do not regularly connect with St Nicholas in other ways.

The weekly newsletter update is emailed to approximately 200 people and paper copies are available for those who are not on the internet.

We maintain a significant presence in the Primary Schools, which are non-church, through the work of our Children's, Families & Schools Minister.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of Churches Together in Maidstone. Our previous incumbent attended Leaders Breakfasts that are held each month and involve all Christian denominations from across the town. Once a new priest-in-charge is appointed this will continue to be supported.

Financial Review

Finances are healthy with good reserves, although there are indications of potential challenges ahead. At the end of the year there was a surplus of income over expenditure, although this was lower than previous years. Total income for the year amounted to £128,551 (2022 - £131,284) of which £486 related to restricted income. There was a net surplus for the year of £9,886 (2022 - £16,887 surplus), of which £6,330 related to general

funds. At the year-end unrestricted funds totalled £106,262 (2022 - £94,932) of which £42,143 is held in designated funds.

The condition of the fabric of the church and halls are thankfully sound, and no substantial items have been highlighted as needing urgent repair. Our halls remain popular with hirers and provide a valuable source of income.

Reserves Policy

During the year the PCC approved a resolution to maintain reserves to a level of three months of annual expenditure, as opposed to six months. This is to allow for future investment on new mission and development initiatives once a new priest-in-charge has been appointed.

The building reserve of £20,000 is designated for possible roof repairs needed in the future.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. There are many people actively involved in worship and prayer, pastoral work, leading or contributing on a working group or simply helping out on a rota. A huge thank you to everyone contributing to the life within the parish at St Nicholas in this way.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Nicholas the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our priest-in-charge), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services, the members of our congregation, are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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

The full PCC met eight times during the year with an average level of attendance of 74%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has several committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include worship, social, halls, fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St. Nicholas Church is situated on Poplar Grove, Allington, Maidstone. It is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The parish is legally known as the Parish of St Nicholas, Allington with St Peter, Maidstone. Roughly it stretches at its western edge from the railway, either side of the London Road, toward the town centre down to the river and Lockmeadow. The river end of the parish is the area which formerly came under the previous St Peter's Church, no longer in use. The running of the parish comes under two Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council or PCC. Ministry and worship comes under a Priest-in-Charge and a Children's and Families Minister.

The correspondence address is The Parish Office, Poplar Grove, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0DE. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Rev. Christopher Lavender (Chairman) – **retired 22 February 2023**

Churchwardens: Dr Nigel Smetham, Mrs Jenny Stone

Children, Families & Schools Minister: Mrs Fiona Higgs

Elected members:

Mrs Sarah Lavender – representative on Deanery Synod – **left 22 February 2023**

Ms Helen Rogers - Treasurer

Ms Emily Stone - Secretary

Mr Michael Froude

Mrs Gill Waite

Ms June Bagshaw

Mrs Gill Poole

Mrs Martina Tidball

Mrs Nicola Tulip

Mr David Salvage

Ms Jacqueline Wilkinson

Ms Ruth Brind

Mrs Angela Redford

Mr Seb Lincoln

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Nigel Smetham (PCC Vice-Chair – Parish in vacancy)

ALLINGTON P C C
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Notes	2023				2022
		General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Receipts						
<i>Regular Giving</i>						
Pledged giving		42837			42837	44775
Income tax recovered		12530			12530	12255
Collections in church		4907			4907	8238
		60274			60274	65267
Other voluntary receipts	3a	4217		0	4217	2383
Activities for generating funds	3b	4684			4684	5018
Receipts from Church activities	3c	57819		486	58305	58358
Interest on Deposits		1071			1071	258
		128065	0	486	128551	131284
PAYMENTS		£	£	£	£	£
Church activities						
Diocesan Parish Share		54547			54547	54604
Other Payments	3d	62188		1930	64118	59793
		116735		1930	118665	114397
Surplus/(deficit) before transfers		11330	0	-1444	9886	16887
Transfers between funds		-5000	5000			
Surplus/(deficit) for year after transfers		6330	5000	-1444	9886	16887
Cash Balances at 01/01/23		57789	37143	2049	96981	
Cash Balances at 31/12/23		64119	42143	605	106867	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2023				2022
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
<i>Cash Funds</i>					
Bank Current Account	35351			35351	36667
CBF Deposit Fund		11511	605	12116	11739
Reserve Account	28579	30632		59211	48515
Goodbox	129			129	0
Cash	60			60	60
	64119	42143	605	106867	96981
<i>Other Monetary Assets</i>					
Gift Aid Tax recoverable				0	2961
Paye	863			863	0
Halls lettings due	1915			1915	1129
	2778			2778	4090
<i>Liabilities</i>					
<i>Deposits</i>					200
Pension payment	657			657	568
Creditor				0	276
Payments to diocese					1154
Amounts collected for Charity Appeals	9			9	9
	666	0	0	666	2207

Approved by the PCC on 18/3/24 and signed on their behalf by :

..... signed *[Signature]* signed *[Signature]*
 Dr Nigel Smartham (PCC Chairman) and Mrs Helen Rogers (PCC Treasurer during 2023)

NOTES

1. Fixed Assets retained for church use are written-off in the year of purchase.

The two church halls previously shown in restricted fixed assets have an insured value of approximately £2,600,000.

2. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance
Designated: Building fund	15000			5000	20000
Bequest fund (unrestricted)	22143				22143
	37143	0	0	5000	42143
Sunday Lunch Club	410	486	724		172
Fellowship	430		6		424
Halls Deposit	200		200		0
Heating Grant	1000		1000		0
Special charity appeals	9				9
	2049	486	1930	0	605

3. Receipts and Payments analysis

	2023			2022
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
a. Other voluntary receipts				
Donations	4217			2383
Charitable Donations				0
	4217	0	0	2383
b. Activities for generating funds				
Fund Raising	4684			5018
	4684		0	5018
c. Receipts from Church activities				
Fees				1086
Halls Income	57819			53761
Sunday Lunch Club			486	1159
Flag pole				1152
Heating Grant				1000
Halls deposit				200
	57819		486	58305
				58358

Gemma Sturley

CIMA Chartered Accountant

Independent examiner's report to Allington PCC

I have completed my examination of the accounts of Allington PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Gemma Sturley
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

33 Larking Drive, Allington ME16 0UT

28th March 2024

Accounts

REPORT FOR CHARITY COMMISSION

Aims and purposes

St Nicholas Allington Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with our joint priest-in-charge in promoting the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church building, halls and church grounds (but not the Rectory which is the responsibility of the Diocese).

Objectives and activities

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, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary 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 and trust in Jesus through a range of formal and informal worship, with and without communion. The church is committed to providing the Church of England 'occasional offices' of baptism, marriage and funerals.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Nicholas and the Church Halls.

The PCC has complied with Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults).

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, a range of worship services from Morning Worship, Holy Communion and informal worship at Oasis Communion and Oasis with contemporary worship songs.

Following on from the Pandemic of March 2020 to February 2022 that affected worship, social activities, hall hire and the loss of production of our Parish Magazine, we are pleased to note that many activities have started to develop again.

The negative impact is that we have lost connection with many families and have had to re-think certain activities, and it has not been possible to re-start the magazine at this stage. Some have been hesitant to return and the worshipping patterns of some seems to have changed. It is difficult to fully determine what impact the pandemic lockdowns will have in the longer term.

On a positive note, we have seen hall hire income return to acceptable levels and have seen an upturn in generosity from the community for the stock of items that we manage to help supply the local Foodbank and other causes. Our online worship presence on Facebook still seems popular and the intention is to continue with this

whilst resources allow. It was also encouraging to see attendance at Christmas services almost back to pre-pandemic levels.

Guide and Scout organisations continue to hold Parade Services in the church two or three times a year.

We endeavour to make our services easy for visitors to follow using Power Point projection, enlarged texts, or printed out in short booklets. The church sound system helps all visitors, as well as the hearing-impaired.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 126 parishioners on the Church

Electoral Roll. 10 names were added during the year and 7 were removed either through death or because they moved away from the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 75, but this number increased at festivals including Christmas.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 10 baptisms in church. Our minister has carried out 31 funerals this year, most of which were at the local crematorium. We have had 1 wedding - historically St Nicholas Church has not held many weddings, most likely to the modern nature of the building.

Fiona Higgs, Children, Families & Schools Minister has developed a Chaplaincy role within our local primary schools and leads assemblies, supports classrooms and the staff. She has developed significant relationships with the schools and, at their request, she has re-started the Explorers after school clubs at Allington and Palace Wood Primary Schools.

St Nicholas has an active Mothers' Union group with monthly Holy Communion services. We also run St Nicholas' Fellowship, a social group for the elderly. Residential Homes are visited, and services conducted there

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Church and Church Halls

St Nicholas is open every day to our community for private prayer and is used on a regular basis.

Our present church, consecrated in 1975, is a square building mainly, recently re-ordered by the replacement of pews with chairs. The church space is used for worship every Sunday and Wednesday and at other times as required. It is also used for PCC Meetings, a weekly prayer group, a monthly meeting of mums and babes and other groups, and for appropriate community activities. To one side are the clergy vestry, Parish Office used three mornings a week and three toilets, with disabled access. The church has kitchen facilities in the main body of the church.

There are two church halls in a building adjacent to the church that provide facilities to many local groups and businesses - these halls have a kitchen and toilet facilities, including a baby change and disabled toilets.

Both church and halls have disabled access.

A wide range of social and fund-raising events held throughout the year that are open to the larger community. The Christmas Market draws many people into our buildings and is supported by a number of small local businesses.

Carol singing takes place at Christmas time at the local shopping centre. The outside Notice Board advertising our services and events is always well presented

The St Nicholas Lunch club meets the stringent health and safety requirements with 5* rating and allows us to continue the old people's luncheon club 6 times a year and approx. 40 people regularly attend.

