

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH BURTON-IN-WIRRAL

England & Wales - Charity number 1184831

Details

Other names	ST NICHOLAS CHURCH BURTON PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2019-08-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	5 Burton Manor Gardens The Village Burton Neston CH64 5AB
Phone	07703199132
Email	john_sue44@hotmail.co.uk
Website	www.burtonchurch.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: The purpose of the charity is promoting the whole mission of the Church. The church is open daily for private prayer and services are held on Sundays, Wednesdays and Christian Festivals, and family occasions. Services are also held in residential homes and the local sports club. The vicar is very involved with the village primary school. Members of the PCC organise fund raising social events.

Classification

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

Geography

- Cheshire West & Chester

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£117,960	£103,960	-	-
2024-12-31	£104,316	£114,113	-	-
2023-12-31	£100,836	£78,150	-	-
2022-12-30	£100,836	£94,317	-	-
2022-01-01	£97,384	£99,041	-	-
2021-01-01	£97,384	£99,041	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANTHONY CARTER		2016-04-24
Amanda Jayne Ankers		2019-04-01
Dr John Reginald Vinson		2019-04-01
Ivor Arthur Thomas		2019-04-01
JANE ELIZABETH DAVIES		2021-05-23
JOHN ALLEN CHURCH		2024-08-05
John Michael Morris-Best		2019-04-01
John Scott Dennison		2026-04-10
Nicola Anne Dennison		2023-05-19
Nigel Earnest Frederick Griffiths		2026-04-10
Philip Hillman		2020-10-18
Ronald Beverley Curnow		2019-04-01
Sarah Jane Griffiths		2026-04-10

Accounts



St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

Parochial Church Council's
Annual Trustees Report
and
Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2025



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Foreword

By Philip Hillman, Licensed Lay Reader, St Nicholas' Church, Burton

A period of vacancy can be challenging for any church, particularly for a small congregation in a semi-rural setting. Without a resident vicar, established patterns of worship and pastoral care may feel disrupted, responsibilities can be stretched, and important decisions delayed. Long-standing members may feel concerned about the future, while newer members may be hesitant to commit without a clear sense of direction.

At the same time, a vacancy presents valuable opportunities. In the absence of a central leader, members of the congregation can discover new confidence, share responsibility, and step into roles they may not previously have considered. This period can encourage the wider use of gifts and the emergence of unexpected leadership.

These times also allow the church to reflect prayerfully on its mission and its place within the local and wider community. Seeking God's guidance during this time can deepen spiritual maturity and help clarify priorities for the future.

While we value and honour our traditions of worship at St Nicholas' Church, we are not simply seeking to preserve the past. We look for leadership that will help us engage creatively with changing patterns of work and life, an increasingly online world, and the competing demands on the attention of younger generations.

Since my licensing last October, I have been encouraged by the breadth of activity taking place within the congregation, including children's work, schools engagement, family services, community events, and outreach beyond the church building, even within the local area of Neston.

It has been particularly heartening to see the church full at Christmas services, with young families actively involved, and to welcome members of local community organisations at our carol service. These moments reflect the strong connections between the church and the community it serves.

Although a vacancy can bring uncertainty, it is also a time of preparation. We look forward to welcoming a leader who will guide us with vision and creativity as we continue to serve our village church and its community with faith and purpose.

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

Charity Registered No 1184831

Principal Address

St Nicholas' Church, The Village, Burton Neston, Cheshire CH64 5TH

Trustees

Name

Office Held (if any)

John Coyne - Vicar, Chair of PCC & Trustee (Retired 31/08/25)
Jane Davies - Vice Chair, Churchwarden & Trustee
Ivor Thomas - Churchwarden, Parish Safeguarding Officer & Trustee
John Morris-Best - Lay Reader & Trustee

Elected Members

John Church - Trustee & Hon Secretary
Anthony Carter - Trustee & Deputy Churchwarden
Amanda Ankers - Trustee
Jenny Carlyle - Trustee
Ron Curnow - Trustee
Nicky Dennison - Trustee
Philip Hillman - Trustee & Lay Reader
John Vinson - Trustee
Claire Smith - Trustee (Resigned 09/02/25)

Churchwarden's Reflections on Church Life

The year 2025 was one of challenge and transition for St Nicholas' Church. Early in the year, John Coyne informed the Standing Committee of his intention to retire at the end of August. Although John and Sue's time at Burton was shorter than anticipated, the PCC sought to ensure that their final months in full-time ministry were as positive and stress-free as possible. To support this, the Standing Committee assumed responsibility for much of the parish administration. John and Sue's ministry was celebrated at a joint service with Shotwick at Burton, after which the benefice entered a period of vacancy.

At the same time, Ann Warr stepped down from her role as vergger after many years of dedicated service. As no volunteers were available to take on the role on a full-time basis, the duties are now shared among a team of volunteers.

During the year, there were several significant developments in lay and ordained ministry. Ruth Abbott was ordained deacon at Chester Cathedral and is now serving as a curate in West Kirby. In September, John Morris Best became Reader Emeritus after many years of active service, while continuing to support Holy Communion services. At the same service, Philip Hillman was licensed, and later in the year Amanda Ankers and Sheila Dennison began training as Occasional Worship Leaders.

To begin the vacancy process, the PCC conducted a parish survey in September to better understand the congregation's views on worship and the desired qualities of a new vicar. As expected within a broad Church of England tradition, opinions varied on matters such as worship style and the use of technology. However, there was strong consensus on future priorities: increasing the visibility of the church's faith within the local community, strengthening work with children and families, and nurturing the faith of the congregation. These priorities will inform the Parish Profile and the appointment process.

By the end of the year, the Churchwardens had held several meetings with the Shotwick Churchwardens, the Rural Dean and the Archdeacon. Progress was made on the Parish Profile following a joint PCC meeting with the Patron.

Unlike previous vacancies, there has been no in-parish retired clergy available to assist with services. Nevertheless, the parish has been well supported by a number of retired and serving clergy, enabling the regular pattern of services to be maintained with minimal cancellations. The Churchwardens have worked hard to ensure continuity of worship wherever possible.

Regular church activities have continued throughout the year. Coffee mornings have been well attended, and in October a concert by Rhos Male Voice Choir filled the church and successfully raised funds while providing a valuable social occasion. The Lent Group and Follow Group also continued to meet.

Messy Church and St Nics Nippers combined to form a Junior Church, which has been led with enthusiasm and energy. In an effort to reduce the cost of hiring the GVH, more activities are now held within the church building. However, limitations in baby-changing facilities and the condition of the WC have presented challenges. As a result, the PCC agreed that improvements were necessary, and progress has been made towards upgrading these facilities.

Building & Maintenance

During the year, plans for the refurbishment of the church toilet facilities were finalised. The Diocese confirmed that a Faculty was required, resulting in a revised timetable to allow for statutory notices. No objections were received, and formal diocesan consent is now awaited. Quotations have been obtained, and it is anticipated that work will commence in spring 2026.

Following severe weather, several trees in Church Wood were removed to address safety concerns. Additional clearance work along the boundary with the main road was completed, enabling the installation of the final directional sign to the church.

In line with the church's ongoing safety policy and the findings of last year's grave survey, repairs were carried out to a tilting gravestone near the church entrance.

Repairs were also completed to the roof of the churchyard shed.

The clock face continues to deteriorate due to weather exposure. Quotations have been sought for its refurbishment, and fundraising will be required to enable the work to proceed.

The churchyard grounds have been maintained to a high standard throughout the year, and the natural habitat area to the east of the church is developing well.

The church remains grateful to church members, the Friends of St Nicholas' Church, and all others who provide financial support towards the maintenance of the church building.

Children, Youth, Families & School

By Sheila Dennison, Children & Families Worker



Over the past year, the Junior Church Team has continued St Nic's Nippers and Messy Church, supported church involvement in community events, and launched *Crafternoon*, a monthly session for Key Stage 2 children.

I now lead assemblies at Bishop Wilson Primary School and represent the church at school services, strengthening links with staff, pupils, and families. This has led to involvement in Values Days, supporting the promotion of Christian values across all year groups.

St Nic's Nippers remains a small but consistent group, with some families engaging through Christmas and Messy Church. Messy Church now attracts a younger age range, though attendance varies and additional volunteers are needed.

Crafternoon launched successfully in March and continues to provide a welcoming space for children and families. Resources are also available in church to support children's activities more generally.

Time spent in school continues to build strong relationships, further supported by my and Sarah's roles as Foundation Governors. A highlight of the year was the coming together of different groups at the Christmas Eve service.

Finally, Sarah Curnow's dedication to Junior Church is essential and greatly valued.

Pastoral Care Report

Throughout the year, the PCC sought to ensure that pastoral visits and the administration of Holy Communion at home were offered with care, respect and sensitivity, under the coordination of the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, John Church.

Three Lay Eucharistic Ministers were authorised to take Holy Communion to those at home, with the Lay Readers providing support when needed.

Members of the congregation are gently reminded not to assume that requests for pastoral support have already been passed on and are encouraged to share any concerns so that appropriate support can be offered in a timely way.

During the vacancy, John Church also kindly coordinated requests for bereavement and end-of-life visits, ensuring pastoral support continued to be available at these important times.

Contact details:

Tel: 0151 336 2228 | Mobile: 07703 199132 | Email: john_sue44@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Safeguarding

With the approval of the PCC, Ivor Thomas continued to serve as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) throughout the year. The PCC maintained full compliance with the Church of England House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy during 2025. A hard copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, together with the *Promoting a Safer Church* poster and the Parish's Statement of Commitment to the Five National Safeguarding Standards, remains available in the church porch.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy for children, young people, and vulnerable adults was reviewed and formally approved by the PCC during the year. It was endorsed by the Vicar and two Churchwardens and displayed in the church porch. The policy is subject to annual review. Policies relating to Safer Recruitment and the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders were also maintained, supported by a safeguarding checklist used at PCC meetings to monitor safeguarding arrangements.

All new PCC members received safeguarding briefings, and all PCC members, Lay Readers, Churchwardens, and Church Group Leaders have completed the appropriate level of safeguarding training. The PSO continued to use the Church of England Safeguarding Dashboard to ensure compliance with statutory safeguarding requirements. In addition, the Parish fully supports the Diocese's safeguarding awareness campaign, *Speak Out, Stay Safe*.



Speak Out, Stay Safe represents our commitment to the National Safeguarding Standards of the Church of England across the Diocese of Chester

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



Financial Statements

Statement of Receipts

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Funds	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Receipts						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>						
Cash Collections Bank	£ 2,972.58				£ 2,972.58	£ 734.88
Electronic Giving	£ 1,760.43				£ 1,760.43	£ 1,917.37
Cash Gift Aided	£ 2,080.00				£ 2,080.00	£ 2,576.00
Planned Giving	£ 39,702.00				£ 39,702.00	£ 41,545.00
Friends of St Nicholas'	£ 2,540.00				£ 2,540.00	£ 2,670.00
Bishop Wilson School Trust Prof. Fees	£ 3,238.20				£ 3,238.20	£ 8,703.60
Interest		£ 118.22	£ 84.30	£ 922.28	£ 1,124.80	£ 1,252.73
Dividends			£ 1,013.23		£ 1,013.23	£ 962.98
Events	£ 6,902.20				£ 6,902.20	£ 3,043.00
Children & Families Worker	£ 2,000.00				£ 2,000.00	£ 7,100.00
Bld Soc Interest	£ 3,817.48				£ 3,817.48	£ 2,406.35
Tax Refund	£ 13,060.07				£ 13,060.07	£ 12,189.18
St Michael's Insurance	£ 2,209.47				£ 2,209.47	£ 1,786.47
St Michaels Contribution	£ 1,410.00				£ 1,410.00	£ 1,320.00
Weddings, Funerals & Memorials	£ 10,425.92				£ 10,425.92	£ 15,422.00
Magazine Income	£ 250.00				£ 250.00	£ 320.00
Legacies/other income	£ 7,100.00				£ 7,100.00	
Sundry Income	£ 1,627.83				£ 1,627.83	£ 367.00
Discretionary Diocese Refund	14,725.00				£ 14,725.00	
Total Receipts	£115,821.18	£ 118.22	£ 1,097.53	£ 922.28	£117,959.21	£ 104,316.56

Statement of Expenditure

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Funds	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Payments						
Diocesan Expenses						
Parish Share	£ 36,123.12				£ 36,123.12	£ 44,220.00
Chester DBF	£ 8,151.80				£ 8,151.80	£ -
Vicarage Council Tax	£ 3,851.98				£ 3,851.98	£ 7,608.34
Vicars Expenses Reimbursement	£ 1,626.16				£ 1,626.16	£ 1,481.45
Vicarage Expenditure	£ -				£ -	£ -
Other Expenses						
Resources					£ -	£ -
Locum Vicar Costs	£ 2,520.40				£ 2,520.40	£ 1,266.56
Church Building						
Water Rates	£ 250.02				£ 250.02	£ 295.82
Oil	£ 1,253.50				£ 1,253.50	£ 1,247.75
Electricity	£ 809.95				£ 809.95	£ 2,838.33
Insurance St Nicholas'	£ 1,828.20				£ 1,828.20	£ 1,765.17
Insurance St Michael's	£ 1,807.97				£ 1,807.97	£ 1,786.47
Maintenance & Repairs	£ 1,418.93				£ 1,418.93	£ 6,430.01
Churchyard	£ 4,486.00				£ 4,486.00	£ 3,467.95
Sundry	£ 767.14				£ 767.14	£ 16.45
Church Wood	£ 1,550.00				£ 1,550.00	£ 64.58
Equipment	£ 2,191.46				£ 2,191.46	£ 2,843.84
Church Admin						
Verger	£ 1,144.50				£ 1,144.50	£ 538.00
Professional Fees	£ 2,262.00				£ 2,262.00	£ 1,638.00
Honoraria (Book Keeping)	£ 1,680.00				£ 1,680.00	£ 1,480.00
B Wilson School Trust Prof. Fees	£ 1,093.20				£ 1,093.20	£ 10,848.60
Upkeep/Cleaning	£ 910.00				£ 910.00	£ 1,470.00
Stationery & Copying	£ 641.31				£ 641.31	£ 614.83
Books & Materials	£ 200.00				£ 200.00	£ 798.13
Bell Ringers	£ 360.00				£ 360.00	£ 480.00
GVH Hire	£ 699.00				£ 699.00	£ -
Licences/Subscriptions	£ 610.82				£ 610.82	£ 274.99
Website & IT	£ 215.00				£ 215.00	£ 233.00
Organist/Choir Fees	£ 1,261.80				£ 1,261.80	£ 1,622.65
Telecoms	£ 460.69				£ 460.69	£ 420.45
Events	£ 1,526.43				£ 1,526.43	£ 1,329.53
Refund to St Michael's Church	£ -				£ -	£ -
Charitable Giving	£ 11,973.00				£ 11,973.00	£ 12,500.00
Children & Families Worker	£ 9,272.36				£ 9,272.36	£ 3,569.66
	£ 102,946.74	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 102,946.74	£ 113,150.56
Dividends Re-invested			£ 1,013.23		£ 1,013.23	£ 962.98
	£ 102,946.74	£ -	£ 1,013.23	£ -	£ 103,959.97	£ 114,113.54

Notes to the Accounts

Basis of preparation of accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Receipts

Voluntary income for 2025 was £49,056 compared with £49,443 in 2024.

The PCC continued to be aware of the risks associated with a diminishing income stream and the factors and consequences affected by a decline. These include:

- Inability to fund ministry in future
- Reduced capacity to fund outward giving
- Unable to meet running costs.

