



Diocese of *Rochester*
called together



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Welcoming
Inclusive
Serving



The Parish Church of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

'An inclusive and welcoming community of faith seeking to know and share the love of God'

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

For Year Ended Dec '24



bringing **People & God** together

Parish Office • Village Hall • Church Lane • Chislehurst • BR7 5PE
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Diocese of *Rochester*
called together



Called to Grow
grow with resource



St Nicholas' Parish Church, Chislehurst
Registered Charity No. 1131855

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Rector – In Vacancy

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

John Grant (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

Licensed Ordained Minister

The Rev'd Rachel Curley (Curate)

Parish Office

St Nicholas Village Hall

Church Lane

Chislehurst BR7 5PE

Banks

Barclays Bank plc

and

CAF Bank Ltd

Independent Examiner

Christopher Archer FCA

Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd

BACKGROUND

St Nicholas' Church is situated within the London Borough of Bromley, and historically within the county of Kent. There has been a place of worship on this site for over a thousand years.

The current building dates back to the 15th century but was significantly enlarged in the 19th century in response to pressing need as well as perceived opportunities for growth and outreach.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this parish church has a powerful history connecting it to stories of exploration, invention, achievement, and devotion both to God and to people.

Today we are still committed to that ongoing journey of evolution and growth – it is a pilgrimage of faith, to which our built heritage stands witness. Upon the firm foundations of the past, we rededicate ourselves and our church (the building and the people) as a focus of inclusion, welcome, faith, and loving service.

The Parish of Chislehurst St Nicholas is part of the Bromley Deanery, in the Diocese of Rochester, in the Province of Canterbury, within the Church of England - a member church of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number: 1131855



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the maintenance of St Nicholas Church and Churchyard, Southbeech in Old Perry Street, and the Village Hall in Church Lane.

Rector: *In Vacancy*

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

John Grant (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

Curate

The Rev'd Rachel Curley

Priest with PTO

The Rev'd June Hurn (*until 28th February 2025*)

Licenced Lay Ministers

Theodora Chamberlain

Lynton Karmock-Golds

Reader

Peter Ridge

Members of the PCC:

NAME	Year of Office (Term of 3 years)	ELIGIBLE TO STAND FOR RE-ELECTION in 2025
John Bernays	3 rd (ends at APCM 2025)	yes
Susan Brandon	3 rd (ends at APCM 2025)	yes
Sabina Oakes	3 rd (ends at APCM 2025)	yes
Sheila Brittain	3 rd (ends at APCM 2025)	yes
Philip Wilson	2 nd (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Jenifer Wilson	2 nd (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Mark Wilson	2 nd (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Lloyd Anderson	2 nd (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Michaela Davies	2 nd (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Barbara Russell	(ends at APCM 2027)	N/A
Justine Grant	(ends at APCM 2027)	N/A
Carole Grey	(ends at APCM 2027)	N/A
Sarah Arnheim	(ends at APCM 2027)	N/A
Joanne Papa	Co-Opted as Treasurer	

3 places up for election in 2025

There are up to a maximum of 3 places available for co-opted (1-year term) members:

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF PCC

Rev'd Rachel Curley – Curate

Churchwardens

serve ONE-year terms of office up to a maximum of SIX consecutive years:

Annie Hanifin

John Grant

Representatives on Bromley Deanery Synod

Peter Ridge (until 2025)

Charlie Clark (until 2025)

Diane Moorman (until 2026)

Aims and Purposes

St Nicholas' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, and in the case of a vacancy the Churchwardens, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Churchyard, and the Village Hall complex and grounds.

The Parish

The parish has a population of approximately 4000, across 1,500 households.

The parish also has a Church of England Primary School (St Nicholas), part of the Aquinas Trust Academy of which The Reverend Rachel Curley is a member of the AAC (Aquinas Advisory Council).