Each Tuesday a Community Café takes place in St Nicholas Church which is run by a team of volunteers, is registered with Maidstone Borough Council, and is attended by approx. 60 people each week.

During the week the hall is used by many local groups and organisations including a mother and toddlers' group on Tuesdays. We run a monthly Mum & Babes group in St Nicholas which has led to a Faith Explorers group led by our Children, Families & Schools Minister. During the summer the youth group - Jahfa (youth group), which meets monthly, went on an outing to Westminster Abbey.

Our church halls offer valuable meeting places for a wide variety of community and commercial activities, including the numerous branches of the Guide and Scout organisations. The halls are booked frequently for private bookings by local residents.

From a financial perspective our reserves have held up fairly well and income is returning now that hall hire is once again taking place. The church building is also being used more as a space for hire to the community.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Reverend Chris Lavender has visited all church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes, in care homes, or in hospital. Our Prayer and Pastoral care co-ordinator, Angela Redford maintains ongoing contact with many members of the congregation, particularly the elderly. Care Home ministry is provided through the Anna Chaplaincy network that draws from all denominations across the town and visits most care homes once a month.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. St Nicholas gives monthly to a range of charities both local and abroad including Alongside Africa.

St Nicholas provides a weekly online service via Facebook and the church website to over 250 people, the majority of whom do not regularly connect with St Nicholas in other ways.

A weekly update that is emailed to approx. 200 people and paper copies are delivered to 33 homes for those who are not on the internet.

We maintain a significant presence in the Primary Schools, which are non-church, through the work of our Children's, Families & Schools Minister.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of Churches Together in Maidstone. Our incumbent has attended Leaders Breakfasts that are held each month and involve all Christian denominations from across the town.

Financial Review

Total income for the year amounted to £131,284 (2021 - £122,905) of which £3,511 related to restricted income. There is a net surplus for the year of £16,887 (2021 £1817 surplus), of which £10,316 related to general funds. At the year end unrestricted funds totalled £94,932 (2021 - £79,616) of which £37,143 is held in designated funds.

From a financial perspective our reserves have held up fairly well and income is returning now that hall hire is once again taking place. Current levels of hall hire income, post-pandemic, are at about half of pre-pandemic levels and the true nature of how this recovers will need to be seen in this coming year. The church building is also being used more as a space for hire to the community to increase income, greatly aided by the more flexible space that has been developed.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to maintain reserves to a level of six months of annual expenditure.

The building reserve of £15,000 is designated for possible roof repairs needed in the future.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular we want to mention our Tuesday Café team and the finance team who has helped us all to understand the church's accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Nicholas the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC. The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 78%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include worship, social, halls, fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St. Nicholas Church is situated on Poplar Grove, Allington, Maidstone. It is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The parish is legally known as the Parish of St Nicholas, Allington with St Peter, Maidstone. Roughly it stretches at its western edge from the Park and Ride, either side of the London Road, toward the town centre down to the river and Lockmeadow. The river end of the parish is the area which formerly came under the previous St Peter's Church, no longer in use. The running of the parish comes under two Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council or PCC. Ministry and worship comes under a Priest-in-Charge and a Children's and Families Minister.

The correspondence address is The Parish Office, Poplar Grove, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0DE. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission. PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Rev. Christopher Lavender (Chairman) - **retired 22 February 2023**
Church Wardens: Mr Nigel Smetham, Mrs Jenny Stone
Children, Families & Schools Minister: Mrs Fiona Higgs

Elected members:

Mrs Sarah Lavender - representative on Deanery Synod - **left 22 February 2023**
Mr Michael Evans - representative of Deanery Synod - **left December 2022**
Mrs Gill Waite - Treasurer
Ms June Bagshaw
Mrs Gill Poole
Mrs Martina Tidball
Mrs Nicola Tulip
Mr David Salvage
Ms Jacqueline Wilkinson
Ms Ruth Brind
Mrs Angela Redford

Approved by the PCC on 20th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by Nigel Smetham (Acting PCC chairman - Parish in vacancy)

ALLINGTON P C C
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Notes	2022				2021
		General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Receipts						
<i>Regular Giving</i>						
Pledged giving		44775			44775	47710
Income tax recovered		12255			12255	11447
Collections in church		8237			8237	3967
		65267			65267	63124
Other voluntary receipts	3a	2383		0	2383	28220
Activities for generating funds	3b	5018			5018	2694
Receipts from Church activities	3c	54847		3511	58358	28857
Interest on Deposits		258			258	10
		127773	0	3511	131284	122905
PAYMENTS		£	£	£	£	£
Church activities						
Diocesan Parish Share		54604			54604	62078
Other Payments	3d	57751		2042	59793	59010
		112355		2042	114397	121088
Surplus/(deficit) before transfers		15418	0	1469	16887	1817
Transfers between funds		-5102	5000	102		
Surplus/(deficit) for year after transfers		10316	5000	1571	16887	1817
Cash Balances at 01/01/22		47473	32143	478	80094	
Cash Balances at 31/12/22		57789	37143	2049	96981	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2022				2021
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
Cash Funds					
Bank Current Account	34618		2049	36667	20029
CBF Deposit Fund	0	11739		11739	11587
Bequest Account	23111	25404		48515	48409
Goodbox	0			0	9
Cash	60			60	60
	57789	37143	2049	96981	80094
Other Monetary Assets					
Gift Aid Tax recoverable	2961			2961	2915
Halls lettings due	1129			1129	2724
	4090			4090	5639
Liabilities					
Deposits	200			200	
Pension payment	568			568	109
Creditor	276			276	
Payments to diocese	1154			1154	
Amounts collected for Charity Appeals	9			9	69
	2207	0	0	2207	178