These risk factors can be exacerbated by:

- Significant reliance on a small group of generous donors
- Reduction in tax refund

In 2025 the PCC received a tax refund of £13,060 through Gift Aid compared with £12,189 in 2024. The amount received from HMRC represented 11% of total income for the year, emphasising the importance to PCC finances of regular planned giving by church members using Gift Aid, where possible.

Donations received through the Friends of St Nicholas' Church amounted to £2,540.

Fees received in 2025 from weddings and funerals amounted to £10,425 compared with £15,422 in 2024.

During the year, the Church received a Discretionary Grant of £14,625 from the Diocese of Chester. This grant was made in relation to the sale of the old Vicarage.

Investments

Funds to support day to day expenditure were held on deposit with Barclays Bank and Skipton Building Society.

Other longer-term funds are managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

During 2025 the PCC decided to close the Skipton accounts and re-invest the funds in CCLA. (This transaction was completed in February 2026)

Payments and Expense Costs

No unforeseen items of expenditure were incurred during the year.

A proportion of the fees collected by the PCC for weddings and funerals are payable to Chester Diocese (DBF). During the year £8,151 was paid including £5,714 that was owed for 2023 & 2024 DBF Fees.

During 2025, there was an arrangement with Bishop Wilson's School Charitable Trust for the PCC to facilitate the payment of legal costs incurred by the Trust which would subsequently be reimbursed. As at 31 December 2025, no funds were outstanding (2024 £2,145).

Outward Giving

In addition to various fund-raising events in aid of St Nicholas' Church and other causes, it is the policy of the PCC to support a number of charities annually. In 2025 the PCC was able to make the following donations to charitable causes:

Tear Fund	£1,000	Wirral Ark Project	£1,000
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£1,000	Save the Family	£1,000
The Mango Tree	£1,000	Church Mission Soc.	£1,000
Charles Thompson's Mission	£1,000	Chester Clergy Trust	£1,000
World Vision	£1,000	The Bible Society	£1,000
Melanesian Bros	£1,000	Other (fund raising event)	£ 973

Parish Share

All ministry expenses (vicar and related on costs) are shared with St Michael's Church, Shotwick. St Nicholas' Church PCC pays 77.25% of the cost and St Michael's Church PCC covers 22.75% of expenditure.

The amount paid by the parish to Chester Diocese to cover the costs associated with the employment of an incumbent was £36,123 in 2024 compared with £44,220 in 2023 (-18%).

Vicarage Accommodation

Certain costs associated with the provision of accommodation for the vicar and his family, including the council tax, are borne by the parishes of Burton and Shotwick.

Related Party Transactions

During the year an honorarium of £1,680 for accounting support services was paid to Helen Thomas, who is related to churchwarden and trustee Ivor Thomas.

Trustees Remuneration & Employees

The PCC had one employee in 2025, the Families and Children's Worker.

No expenses were either claimed by or paid to trustees in performance of their duties as trustees.

Accounts



St Nicholas' Church

Burton-in-Wirral

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**Trustees' Report &
Financial Statements**



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Foreword – Rev John Coyne

Apart from the regular and continuing activities of the church, as in every church, there is a need for forward momentum and a clear sense of direction of travel. This is essential for the future of St Nicholas' Church and the Parish.

Our three priorities are to:

- Enrich our Worship (UP)
- Grow members in their discipleship or following of Jesus Christ (IN)
- Engage with and reach out to our local community through personal contact and church-led activities (OUT).

Philip Hillman who, during this last year has been training for lay ministry, is now leading a review process and will be reporting his findings to the PCC shortly. Once a pathway is agreed by the PCC forward momentum will then require the mobilisation of our congregations to live out the direction of travel.

Our worship services are, as reported by the churchwardens, diverse in style. The regular services which need more support are the monthly early morning BC Holy Communion service, Evensong and the monthly All Age service on the first Sunday of the month. The All Age Service needs support in two ways in order to be viable. It needs busy young families to endeavour to make the first Sunday of the month part of their planned family activities and for older members not to avoid this service because it doesn't suit their preferences. Only then can this service be truly and fully inter-generational.

Our church's fortnightly 'FOLLOW' home group designed to help people grow as disciples, continues to have good support. However, one group is hardly a breakthrough and it would be wonderful to have others wishing to join a second regular group. Other ways of growing as followers of Christ may be through an occasional quiet day. Looking ahead it will be important to see what Philip Hillman's report has to say on this area of church life and on how we might develop greater community engagement.

As vicar, I continue to visit people extensively, both in the parish and beyond, as well as building local relationships. We are also indebted to those members of the congregation who voluntarily visit people who are no longer well enough to get out. Thank you to all those who are proactive and prayerful in supporting the life of our church here in Burton - your ministry is vital to us all.

Rev JE Coyne



The Parochial Church Council (PCC) Structure & Governance

The PCC is constituted and governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2006.

The method of appointing members of the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Regular Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll.



The PCC ensures compliance with the laws and regulations by acting on advice received from Chester Diocesan Board of Finance, information and updates received from the Charities Commission, advice and guidance received from professional advisers e.g. Independent Examiner, attendance by members at courses and seminars and by acting on information and directives issued to clergy.

Standing Committee

This is the only statutory committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to the directions of the PCC.

During the year, the Standing Committee comprised:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1) Rev John Coyne | 4) Anthony Carter, Deputy Churchwarden |
| 2) Jane Davies, Churchwarden | 5) Bryan Blakeman, Hon. Treasurer |
| 3) Ivor Thomas, Churchwarden | 6) John Church, Hon. Secretary |

Objectives & Activities

The principal objective of the PCC is to support the incumbent, to ensure the church's ministry is funded and to actively engage with and promote the wider mission of the church.

The PCC ensures that the church is open during daylight hours for times of private prayer and quiet reflection. The standard pattern of church services has been for a service to take place every Sunday at 10:00am and each Wednesday at 10:15am. In addition, Holy Communion services are held at 8:45am once a month and an Evensong service held monthly. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives.

Reserves

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to not less than three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.

Churchwarden's Reflections on Church Life

Throughout 2024 the PCC has been looking both inwards at the church community, and outwards to find ways of serving and working with the wider village communities.

Within the church, there is a commitment to support existing services. The churchwardens and the PCC have worked closely with our vicar Rev John Coyne and the ministry team to ensure we offer different worship styles. Throughout 2024 we maintained a range of services including All Age Worship, Holy Communion and Evensong which included various BCP services.



The PCC has also sought to offer alternative forms of worship to better cater to the needs of modern family life. To this end we were pleased to appoint a new Children and Families worker in August, whose work will complement that of the Messy Church team. In 2025 the PCC will continue to work on its vision for a healthy church – outreach, inclusiveness, Christ-centred and accessible - and they will explore further routes to achieve this vision.

Outwardly, the church has arranged a number of successful and vibrant community coffee mornings and has engaged in successful fundraising activities such as the 'Sea Shanty Fish & Chip Supper' that enabled a donation of £1,500 to be made to the supported cause. The events team has been actively arranging events for 2025 which will include a Gardeners' Question Time and a concert by Rhos Male Voice Choir.

In the past year, the church has enjoyed the community fellowship afforded by shared services with St Michael's Church, Shotwick, while retaining its own identity in Burton. The church continues to maintain strong links with other church organisations including its participation with the 'Neston and District Churches Together' and the 'Open the Book' team that acts out Bible stories at local schools. Our church has maintained its strong commitment to Bishop Wilson (Church of England Aided) School in Burton with involvement in school activities, children's assemblies, school governors and the Bishop Wilson's School Charitable Trust.

The PCC recognise, and is very grateful for, the contribution, large and small, of all church members who give their time, talents and resources in their commitment to faith and to church life. The PCC also thanks visiting clergy who have taken services during the year and for the periodic support they provide to our church.

Buildings and Maintenance

The PCC is committed to maintaining the fabric of the church building to a high standard and updating its facilities as well as maintaining its ancient churchyard.

During the year the video system for recording and streaming church services was completed by Richard King Systems. Plans for the refurbishment of the church toilet facility have also been progressed during the year. An updated scheme has been developed by the church architect that will be easier to maintain, creating a more user-friendly space including baby changing facilities and better heating. Quotations for the work are being sought to enable the PCC to approve the necessary works to be completed by Autumn of 2025.



A series of new signs placed throughout the churchyard and along the main road have been installed to promote the location of the church and the disabled parking provisions to new visitors. The main timber noticeboard has been fully refurbished and provided with up-to-date information.

The church gutters, gullies and downpipes have been professionally maintained and cleared throughout the year to prevent any issues with leaks inside the building.

As part of the church's ongoing safety policy a survey of gravestones throughout the churchyard was undertaken and a detailed report was provided to the PCC outlining those few graves that may require attention.

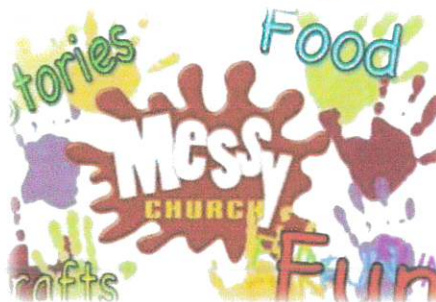
The outside floodlights were renewed and more efficient timer-controlled models have been installed to provide greater flexibility in their use. A revised lighting system to the tower steps was also installed to make access safer whilst inside the tower.

The churchyard grounds have been maintained to a very high standard over the year, and the area to the east of the church is establishing itself as a natural habitat area. As part of a project to improve biodiversity the area was sown with wildflower seeds during the Autumn/Winter and the wildflowers will help to attract further wildlife to the churchyard in the coming years.

The church is grateful to church members, the Friends of St Nicholas' Church and to others who contribute financially to support the maintenance of the church building, its churchyard and Church Wood.

Children & Families Outreach

The PCC is very thankful for the ongoing generosity of members of the congregation and several local trusts who have contributed towards the salary and ongoing costs of our part time Families and Children's Worker (F&CW) who was appointed in August. We are delighted to have Sheila Dennison, who is an experienced children's worker, undertaking the role and to have both her and her husband as part of the congregation.



A pre-school group for children, parents and carers called 'St Nic's Nippers' was inaugurated in the Autumn which began as a fortnightly event but which now meets weekly every Monday morning.

In addition, the F&CW shared in Messy Church activities, initially as an observer, but has now stepped up to lead activities alongside the rest of the team.

At Sunday morning services the F&CW provides activities for younger children at the back of Church and this has proved to be popular. If in future the children's group becomes larger, additional organised activities would be arranged in the vestry.

Throughout her initial period the F&CW has attended a Chester Diocesan led training course for workers enabling her to share ideas and best practice.

Looking ahead, we expect to begin a weekly mid-week activity and teaching group at the end of a school day for junior school children who attend Bishop Wilson School.

For this to be a viable proposition the Families and Children's Worker will need to be supported by a small team drawn from among the congregation who would be willing to become involved.

This initiative will be developed further during 2025 in conjunction with the PCC Diocesan Advisors and others.

During the year the PCC also provided work experience for a young person participating in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. This proved to be highly successful. The young person undertook verger duties each Sunday morning over a three month period and, at her own instigation, she also provided support to Messy Church activities and has undertaken Bible readings and other speaking roles at services and following completion of her assignment she continues to do so.

Pastoral Care & Community Support

During the past year the PCC implemented the planned initiative of appointing a pastoral care coordinator to support the work of the vicar. The primary function of the coordinator is to provide a conduit through which the needs of anyone within the parish can arrange to receive a visit from the vicar or a licensed lay reader. It has always been



recognised that local people and church members already carry out a vital community role of visiting those whom they know in order to offer vital support.

The implementation of the pastoral care coordinator's role has been very slow to gain momentum. Nevertheless, the PCC continues to believe that, given the part time nature of the vicar's role, a pastoral care coordinator should be available within the parish to ensure that visiting and support is available to anyone who is in need.

It is important to remember that all of us have a part to play in pastoral support in welcoming worshippers at our Sunday and Wednesday services and in noticing when someone may need extra care. St Nicholas' Church is grateful to all those who inhabit these caring and supporting roles with discretion and love.

Preparation for those seeking to be baptised is an important part of church life. During the year Ruth Abbott, who has been in training for ordination undertook responsibility for this work. Looking ahead, the Families and Children's Worker will also undertake baptism preparation for young families at Burton. We are very thankful for all that Ruth has undertaken whilst undergoing her training for ministry. Everyone at St Nicholas' Church wishes her every blessing as she prepares to move to the parish of West Kirby and Caldy after her ordination in late June 2025.

St Nicholas' Church undertook a great number of funerals during 2024 for church members and people living in the parish. The vicar takes great care over visiting the bereaved and conducting meaningful services to allow them to honour their loved ones. As a result of losing several church members our church congregation and our local community is much the poorer for the loss of some wonderful individuals.

St Nicholas' Church functions not only because of the dedication and enthusiasm of its incumbent, its lay readers, appointed officials and elected members, but also because of the activities, talents and commitment of all those who provide critical administrative and technical support as well as those who carry out other duties every week of the year.

Parish Safeguarding

Throughout the year the PCC has continued to fulfil its obligations towards Parish Safeguarding and, through the appointment of a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), has adopted a proactive approach towards this aspect of church life.



Safeguarding policies and procedures were maintained throughout 2024, with the PCC continuing to conform to the safeguarding guidance within the Church of England's House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy. A hard copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook is available in the church porch along with the information poster, 'Promoting a Safer Church' and a Statement on the commitment by the Parish to the Five National Safeguarding Standards.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement covering children, young people and vulnerable adults was reviewed by the PCC during the year. The policy was formally approved by the PCC for publication and endorsed by the vicar and two churchwardens, with a copy displayed in the church porch. This policy is reviewed annually.

Policies covering Safer Recruiting and the Recruitment of Ex-offenders have been maintained along with a safeguarding checklist that is used at PCC meetings to review the church's Safeguarding arrangements.

All new members of the PCC were briefed on their safeguarding role and responsibilities, and all PCC members, lay readers, churchwardens and church group leaders have completed an appropriate level of safeguarding training.

During 2024 the PSO has utilised the new Church of England Safeguarding Dashboard to ensure compliance with Statutory Safeguarding requirements.

Formal Approval of the Financial Statements and Trustees' Annual Report of St Nicholas' Church, Burton

Approved on behalf of the PCC on 25 March 2025



Signed by Rev John E Coyne, Incumbent

Date 25 March 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH,
BURTON - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas' Church Burton for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; 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.