Risk Management

The PCC has budgetary disciplines in place to reduce financial risk and endeavours to identify other risks which may prejudice the work of the church. Insurance policies are maintained with Aviva to cover insurable risks, and their advice is followed to reduce risks. The PCC oversees the Safeguarding Policy for children and vulnerable adults. Arrangements have been put in place to carry out checks on people working with these groups, in line with Diocesan guidelines. Like all Church of England churches, safeguarding and safer recruitment are paramount. The PCC is committed to ensuring that our church and hall are safe places for all who use them. For more detailed information and guidance see the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, <https://www.rochester.anglican.org> and click on safeguarding. Produced by the National Safeguarding Team, it is a comprehensive guide, summarising the key areas a parish need to address with regards to safeguarding. All PCC members as well as all church leaders undertake the Safeguarding training appropriate to their level of responsibility and activity as set out in the House of Bishops Practice Guidance for Safeguarding Training. During the year we ensured that General Data Protection Regulations were followed in accordance with their introduction in 2018.

Our General Fund stands at £96,096 which approximates to our target of 50% of our average annual expenditure. The Church Repair Fund was increased to £120,758 (2023: £95,758) to help spread the costs of maintaining the church building over a five-year cycle. It is anticipated that after two years of no major works being carried out on the church, there will of necessity be some expenditure in the coming year.

The PCC notes the £21,742 gain on investments (2023: gain of £59,846) but is cognisant of the fact that investments rise and fall and are a long-term commitment.

OUR VISION, VALUES, AND MISSION

VISION

To know Christ and make Him known. To love our neighbours and serve our world by sharing the gospel.

To be a church that makes disciples who make disciples, transforming lives for Christ.



VALUES

- Welcoming
- Inclusive
- Love and Compassion
- Faith
- Grace and Forgiveness
- Hospitality
- Service and Outreach
- Discipleship and Spiritual Growth

MISSION

To be the church in the community and the community in the church.

We are committed to working hard to be:

AN **INCLUSIVE** AND **WELCOMING** COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Structure, Governance, and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Nicholas, the membership of the PCC consists of the Parish Priest, churchwardens, Deanery Synods representatives, and up to a maximum of 15 members (the maximum number allowed in any C of E church) elected by those members of the congregation **who are on the electoral roll of the church**. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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

The full PCC usually meets 6 times during the year.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of subgroups or Committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These committees are:

1. Standing Committee (statutory)
2. Finance Committee
3. Property Committee
4. Safeguarding Committee
5. Events Committee
6. Village Hall Development Committee
7. Village Hall Committee
8. Churchyard Team

Each is responsible to the PCC and each report back to it regularly with minutes or a summary of their decisions, being received by the full PCC and discussed / ratified as necessary.

Public Benefit

The Trustees (members of the PCC) take account of the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the PCC's purpose and in considering how planned activities will meet that aim.

The Trustees believe that St Nicholas' Church promotes the whole mission of the Church of England in the Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst and beyond its boundaries, including its pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical aspects, and that in so doing provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its adherents and for everyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers
- Promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.
- Maintaining the historic fabric and architectural heritage of the St Nicholas Church building and grounds.
- Providing a quiet space that is available daily to all members of the public.

2024 in Photos

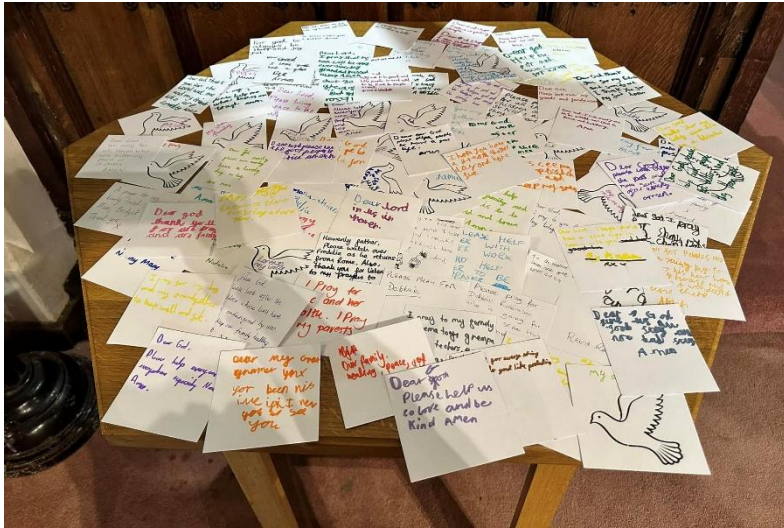


Bishop Simon



Holy Week and Easter





12 hour prayer event

**Rotary Summer Fair
Junior Church on Tour**

Ride & Stride

**June celebrating 30 years of
priesthood**





Chislehurst Creates



Christmas Fair



Confirmation Service with Bishop Jonathan





**Remembering
Sir Malcolm Campbell**



**St Nicks School
St Nicholas Day Celebrations**





Nativity Service





Christingle Service



9 Lessons & Carols



Nativity Tableau



Christmas Day

Pastoral Introduction from the Curate

The Rev'd Rachel Curley

It's always strange writing a review of the year, 3 months into a new year, especially with the start we have had in 2025, but this is about the year of our Lord 2024 and it is important that we focus there.

