

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

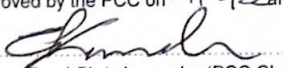
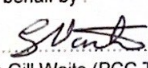
Ms Ruth Brind

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						
Regular Giving						
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						
Church activities						
Diocesan Parish Share		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						
Cash Funds						
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
Other Monetary Assets						
Gift Aid Tax recoverable		2915			2915	3067
Ministry		0			0	92
Halls lettings due		2724			2724	4
		5639			5639	3163
Liabilities						
Deposits						
Ministry						100
						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

a. Other voluntary receipts

Donations
Charitable Donations
Re-Ordering Church 2018
Covid grant
Furlough

b. Activities for generating funds

Parish Magazine - adverts & sales
Fund Raising

c. Receipts from Church activities

Fees
Halls Income
Youth Work
Sunday Lunch Club
Mens Breakfast
Fairtrade
Fellowship
Tuesday cafe
Covid 19
St Andrews Wages
Sundries

	2021				2020
	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
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
Parish Magazine - adverts & sales				0	1615
Fund Raising	2694			2694	1549
	2694		0	2694	3164
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

Church activities - payments

Charitable payments

Overseas

Christian Relief and Development

Home Mission

Clergy expenses

Church running expenses

Halls running expenses

Salaries, wages and honoraria

Administration expenses

Printing Magazine

Youth Work

Fundraising

Church Reordering

Sunday Lunch Club

Fairtrade

Covid 19

St Andrews Wages

Sundries

Halls Deposit

2021				2020
General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
100		10	110	837
900		360	1260	800
100			100	1170
1100		370	1470	2807
459			459	1312
8332			8332	4446
16441			16441	16281
18343		758	19101	18184
1746			1746	3425
			0	954
207			207	180
88			88	166
			0	1050
		212	212	918
			0	133
		8097	8097	9944
		2745	2745	0
12			12	220
		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.....*H. Rogers*.....

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

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Signed.....*H. Rogers*.....

Date.....*18-3-22*.....