P. N. Bates

Phillip Bates FCA

Phillip Bates & Co Limited

1/3 Chester Road, Neston, CH64 9PA

Date *28th March 2025*

B
Phillip Bates & Co Ltd
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT
ADVISERS

1/3 Chester Road
NESTON
South Wirral
CH64 9PA

Tel: 0151 351 0002
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 **ICAEW**
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Funds	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
Receipts						
Voluntary Income						
Cash Collections Bank	£ 734.88				£ 734.88	£ 7,422.90
Electronic Giving	£ 1,917.37				£ 1,917.37	£ 1,386.50
Cash Gift Aided	£ 2,576.00				£ 2,576.00	£ 4,260.00
Planned Giving	£ 41,545.00				£ 41,545.00	£ 59,882.41
Friends of St Nicholas'	£ 2,670.00				£ 2,670.00	£ 2,880.00
Bishop Wilson School Trust Prof. Fees	£ 8,703.60				£ 8,703.60	£ -
Interest		£ 131.67	£ 93.88	£ 1,027.18	£ 1,252.73	£ 732.93
Dividends			£ 962.98		£ 962.98	£ 922.03
Events	£ 3,043.00				£ 3,043.00	£ 2,464.50
Children & Families Worker	£ 7,100.00				£ 7,100.00	£ 11,160.00
Bld Soc Interest	£ 2,406.35				£ 2,406.35	£ 970.94
Tax Refund	£ 12,189.18				£ 12,189.18	£ 11,408.72
St Michael's Insurance	£ 1,786.47				£ 1,786.47	£ 933.00
St Michaels Contribution	£ 1,320.00				£ 1,320.00	£ 620.00
Weddings, Funerals & Memorials	£ 15,422.00				£ 15,422.00	£ 9,750.00
Magazine Income	£ 320.00				£ 320.00	£ -
Sundry Income	£ 367.00				£ 367.00	£ 296.00
Total Receipts	£ 102,100.85	£ 131.67	£ 1,056.86	£ 1,027.18	£ 104,316.56	£ 115,089.93

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Funds	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
Payments						
Diocesan Expenses						
Parish Share	£ 44,220.00				£ 44,220.00	£ 42,114.24
Chester DBF	£ -				£ -	£ 800.00
Vicarage Council Tax	£ 7,608.34				£ 7,608.34	£ -
Vicars Expenses Reimbursement	£ 1,481.45				£ 1,481.45	£ 1,231.79
Vicarage Expenditure	£ -				£ -	£ 1,800.00
Other Expenses						
Resources					£ -	£ 311.38
Locum Vicar Costs	£ 1,266.56				£ 1,266.56	£ 1,041.40
Church Building						
Water Rates	£ 295.82				£ 295.82	£ 289.29
Oil	£ 1,247.75				£ 1,247.75	£ 1,489.95
Electricity	£ 2,838.33				£ 2,838.33	£ 1,567.92
Insurance St Nicholas'	£ 1,765.17				£ 1,765.17	£ 2,259.43
Insurance St Michael's	£ 1,786.47				£ 1,786.47	£ 933.00
Maintenance & Repairs	£ 6,430.01				£ 6,430.01	£ 306.00
Churchyard	£ 3,467.95				£ 3,467.95	£ 3,928.00
Sundry	£ 16.45				£ 16.45	£ 99.00
Church Wood	£ 64.58				£ 64.58	£ 4,000.00
Equipment	£ 2,843.84				£ 2,843.84	£ 1,924.74
Church Admin						
Verger	£ 538.00				£ 538.00	£ 500.25
Professional Fees	£ 1,638.00				£ 1,638.00	£ 1,610.00
Honoraria (Book Keeping)	£ 1,480.00				£ 1,480.00	£ -
B Wilson School Trust Prof. Fees	£ 10,848.60				£ 10,848.60	£ -
Upkeep/Cleaning	£ 1,470.00				£ 1,470.00	£ 1,200.00
Stationery & Copying	£ 614.83				£ 614.83	£ 498.77
Books & Materials	£ 798.13				£ 798.13	£ 769.52
Bell Ringers	£ 480.00				£ 480.00	£ 630.00
Licences/Subscriptions	£ 274.99				£ 274.99	£ 287.00
Website & IT	£ 233.00				£ 233.00	£ 695.00
Organist Fees	£ 1,622.65				£ 1,622.65	£ 964.50
Telecoms	£ 420.45				£ 420.45	£ 386.66
Events	£ 1,329.53				£ 1,329.53	£ 585.58
Refund to St Michael's Church	£ -				£ -	£ 422.00
Charitable Giving	£ 12,500.00				£ 12,500.00	£ 14,199.85
Children & Families Worker	£ 3,569.66				£ 3,569.66	£ 3,500.00
	* £ 113,150.56	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 113,150.56	£ 90,345.27
Dividends Re-invested			£ 962.98		£ 962.98	£ 922.03
	* £ 113,150.56	£ -	£ 962.98	£ -	£ 114,113.54	£ 91,267.30

Balance Sheet

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Funds	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
Receipts	£ 102,100.85	£ 131.67	£ 1,056.86	£ 1,027.18	£ 104,316.56	£ 115,089.93
Payments	-£ 113,150.56		-£ 962.98		-£ 114,113.54	-£ 91,267.30
Net	-£ 11,049.71	£ 131.67	£ 93.88	£ 1,027.18	-£ 9,796.98	£ 23,822.63
Bank & Cash 01-01-24	£ 128,943.74	£ 2,480.68	£ 1,768.87	£ 19,352.23	£ 152,545.52	£ 128,722.89
Bank & Cash 31-12-24	£ 117,894.03	£ 2,612.35	£ 1,862.75	£ 20,379.41	£ 142,748.54	£ 152,545.52

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Funds	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
Statement of Assets & Liabilities						
Barclays Account No. 1	£ 27,787.95				£ 27,787.95	£ 43,318.23
Barclays Account No. 2	£ 16,590.34				£ 16,590.34	£ 13,060.00
Skipton Building Society No. 1	£ 58,238.21				£ 58,238.21	£ 56,338.45
Skipton Building Society No. 2	£ 15,243.65				£ 15,243.65	£ 14,737.06
Cash on Hand	£ 33.88				£ 33.88	£ 1,490.00
CCLA Fabric Fund				£ 20,379.41	£ 20,379.41	£ 19,352.23
CCLA Contingency		£ 2,612.35			£ 2,612.35	£ 2,480.68
CCLA Church Yard Fund			£ 1,862.75		£ 1,862.75	£ 1,768.87
	£ 117,894.03	£ 2,612.35	£ 1,862.75	£ 20,379.41	£ 142,748.54	£ 152,545.52
						-£ 9,796.98
					Total 2024	Total 2023

Investment Assets at Valuation

CBF CofE Inv Fund Income Shares						
Contingency Fund						
Church Yard Repair Fund			£ 36,083.74		£ 36,083.74	£ 34,337.68

Approved on behalf of the PCC on 25 March 2025

Signed by

Rev John E Coyne, Incumbent



Ivor Thomas, Churchwarden & Trustee



Notes to the Accounts

Basis of preparation of accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

1 Receipts

Voluntary income for 2024 was £49,443 compared with £75,831 in 2023 a decrease of 34%. After allowing for the fact that income in 2023 was overstated by £10,000 due to a donation due in 2022 being received in 2023, on a like-for-like basis voluntary income reduced by 24.9%.

The PCC has been made aware of the risks associated with a diminishing income stream and the factors and consequences affected by allowing this decline to continue. These include:

- Inability to fund ministry in future
- Reduced capacity to fund outward giving
- Unable to meet running costs

These risk factors are also exacerbated by:

- An ageing congregation who may be less financially secure
- Significant reliance on a small group of generous but declining donors
- Other church members unable or unwilling to bridge the financial gap
- Obligation to support Bishop Wilson (Church of England Aided) School
- Potential for the school's charitable trust unable to maintain current funding
- Reduction in tax refund due to declining donations

In 2024 the PCC received a tax refund of £12,189 through Gift Aid compared with £11,408 in 2023. The amount received from HMRC represents 16% of total income for the year, emphasising the importance to PCC finances of regular planned giving by church members using Gift Aid where and whenever it is possible to do so.

The PCC has expressed its commitment to addressing the issue.

Donations received through the Friends of St Nicholas' Church amounted to £2,670 as a result of regular donations received via bank payments.

As part of its role within the local community St Nicholas' Church continues to provide a place for families to come together at times of bereavement and to celebrate weddings. Fees received in 2024 from weddings and funerals amounted to £15,422 compared with £9,750 in 2023.

3 Investments

Funds to support day to day expenditure are held on deposit with Barclays Bank and with Skipton Building Society.

Other longer-term funds are managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

4 Payments and Expense Costs

No unforeseen items of expenditure were incurred during the year.

A proportion of the fees collected by the PCC for weddings and funerals are payable to Chester Diocese (DBF). As at 31 December 2024, £5,714 of fees were due to the DBF (paid in January 2025).

During 2024, there was an arrangement with Bishop Wilson's School Charitable Trust for the PCC to facilitate the payment of legal costs incurred by the trust which would subsequently be reimbursed. As at 31 December 2024, £2,145 of funds due to be reimbursed remained outstanding (received in February 2025).

5 Outward Giving

In addition to various fund-raising events in aid of St Nicholas' Church and other causes, it is the policy of the PCC to support a number of charities annually. In 2024 the PCC was able to make the following donations to charitable causes:

Tear Fund	£1,000	Wirral Ark Project	£1,000
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£1,000	Save the Family	£1,000
The Mango Tree	£1,000	Church Mission Soc.	£1,000
Charles Thompson's Mission	£1,000	Chester Clergy Trust	£1,000
World Vision	£1,000	The Bible Society	£1,000
Melanesian Bros	£1,000	Other (fund raising event)	£1,500

6 Parish Share

All ministry expenses (vicar and related on-costs) are shared with St Michael's Church, Shotwick. St Nicholas' Church PCC pays 77.25% of the cost and St Michael's Church PCC covers 22.75% of expenditure.

The amount paid by the parish to Chester Diocese to cover the costs associated with the employment of an incumbent was £44,220 in 2024 compared with £42,114 in 2023 (+5%).

7 Vicarage Accommodation

Certain costs associated with the provision of accommodation for the vicar and his family, including the council tax, are borne by the parishes of Burton and Shotwick.

8 Related Party Transactions

During the year an honorarium of £1,480 for accounting support services was paid to Helen Thomas, who is related to churchwarden and trustee Ivor Thomas.

9 Trustees Remuneration & Employees

The PCC had one employee in 2024, the Families and Children's Worker.

No expenses were either claimed by or paid to trustees in performance of their duties as trustees.

Accounts



St Nicholas' Church
Burton-in-Wirral

Annual Report

Year Ending 31 December 2023



Financial Statements & Trustees' Report

Registered Charity 1184831



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May I begin by thanking all those who serve at St Nicholas' Church throughout the year; those mentioned within these reports and those who serve unseen in the background. You are so important to the ongoing life of church and parish. As you all read through these reports do please note the care and diligences shown in so many ways by those who help us steward our energies and resources.

Thank you too for the warm reception shown to Sue and myself as we have endeavoured to make our home here. Moving brings its challenges and its cost.

I write this foreword at a time of significant development and the reports of the past year have, to some extent, paved the way for what is to come. The PCC both here at Burton and at Shotwick will be seeking to discern a forward looking vision for the parish. By the time you read this we will have taken steps to appoint a Children and Families worker. As we do so we give thanks for the careful stewardship over the past years as well as recognising that we are now seeking to overcome the loss of momentum in the parish exacerbated by the pandemic which led to an erosion of ministry initiatives as well as the loss of much loved members of the Church.

All in all we now want to lay the foundations to strengthen the life of the Church in worship, mutual support, fellowship and outreach to those who as yet are not followers of Christ. This will necessitate courage, generosity and a degree of personal sacrifice as we try new ways of ministry and go out of our way to welcome amongst us others with different experiences and expectations.

I do know that we are building on foundations laid in the past and now we must move into a new phase of building for growth. In all of that, we will need to work together for the common good and with a longing for God to be glorified by all we have done and will now do moving forward.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Coyne".

Vicar of Burton and Shotwick

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) Structure & Governance

The PCC is constituted and governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2006.

The method of appointing members of the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Regular Church Attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll.

The PCC ensures compliance with the laws and regulations by acting on advice received from Chester Diocese Board of Finance, information and updates received from the Charities Commission, advice and guidance received from professional advisers e.g. Independent Examiner, attendance by members at courses and seminars and by acting on information and directives issued to clergy.

Standing Committee

This is the only statutory committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to the directions of the PCC.

During the year the Standing Committee comprised:

- 1) Rev. John Coyne, Vicar
- 2) Ivor Thomas, Churchwarden
- 3) Jane Davies, Churchwarden
- 4) Anthony Carter, Deputy Churchwarden
- 5) Bryan Blakeman, Hon. Treasurer
- 6) John Vinson, Hon. Secretary

Objectives & Activities

The principal objective of the PCC is to support the incumbent, to ensure the church's ministry is funded and to engage with and promote the wider mission of the church.

The PCC ensures that the church is open to all during daylight hours for times of private prayer and quiet reflection. During the year church services have taken place every Sunday at 10:00am and every Wednesday at 10:15am. Holy Communion services have been held on the third Sunday of each month at 8:45am and an Evensong service held on the first Sunday of each month at 6:30pm (4:00pm in Winter). The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives.

Reserves

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.



ChurchLife

St Nicholas' Church continues to provide a place for Christian worship, a place of solace, somewhere for quiet reflection as well as the church being an integral part of the community.

At the start of the year the church was without a vicar, so services were led by our Lay Readers and a group of local ordained priests - some of whom were retired - all of whom deserve our sincere thanks. Meanwhile the process of appointing a new vicar continued throughout the first half of the year and into the second. The PCCs of both Burton and Shotwick considered the options, provided by the Diocese, for recruiting a new vicar. Both PCCs agreed that the preferred option would be to recruit a part-time vicar (0.5) rather than to merge the two parishes with another benefice. The rationale for this was:



1. The appointment of a part-time incumbent would reduce the overall cost to the parish resulting from a reduction in the amount paid to Chester Diocese (Parish Share);
2. It would better preserve the identity and independence of both parishes; and
3. It would be possible for the new incumbent to continue to be accommodated within Burton as had the previous vicar.

Preparations were made to provide an attractive parish profile describing the church, the parish and its location along with a job description setting out the duties, responsibilities and number of working days expected. Assistance and advice for this and the subsequent advertising and interview were provided by the Diocese and our patrons. The position was advertised nationally.

Subsequently Rev John Coyne who had been living in the Cotswolds, and supported by his wife Sue, decided to apply. After a formal application and interviewing process John was duly offered the post. John grew up on the Wirral and has experience not only as a parish priest, but as an RAF Chaplain over many years and in working with other church organisations in an advisory and pastoral role. Sue Coyne is also a licensed Lay Reader.

On Sunday 16 October John Coyne was inducted as the vicar of St. Nicholas' Church Burton and St. Michael's Church Shotwick. At the same service Sue Coyne was licensed by the Diocese as a Lay Reader at both of our Churches.

John Vinson, Hon. Secretary

Building and Maintenance

Having just completed in 2021 the surgery or felling of trees in the Church Wood that were causing distress to the churchyard's sandstone retaining wall, two further diseased trees were discovered and they also had to be felled in January 2022. Tenders for the rebuilding of that wall were obtained and the winning offer was approved, but has had to be deferred until Spring 2023 owing to weather conditions and pressure of work on stonemasons.



Sandstone gateposts twice required major and expensive repair. At the top of the main flight of steps was broken by stormss sometime ago and, following a very lengthy disagreement with the insurers as to the scope of cover provided by the policy, (successfully resolved), was rebuilt in January 2022. A quite separate incident caused the serious fracture of one of the two gateposts at the entrance from The Rake, which was relatively speedily resolved with the insurers, and it was rebuilt just in time for the service of induction of our new vicar by the Bishop of Chester in October.

After major refurbishment in 2020 by the Cumbria Clock company, the tower clock striking mechanism broke in the spring of 2022, and was repaired by them in June 2022 without further cost.



A project was established in 2022 to enable the 'live-streaming' of services and other events such as weddings via the internet. Some problems are still to be sorted out which may require some additional technical input and it is hoped that the system will be operational in 2023.

Otherwise, there have been the normal yearly items of maintenance and servicing of mowers, heating plant, fire extinguishers, organ, and piano, which have been satisfactorily carried out, together with minor repair items to the fabric generally.

The church is grateful to church members, Friends of St Nicholas' Church and others who contribute financially to help maintain the church building.