Approved by the PCC on 20/3/23 and signed on their behalf by :

.....
 signed.....
 Dr Nigel Smith (PCC Chairman) and Mrs Gill Waite (PCC Treasurer during 2022)

NOTES

1. Fixed Assets retained for church use are written-off in the year of purchase.
The two church halls previously shown in restricted fixed assets have an insured value of approximately £2,600,000.

2. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance
Designated: Building fund	10000			5000	15000
Bequest fund (unrestricted)	22143				22143
	32143	0	0	5000	37143
Sunday Lunch Club	-21	1159	728		410
Fellowship	430				430
Halls Deposit	0	200			200
Heating Grant	0	1000			1000
Flag pole	0	1152	1254	102	0
Special charity appeals	69		60		9
	478	3511	2042	102	2049

3. Receipts and Payments analysis

	2022			2021
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
a. Other voluntary receipts				
Donations	2383			4588
Charitable Donations				205
Covid grant				19002
Furlough				4425
	2383	0	0	28220
b. Activities for generating funds				
Fund Raising	5018			2694
	5018	0	0	2694
c. Receipts from Church activities				
Fees	1086			710
Halls Income	53761			26286
Sunday Lunch Club			1159	240
Flag pole			1152	0
Covid 19				1540
Heating Grant			1000	
Halls deposit			200	
Sundries				81
	54847	3511	58358	28857

3. Receipts and Payments analysis ctd

	2022			2021
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
d. Church activities - payments				
Charitable payments				
Overseas	1100			110
Christian Relief and Development	300			1260
Home Mission	485		60	100
	1885		60	1470
Clergy expenses			0	459
Church running expenses	6983		1254	8332
Halls running expenses	23910			16441
Salaries, wages and honoraria	20836			19101
Administration expenses	3037			1746
Youth Work	465			207
Fundraising	635			88
Sunday Lunch Club			728	212
Covid 19			0	8097
St Andrews Wages			0	2745
Sundries			0	12
Halls Deposit			0	100
	57751	0	2042	59793
				59010

4. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No other payments were made to PCC members.

Christopher McLaughlin
Chartered Accountant

St Nicholas Church
Parish Office
Poplar Grove
Maidstone
ME16 0DE

30th April 2023

Dear sir / Madam

Independent review of Allington PCC Financial Statements

I hereby confirm that I have completed an independent review of the financial statements of Allington PCC for the year ending 31st December 2022 and found them to be in good order.

Yours faithfully



Christopher McLaughlin - CGMA

Christopher McLaughlin
Chartered Accountant

St Nicholas Church
Parish Office
Poplar Grove
Maidstone
ME16 0DE

30th April 2023

Dear sir / Madam

Independent review of Allington PCC Financial Statements

I hereby confirm that I have completed an independent review of the financial statements of Allington PCC for the year ending 31st December 2022 and found them to be in good order.

Yours faithfully



Christopher McLaughlin - CGMA

Accounts

REPORT FOR CHARITY COMMISSION

Aims and purposes

St Nicholas Allington Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with our joint priest-in-charge in promoting the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church building, halls and church grounds (but not the Rectory which is the responsibility of the Diocese).

Objectives and activities

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, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary 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 and trust in Jesus through a range of formal and informal worship, with and without communion. The church is committed to providing the Church of England 'occasional offices' of baptism, marriage and funerals.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Nicholas and the Church Halls.

The PCC has complied with Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults).

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, a range of worship services from Morning Worship, Holy Communion and informal worship at Oasis Communion and Oasis with contemporary worship songs.

The Pandemic of March 2020 to February 2022 had a major impact on the activities of St Nicholas Church. Worship in church ceased during 'lockdown' periods, all social activities ceased, and the production and distribution of the Grapevine Parish Magazine ended. Hall hire activities were cancelled, and significant income was lost.

On a positive note, worship developed 'online' and greater community engagement took place through;

- Significant Foodbank collections and donations that have continued at a high level.
- Liaising with local government for grants to assist those in particular need.
- Help line developed collecting prescriptions and shopping for those isolating.

Guide and Scout organisations hold Parade Services in the church two or three times a year.