An eventful year with many highs and lows. I think for me one of the highlights was our Confirmation Service where 18 candidates were confirmed by Bishop Jonathan. It was such a privilege to lead each of them through their classes, and such a wonderful joy to be part of this step in each of their faith journeys. When Bishop Jonathan and I reflected on this service together, we both certainly did so with tears in our eyes.

It was equally a privilege to lead us in Bible Study in 2024, this year for Lent we looked at the Bible through the film A Kings Speech and then For Advent we worked through the film Bruce Almighty. Bible Study is such an important part of anyone's faith journey I do urge you all if you can to join one of our classes.

This year our Junior Church went on tour both to the Rotary Summer Fair and to St Nicks School Party in the Pit, such a perfect opportunity for Outreach.

In mid September I was required to go on an 8 week placement, where I joined Holy Redeemer Church in Lamorbey. I am grateful to all those who covered our services during this time, out of 33 services there was only one that we couldn't get covered!

I am grateful as always for the support of the Churchwardens and the worshipping community of St Nicholas for your support during my curacy. My official training curacy ended in November – who knows what comes next!

With my love and Blessings.

Rachel
Curate, St Nicholas Chislehurst

REVIEW of 2024 - Achievements and Performance (activities and ministries); Worship and the Household of Faith

Worship at St Nicholas has continued to grow during 2024, with an increase of 24% at our 9.30am services.

The weekly E-news is sent to over 450 email addresses.

We continued developing plans to re-envision our Village Hall facilities as a key part of our outreach and ministry resourcing, however we still await news from the Brough Council about planning permission.

We held a record-breaking Christmas Fair in support of our mission and charitable giving.

Delivered 44 Life Event services: baptisms, weddings, funerals, and burials / burial of cremated remains.

Welcomed over 120 people to our Service of Light memorial service for the bereaved and conducted services on behalf of local funeral directors for their Christmas memorial services.

Led Collective Worship in St Nicholas School as well as each year group coming into church for class Communion Services, plus leading a weekly lunchtime class "Leading Lights" and helping during RE lessons.

Bishop Simon led the Parish Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion Service and the Service at the War Memorial, with over 2000 people in attendance.

Welcomed children from Marjorie McClure school who joined us for Easter, and Christmas Services.

Welcomed children from the Midfield School in Orpington.

Junior Church on Tour at the Summer Fair and Party in the Pit School Event..

Home Communion services and Bible studies at Faulkner House, Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Fairlight Nursing Home, Cedarmore Court and Shepherds House.



Continued to be the lead church in the development of a district-wide befriending project (Two's Company) with Rachel working alongside the coordinator and being her point of contact.

Continued with the monthly Soup Lunch which has continued to grow each month.





"Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit."
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Every hour, on the hour we will share together in prayer, please come and go as you wish.

FRIDAY 14th JUNE 2024
St Nicholas, Chislehurst

9am	Mattins - Morning Prayer
10am	Lectio Davina
11am	St Nicks Primary School Prayers
12pm	Midday Prayers
1pm	Prayers of Hospitality with Tea & Cake
2pm	Community Prayers
3pm	Musical Reflections
4pm	Silent Prayer - Prayer Stations
5pm	Healing Prayers and Laying of Hands
6pm	Evening Prayer
7pm	The Rosary
8pm	Compline (BCP) - Night Prayer

Prayer stations are available throughout the church, please spend time at each station, praying, reflecting, and just being in the presence of God.

Hosted a 12-hour Prayer Event, at which over 150 people joined us throughout the 12 hours, including children from St Nicholas School and Marjorie McClure.

Maintained all services throughout the year as well as special services during the liturgical calendar.

Celebrated a special Mothers Union Members Communion Service.

Celebrated Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel, Nave and the High Altar (East Facing).