Nigel Griffiths, Churchwarden

Children, Youth, Families and School

St Nicholas' Church continues to provide opportunities for youth and young children to meet. A small group of young people, TBV, has continued to meet. As a group they led a church service during the year which included an exploration of prayer. They have enjoyed social activities as well as developing a deepening understanding of biblical and moral issues.

Messy Church

Messy Church for young children and their families continued to meet throughout the year, pausing briefly during the period of mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. 'Messy Remembrance' provided an opportunity for children to have their own act of remembrance. It was also a time to meet their vicar, Rev John Coyne and hear about his experiences as a Chaplain in the RAF. Towards the end of the year there was a 'Christmas Messy Church' with the theme of celebrating Jesus' birthday.



Church Urban Fund Support

Children participated in another successful 'Advent Sleepout Challenge' which raised an impressive £500. This was donated by the children to the Church Urban Fund. Everyone involved in the fund-raising were moved by the support the activity received from the wider church for their endeavours.

Open the Book

St Nicholas' Church actively supports and promotes the 'Open the Book' scheme amongst local primary schools in the Neston area. The scheme, developed by the Bible Society, offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories told by a team from the church who present bible stories during assemblies or acts of collective worship.

Bishop Wilson School, Burton

The church retains strong links with Bishop Wilson School. This is achieved through its participation in appointing and charring the school governors and the trustees of the charity 'Bishop Wilson School Charitable Foundation Trust' as well as involvement in acts of worship both in school and in church.



Amanda Ankers

Outreach and Pastoral Care

In addition to providing a place for worship St Nicholas' Church has a wider role in reaching out in support of people across the community.

To this end the church contributes extensively to community life in conducting wedding and funeral services, organising community and fund-raising events, carrying out hospital and home visits and providing resources to enable various groups to meet, engage and support one another.



There continues to be considerable need amongst people across the parish affected by bereavement, isolation, illness, financial hardship and the need to seek care in their advancing years.

Over the course of the year fund-raising events in aid of church funds and for charitable causes have included:

- Coffee Mornings
- Harvest Supper Charity Evenings
- Concerts in Church
- Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal
- Christian Aid
- Charles Thompson's Mission
- Wirral Foodbank
- Platinum Jubilee



As part of its outreach programme St Nicholas' Church produces a high quality bimonthly *Parish Magazine & Community News* providing a wide body of information and it is distributed to over 350 individuals.

The Mothers' Union held meetings and church services throughout the year raising funds independently of the church for the MU own charities.

In conjunction with St Michael's Church, an annual *'Walk of Witness'* took place on Good Friday. The walk began in Shotwick taking in Puddington village and culminated in a short service in Burton. St Nicholas' Church also participates in the organisation *'Neston and District Churches Together'* and chaired the group for part of the year.

St Nicholas' Church is grateful to all those who give of their time, talents and resources that contribute so much to these aspects of church life, principally for the benefit of others.

Parish Safeguarding

During the course of the year and with the approval of the PCC, Ivor Thomas continued as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO).

Safeguarding policies and procedures were maintained throughout 2022, with the PCC continuing to conform with the safeguarding guidance within the Church of England's House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy. A hard copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook is available in the church porch along with the information poster, 'Promoting a Safer Church'.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement covering and vulnerable adults was reviewed by the PCC and was formally approved by the PCC for publication and endorsed by the vicar and two Churchwardens, with a copy displayed in the church porch. This policy is reviewed annually.

Policies covering Safer Recruiting and the Recruitment of Ex-offenders have been maintained along with a safeguarding checklist that is used at PCC Meetings to review the Church's Safeguarding arrangements.

All new members of the PCC were briefed on their safeguarding role and responsibilities and all PCC members and Lay Readers have completed an appropriate level of Safeguarding Training. The PSO and new Incumbent completed the latest Safeguarding Leadership Training in 2022.

During 2022, following a review of past cases of safeguarding incidents, the Church of England and the Chester Diocese published reports (PCR2) that included recommendations for changes in procedure, training, and an extension of DBS (criminal records) checking. These recommendations were endorsed by the Bishop of Birkenhead (as Diocesan Safeguarding Lead) and adopted by the PCC. Consequently full compliance of these recommendations by the PCC with regards to Safeguarding Training and DBS checks for members and others is anticipated within the first half of 2023.

Ivor Thomas, Parish Safeguarding Officer

*Annual Report approved on behalf of the PCC on 9 April 2023 Signed by
Rev John E Coyne, Incumbent*



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas' Church Burton for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; 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.

Janet Jones ACA
Phillip Bates & Co Limited
1/3 Chester Road, Neston, CH64 9PA

Date 26.4.23



Phillip Bates & Co Ltd
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADVISERS

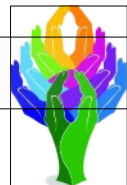
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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

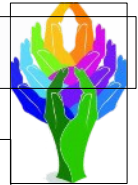


	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
Receipts						
Voluntary Income						
Collections	6,106.92				6,106.92	2,362.90
Envelopes	3,751.00				3,751.00	2,615.00
Planned Giving	40,322.00				40,322.00	52,877.00
Friends of St Nicholas'	3,060.00				3,060.00	3,030.00
Legacies	13,000.00				13,000.00	0.00
Interest		31.21	22.24	243.42	296.87	11.77
Dividends			891.17		891.17	838.97
Events	1,787.00				1,787.00	671.50
Vicar's leaving gift	0.00				0.00	3,600.00
Bld. Soc. Interest	209.13				209.13	162.82
Tax Refund	11,740.48				11,740.48	11,749.57
Shotwick Contribution	1,400.00				1,400.00	1,680.00
Weddings & Funerals	11,661.00				11,661.00	6,924.00
Magazine Income	560.00				560.00	0.00
Sundry Income	41.06				41.06	1,077.64
Special Donations	391.95				391.95	1,000.00
Chester Diocese	3,825.84				3,825.84	0.00
VAT Refund	0.00				0.00	2,976.00
Insurance Claims	1,792.00				1,792.00	2,740.00
Total Receipts	99,648.38	31.21	913.41	243.42	100,836.42	94,317.17



	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
Payments						
Diocesan Expenses						
Parish Share	26,815.90				37,716.18	52,631.61
Chester DBF	11,380.48				480.20	2,148.00
Vicarage Council	212.65				212.65	2,932.86
Vicarage Expenses						2,024.22
Interregnum Expense	1,092.32				1,092.32	
Sundry						292.00
Other Expenses						
Resources	244.59				244.59	446.39
Travel	87.75				87.75	296.90
Locum Vicar Costs	3,768.35				3,768.35	914.90
Church Building						
Water Rates	83.50				83.50	78.37
Oil	2,967.40				2,967.40	730.22
Electricity	967.78				967.78	785.06
Insurance	1,853.77				1,853.77	1,895.18
Maintenance Costs	5,554.31				5,554.31	879.15
Churchyard	2,736.00				2,736.00	2,425.00
Sundry	351.81				351.81	507.00
Church Wood	1,275.00				1,275.00	5,625.00
Church Admin						
Vergers	670.25				670.25	0.00
Professional Fees	1,500.00				1,500.00	1,440.00
Upkeep/Cleaning	1,161.00				1,161.00	895.00
Wi-Fi						205.97
Magazine						
Stationery & Copy	470.76				470.76	338.86
Books & Material	302.44				302.44	
Bell Ringers	1,155.00				1,155.00	150.00
GVH Hire	290.00				290.00	
Licences/Subscription	269.00				269.00	257.00
Website & IT	233.00				233.00	215.00
Organist Fees	1,528.90				1,528.90	70.00
Telecoms	345.91				345.91	271.55
Equipment						239.99
Events	1,599.50				1,599.50	0.00
Clock Repairs						3,486.00
Gift to Vicar						3,600.00
Other (Discretionary)	500.00				500.00	328.62
Charitable Giving	8,732.45				8,732.45	6,950.00
	78,149.82				78,149.82	93,059.85
Divs Reinvested			891.17		891.17	838.97
	78,149.82		891.17		79,040.99	93,898.82

St Nicholas' Church, Burton - Financial Statements & Trustees' Annual Report for Year Ended 31 December 2022



	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
Receipts	99,648.38	31.21	913.41	243.42	100,836.42	94,317.17
Payments	-78,149.82		-891.17		-79,040.99	93,898.82
Net	21,498.56	31.21	22.24	243.42	21,795.43	418.35
Bank & Cash 1.01.22	84,355.48	2,372.43	1,691.70	18,507.85	106,927.46	106,509.11
Bank & Cash 21.12.22	105,854.04	2,403.64	1,713.94	18,751.27	128,722.89	106,927.46

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
Statement of Assets & Liabilities						
Barclays Account No 1	34,015.87				34,015.87	17,008.19
Barclays Account No 2	16,737.06				16,737.06	16,737.06
Skipton Building Society	55,101.11				55,101.11	50,610.23
CCLA Fabric Fund				18,751.27	18,751.27	18,507.85
CCLA Contingency		2,403.64			2,403.64	2,372.43
CCLA Ch'yard Fund			1,713.94		1,713.94	1,691.70
	105,854.04	2,403.64	1,713.94	18,751.27	128,722.89	106,927.46
Investment Assets at Valuation					Total 2022	Total 2021
CBF C of E Inv.Fund Income shares						
Contingency Fund						
Churchyard Repair Fund			30,504.28		30,504.28	33,605.44
			30,504.28		30,504.28	33,605.44

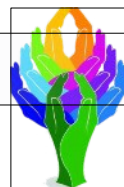
Approved on behalf of the PC on 9 April 2023 Signed

by Rev John E Coyne, Incumbent

Bryan Blakeman, Hon Treasurer

Notes to the accounts

1. Basis of preparation of accounts



The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2. Receipts

Voluntary income for 2022 was £53,239 compared with £60,884 in 2021 (-12.6%). However, funds amounting to approximately £10,000 which were pledged and due in 2022 were not received until 2023 due to an administrative error by a third party. Consequently, after adjustment, the true picture is that voluntary income showed a small increase on the previous year. In addition, the church received further donations from two legacies amounting to £13,000. The church's voluntary income continues to be subject to risk because it relies substantially on the generosity of a relatively small number of established church members. Any future diminution in contributions from these longer-established church members is unlikely to be replaced by contributions from newer church members.

In 2022 the PCC received a tax refund of £11,740 through Gift Aid compared with £11,749 in 2021. The amount received from HMRC represents 11.6% of total income for the year, emphasising once again the importance to PCC finances of regular planned giving by church members using Gift Aid where and whenever it is possible to do so.

Total income for the year, including special donations, tax refunds etc. amounted to £100,836 compared with £94,317 in 2021. With total expenditure of £79,040 for the year, the excess of income over expenditure was £21,796.

In terms of the ongoing risk to church finances the PCC recognises that funds received from a small number of very generous donor households is neither being replaced nor supplemented by a new and younger generation of church members. In 2022 the church experienced a reduction in donations from a some regular donors due to varying circumstances and it is anticipated that similar circumstances are likely to arise in 2023.

Donations received through the Friends of St Nicholas' Church amounted to £3,060 as a result of regular donations received via bank payments.

Fees received in 2022 from weddings and funerals amounted to £11,661 (£6,924 in 2021). In addition an amount of £3,825 was received from Chester Diocese largely to cover exceptional costs incurred by the parish during the vacancy (the period between the resignation of the previous vicar and the appointment of a new incumbent).



3. Investments

Funds to support day to day expenditure are held on deposit with Barclays Bank and with Skipton Building Society. Other longer-term funds are managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd

4. Payments & Expense Costs

Although none of the foreseen items of expenditure were incurred during the year the parish did incur costs associated with the appointment of a new incumbent. Including locum fees paid to visiting clergy who took services during the interregnum as well as other administrative expenses, these exceptional expenses amounted to £4,860.

5. Outward Giving

In addition to ad hoc charity appeals it is the policy of the PCC to support a number of charities annually. In 2022 total donations amounted to:

Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal	£1,610	Wirral Ark Project	£1,000
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£500	Save the Family	£1,000
The Mango Tree	£1,000	Church Mission Soc.	£700
Charles Thompson's Mission	£1,000	Chester Clergy Trust	£500
The Bible Society	£500	Ad Hoc Charities	£922

6. Parish Share

All ministry expenses (Vicar and related on-costs) are shared with St Michael's Church, Shotwick. St Nicholas' Church pays 77.25% of the cost and St Michael's Church covers 22.75% of expenditure. Following the decision taken by the two parishes in consultation with Chester Diocese to appoint a new part-time incumbent the amount of parish share reduced from £52,631 in 2021 to £26,815 in 2022.

7. Related Party Transactions

During the year an amount of £1,275 was paid for work relating to the clearance of woodland in Church Wood. This was undertaken as part of an initial scheme of work completed in 2021 to remove dead and dangerous trees on the edge of the wood.

Following a formal tender process undertaken by the Churchwardens, the work was completed by Maresfield Farm, a business in which Mr Blakeman is a partner. The work was undertaken on normal commercial terms.

8. Trustees Remuneration

The PCC did not have any employees in 2022 and no expenses were either claimed by, or paid to Trustees in performance of their duties as Trustees.

Accounts



St Nicholas' Church
Burton-in-Wirral

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022



FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS &
TRUSTEES'
REPORT

Registered Charity 1184831



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Foreword - Rev John Coyne



May I begin by thanking all those who serve at St Nicholas' Church throughout the year; those mentioned within these reports and those who serve unseen in the background. You are so important to the ongoing life of church and parish. As you all read through these reports do please note the care and diligence shown in so many ways by those who help us steward our energies and resources.

Thank you too for the warm reception shown to Sue and myself as we have endeavoured to make our home here. Moving brings its challenges and its cost.

I write this foreword at a time of significant development and the reports of the past year have, to some extent, paved the way for what is to come. The PCC both here at Burton and at Shotwick will be seeking to discern a forward looking vision for the parish. By the time you read this we will have taken steps to appoint a Children and Families worker. As we do so we give thanks for the careful stewardship over the past years as well as recognising that we are now seeking to overcome the loss of momentum in the parish exacerbated by the pandemic which led to an erosion of ministry initiatives as well as the loss of much loved members of the Church.

All in all we now want to lay the foundations to strengthen the life of the Church in worship, mutual support, fellowship and outreach to those who as yet are not followers of Christ. This will necessitate courage, generosity and a degree of personal sacrifice as we try new ways of ministry and go out of our way to welcome amongst us others with different experiences and expectations.

I do know that we are building on foundations laid in the past and now we must move into a new phase of building for growth. In all of that, we will need to work together for the common good and with a longing for God to be glorified by all we have done and will now do moving forward.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Coyne". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Vicar of Burton and Shotwick

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Structure & Governance

The PCC is constituted and governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2006.

The method of appointing members of the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Regular Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll.

The PCC ensures compliance with the laws and regulations by acting on advice received from Chester Diocese Board of Finance, information and updates received from the Charities Commission, advice and guidance received from professional advisers e.g. Independent Examiner, attendance by members at courses and seminars and by acting on information and directives issued to clergy.

Standing Committee

This is the only statutory committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to the directions of the PCC.

During the year the Standing Committee comprised:

- 1) Rev John Coyne (16 Oct 2022)
- 2) Nigel Griffiths, Churchwarden
- 3) Ivor Thomas, Churchwarden
- 4) Anthony Carter, Deputy Churchwarden
- 5) John Vinson, Hon. Secretary
- 6) Bryan Blakeman, Hon. Treasurer

Objectives & Activities

The principal objective of the PCC is to support the incumbent, to ensure the church's ministry is funded and to engage with and promote the wider mission of the church.

The PCC ensures that the church is open to all during daylight hours for times of private prayer and quiet reflection. During the year church services have taken place every Sunday at 10:00am and every Wednesday at 10:15am. Holy Communion services have been held on the third Sunday of each month at 8:45am and an Evensong service held on the first Sunday of each month at 6:30pm (4:00pm in Winter). The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives.