In church, we have continued to make our services easy for visitors to follow using Power Point projection, enlarged texts, or printed out in short booklets. The church sound system helps all visitors, as well as the hearing-impaired.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 126 parishioners on the Church

Electoral Roll. 2 names were added during the year and 2 were removed either through death or because they moved away from the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 73, but this number increased at festivals including Christmas.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 3 baptisms in church as numbers have been reduced due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic. Our minister has carried out 46 funerals this year, most of which were at the local crematorium. We have not had any weddings, possibly due to the modern design of the building - historically St Nicholas Church has not held many weddings.

Fiona Higgs, Children, Families & Schools Minister has developed a Chaplaincy role within our local primary schools and leads assemblies, supports classrooms and the staff.

St Nicholas has an active Mothers' Union group with monthly Holy Communion services. We also run St Nicholas' Fellowship, a social group for the elderly. Residential Homes are visited, and services conducted there

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. This year St Nicholas has completed building work to improve our environmental impact including changing lights to LED.

The Church and Church Halls

St Nicholas is open every day to our community for private prayer and is used on a regular basis.

Our present church, consecrated in 1975, is a square building mainly, recently re-ordered by the replacement of pews with chairs. The church space is used for worship every Sunday and Wednesday and at other times as required. It is also used for PCC Meetings, a weekly prayer group, a monthly meeting of mums and babes and other groups, and for appropriate community activities. To one side are the clergy vestry, Parish Office used three mornings a week and three toilets, with disabled access. The church has kitchen facilities in the main body of the church.

There are two church halls in a building adjacent to the church that provide facilities to many local groups and businesses - these halls have a kitchen and toilet facilities, including a baby change and disabled toilets.

Both church and halls have disabled access.

A wide range of social and fund-raising events held throughout the year that are open to the larger community. The Christmas Market draws many people into our buildings and is supported by a number of small local businesses.

Carol singing takes place at Christmas time at the local shopping centre. The outside Notice Board advertising our services and events is always well presented

The St Nicholas Lunch club meets the stringent health and safety requirements with 5 rating and allows us to continue the old people's luncheon club 6 times a year and approx. 40 people regularly attend.

Each Tuesday a Community Café takes place in St Nicholas Church which is run by a team of volunteers, is registered with Maidstone Borough Council, and is attended by approx. 60 people each week.

During the week the hall is used by many local groups and organisations including a mother and toddlers' group on Tuesdays. We run a monthly Mum & Babes group in St Nicholas which has led to a Faith Explorers group led by our Children, Families & Schools Minister. During the summer the youth group - Jahfa, which meets monthly, went on an outing to Deal Castle.

Our church halls offer valuable meeting places for a wide variety of community and commercial activities, including the numerous branches of the Guide and Scout organisations. The halls are booked frequently for private bookings by local residents.

From a financial perspective our reserves have held up fairly well and income is returning now that hall hire is once again taking place. The church building is also being used more as a space for hire to the community.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Reverend Chris Lavender has visited all church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. Our Prayer and Pastoral care co-ordinator, Angela Redford has kept a telephone tree running during lockdown and has maintained ongoing contact with many members of the congregation, particularly the elderly.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. St Nicholas gives monthly to a range of charities both local and abroad including Alongside Africa. St Nicholas provides a weekly online service via Facebook and the church website to over 250 people, the majority of whom do not connect with St Nicholas at present. Rev Chris Lavender writes a weekly update that is emailed to approx.. 200 people and paper copies are delivered to 33 homes for those who are not on the internet. We maintain a significant presence in the Primary Schools, which are non-church, through the work of our Children's, Families & Schools Minister.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of Churches Together in Maidstone. We worked with the other local churches during covid including Allington Baptist to support our community.

Financial Review

Total income for the year amounted to £122,905 (2020 - £116,866) of which £8,646 related to restricted income. There is a net surplus for the year of £1,817 (2020 -£8,292 deficit), of which £835 related to general funds. At the year end unrestricted funds totalled £79,616 (2020- £73,781) of which £32,143 is held in designated funds.

From a financial perspective our reserves have held up fairly well and income is returning now that hall hire is once again taking place. Current levels of hall hire income, post-pandemic, are at about half of pre-pandemic levels and the true nature of how this recovers will need to be seen in this coming year. The church building is also being used more as a space for hire to the community to increase income, greatly aided by the more flexible space that has been developed.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to maintain reserves to a level of six months of annual expenditure.

The building reserve of £10,000 is designated for possible roof repairs needed in the future.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular we want to mention our Tuesday Café team and the finance team who has helped us all to understand the church's accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Nicholas the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC. The full PCC met five times during the year with an average level of attendance of 80%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include worship, social, halls, fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St. Nicholas Church is situated on Poplar Grove, Allington, Maidstone. It is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The parish is legally known as the Parish of St Nicholas, Allington with St Peter, Maidstone. Roughly it stretches at its western edge from the Park and Ride, either side of the London Road, toward the town centre down to the river and Lockmeadow. The river end of the parish is the area which formerly came under the previous St Peter's Church, no longer in use. The running of the parish comes under two Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council or PCC. Ministry and worship comes under a Priest-in-Charge and a Children's and Families Minister.