In June we celebrated 30 years of Women Priests in the Church of England, firstly at a special service at Rochester Cathedral where Rev'd Rachel was

invited to lead one of the Scripture Readings, and then we had our own celebration to celebrate Rev'd June's 30 years of Priesthood.



This was a wonderful Eucharist service led by June, assisted by Rachel with guest preacher the Rev'd Canon Gordon Oliver.

In the order of service, June wrote:

Dear People of St. Nicholas Church,

We arrived in Chislehurst in 1974 as a family, Bruce, myself, Rebecca, Diana, Timothy and Philippa and from then on, to the present day, through Sunday School, Youth Club, House Groups, PCCs, and countless Services and Celebrations, we have been loved and supported by the people of St. Nicholas Church.

I was encouraged by the Rector, John Allen and the PCC, to train for Ministry as a Deacon in 1987 at Canterbury School of Ministry, and Ordained non stipendiary in 1990 to assist in the Parish of St. Nicholas, Chislehurst.

In 1994, when it became possible for women to be Priests, I was Ordained Priest, on the 3rd of July, St. Thomas's Day, with both men and women.

Together, through the years, we have enjoyed the Ministry of 6 Rectors, and, with the devotion of Church Wardens, have managed 6 Interregnums. It has been a privilege for me to take the Services of Baptism, Weddings and Funerals and especially Holy Communion. I was pleased to be able to bridge the gaps between Incumbents.

My biggest support throughout all my ministry has been my husband Bruce.

I would like to say huge thank you to all the people of St. Nicks, past and present, for your welcome, your tolerance, your inspiration and your kindness to me for so many years in sad times and in happy times.

I have been truly Blessed.

With Love and Prayers, June

RIDE AND STRIDE – 14th September 2024

This was the fourteenth year of our participation in this charity event, whereby 50% of sponsorship money goes to the church or chapel chosen by the participant and the remaining 50% plus any gift aid, goes into a fund administered by the Friends of Kent Churches.



All of this fund is distributed in grants to Kent churches for purposes of restoration and repair.

This year the total Kent sponsorship rose to **£151,000** and we, **Revd Rachel and I raised £1011**. **St Nicholas has benefitted in the past: - just look at the hatchments in the Scadbury chapel.**

The event is open to everyone. Participants obtain sponsorship for every church on a list of about 7-800 churches they manage to visit on foot, horse or bicycle between 1000hrs and 1800hrs on the second Saturday in September every year.

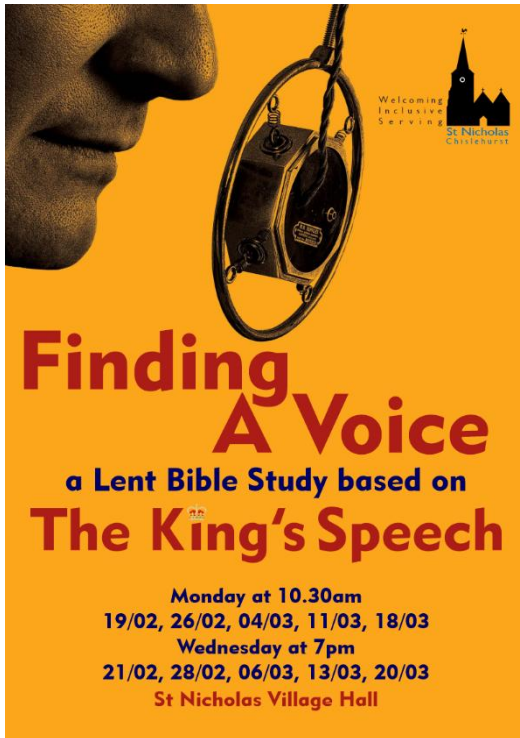
Some less agile can still gain sponsorship by acting as ‘welcomers’ to our incoming visitors.

I managed to ride to 28 churches and Revd Rachel walked to 3 - still continuing that day with her previously committed priestly duties.