Reserves

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.



Church Life

St Nicholas' Church continues to provide a place for Christian worship, a place of solace, somewhere for quiet reflection as well as the church being an integral part of the community.



At the start of the year the church was without a vicar, so services were led by our Lay Readers and a group of local ordained priests - some of whom were retired - all of whom deserve our sincere thanks. Meanwhile the process of appointing a new vicar continued throughout the first half of the year and into the second. The PCCs of both Burton and Shotwick considered the options, provided by the Diocese, for recruiting a new vicar. Both PCCs agreed that the preferred option would be to recruit a part-time vicar (0.5) rather than to merge the two parishes with another benefice. The rationale for this was:

1. The appointment of a part-time incumbent would reduce the overall cost to the parish resulting from a reduction in the amount paid to Chester Diocese (Parish Share);
2. It would better preserve the identity and independence of both parishes; and
3. It would be possible for the new incumbent to continue to be accommodated within Burton as had the previous vicar.

Preparations were made to provide an attractive parish profile describing the church, the parish and its location along with a job description setting out the duties, responsibilities and number of working days expected. Assistance and advice for this and the subsequent advertising interview were provided by the Diocese and our patrons. The position was advertised nationally.

Subsequently Rev John Coyne who had been living in the Cotswolds, and supported by his wife Sue, decided to apply. After a formal application and interviewing process John was duly offered the post. John grew up on the Wirral and has experience not only as a parish priest, but as an RAF Chaplain over many years and in working with other church organisations in an advisory and pastoral role. Sue Coyne is also a licensed Lay Reader.

On Sunday 16 October John Coyne was inducted as the vicar of St. Nicholas' Church Burton and St. Michael's Church Shotwick. At the same service Sue Coyne was licensed by the Diocese as a Lay Reader at both of our Churches.

John Vinson, Hon. Secretary

Building and Maintenance

Having just completed in 2021 the surgery or felling of trees in the Church Wood that were causing distress to the churchyard's sandstone retaining wall, two further diseased trees were discovered and they also had to be felled in January 2022.

Tenders for the rebuilding of that wall were obtained and the winning offer was approved, but has had to be deferred until Spring 2023 owing to weather conditions and pressure of work on stonemasons.

Sandstone gateposts twice required major and expensive repair work. One gatepost at the top of the main flight of steps was broken by storms some time ago and, following a very lengthy disagreement with the insurers as to the scope of cover provided by the policy, (successfully resolved), was rebuilt in January 2022. A quite separate incident caused the serious fracture of one of the two gateposts at the entrance from The Rake, which was relatively speedily resolved with the insurers, and it was rebuilt just in time for the service of induction of our new vicar by the Bishop of Chester in October.

After major refurbishment in 2020 by the Cumbria Clock company, the tower clock striking mechanism broke in the spring of 2022, and was repaired by them in June 2022 without further cost.

A project was established in 2022 to enable the 'live-streaming' of church services and other events such as weddings via the internet. Some technical problems are still to be sorted out which may require some additional technical input and it is hoped that the system will be operational in 2023.

Otherwise, there have been the normal yearly items of maintenance and servicing of mowers, heating plant, fire extinguishers, organ, and piano, which have been satisfactorily carried out, together with minor repair items to the fabric generally.

The church is grateful to church members, Friends of St Nicholas' Church and others who contribute financially to help maintain the church building.

Nigel Griffiths, Churchwarden



Children, Youth, Families and School

St Nicholas' Church continues to provide opportunities for youth and young children to meet. A small group of young people, TBY, has continued to meet. As a group they led a church service during the year which included an exploration of prayer. They have enjoyed social activities as well as developing a deepening understanding of biblical and moral issues.

Messy Church

Messy Church for young children and their families continued to meet throughout the year, pausing briefly during the period of mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. 'Messy Remembrance' provided an opportunity for children to have their own act of remembrance. It was also a time for them to meet their vicar, Rev John Coyne and hear about his experiences as a Military Chaplain in the RAF. Towards the end of the year there was a 'Christmas Messy Church' with the theme of celebrating Jesus' birthday



Church Urban Fund Support

Children participated in another successful 'Advent Sleepout Challenge' which raised an impressive £500. This was donated by the children to the Church Urban Fund. Everyone involved in the fund-raising were moved by the support the activity received from the wider church for their endeavours.

Open the Book

St Nicholas' Church actively supports and promotes the 'Open the Book' scheme amongst local primary schools in the Neston area. The scheme, developed by the Bible Society, offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories told by a team from the church who present bible stories during assemblies or acts of collective worship.

Bishop Wilson School, Burton

The church retains strong links with Bishop Wilson School. This is achieved through its participation in appointing and chairing the school governors and the trustees of the charity 'Bishop Wilson School Charitable Foundation Trust' as well as involvement in acts of worship both in school and in church.



Amanda Ankers

Outreach and Pastoral Care

In addition to providing a place for worship St Nicholas' Church has a wider role in reaching out in support of people across the community.

To this end the church contributes extensively to community life in conducting wedding and funeral services, organising community and fund-raising events, carrying out hospital and home visits and providing resources to enable various groups to meet, engage and support one another.

There continues to be considerable need amongst people across the parish affected by bereavement, isolation, illness, financial hardship and the need to seek care in their advancing years.

Over the course of the year fund-raising events in aid of church funds and for charitable causes have included:

- Coffee Mornings
- Harvest Supper Charity Evenings
- Concerts in Church
- Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal
- Christian Aid
- Charles Thompson's Mission
- Wirral Foodbank
- Platinum Jubilee



As part of its outreach programme St Nicholas' Church produces a good quality bimonthly '*Parish Magazine & Community News*' publication containing a wide body of information and it is distributed to over 350 individuals.

The Mothers' Union held meetings and church services throughout the year raising funds independently of the church for the MU own charities.

In conjunction with St Michael's Church, an annual '*Walk of Witness*' took place on Good Friday. The walk began in Shotwick taking in Puddington village and culminated in a short service in Burton. St Nicholas' Church also participates in the organisation '*Neston and District Churches Together*' and chaired the group for part of the year.

St Nicholas' Church is grateful to all those who give of their time, talents and resources that contribute so much to these aspects of church life, principally for the benefit of others.

Parish Safeguarding

During the course of the year and with the approval of the PCC, Ivor Thomas continued as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO).

Safeguarding policies and procedures were maintained throughout 2022, with the PCC continuing to conform with the safeguarding guidance within the Church of England's House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy. A hard copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook is available in the church porch along with the information poster, 'Promoting a Safer Church'.



The Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement covering children, young people and vulnerable adults was reviewed by the PCC during the year. The policy was formally approved by the PCC for publication and endorsed by the Vicar and two Churchwardens, with a copy displayed in the church porch. This policy is reviewed annually.

Policies covering Safer Recruiting and the Recruitment of Ex-offenders have been maintained along with a safeguarding checklist that is used at PCC Meetings to review the Church's Safeguarding arrangements.

All new members of the PCC were briefed on their safeguarding role and responsibilities and all PCC members and Lay Readers have completed an appropriate level of Safeguarding Training. The PSO and new Incumbent completed the latest Safeguarding Leadership Training in 2022.

During 2022, following a review of past cases of safeguarding incidents, the Church of England and the Chester Diocese published reports (PCR2) that included recommendations for changes in procedure, training, and an extension of DBS (criminal records) checking. These recommendations were endorsed by the Bishop of Birkenhead (as Diocesan Safeguarding Lead) and adopted by the PCC. Consequently full compliance of the recommendations by the PCC with regards to Safeguarding Training and DBS checks for members and others is anticipated within the first half of 2023.

Ivor Thomas, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Annual Report approved on behalf of the PCC on 9 April 2023

Signed by Rev John E Coyne, Incumbent

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John E Coyne". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the printed name "Rev John E Coyne, Incumbent".

Date 9 April 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas' Church Burton for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
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Janet Jones ACA

Phillip Bates & Co Limited

1/3 Chester Road, Neston, CH64 9PA

Date 26.4.23

B
Phillip Bates & Co Ltd
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT
ADVISERS

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Fax: 0151 336 3156

help@pbates.co.uk
www.pbates.co.uk

 ICAEW
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS



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Vicar's leaving gift	0.00				0.00	3,600.00
Bld. Soc. Interest	209.13				209.13	162.82
Tax Refund	11,740.48				11,740.48	11,749.57
Shotwick Contribution	1,400.00				1,400.00	1,680.00
Weddings & Funerals	11,661.00				11,661.00	6,924.00
Magazine Income	560.00				560.00	0.00
Sundry Income	41.06				41.06	1,077.64
Special Donations	391.95				391.95	1,000.00
Chester Diocese	3,825.84				3,825.84	0.00
VAT Refund	0.00				0.00	2,976.00
Insurance Claims	1,792.00				1,792.00	2,740.00
Total Receipts	99,648.38	31.21	913.41	243.42	100,836.42	94,317.17

St Nicholas' Church, Burton – Financial Statements &
Trustees' Annual Report for Year Ended 31 December 2022



	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
Payments						
Diocesan Expenses						
Parish Share	26,815.90				37,716.18	52,631.61
Chester DBF	11,380.48				480.20	2,148.00
Vicarage Council	212.65				212.65	2,932.86
Vicarage Expenses						2,024.22
Interregnum Exp	1,092.32				1,092.32	
Sundry						292.00
Other Expenses						
Resources	244.59				244.59	446.39
Travel	87.75				87.75	296.90
Locum Vicar Cost	3,768.35				3,768.35	914.90
Church Building						
Water Rates	83.50				83.50	78.37
Oil	2,967.40				2,967.40	730.22
Electricity	967.78				967.78	785.06
Insurance	1,853.77				1,853.77	1,895.18
Maintenance Cos	5,554.31				5,554.31	879.15
Churchyard	2,736.00				2,736.00	2,425.00
Sundry	351.81				351.81	507.00
Church Wood	1,275.00				1,275.00	5,625.00
Church Admin						
Verger	670.25				670.25	0.00
Professional Fees	1,500.00				1,500.00	1,440.00
Upkeep/Cleaning	1,161.00				1,161.00	895.00
Wi-Fi						205.97
Magazine						
Stationery & Copy	470.76				470.76	338.86
Books & Material	302.44				302.44	
Bell Ringers	1,155.00				1,155.00	150.00
GVH Hire	290.00				290.00	
Licences/Subscrip	269.00				269.00	257.00
Website & IT	233.00				233.00	215.00
Organist Fees	1,528.90				1,528.90	70.00
Telecoms	345.91				345.91	271.55
Equipment						239.99
Events	1,599.50				1,599.50	0.00
Clock Repairs						3,486.00
Gift to Vicar						3,600.00
Other (Discretion	500.00				500.00	328.62
Charitable Giving	8,732.45				8,732.45	6,950.00
	78,149.82				78,149.82	93,059.85
Divs Reinvested			891.17		891.17	838.97
	78,149.82		891.17		79,040.99	93,898.82

St Nicholas' Church, Burton – Financial Statements &
Trustees' Annual Report for Year Ended 31 December 2022



	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
Receipts	99,648.38	31.21	913.41	243.42	100,836.42	94,317.17
Payments	-78,149.82		-891.17		-79,040.99	93,898.82
Net	21,498.56	31.21	22.24	243.42	21,795.43	418.35
Bank & Cash 1.01.22	84,355.48	2,372.43	1,691.70	18,507.85	106,927.46	106,509.11
Bank & Cash 21.12.22	105,854.04	2,403.64	1,713.94	18,751.27	128,722.89	106,927.46
	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
Statement of Assets & Liabilities						
Barclays Account No 1	34,015.87				34,015.87	17,008.19
Barclays Account No 2	16,737.06				16,737.06	16,737.06
Skipton Building Society	55,101.11				55,101.11	50,610.23
CCLA Fabric Fund				18,751.27	18,751.27	18,507.85
CCLA Contingency		2,403.64			2,403.64	2,372.43
CCLA Ch'yard Fund			1,713.94		1,713.94	1,691.70
	105,854.04	2,403.64	1,713.94	18,751.27	128,722.89	106,927.46

Investment Assets at Valuation

		Total 2022	Total 2021
CBF C of E Inv.Fund Income shares			
Contingency Fund			
Churchyard Repair Fund	30,504.28	30,504.28	33,605.44
	30,504.28	30,504.28	33,605.44

Approved on behalf of the PCC on 9 April 2023

Signed by Rev John E Coyne, Incumbent

Bryan Blakeman, Hon Treasurer



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of preparation of accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2. Receipts

Voluntary income for 2022 was £53,239 compared with £60,884 in 2021 (-12.6%). However, funds amounting to approximately £10,000 which were pledged and due in 2022 were not received until 2023 due to an administrative error by a third party. Consequently, after adjustment, the true picture is that voluntary income showed a small increase on the previous year. In addition, the church received further donations from two legacies amounting to £13,000. The church's voluntary income continues to be subject to risk because it relies substantially on the generosity of a relatively small number of established church members. Any future diminution in contributions from these longer-established church members is unlikely to be replaced by contributions from newer church members.

In 2022 the PCC received a tax refund of £11,740 through Gift Aid compared with £11,749 in 2021. The amount received from HMRC represents 11.6% of total income for the year, emphasising once again the importance to PCC finances of regular planned giving by church members using Gift Aid where and whenever it is possible to do so.

Total income for the year, including special donations, tax refunds etc. amounted to £100,836 compared with £94,317 in 2021. With total expenditure of £79,040 for the year, the excess of income over expenditure was £21,796.

In terms of the ongoing risk to church finances the PCC recognises that funds received from a small number of very generous donor households is neither being replaced nor supplemented by a new and younger generation of church members. In 2022 the church experienced a reduction in donations from a some regular donors due to varying circumstances and it is anticipated that similar circumstances are likely to arise in 2023.

Donations received through the Friends of St Nicholas' Church amounted to £3,060 as a result of regular donations received via bank payments.

Fees received in 2022 from weddings and funerals amounted to £11,661 (£6,924 in 2021). In addition an amount of £3,825 was received from Chester Diocese largely to cover exceptional costs incurred by the parish during the vacancy (the period between the resignation of the previous vicar and the appointment of a new incumbent).



3. Investments

Funds to support day to day expenditure are held on deposit with Barclays Bank and with Skipton Building Society. Other longer-term funds are managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd

4. Payments & Expense Costs

Although no unforeseen items of expenditure were incurred during the year the parish did incur costs associated with the appointment of a new incumbent. Including locum fees paid to visiting clergy who took services during the interregnum as well as other administrative expenses, these exceptional expenses amounted to £4,860.

5. Outward Giving

In addition to ad hoc charity appeals it is the policy of the PCC to support a number of charities annually. In 2022 total donations amounted to:

Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal	£1,610	Wirral Ark Project	£1,000
Church Pastoral Aid Society	£500	Save the Family	£1,000
The Mango Tree	£1,000	Church Mission Soc.	£700
Charles Thompson's Mission	£1,000	Chester Clergy Trust	£500
The Bible Society	£500	Ad Hoc Charities	£922

6. Parish Share

All ministry expenses (Vicar and related on-costs) are shared with St Michael's Church, Shotwick. St Nicholas' Church pays 77.25% of the cost and St Michael's Church cover 22.75% of expenditure. Following the decision taken by the two parishes in consultation with Chester Diocese to appoint a new part-time incumbent the amount of parish share reduced from £52,631 in 2021 to £26,815 in 2022.