The correspondence address is The Parish Office, Poplar Grove, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0DE. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Rev. Christopher Lavender (Chairman)

Church Wardens: Mr Caleb Howarth, Mrs Jenny Stone

Children, Families & Schools Minister: Mrs Fiona Higgs

Elected members:

Mrs Sarah Lavender - representative on Deanery Synod

Mrs Gill Waite - Treasurer

Ms June Bagshaw

Mrs Gill Poole

Mrs Christine Colyer

Mrs Debbie Hayles

Mr David Salvage

Mr Nigel Smetham

Ms Jacqueline Wilkinson

Ms Ruth Brind

Approved by the PCC on 14th March 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Christopher Lavender (PCC chairman)

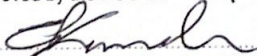
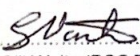
ALLINGTON P C C
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021
 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Notes	2021				2020
		General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Receipts						
<i>Regular Giving</i>						
Pledged giving		47710			47710	47639
Income tax recovered		11447			11447	12125
Collections in church		3967			3967	2113
		63124			63124	61877
Other voluntary receipts	3a	19614		8606	28220	7605
Activities for generating funds	3b	2694			2694	3164
Receipts from Church activities	3c	28617		240	28857	44064
Interest on Deposits		10			10	156
		114059	0	8846	122905	116866
		£	£	£	£	£
PAYMENTS						
<i>Church activities</i>						
Diocesan Parish Share	3d	62078			62078	65137
Other Payments		46728		12282	59010	60021
		108806		12282	121088	125158
Surplus/(deficit) before transfers		5253	0	-3436	1817	-8292
Transfers between funds		-4418	5000	-582		
Surplus/(deficit) for year after transfers		835	5000	-4018	1817	-8292
Cash Balances at 01/01/21		46638	27143	4496	78277	
Cash Balances at 31/12/21		47473	32143	478	80094	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2021				2020
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
<i>Cash Funds</i>					
Bank Current Account	19551		478	20029	18231
CBF Deposit Fund		11587		11587	11581
Bequest Account	27853	20556		48409	48405
Goodbox	9			9	0
Cash	60			60	60
	47473	32143	478	80094	78277
<i>Other Monetary Assets</i>					
Gift Aid Tax recoverable	2915			2915	3067
Ministry	0			0	92
Halls lettings due	2724			2724	4
	5639			5639	3163
<i>Liabilities</i>					
<i>Deposits</i>					100
Ministry					92
Pension payment	109			109	107
Amounts collected for Charity Appeals	69			69	234
	178	0	0	178	533

Approved by the PCC on 14/03/22 and signed on their behalf by:

 signed
 signed
 Revd Chris Lavender (PCC Chairman) and Mrs Gill Waite (PCC Treasurer during 2021)

NOTES

1. Fixed Assets retained for church use are written-off in the year of purchase.
The two church halls previously shown in restricted fixed assets have an insured value of approximately £2,600,000.

2. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance
Designated: Building fund	5000			5000	10000
Bequest fund (unrestricted)	22143				22143
	27143	0	0	5000	32143
Wages	3503		3503		0
Sunday Lunch Club	-49	240	212		-21
Mens Breakfast	41			-41	0
Fairtrade	44			-44	0
Fellowship	430				430
Tuesday Café	497			-497	0
Covid 19 Grants	-304	8401	8097		0
Halls Deposit	100		100		0
Special charity appeals	234	205	370		69
	4496	8846	12282	-582	478

3. Receipts and Payments analysis

	2021				2020
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
a. Other voluntary receipts					
Donations	4588			4588	2754
Charitable Donations			205	205	238
Re-Ordering Church 2018				0	230
Covid grant	10601		8401	19002	
Furlough	4425			4425	4383
	19614	0	8606	28220	7605
b. Activities for generating funds					
Parish Magazine - adverts & sales				0	1615
Fund Raising	2694			2694	1549
	2694		0	2694	3164
c. Receipts from Church activities					
Fees	710			710	2032
Halls Income	26286			26286	25609
Youth Work				0	0
Sunday Lunch Club			240	240	140
Mens Breakfast				0	16
Fairtrade				0	75
Fellowship				0	100
Tuesday cafe				0	497
Covid 19	1540			1540	10327
St Andrews Wages				0	5075
Sundries	81			81	193
	28617		240	28857	44064

Receipts and Payments analysis ctd

	2021				2020
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
Church activities - payments					
Charitable payments					
Overseas	100		10	110	837
Christian Relief and Development	900		360	1260	800
Home Mission	100			100	1170
	1100		370	1470	2807
Clergy expenses	459			459	1312
Church running expenses	8332			8332	4446
Halls running expenses	16441			16441	16281
Salaries, wages and honoraria	18343		758	19101	18184
Administration expenses	1746			1746	3425
Printing Magazine				0	954
Youth Work	207			207	180
Fundraising	88			88	166
Church Reordering				0	1050
Sunday Lunch Club			212	212	918
Fairtrade				0	133
Covid 19			8097	8097	9944
St Andrews Wages			2745	2745	0
Sundries	12			12	220
Halls Deposit			100	100	0
	46728	0	12282	59010	60020

4. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No other payments were made to PCC members.