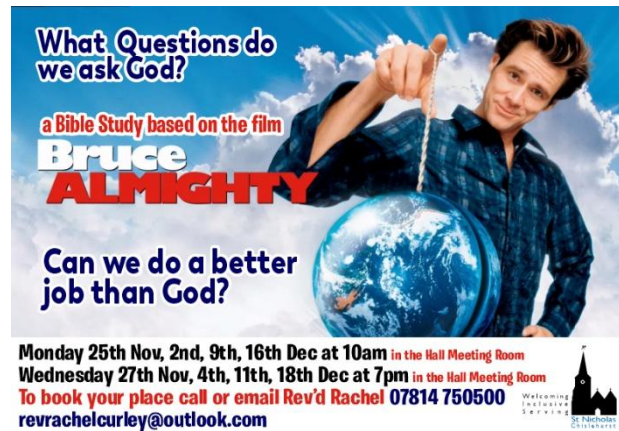
I do appeal each year for more people to participate because you can imagine that if 2 people can raise **£1100**, **how much could we raise if 10 people participated?** **(There is nothing stopping you taking a train to your start point and I can assure you that there are some breathtakingly beautiful churches in Kent).**

Do join us!

Peter Appleby. (Local and Area Organiser)



Bible Studies have thrived, with an average attendance of 30 people at both the Lent and Advent Courses.



Joined in local events with Chislehurst Creates,
and Chislehurst Summer Fair.

In September we again welcomed Fr Jonathan Beswick and others to our church for the 144th anniversary of the death of Father Charles Fuge Lowder.

Ministry through Life Events

Life events (baptisms, weddings, funerals) provide powerful opportunities for ministry and pastoral care to be exercised by our church.

In 2024 we conducted the following:

Marriages 4

Baptisms 14

Funerals 21

Burials of Ashes 7





Worship at St Nick's

All of our services have continued at St Nick's; with a few changes whilst Revd Rachel was away on placement. Unfortunately we were unable to hold our All Souls Service however we had a Service of Light Memorial Service in December which was well attended and well received.

Thanks to the technology of iKnow, we can continue to monitor the increase in our worship attendance at all our church services during the course of 2024, and have seen increased across our services ranging from 15 – 43%.

It has again been a real joy to welcome people who have not been to St Nicholas for a longtime and all those who are new to our church.

The task of keeping our services going throughout an interregnum is not an easy one, and the Churchwardens and PCC are grateful to Rev'd Rachel, Rev'd June and all those who have supported us during the interregnum.

We must also express our thanks to the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, the Venerable Allie Kerr for all of her help and support towards not only the church but to Rachel.

Again, Rev'd Rachel's personal mission statement is now embodied in the life of St Nicholas, Chislehurst.

“The Church in the Community and the community in the church”



FABRIC REPORT

From the Churchwardens, Annie Hanifin and John Grant.

1. Introduction: This report gives an overview of the condition, maintenance requirements and necessary repairs or improvements for the church and other buildings in our care.
2. Description: St. Nicholas Church in Chislehurst, England, dates back to the 13th century, making it around 800 years old. This historic church showcases a blend of architectural styles, primarily exhibiting elements of Gothic architecture, particularly evident in its pointed arches and intricate stonework. Constructed mainly from local stone, the church's exterior presents a weathered, timeless charm.

Notable features of St. Nicholas Church include its impressive tower, adorned with pinnacles, and its striking stained glass windows, which depict biblical scenes and saints. Inside, visitors can marvel at the beautifully carved wooden pulpit and the elegant vaulted ceilings, which add to the grandeur of the space. Additionally, the church houses several memorials and monuments, offering glimpses into the area's rich history and heritage. Overall, St. Nicholas Church stands as a testament to centuries of worship and community in Chislehurst, inviting visitors to appreciate its architectural beauty and historical significance. The Church has a substantial churchyard. St. Nicholas Village Hall is a more modern construction compared to the Church. While its exact age may vary, it dates from the late 19th century. Architecturally, the hall is characterized by a blend of traditional and functional styles, often featuring elements of vernacular or utilitarian design rather than adhering strictly to a specific architectural movement.

The building caters to the needs of the local community for gatherings, events, and meetings. Notable features of the Village Hall include its spacious interior layout, flexible multipurpose rooms, and facilities such as kitchens and bathrooms to accommodate various events and activities.

Overall, St. Nicholas Village Hall serves as a vital hub for community engagement and social activities in Chislehurst, embodying the evolving needs and character of the area.

The Curates house (Southbeech) dates to the 1970s and is a terraced three storey modern house, constructed of brick, with a slate roof.