7. Related Party Transactions

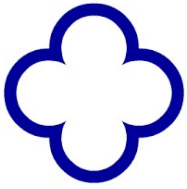
During the year an amount of £1,275 was paid for work relating to the clearance of woodland in Church Wood. This was undertaken as part of an initial scheme of work completed in 2021 to remove dead and dangerous trees on the edge of the wood.

Following a formal tender process undertaken by the Churchwardens, the work was completed by Maresfield Farm, a business in which Mr Blakeman is a partner. The work was undertaken on normal commercial terms.

8. Trustees Remuneration

The PCC did not have any employees in 2022 and no expenses were either claimed by, or paid to Trustees in performance of their duties as Trustees.

Accounts



St Nicholas' Church, Burton Financial Statements and Trustees' Annual Report 2021

Registered Charity 1184831

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Nicholas' Church Burton-in-Wirral

Charity Reg. No. 1184831

Principal Address: The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Burton, Neston. CH64 5TJ

Name	Office (if any) & Elected Member
Catherine Helm	Vicar, Chair of PCC and Trustee – resigned 18 September 2021
Nigel Griffiths	Churchwarden & Trustee
Ivor Thomas	Churchwarden – appointed 16 May 2021, Trustee & Safeguarding Officer
Bryan Blakeman	Hon. Treasurer & Trustee
John Vinson	Hon. Secretary & Trustee
Tony Carter	Deputy Churchwarden & Trustee
John Morris-Best	Lay Reader & Trustee
Ruth Chesworth	Deanery Synod Representative & Trustee
Jane Davies	Trustee – appointed 16 May 2021
Ron Curnow	Trustee
Robin Cowan	Trustee
Barrie Marsh	Trustee
Philip Hillman	Trustee
Amanda Ankers	Trustee
Molly Ankers	None
Gian Abbott	Churchwarden & Trustee – resigned 16 May 2021

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is constituted and governed by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2006.

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

The PCC ensures compliance with laws and regulations by acting on advice received from Chester Diocesan Board of Finance, information and updates received from the Charities Commission, advice and guidance received from professional advisers e.g. Independent Examiner, attendance at courses and seminars relating to matters affecting compliance and by acting on information and specific directives issued direct to clergy. In 2021 the function of the PCC has been affected by issues arising from the Coronavirus pandemic. Nevertheless the PCC complied with all guidance and advice it received.

Standing Committee

Rev. Catherine Helm (Resigned 18.09.21) , Nigel Griffiths, Ivor Thomas,
Anthony Carter, Bryan Blakeman, John Vinson

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Objectives and Activities

The objectives and activities of the PCC are to assist the Vicar and in the absence of the Vicar to promote the parish and the mission of the church as well as the holding of regular services and the maintenance of the fabric of the church building and its environs.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives.

Church Services – Weekly (Subject to Covid-19 Related Restrictions)

Sundays	8.45am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesdays	10.15am	Holy Communion

Church Services - Monthly

1st Sunday 6.30pm Evensong

Messy Church (*As Announced*) For children & adults during school term time

Covid-19

Throughout 2021 church services were subject to changes and interruption due to issues arising from the Coronavirus pandemic. Whilst services did take place others were either replaced, supplemented, augmented or delivered online.

Visitors

The church is normally open all year round, seven days a week during daylight hours.

When the church building is open visitors are provided with the opportunity for private prayer. They are also encouraged to sit and reflect and to view the historic building. Visitors to the parish have the opportunity to take away information relating to St Nicholas' Church which has been a place of worship for many centuries and to learn about the church's current activities and opportunities for worship.

Activities

A short report on each of the activities undertaken by the church is included with this Trustees' Report.

Church Finances

The PCC continues to exercise responsible stewardship of funds placed at its disposal.

The PCC wishes to place on record its grateful thanks to all those who support the church financially and in particular to thank those who donate regularly through planned giving, those who support the maintenance of the church building and churchyard through the Friends of St Nicholas' Church, those who have made single sum donations during the year and those who contribute in so many ways to the upkeep and preservation of the church.

Overall, church finances remain finely balanced. Regular income has shown a decline in recent years while some expenditure on running costs has risen.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Full details of St Nicholas' Church finances relating to 2021 are explained in the finance and accounts section of the Trustees' Annual report on pages 11 to 15.

Throughout the year the PCC continued to challenge all aspects of regular expenditure in order to ensure funds were deployed efficiently and responsibly and that value for money continued to be achieved.

Expenditure on projects is always subject to rigorous cost control, quotation and tendering to ensure that work is undertaken within budget as agreed and formally approved by PCC members.

Reserves

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.

Church Architect

The church's architect is Stephen Quicke of FSP Northern Architects Ltd., 41 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, Wirral.

Independent Examiner

The services of Phillip Bates and Co. Ltd are retained for the purpose of providing an Independent Examination of the church accounts.

PCC REPORT

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the Parish Community.

A key objective for the PCC is to continue to attract and welcome both current and new members and to provide ministry, opportunities for worship and other church activities for the next generation of church members and to provide the opportunity for them to become the stewards of the future.

The PCC met on five occasions during the year of which three meetings were conducted virtually via Zoom.

In May Revd Helm announced that she would be moving to another benefice in September. The PCC met with the Archdeacon who explained the process of appointing a new vicar and the changes which Diocese wished to introduce. Thereafter, one of the churchwardens together with another church member headed up the discussion with the Archdeacon and reported on the progress to the PCC. Key decisions were referred to the PCC. After the Vicar left in September 2021, one of the Churchwardens took on the role of Chairman of the PCC.

Throughout the year the PCC responded to the advice and regulations issued by the government and the Church of England to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Adherence to the regulations had a major impact on church life, both in terms of services and group activities. Risk analysis for the gradual opening of the church for services was carried out by the Churchwardens and the Vicar. Appropriate safety measures were proposed by the Standing Committee and approved by the PCC prior to implementation.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

2021 began as 2020 had ended, with a period during which of no services were held in church due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Weekly services were hosted by the Vicar via Zoom, with service sheets distributed via post and email to maintain the church's contact with people and to promote Christian worship and fellowship. This offered support to parishioners who were also supporting each other by helping with essential shopping items, the collection of prescriptions and other health needs, as well as through prayer.

Services resumed in March and the church was open each day for private prayer.

In May 2021 Revd Catherine Helm, gave notice that she would be leaving her post as Vicar at the end of September to take up a part-time, Priest-in-Charge role in Cumbria.

Whilst everyone associated with St Nicholas' Church was very sorry to see the Vicar leave, the reasoning behind the decision was fully appreciated, and Revd Helm left with the blessing and good wishes of the church community.

The APCM was held in church, in May, and was well attended.

Gian Abbott, who had served as Churchwarden for three years, stood down due to Covid related medical work commitments. At the APCM, Gian Abbot was thanked for his service. In his place Ivor Thomas was elected unanimously as Churchwarden, alongside Nigel Griffiths, who began his 6th year in post.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE

Fibre internet was brought to the church during the summer, and its first use was to relay live to our congregation Revd Cathy Helm's induction service in her new parish in Cumbria

In the late autumn, following a strict tender exercise, major tree felling and surgery work was undertaken in Church Wood. A budget of £6,000 was agreed (net of the sale of timber) in order to make safe the trees bordering the churchyard and to save the sandstone retaining wall which was failing owing to damage by the trees' roots.

The interregnum (parish vacancy for Vicar) started in October and our church was blessed to have a team of lay-readers, locum priests and church members who willingly organised themselves to ensure the church operated as 'business-as-usual'.

Services were held every Sunday, with Holy Communion services held every Wednesday and on one Sunday each month.

YOUTH AND FAMILIES WORKER

During the year as pledge for the funding for a youth and families worker was received and it is anticipated that the recruitment of a suitable person will be progressed further during the coming financial year.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

MANAGING RISK

The PCC is mindful of its responsibilities to manage and mitigate risks which could affect the running and operation of the church and the achievement of its objectives.

Possible Risk Areas	Actions Taken
Governance:	
Lack of key skills	The PCC has identified PCC members and others with technical and professional skills capable of supporting its key operations
Budgetary constraints	Regular planned giving provides a stable income platform and expenditure on major items is assessed and budgeted prior to costs being incurred
Conflict of interests	PCC members are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest
Confidentiality issues	The PCC adheres to Data Protection legislation and all information relating to church finances and donations is restricted to key individuals
Loss of records	Church records are primarily held electronically by the Treasurer, Gift Aid Secretary or Churchwardens and year end accounting information is also lodged with the Independent Examiner
Operational Matters:	
Fire, flood and building	Assessments relating to all potential risks and other maintenance matters is handled by a sub committee of the PCC (Maintenance Committee) with input from the Church Architect
Health and safety	A Health and Safety Policy is in place and kept under review
Theft and vandalism	The PCC takes steps to safeguard its property by locking away valuables and minimising exposure to risk as a result of theft and vandalism. The PCC also has insurance cover in respect of such risk through Trintas Insurance.
Technology	Minimum use of technology is deployed onsite. The Vicar is provided with access to technology in order to support communication and church services
Financial:	
Fraud	Online banking is utilised with Barclays and a passbook account is operated with Skipton and transactions vetted. Churchwardens' records and statements are checked by the treasurer and reconciled independently. Church cash donations are always counted by two people and banked promptly
Parish Share demands	The PCC has taken steps to ensure that its Parish Share contribution remains in line with what it is able to afford based on its ordinary income
Loss of regular income	The potential loss of regular income remains a significant risk. Regular promotion of planned giving amongst church members has continued to prove to be successful
Gift Aid	The PCC continues to maximise opportunities to encourage donations to be made under HMRC's Gift Aid regulations
Regulatory:	
Safeguarding	A Safeguarding Officer has been appointed and procedures have been implemented to ensure safety for all and compliance with regulations
Discrimination	The PCC promotes equal opportunity for all and ensures that access to every aspects of church life is available to everyone irrespective of their circumstances
Charity Commission	The church is registered with the Charity Commission and complies with its regulations
Diocese	The PCC seeks and receives advice from Chester Diocese and complies with the guidance issued in respect of ministry and regulatory affairs

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Songs of Praise

On Sunday 6 June an outdoor Songs of Praise was held in the churchyard. Hymns were chosen in advance by the congregation. People were asked to bring their own drink and refreshments for the interval.

Coffee Mornings & Events

Income from all events organised during the year raised £671.50 for church funds. The events included several 'coffee mornings', as well as a special Christmas coffee morning event held in conjunction with the Mothers' Union who provided a craft and produce stall which raised money for its charities.

An 'attic sale' stall at a GVH event in June raised money from the sale of surplus items from the Vicarage.

In conjunction with St Michael's Church in Shotwick the Events Committee helped to organise the Vicar's farewell event on the Gladstone Village Hall playing fields. This was a community event with plenty of outside seating under gazebos and a marquee. Everyone brought their own picnic. There was music and presentations were made by the two churches to mark the occasion of the vicar and her family's departure from the parish.

In October a 'Light Party' was organised for young people and held in church.

As part of the church's outreach, throughout the month of December, church members were invited to bring toys, games and books to be donated to Charles Thompson's Mission in Birkenhead. The items were then taken to the Mission along with donations of food for distribution to local families at Christmas.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Having implemented new safeguarding policies and procedures in 2020, the PCC maintained adoption of the safeguarding guidance promoted by the church's House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy. A hard copy of the Safeguarding Handbook is available in the church porch along with the information poster, 'Promoting a Safer Church'.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement covering children, young people and vulnerable adults was reviewed by the PCC during the year. The policy was signed formally by the Vicar and two Churchwardens and a copy is displayed in the church porch. This policy is reviewed annually.

All new members of the PCC were briefed by the PSO on their safeguarding role and responsibilities and all PCC members were encouraged to complete the Safeguarding Basic Awareness Training. As at the year-end, twelve PCC and other church members had successfully completed this course with four PCC members not having completed the course. In addition, as at the year-end, three PCC and other church members had completed the Safeguarding Foundations course, and the PSO had completed the Safer Recruiting & People Management Training.

Policies covering Safer Recruiting and the Recruitment of Ex-offenders have been maintained along with a safeguarding checklist that is used at PCC Meetings to review the Church's Safeguarding arrangements.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

BURTON AND PUDDINGTON MOTHERS UNION REPORT

During 2021 the following meetings and activities took place:

- 8 June Committee Meeting
- 20 October Members Meeting
- 6 December - Fund Raiser - Stall at the Coffee Morning in church
- 13 December Christmas Carols and Gathering.

Throughout the year members also kept in touch with one another by telephone, email, or letter.

FSNC REPORT

Membership of the Friends of St Nicholas' Church (FSNC) is open to all those who appreciate the presence of the historic church and ancient churchyard in Burton.

Throughout the year the Friends of St Nicholas' Church continued to provide valuable financial support towards the upkeep and maintenance of the church and its ancient churchyard. Despite the restriction on fund-raising events taking place during 2021, FSNC provided £3,030 in donations to church funds.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS

The PCC would like to record its thanks to all the volunteers who work so hard to make the church a lively and vibrant community in the Parish. St Nicholas' Church is indebted to all members of the PCC, the churchwardens, members of the various subcommittees, each of the church groups and especially people who just turn up to help with the many tasks that are needed to be undertaken to make the church and its events function.

OUTWARD GIVING

St Nicholas' Church supported several charitable organisations during the year including:

Home

Save the Family
Wirral Churches Ark Project
Charles Thompson's Mission
Chester Clergy Family Trust

Bible Society
Church Pastoral Aid Society
Wirral Foodbank

Abroad

Church Mission Society
Melanesian Brothers
Mango Tree

Approved on behalf of the committee on 12 April 2022

Nigel Griffiths, Churchwarden

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH BURTON

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas' Church Burton for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 12 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; 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.

.....