St Nicholas Church Allington – Independent Examiners Report for the Year Ending 31.12.21

Independent Examiners Statement:

I have completed my examination and report on the accounts of St Nicholas Church Allington for the year ending 31.12.21.

I report in respect of my examination carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act) and following the direction given by the Charity Commission in 145(5)(b) in The Act.

I confirm that no matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe that:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of The Act.
2. The accounts do not accord with those records
3. The accounts do not comply with the requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities Regulations 2008

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

Helen Rogers

7 Hazlitt Drive
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 0EG

Signed.....*JRogers*.....

Date.....*18.3.22*.....

St Nicholas Church Allington – Independent Examiners Report for the Year Ending 31.12.21

Independent Examiners Statement:

I have completed my examination and report on the accounts of St Nicholas Church Allington for the year ending 31.12.21.

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Helen Rogers

7 Hazlitt Drive
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 0EG

Signed Helen Rogers

Date 18.3.22

Accounts

REPORT FOR CHARITY COMMISSION

Aims and purposes

St Nicholas Allington Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with our joint priest-in-charge in promoting the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church building, halls and church grounds (but not the Rectory which is the responsibility of the Diocese).

Objectives and activities

Our central activities are providing a range of formal and informal worship, with and without communion. The church is committed to providing the Church of England 'occasional offices' of baptism, marriage and funerals. The church, and two church halls, are well used for a wide range of community activities.

Buildings

Our present church, consecrated in 1975, is a square building mainly, recently re-ordered by the replacement of pews with chairs. The church space is used for worship every Sunday and Wednesday and at other times as required. It is also used for PCC Meetings, a weekly prayer group, a monthly meeting of mums and babes and other groups, and for appropriate community activities. To one side is a church office and separate clergy vestry as well as recently installed toilet facilities, with disabled access and baby changing facilities. In addition, kitchen, and additional storage facilities have been installed in bespoke cupboards within the worship space.

The church is open on a daily basis for anyone wishing to find a time of quiet, and is also now used by community groups and available for hire.

There are two church halls in a building adjacent to the church that provide facilities to many local groups and businesses - these halls have a kitchen and toilet facilities, including a baby change and disabled toilets.

Both church and halls have disabled access.

Providing a Public Benefit

This is a heading required by the Charity Commission that recognises our responsibilities beyond the present church community in the following way;

- Mums and babes group once a month.
- After school clubs and assemblies in schools.
- Baptisms, weddings, funerals
- Guide and Scout organisations hold Parade Services in the church two or three times a year.
- A weekly community café.
- An occasional Sunday lunch group for those who would otherwise eat alone.
- Mothers' Union.
- St Nicholas' Fellowship.
- Residential Homes are visited and services conducted there.
- A wide range of social and fund-raising events held throughout the year that are open to the larger community. The Christmas Market draws many people into our buildings and is supported by a number of small local businesses.
- Each month 1,100 copies of *Grapevine* the Parish Magazine are distributed, including free copies offered outside school gates and in various locations around Allington.
- Carol singing takes place at Christmas time at the local shopping centre.
- The outside Notice Board advertising our services and events is always well presented
- In church, we have continued to make our services easy for visitors to follow using Power Point projection, enlarged texts, or printed out in short booklets. The church sound system helps all visitors, as well as the hearing-impaired.

- Our church halls offer valuable meeting places for a wide variety of community and commercial activities, including the numerous branches of the Guide and Scout organisations. The halls are booked frequently for private bookings by local residents.

It should be noted in this report of the significant challenges to the operation of the church during the course of the global COVID 19 pandemic. St Nicholas Church took the opportunity to develop a local hub organising shopping and prescription collections for those unable to leave their house. The church also worked with the local authority and utilised various grants to provide laptops for schools, kitchen equipment for families in need, starter packs for vulnerable single parent families moving from hostels and providing significant quantities of supplies for local foodbanks by coordinating donations from the community.

Other required information

The parish is legally known as the Parish of St Nicholas, Allington with St Peter, Maidstone. Roughly it stretches at its western edge from the Park and Ride, either side of the London Road, toward the town centre down to the river and Lockmeadow. The river end of the parish is the area which formerly came under the previous St Peter's Church, no longer in use. The running of the parish comes under two Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council or PCC. Ministry and worship comes under a Priest-in-Charge, a Curate and a Children's and Families Minister.

Administrative Information: St Nicholas Church is located in Poplar Grove, Allington, Maidstone. It is part of the Deanery of Maidstone and Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, 35 Poplar Grove, Maidstone, ME16 0DE. Our bankers are Nat West plc, 3 High Street, Maidstone ME14 1XU.