The Rectory is a similar age property, in the care of the Diocese.

3. Maintenance History: The church buildings maintenance requirements are looked after by a property committee, a hall committee and our Verger. The property committee and the Verger look after the church and

the committee look after the Curates house. External contractors are used for regular specialist maintenance (boiler, lightning conductors, organs etc). The churchyard team look after the churchyard.

4. Summary key points (refer to separate reports for full details):

The Church

- The organ has had extensive maintenance undertaken this year and is in good condition considering its age.
- The external floodlighting in the churchyard has been restored.
- Access to the belfry remains an action.
- The uncovered Sanctuary pavement needs to be fully restored. This is an ongoing action for the property team which has been rescheduled for 2025.
- The Quinquennial inspection is due in July 2025.

Churchyard

- The east fence was repaired in various places including replacement of 16 posts with concrete supports.
- The gardening team continue to provide essential monthly input to the general upkeep and maintenance of the grass, shrubs and trees.

Southbeech

- The rear garden fence has been repaired.
- A section of glazing in an upstairs window needs to be replaced. This will be undertaken in 2025.

The Rectory

The Rectory is the responsibility of the Diocese, as owner.

- In 2024, the property was maintained in a vacant condition. Water and heating have been isolated.
- The driveway has been resurfaced.
- Essential work in the gardens have been undertaken to ensure a reasonable condition is met when a new incumbent is in post.

Special thanks to Justine Grant, Anthony Faulkner, Steve Ripley, Peter Appleby and Alex Roeder for their input and commitment to the ongoing needs of our important buildings and surroundings.

5. Safety and Compliance: We believe that all of the buildings in our care are in compliance with safety regulations, building codes and fire codes.

6. Environmental Considerations: we have considered environmental factors such as energy efficiency, sustainability (new hall) and conservation measures in our maintenance activities.
7. Future Planning: We have a medium term goal to raise funds for the construction of the new village hall, and will actively seek and encourage community involvement, and partnerships with relevant organizations or agencies in the building and operation of the new hall.
8. Conclusion: The regular maintenance and stewardship of the church buildings is of great importance, as it provides a fabric and focal point of gathering for the congregation, further enhancing our work and ministry mission.

New Village Hall 2024

The PCC have committed to the development of a new 'village hall for all' scheme.

In February 2024, a second consultation was held at the village hall to review and discuss the final proposals.

On 28 March, the updated final plans and the design and access statement, updated to reflect comments received, were submitted to Bromley Council. We had formal acknowledgement of receipt from Bromley Council on 18 June 2024.

In July 2024, we had initial feedback on consultee comments on highways, environmental health and early years education which were dealt with by September through (free of charge) a plans update by the architect.

In December 2024, following a lengthy consultation process, we had further feedback from Bromley regarding the Montessori School space allocation and these queries were addressed with a paid minor amendment to the plans.

Our planning consultant, and our three local councilors continue to chase Bromley for a response.

Look ahead – we hope to receive a determination in Q2 2025. At that point, we can start to raise funds.



Churchwardens Report 2024

Annie Hanifin & John Grant

It is with great pleasure and with our gratitude for the support we have been given this year, that we present our report for 2024.

Being wardens in interregnum brings its own challenges, not least, that of hiring a new rector.



The year started with the finalising of the parish profile (the Rectors job advert) in January, and being passed to the Archdeacon to process and progress. After some time, we received feedback to make a few key changes and it was with this final version that we went to the PCC. The PCC agreed to pursue advertising of the role on the C of E website 'Pathways'. The copy was issued and the deadline set. We had a low response rate. At this time, our Curate was unable to apply as the training period was not complete. We sought guidance from the Archdeacon and the Bishop, and as a PCC we agreed to advertise nationally. The closing date for the second round did allow Curate Rachel to apply, and apply she did. Interviews were scheduled for January 2025.

During 2024, we were blessed to still have Rev Rachel and Rev June actively involved in Church life. They certainly sustained us a congregation, and gave Annie & I invaluable guidance in being Wardens. It was a true team effort.



St Nichols continued to foster spiritual growth and engagement with the community throughout the year, growing the links with St Nicholas Primary school and other schools in the parish, as well as reaching out to care homes, businesses and played an active part in the Churches together in Chislehurst & Bickley.