Janet Jones ACA
Phillip Bates & Co Limited
1/3 Chester Road
Neston
CH64 9PA

Date:

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Receipts and Payments Accounts 2021

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
Receipts						
Voluntary Income						
Collections	2,362.90				2,362.90	2,743.87
Envelopes	2,615.00				2,615.00	3,102.00
Planned Giving	52,877				52,877.00	53,628.00
Friends of St Nicholas'	3,030				3,030.00	3,190.00
Income						
Interest		1.24	0.88	9.65	11.77	95.38
Dividends			838.97		838.97	787.17
Event	671.50				671.50	623.70
Other Income						
Vicar's leaving gift	3,600.00				3,600.00	0.00
Bld. Soc. Interest	162.82				162.82	252.84
Tax Refund	11,749.57				11,749.57	15,802.30
Shotwick Contribution	1,680.00				1,680.00	1,680.00
Weddings & Funerals	6,924.00				6,924.00	7,135.10
Magazine Income	0.00				0.00	1,265.00
Sundry Income	1,077.64				1,077.64	96.28
Special Donations	1,000.00				1,000.00	4,982.33
Chester Diocese	0.00				0.00	2,000.00
VAT Refund	2,976.00				2,976.00	0.00
Insurance	2,740.00				2,740.00	0.00
Total Receipts	93,466.43	1.24	839.85	9.65	94,317.17	97,383.97

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
Payments						
Diocesan Expenses						
Parish Share	52,631.61				52,631.61	52,239.84
Chester DBF	2,148.00				2,148.00	2,652.00
Council Tax	2,932.86				2,932.86	3,103.91
Water Rates	796.25				796.25	625.22
Light & Heat	468.97				468.97	556.17
Gardening	759.00				759.00	429.00
Telecoms	271.55				271.55	392.84
Sundry	292.00				292.00	188.99
Other Expenses						
Resources	446.39				446.39	450.65
Travel	296.90				296.90	401.40
Locum Vicar Costs	914.90				914.90	0.00
Building & Upkeep						
Water Rates	78.37				78.37	53.31
Oil	730.22				730.22	0.00
Electricity	785.06				785.06	618.00
Insurance	1,895.18				1,895.18	1,825.90
Maintenance Costs	879.15				879.15	989.64
Churchyard	2,425.00				2,425.00	2,516.19
Sundry	507.00				507.00	27.00
Professional Fees	1,440.00				1,440.00	1,482.00
Church Admin						
Verger	0.00				0.00	50.00
Upkeep/Cleaning	895.00				895.00	1,193.00
Wi-Fi	205.97				205.97	0.00
Magazine						277.00
Stationery & Copying	338.86				338.86	346.11
Books & Materials						88.99
Bell Ringers	150.00				150.00	0.00
GVH Hire						528.00
Licences/Subscriptions	257.00				257.00	247.00
Website & IT	215.00				215.00	233.00
Organist Fees	70.00				70.00	260.00
Publications						52.50
Equipment	239.99				239.99	255.26
Events	0.00				0.00	115.68
Clock Repairs	3,486.00				3,486.00	0.00
Gift to Vicar	3,600				3,600	
Other	328.62				328.62	75.00
Charitable Giving	6,950.00				6,950.00	10,626.25
Project Expenditure	5,625.00				5,625.00	15,354.00
	93,059.85				93,059.85	98,253.85
Divs Reinvested			838.97		838.97	787.17
	93,059.85		838.97		93,898.82	99,041.02

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
Receipts	93,466.43	1.24	839.85	9.65	94,317.17	97,383.97
Payments	93,059.85		838.97		93,898.82	99,041.02
Net	406.58	1.24	0.88	9.65	418.35	-1,657.05
Bank & Cash Balances 1 Jan 2020	83,948.90	2,371.19	1,690.82	18,498.20	106,509.11	108,166.16
Bank & Cash Balances 31 Dec 2020	84,355.48	2,372.43	1,691.70	18,507.85	106,927.46	106,509.11

	General Funds	Contingency Fund	Churchyard Fund	Fabric Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
Statement of Assets & Liabilities						
Barclays Account No 1	17,008.31				17,008.31	20,903.83
Barclays Account No 2	16,737.06				16,737.06	16,737.06
Skipton Building Society	50,610.23				50,610.23	46,308.01
Cash	0.00				0.00	0.00
CCLA Fabric Fund				18,507.85	18,507.85	18,498.20
CCLA Contingency		2,372.43			2,372.43	2,371.19
CCLA Ch'yard Fund			1,691.70		1,691.70	1,690.82
	84,355.60	2,372.43	1,691.70	18,507.85	106,927.46	106,509.11

	Total 2021	Total 2020
Investment Assets at Valuation		
CBF C of E Inv.Fund Income shares		
Contingency Fund		
Churchyard Repair Fund	33,605.44	28,617.07
	33,605.44	28,617.07

Approved by the PCC on 12 April 2021 and signed on its behalf:

Nigel Griffiths, Churchwarden

Bryan Blakeman, Treasurer

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation of accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2. Receipts

Voluntary income for 2020 was £60,884 compared with £62,664 in 2020 (-2.8%). In addition, the church received a further donations amounting to 3,600 as a leaving present for the Vicar. This decrease in voluntary income continues a pattern experienced in previous years resulting from a reduction in the number of established church members (death, moving away, residential care etc.) who, over the years, have largely contributed very generously towards church funds. As recorded previously, the diminution in the level of contributions from these longer-established church members is not currently being replaced by contributions from newer church members.

In 2021 the PCC received a tax refund of £11,749 through Gift Aid compared with £15,802 in 2020. The amount received from HMRC represents 12.5% of total income for the year, emphasising once again the importance to PCC finances of regular planned giving by church members using Gift Aid where and whenever it is possible to do so.

Total income for the year, including special donations, tax refunds etc. amounted to £94,317 compared with £97,383 in 2020. With total expenditure of £93,898 for the year the excess of income over expenditure was £418.

In terms of the ongoing risk to church finances the PCC continues to rely on contributions from a relatively small number of very generous donor households. In many instances, these significant contributors together other long-standing donors, represent an ageing generation. The evidence suggests that in recent times such donors are neither being replaced nor supplemented by a new and younger generation of church members. In the event that the church was to experience a loss of contributions from one or more of its significant donors, the finances of the church would inevitably come under pressure.

The church is normally able to rely on funds raised through events such as those organised by Friends of St Nicholas' Church and the Events Committee as well as other fund-raising activities. The opportunities to hold such events in 2021 were limited. Nevertheless, donations received through the Friends of St Nicholas' Church amounted to £3,030 and the small number of events held raised a further £671.

The church takes advantage of the government's VAT refund scheme available to historic places of worship for certain types of building and maintenance work. In 2021 this scheme provided income of £2,976

3. Investments

Funds to support day to day expenditure are held on deposit with Barclays Bank and with Skipton Building Society. In addition longer-term funds are managed in designated funds by CCLA Investment Management Ltd who manage investments for charities, religious bodies and the public sector, including the Church of England.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4. Payments & Expense Costs

No unforeseen items of expenditure were incurred during the year. Planned expenditure on the repair of the church clock of £3,486 was incurred during the year for which funding was already in place through donations and fund-raising activities.

5. Parish Share

All ministry expenses (Vicar and related on-costs) are shared with St Michael's Church, Shotwick. St Nicholas' Church pays 77.25% of the cost and St Michael's Church cover 22.75% of expenditure. Throughout 2021 the PCC elected to pay the Diocese charge (or Parish Share), pro rata, at the rate of 105% of a standard Parish Share rather than at the rate of 145% as requested by the Diocese.

In 2021 the 'Parish Share' cost paid by St Nicholas Church to Chester Diocese, amounted to £52,631. This equates to some £1,012 per week or 44% of total parish expenditure.

Following the announcement in May 2021 of the Vicar's decision to leave the parish in September 2021, and in the light of the financial pressures facing the parish, in dialogue with the Diocese a decision was taken to seek a part-time incumbent which is likely to reduce overall costs in 2022 and beyond.

6. Trustees Remuneration

St Nicholas' Church PCC did not have any employees during the year and no expenses were either claimed by, or paid to Trustees in performance of their duties as Trustees.

Accounts



St Nicholas' Church, Burton Financial Statements and Trustees' Annual Report 2020

Registered Charity 1184831

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas' Church Burton-in-Wirral

Charity Reg. No. 1184831

Principal Address: The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Burton, Neston. CH64 5TJ

Name	Office (if any) & Elected Member	
Catherine Helm	Vicar, Chair of PCC and Trustee	
Nigel Griffiths	Churchwarden and Trustee	
Gian Abbott	Churchwarden and Trustee	
Bryan Blakeman	Hon. Treasurer and Trustee	
John Vinson	Hon. Secretary and Trustee	
Tony Carter	Deputy Churchwarden and Trustee	
John Morris-Best	Lay Reader and Trustee	
Ivor Thomas	Safeguarding Officer and Trustee	
Ruth Chesworth	Deanery Synod Representative and Trustee	
Amanda Ankers	Trustee	
Linda Jones	Trustee	
Ron Curnow	Trustee	
Robin Cowan	Trustee	
Barrie Marsh	Trustee	- appointed 17 October 2020
Philip Hillman	Trustee	- appointed 17 October 2020
Molly Ankers	None	- appointed 17 October 2020
Jessica Mackie	Trustee	- resigned 17 October 2020
Barbara Morris	Trustee	- resigned 17 October 2020
Ann Warr	Verger and Trustee	- resigned 17 October 2020

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is constituted and governed by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2006.

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

The PCC ensures compliance with laws and regulations by acting on advice received from Chester Diocesan Board of Finance, information and updates received from the Charities Commission, advice and guidance received from professional advisers e.g. Independent Examiner, attendance at courses and seminars relating to matters affecting compliance and by acting on information and specific directives issued direct to clergy. In 2020 the function of the PCC has been affected by issues arising from the Coronavirus pandemic and complied with all guidance and advice it received.

Standing Committee

Rev. Catherine Helm, Gian Abbott, Nigel Griffiths, Bryan Blakeman, John Vinson

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
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Objectives and Activities

The objectives and activities of the PCC are to assist the Vicar in promoting the parish and the mission of the church as well as the holding of regular services and the maintenance of the fabric of the church building and its environs.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives.

Church Services - Weekly

Sundays	8.45am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesdays	10.15am	Holy Communion

Church Services - Monthly

1st Sunday	6.30pm	Evensong
1st Monday	11.30am	Holy Communion - Sports & Social Club
Messy Church	<i>(As Announced)</i> For children & adults during school term time	

Covid-19

Throughout 2020 church services were subject to changes and interruption due to issues arising from the Coronavirus pandemic. During this time services were either replaced, supplemented or augmented by meetings delivered online.

Visitors

The church is normally open all year round, seven days a week during daylight hours.

When the church building is open visitors are provided with the opportunity for private prayer. They are also encouraged to sit and reflect and to view the historic building. Visitors to the parish have the opportunity to take away information relating to St Nicholas' Church which has been a place of worship for many centuries and to learn about the church's current activities and opportunities for worship.

Activities

A short report on each of the activities undertaken by the church is included with this Trustees' Report.

Church Finances

The PCC continues to exercise responsible stewardship of funds placed at its disposal.

The PCC wishes to place on record its grateful thanks to all those who support the church financially and in particular to thank those who donate regularly through planned giving, those who support the maintenance of the church building and churchyard through the Friends of St Nicholas' Church, those who have made single sum donations during the year and those who contribute in so many ways to the upkeep and preservation of the church.

Overall, church finances remain finely balanced. Regular income has shown a decline in recent years while expenditure on church running costs and ministry has risen.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Full details of St Nicholas' Church finances relating to 2020 are explained in the finance and accounts section of the Trustees' Annual report on pages 12 to 17.

Throughout the year the PCC continued to challenge all aspects of regular expenditure in order to ensure funds were deployed efficiently and responsibly and that value for money was achieved.

Expenditure on projects is always subject to rigorous cost control, quotation and tendering to ensure that work is undertaken within budget as agreed and formally approved by PCC members.

Reserves

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.

Church Architect

The church's architect is Stephen Quicke of FSP Northern Architects Ltd., 41 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, Wirral.

Independent Examiner

The services of Phillip Bates and Co. Ltd are retained for the purpose of providing an Independent Examination of the church accounts.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

PCC REPORT

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the Parish Community.

A key objective for the PCC is to continue to attract and welcome both current and new members and to provide ministry, opportunities for worship and other church activities for the next generation of church members and to provide the opportunity for them to become the stewards of the future.

The PCC met twice during 2020, in January in the vestry and in December via Zoom.

Throughout the year the PCC responded to the advice and regulations issued by the government and the Church of England regarding the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Adherence to the regulations had a major impact on church life. Risk analysis for the opening of the church for services or private prayer was carried out by the Churchwardens and the Vicar. Appropriate safety measures were proposed by the Standing Committee and approved by the PCC prior to implementation.

No safeguarding issues were reported to the Safeguarding Officer or other members of the PCC during the year.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

2020 was a very unusual year for the Church and Parish because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In March the whole country was placed in lockdown and church services stopped. Services resumed, with strict social distancing and other restrictions, after lockdown ended. The social distancing restricted church attendance to a maximum number of 24 people. Lockdown was resumed in November and the church was closed again. Private prayer was available in the church at set times and with similar restrictions put in place in late Summer and during the November lockdown.

During various difficult times in 2020 Zoom services were deployed for those able to utilise the technology, together with service sheets distributed via post and email to maintain the church's contact with people and to promote Christian worship and fellowship. This offered support to parishioners who were also supporting each other by helping with essential shopping items, the collection of prescriptions and other health needs, as well as through prayer.

The local community was encouraged to make contributions in aid of Wirral Foodbank which enabled a special donation of £3,726 to be made to the charity. Blankets for the homeless were made by parishioners and subsequently distributed to those in need by church volunteers.

Zoom was also used for various church meetings and gatherings including one PCC meeting.

Towards the end of 2020 plans were laid for the resumption of church services and events once the virus recedes and circumstances permit such activities, with an emphasis on all the richness that church life is able to offer.

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MANAGING RISK

The PCC is mindful of its responsibilities to manage and mitigate risks which could affect the running and operation of the church and the achievement of its objectives.

Possible Risk Areas	Actions Taken
Governance:	
Lack of key skills	The PCC has identified PCC members and others with technical and professional skills capable of supporting its key operations
Budgetary constraints	Regular planned giving provides a stable income platform and expenditure on major items is assessed and budgeted prior to costs being incurred
Conflict of interests	PCC members are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest
Confidentiality issues	The PCC adheres to Data Protection legislation and all information relating to church finances and donations is restricted to key individuals
Loss of records	Church records are primarily held electronically by the Treasurer, Gift Aid Secretary or Churchwardens and year end accounting information is also lodged with the Independent Examiner
Operational Matters:	
Fire, flood and building	Assessments relating to all potential risks and other maintenance matters is handled by a sub committee of the PCC (Maintenance Committee) with input from the Church Architect
Health and safety	A Health and Safety Policy is in place and kept under review
Theft and vandalism	The PCC takes steps to safeguard its property by locking away valuables and minimising exposure to risk as a result of theft and vandalism. The PCC also has insurance cover in respect of such risk through Trintas Insurance.
Technology	Minimum use of technology is deployed onsite. The Vicar is provided with access to technology in order to support communication and church services
Financial:	
Fraud	Online banking is utilised with Barclays and a passbook account is operated with Skipton and transactions vetted. Churchwardens' records and statements are checked by the treasurer and reconciled independently. Church cash donations are always counted by two people and banked promptly
Parish Share demands	The PCC has taken steps to ensure that its Parish Share contribution remains in line with what it is able to afford based on its ordinary income
Loss of regular income	The potential loss of regular income remains a significant risk. Regular promotion of planned giving amongst church members has continued to prove to be successful
Gift Aid	The PCC continues to maximise opportunities to encourage donations to be made under HMRC's Gift Aid regulations
Regulatory:	
Safeguarding	A Safeguarding Officer has been appointed and procedures have been implemented to ensure safety for all and compliance with regulations
Discrimination	The PCC promotes equal opportunity for all and ensures that access to every aspects of church life is available to everyone irrespective of their circumstances
Charity Commission	The church is registered with the Charity Commission and complies with its regulations
Diocese	The PCC seeks and receives advice from Chester Diocese and complies with the guidance issued in respect of ministry and regulatory affairs

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Renovation of the six tower bells, for which project funds had been raised in 2019 thanks to the generosity of parishioners, the Mill Wood Trust and other trusts, began in February, with the working parts of the bells being renovated or replaced at the works of Taylors in Loughborough. Their re-installation started in March, but could not be completed until lockdown rules were relaxed following the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Sadly, owing to ongoing Covid-19 precautions, they could not thereafter be rung in peal; only a single bell at a time has been rung.

Invasive ivy along the eastern wall of the churchyard was cleared back to the wall itself, revealing some previously concealed gravestones. New grass has been planted in its place. A similar exercise was continued along part of the northern wall between the churchyard and Church Wood.

The tower clock's weight having broken free and smashed earlier in the year, a specialist company, The Cumbria Clock Company were instructed to prepare a full report on the clock. The company's report recommended a major overhaul if the clock is to continue to operate properly into the future, and an order was placed with them for its refurbishment, which will involve the clock being taken to their works in Penrith. This work is expected to start in the spring of 2021.