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

ALLINGTON P C C
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Notes	2020				2019
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Receipts					
<i>Regular Giving</i>					
Pledged giving	47639			47639	48537
Income tax recovered	12125			12125	15939
Collections in church	2113			2113	5188
	61877			61877	66243
Other voluntary receipts	3a 7137		468	7605	49806
Activities for generating funds	3b 3164			3164	12293
Receipts from Church activities	3c 33061		11003	44064	56836
Interest on Deposits	156			156	154
	105394	0	11471	116865	185332
PAYMENTS	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Church activities</i>					
Diocesan Parish Share	65137			65137	63999
Other Payments	3d 49210		10811	60021	126476
	114347		10811	125158	190475
Surplus/(deficit) before transfers	-8953	0	660	-8293	-5143
Transfers between funds	-5187	4180	1007		
Surplus/(deficit) for year after transfers	-14140	4180	1667	-8293	-5143
Cash Balances at 01/01/20	60778	22963	2829	86570	
Cash Balances at 31/12/20	46638	27143	4496	78277	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2020				2019
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
<i>Cash Funds</i>					
Bank Current Account	18231			18231	26680
CBF Deposit Fund		11581		11581	11532
Bequest Account	28347	15562	4496	48405	48298
Cash	60			60	60
	46638	27143	4496	78277	86570
<i>Other Monetary Assets</i>					
Gift Aid Tax recoverable	3067			3067	3401
Goodbox					53
Ministry	92			92	
Halls lettings due	4			4	2995
	3163			3163	6449
<i>Liabilities</i>					
<i>Deposits</i>					
Ministry	92		100	100	92
<i>Pension payment</i>					107
Amounts collected for Charity Appeals			234	234	1644
	0	0	234	234	1644

Approved by the PCC on

and signed on their behalf by :

..... signed signed
 Revd Chris Lavender (PCC Chairman) and Mrs Gill Waite (PCC Treasurer during 2020)

NOTES

1. Fixed Assets retained for church use are written-off in the year of purchase.
The two church halls previously shown in restricted fixed assets have an insured value of approximately £2,800,000.

2. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance
Designated: Building fund	0			5000	5000
Bequest fund (unrestricted)	22963			-820	22143
	22963	0	0	4180	27143
Wages	0	5075	1572		3503
Sunday Lunch Club	729	140	918		-49
Mens Breakfast	25	16			41
Fairtrade	102	75	133		44
Fellowship	330	100			430
Tuesday Café	0	497			497
Re-Ordering Church	0	230	1050	820	0
Covid 19 Grants	0	5000	5331	27	-304
Halls Deposit	0	100			100
Special charity appeals	1643	238	1807	160	234
	2829	11471	10811	1007	4496

3. Receipts and Payments analysis

	2020			2019
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
a. Other voluntary receipts				
Donations	2754			1272
Bequests				10920
Charitable Donations			238	1644
Re-Ordering Church 2018			230	14660
Re-ordering Grant				21310
Furlough	4383			
	7137	0	468	49806
b. Activities for generating funds				
Parish Magazine - adverts & sales	1615			3647
Fund Raising	1549			8646
	3164		0	12293
c. Receipts from Church activities				
Fees	2032			1438
Halls Income	25509		100	51967
Youth Work				132
Sunday Lunch Club			140	1279
Mens Breakfast			16	89
Fairtrade			75	413
Fellowship			100	380
Tuesday cafe			497	0
Covid 19	5327		5000	0
St Andrews Wages			5075	0
Sundries	193			1138
	33061		11003	56836

3. Receipts and Payments analysis ctd

d. Church activities - payments

	2020			2019
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Charitable payments				
Overseas	300		537	1198
Christian Relief and Development	400		400	941
Home Mission	300		870	400
	1000		1807	2539
Clergy expenses	1312		1312	2033
Church running expenses	4446		4446	22731
Halls running expenses	16281		16281	24426
Salaries, wages and honoraria	16612		1572	17398
Administration expenses	3425		3425	2618
Printing Magazine	954		954	3180
Youth Work	180		180	352
Fundraising	166		166	246
Church Reordering			1050	48977
Sunday Lunch Club			918	868
Mens Breakfast			0	64
Fairtrade			133	311
Fellowship			0	50
Covid 19	4613		5331	9944
Sundries	220		220	682
	49210	0	10811	60021
				126475

4. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. No other payments were made to PCC members.

St Nicholas Church Allington – Independent Examiners Report for the Year Ending 31.12.20

Independent Examiners Statement:

I have completed my examination and report on the accounts of the church for the year ending 31.12.20.

I report in respect of my examination carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act) and following the direction given by the Charity Commission in 145(5)(b) in The Act.

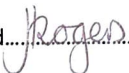
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Helen Rogers

7 Hazlitt Drive
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 0EG

Signed.....

Date.....31.3.21.....

St Nicholas Church Allington – Independent Examiners Report for the Year Ending 31.12.20

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I have completed my examination and report on the accounts of the church for the year ending 31.12.20.

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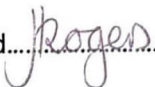
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Kent
ME16 OEG

Signed..........

Date.....31.3.21.....