The Quinquennial Report, by church architect Steve Quicke, began in December, and identified a number of areas in need of attention. The report has been reviewed by the maintenance committee and submitted to the diocese. Most of the remedial tasks, repairs to the parapet and a crack in the sandstone, are typical of such inspections and the estimated cost is likely to be about £6,500. Half of this, repair of the gatepost at the top of the steps, may be reimbursed by the insurers.

The sandstone wall between the churchyard and Church Wood is collapsing because of pressure from tree roots. Some of the trees are old and all are in the conservation area. Any work on the trees will have to be approved by the County and Diocese. An arboriculturist is being consulted.

Minor maintenance works, and the upkeep of the churchyard, continued throughout lockdown.

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Two Coffee Mornings were held during the year. The first event took place on 21 January in the Sports and Social Club and the second event was held in Church on Shrove Tuesday in February. These events are held in aid of church project funds.

A Games Night was held in the Sports and Social Club on 1 February with games, pizzas and a competition with prizes. It was well attended by parents and children.

All other planned events then had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

On Monday 28 September the Events Committee met in the Vicarage Garden.

On Sunday 4 October a short Harvest Festival Service was held in church with those attending asked to bring a vase of flowers to decorate the window sills.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
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YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The church participated in the Village Pumpkin Festival with pumpkin models of David and Goliath displayed at the bottom of the church steps.

For the 'Time to Remember' service to be held on Sunday 1 November, a large wooden cross was laid on the grass in the churchyard and people were invited to write the name of the person they wished to remember on a stone and place it on the cross.

The church was open for private prayer from 10.00am until 12 noon on Saturday 31 October to provide people with an opportunity to light a candle for those being remembered. The Time to Remember service was held on Sunday 1 November by invitation only.

As it was not possible to organise an Advent Windows celebration in 2020 with individual window displays, residents in Burton and Puddington were invited to consider displaying an angel in one of their windows which would be visible to passers-by.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S REPORT

Children's Groups

The two groups, All Stars and TBY, continued to meet until the Covid-19 restrictions came into being.

It was recognised early in the pandemic that young people were becoming overwhelmed with online learning, online social activity and increased reliance on screen entertainment due to the lockdown restrictions. Therefore, in consultation with parents, it was agreed that the church would not place any additional online demands on children so there was no 'virtual' format for the groups. However, regular support and encouragement was maintained via social media and the use of WhatsApp Groups.

Messy Church

Messy Church continued to thrive prior to the outbreak of the pandemic with a consistent core of people planning and resourcing sessions. Messy Church at Home has been provided by the Vicar with teaching resources delivered to each Messy Church family. This also included Light Party activities at home. Parents of Messy Church children normally meet regularly for informal social evenings when restrictions allow.

Christmas Activities

The Christmas services and celebrations were managed creatively. The Vicar hosted Christmas Book at Bedtime and Carols Around the Christmas Tree via Zoom.

Family and Youth Worker

During the year further consideration was given to the possibility of recruiting and funding a youth worker and this matter remains under active consideration.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER'S REPORT

During the course of the year and with the unanimous approval of the PCC, Ivor Thomas was appointed as the new Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO).

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
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In implementing safeguarding policies and procedures the PCC adopted the safeguarding guidance promoted by the church's House of Bishops' policy, Promoting a Safer Church. This included the introduction of a parish safeguarding handbook. A hard copy of the book is available in the church porch along with the information poster, Promoting a Safer Church.

An updated Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement covering children, young people and vulnerable adults was agreed by the PCC during the year. The new policy was signed formally by the Vicar and two Churchwardens and a copy is displayed in the church porch. This policy will be reviewed annually.

All members of the PCC were briefed by the PSO on their safeguarding role and responsibilities. In the latter part of the year PCC members were encouraged to complete the Safeguarding Basic Awareness Training. As at the year end six PCC members had successfully completed the course with a further seven members committed to completing the course in early 2021. As at the year end one PCC member had also undertaken the Safeguarding Foundation Training course.

New policies covering safer recruiting and the recruitment of ex-offenders have been introduced along with a safeguarding checklist.

BURTON AND PUDDINGTON MOTHERS UNION REPORT

The Mothers Union held its Annual General meeting in February in church. Attendance was good. The 20 members present enjoyed the short service, presentations by the Secretary and Treasurer and a time of fellowship together. Unfortunately this was the only meeting held in 2020 as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. However, members did keep in touch with each other by telephone, text and email.

FSNC REPORT

Membership of the Friends of St Nicholas' Church (FSNC) is open to all those who appreciate the presence of the historic church and ancient churchyard in Burton.

Regrettably, FSNC was not able to hold any of its planned fund-raising events in 2020. However, £3,190 was raised during the year through regular standing order donations and other small contributions from FSNC members to help support the upkeep and maintenance of the church building and its churchyard.

The first stone church in Burton was erected on the site of St Nicholas' Church in 1086. However, the present church which will, according to the stonemason's inscription over the door, be 300 years old in 2021.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Wirral South Deanery met on Thursday 5 March 2020, at All Saint's Parish Hall, Thornton Hough. The meeting was opened with prayer by the rural dean. The meeting was well attended with some apologies including that of our now late Hon. Secretary John Lewis, who died in August 2020. His service of at least 23 years as Secretary and also as Hon. Secretary of Wirral South Deanery was noted and our thoughts and prayers were directed towards John and his very loving family.

The Parish report was given by the Rector the Rev Vicky Barrett. The accounts were presented by the Treasurer Basil Keys, having been examined by Dr Elly MacBeath, and were accepted.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
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YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Treasurer reported that the Deanery subscription which had remained at £60.00 per Parish had not been increased since 2005 and invited a discussion on an increase. It was proposed and seconded to increase the subscription to £75.00 per year to allow for inflation etc. There were no objections raised by the members present.

The speaker the Rev Steve Clapham from Stoke on Trent arrived unwell. He spoke very briefly about 'Fresh Expressions and Churches Together'. Much of what he had to say was based on a book written by the Rev Alison Burton, a Baptist Minister. Much of what the Rev Clapham said revolved around the fact that the Church is no longer run by the Clergy. Today the church is run by all who are called to serve in it, in many and differing roles. The traditional church is continuing to change. To fill the gaps in his shortened talk, he recommended reading the Rev Alison Burton's book.

No other meetings were held in 2020.

OTHER CHURCH GROUPS

Other groups within which church members participate include:

Hardy Perennials Monthly lunch-time meetings at Pollards Inn at Willaston for people who live largely independently.

Music Group and Singers Musicians and singers who support church services.

Handbell Ringers A group of church members interested in learning the art of handbell ringing. The group has played at various local venues including nursing homes and community events.

Church Bell Ringers The ringing of church bells in the tower for services, festivals, weddings and special occasions.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS

The PCC would like to record its thanks to all the volunteers who work so hard to make the church a lively and vibrant community in the Parish. St Nicholas' Church is indebted to all members of the PCC, the churchwardens, members of the various subcommittees, each of the church groups and especially people who just turn up to help with the many tasks that are needed to be undertaken to make the church and its events function.

OUTWARD GIVING

St Nicholas' Church supported several charitable organisations during the year including:

Home

Save the Family
Wirral Churches Ark Project
Charles Thompson's Mission
Chester Clergy Family Trust

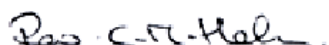
Bible Society
Church Pastoral Aid Society
Wirral Foodbank

Abroad

Church Mission Society
Melanesian Brothers
Mango Tree

Approved on behalf of the committee on 20 April 2021

Rev. CM Helm - Incumbent



**ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH BURTON**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas' Church Burton for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 12 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; 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.



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Janet Jones ACA
Phillip Bates & Co Limited
1/3 Chester Road
Neston
CH64 9PA

Date: 7th May 2021

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Receipts and Payments Accounts 2020

	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
Receipts						
Voluntary Income						
Collections	2,743.87				2,743.87	3,370.49
Envelopes	3,102.00				3,102.00	7,033.00
Planned Giving Friends of St Nicholas'	53,628.00 3,190.00				53,628.00 3,190.00	49,650.00 6,132.42
Income						
Interest		10.03	7.14	78.21	95.38	167.62
Dividends			787.17		787.17	741.68
Event	623.70				623.70	7,010.85
Other Income						
Bld. Soc. Interest	252.84				252.84	0.00
Tax Refund Shotwick Contribution	15,802.30 1,680.00				15,802.30 1,680.00	17,585.70 1,600.00
Fees	7,135.10				7,135.10	11,246.50
Magazine Income	1,265.00				1,265.00	1,579.00
Sundry Income	96.28				96.28	521.28
Special Donations Chester Diocese	4,982.33 2,000.00				4,982.33 2,000.00	27,434.59 0.00
VAT Ref					0.00	5,404.61
Insurance					0.00	3,311.97
Total Receipts	96,501.42	10.03	794.31	78.21	97,383.97	142,789.71

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	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
Payments						
Diocesan Expenses						
Parish Share	52,239.84				52,239.84	50,965.68
Chester DBF	2,652.00				2,652.00	3,211.00
Council Tax	3,103.91				3,103.91	2,978.22
Water Rates	625.22				625.22	623.57
Light & Heat	556.17				556.17	419.72
Gardening	429.00				429.00	957.00
Telecoms	392.84				392.84	320.04
PPE	188.99				188.99	0.00
Other Expenses						
Resources	450.65				450.65	730.19
Travel	401.40				401.40	968.95
Locum Vicar Costs	0.00				0.00	603.50
Building & Upkeep						
Water Rates	53.31				53.31	68.11
Oil					0.00	3,294.18
Electricity	618.00				618.00	315.18
Insurance	1825.90				1825.90	2,468.18
Maintenance Costs	989.64				989.64	262.00
Churchyard	2,516.19				2,516.19	1,325.00
Sundry	27.00				27.00	68.00
Professional Fees	1,482.00				1,482.00	1,440.00
Church Admin						
Verger	50.00				50.00	700.00
Upkeep/Cleaning	1,193.00				1,193.00	500.00
Youth	0.00				0.00	213.70
Magazine	277.00				277.00	2,260.00
Stationery & Copying	346.11				346.11	654.67
Books & Materials	88.99				88.99	282.80
Flowers & Resources	0.00				0.00	604.88
GVH Hire	528.00				528.00	693.00
Licences/Subscriptions	247.00				247.00	275.39
Website & IT	233.00				233.00	238.00
Organist Fees	260.00				260.00	1,245.00
Publications	52.50				52.50	74.05
Equipment	255.26				255.26	4,926.60
Events	115.68				115.68	823.78
Friends of St Nicholas	0.00				0.00	430.36
Other	75.00				75.00	0.00
Charitable Giving	10,626.25				10,626.25	9,609.00
Project Expenditure	15354				15,354.00	49,549.13
	98253.85				98253.85	144,098.88
Divs Reinvested			787.17		787.17	741.68
	98,253.85		787.17		99,041.02	144,840.56

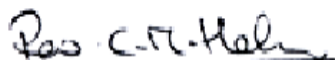
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON
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	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Contingency Fund	Restricted Churchyard Fund	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
Receipts	96,501.42	10.03	794.31	78.21	97,383.97	142,789.71
Payments	98,253.85		787.17		99,041.02	144,840.56
Net	-1,752.43	10.03	7.14	78.21	-1,657.05	-2,050.85
Bank & Cash Balances 1 Jan 2020	85,701.33	2,361.16	1,683.68	18,419.99	108,166.16	110,217.01
Bank & Cash Balances 31 Dec 2020	83,948.90	2,371.19	1,690.82	18,498.20	106,509.11	108,166.16

	General Funds	Contingency Fund	Churchyard Fund	Fabric Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
Statement of Assets & Liabilities						
Barclays Account No 1	20,903.83				20,903.83	32,194.75
Barclays Account No 2	16,737.06				16,737.06	16,737.06
Skipton Building Society	46,308.01				46,308.01	36,650.62
Cash					0.00	118.90
CCLA Fabric Fund				18,498.20	18,498.20	18,419.99
CCLA Contingency		2,371.19			2,371.19	2,361.16
CCLA Ch'yard Fund			1,690.82		1,690.82	1,683.68
	83,948.90	2,371.19	1,690.82	18,498.20	106,509.11	108,166.16

	Total 2020	Total 2019
Investment Assets at Valuation		
CBF C of E Inv.Fund Income shares		
Contingency Fund		
Churchyard Repair Fund	28,617.07	25,997.33
	28,617.07	25,997.33

Approved by the PCC on 20 April 2021 and signed on its behalf:



Rev. CM Helm, Incumbent



B Blakeman, Treasurer

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Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of preparation of accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2. Receipts

Voluntary income for 2020 was £62,664 compared with £66,185 in 2019 (-5.32%). In addition, the church received a further £4,982 in donations towards the completion of ongoing projects. This decrease in voluntary income continues a pattern experienced in previous years resulting from a reduction in the number of established church members (death, moving away, residential care etc.) who, over the years, have largely contributed very generously towards church funds. The level of contributions from these longer-established church members is not currently being replaced by contributions from newer church members. Along with all parishes in the Diocese, St Nicholas' Church received a Covid-19 discretionary support payment of £2,000 from Chester Diocese.

In 2020 the PCC received a tax refund of £15,802 through Gift Aid compared with £17,586 in 2019. This refund figure represents 16.2% of total income for the year, emphasising once again the importance to PCC finances of regular planned giving by church members using Gift Aid where it is possible to do so.

Total income for the year, including special donations, tax refunds etc. amounted to £97,383 and total expenditure was £99,041.

In terms of the ongoing risk to church finances the PCC continues to rely on contributions from a relatively small number of very generous donor households. In many instances, these significant contributors together with other long-standing donors, represent an ageing generation. The evidence suggests that in recent times such donors are neither being replaced nor supplemented by a new and younger generation of church members. In the event that the church was to experience a loss of one or more of the contributions of significant donors, the finances of the church would inevitably come under pressure.

The church also normally relies on funds raised through various events such as those organised by Friends of St Nicholas' Church and the Events Committee as well as other fund-raising activities. The opportunities to hold fund-raising events in 2020 were extremely limited. Nevertheless, regular donations received through the Friends of St Nicholas' Church amounted to £3,190.

In addition to £27,434 raised in 2019 through special donations the church received such project funding in 2020 amounting to £4,982 which enabled planned expenditure on building, maintenance and improvement projects to be undertaken.

3. Investments

Funds to support day to day expenditure are held on deposit with Barclays Bank and with Skipton Building Society. In addition longer-term funds are managed in

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designated funds by CCLA Investment Management Ltd who manage investments for charities, religious organisations and the public sector, including the Church of England.

4. Payments & Expense Costs

No unforeseen items of expenditure were incurred during the year. Certain items of expenditure reduced in 2020 compared with 2019 due to restrictions on church services and activities. For example whilst the upkeep of the building and churchyard continued throughout the year no expenditure was incurred on heating oil in 2020, compared with £3,294 in 2019.

5. Parish Share

All ministry expenses (Vicar and related on-costs) are shared with St Michael's Church, Shotwick. St Nicholas' Church pays 77.25% of the cost and St Michael's Church cover 22.75% of expenditure. The PCC is currently paying the Diocese charge or Parish Share, pro rata, at the rate of 105% of a standard Parish Share rather than at the rate of 145% as requested by the Diocese.

In 2020 the parish share cost to St Nicholas Church, as levied by Chester Diocese, amounted to £52,240 which equates to some £1,004 per week. In the light of a continuing decline in the PCC's ordinary voluntary income and with the church's operating costs remaining largely fixed, the Treasurer has advised the PCC that the present funding model operated by Chester Diocese, is unlikely to be sustainable in the medium to longer term.

6. Trustees Remuneration

St Nicholas' Church PCC did not have any employees during the year and no expenses were either claimed by, or paid to Trustees in performance of their duties as Trustees.