The Easter walk of witness was one such community event, as was Remembrance Sunday, where we had Bishop Simon preside, and the annual nativity which with the other services this year saw over 2,000 attendees over the Christmas period. Other notable service this year included the Easter service at sunrise, the Harvest Festival, the All Souls Service, Christingle and Nine Lessons & Carols.

Our congregation continues to grow and flourish. Numbers attending services have increased, especially in youth and younger children, and our thanks go Rev Rachel and the Junior Church Team for this achievement.

Stewardship and financial income have been steady this year, however we would always welcome more support! We would like to extend our thanks to Jo Papa, our treasurer, and the finance committee for all their hard work. We also welcomed Ray Smith to the team.

The 'New Hall for All' plans were submitted in Q1 of this year. Bromley Council did commit to a resolution late in 2024, however at the end of 2024, a decision was still awaited. We are confident that a positive decision will be given, it's a matter of when not if! At that point, we as a congregation and community will have the next big task at hand!

This is our second year as Wardens, and we continue to learn new things and grow in confidence in the role. It is only possible to be Wardens with your support, and it is because of you our Church Family, that we all do what we do, so our thanks go out to you all. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev Rachel and Rev June for their brilliant ministry during the year. We thank June especially for supporting Rachel and us in maintaining the high standards we have come to love and enjoy over the years.



We would like to thank all the PCC members, and the Deanery Synod reps, for their input and support as Annie & I navigated our way through PCC meetings – thanks you!

St Nicholas has so many willing volunteers who keep all facets of the Church running smoothly – cleaning, catering, bell ringing, maintenance, vergers, chalice administrators young and old, sidespersons, choir, organist and the list goes on! Without you it would not function as it should, so we would like to thank you all, but it is the congregation, our Church Family that makes it what it is – thank you all!

John & Annie.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Weekly Notice Sheet

The single weekly notice sheet is printed each week and available in our church at worship. It continues to be a significant communication tool and liturgy resource for readings at the main Sunday worship. It is also circulated electronically each week via e-news.

E-news

To supplement the Notice Sheet we have also developed an on-line e-news system which allows us to circulate the weekly Notice Sheet ahead of each Sunday and to include a range of interesting articles and opportunities to respond to items of interest.

The e-news is currently sent out to 430 email recipients.

IT System

We continue to use our secure data services and will look in early 2025 to continue to improve our technology, ensuring we are future proof.

Website

Our website is proving to be a great resource for people, where they can find up-to-date information on our services, as well as life events and the many “extra’s” St Nick’s has to offer. The traffic increase of the website during 2024 is up by 29%



Welcoming
Inclusive
Serving

St Nicholas
Chislehurst



iKnowChurch
Click for church diary

[Home](#) [Church Groups](#) [Community Groups](#) [Family & Children](#) [About Us](#) [Giving](#) [Hall Hire](#) [Life Events](#) [Safeguarding](#)

Welcome to St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst

We are a welcoming and inclusive church where everyone is embraced as part of our community. We celebrate the richness of our community through a variety of worship services designed to engage all ages and traditions.

Whether you are seeking a vibrant all age contemporary worship, traditional Holy Communion or the serene beauty of choral evensong, you will find a service that suits you. At St. Nick's, there's a place for everyone and everyone is welcome.

Our Services for Sunday 6th April 2025 5th Sunday of Lent

8am	Said Eucharist BCP
9.30am	All Age Breakfast Worship in hall
6pm	Choral Evensong
10am	Every Wednesday Said Eucharist BCP

Our usual Service Pattern

- .

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is a key part of our life together – both within, and beyond, the congregation.

Both formally, and informally, St Nicholas' responds to human need and the needs of our members in a variety of ways:

- Pastoral visits, including the taking of Holy Communion to the housebound.
- Prayer ministry / intercessions / prayer lists.
- Informal visits by church members to other members.
- Taking services in local nursing homes and sheltered accommodation / retirement apartments.
- Sending monthly cards to those on our prayers lists, ensuring they know we pray for them regularly and offering opportunities to receive a visit and/or communion.
- Visits to local hospitals and hospices.
- Responding to requests from the community, especially those new to the area.
- Preparing the dying for their death.
- One-to-one bereavement support.
- Offering pastoral liturgies in response to need, including the Service of Light Memorial Service.
- Working with Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley to grow our Befriending Service for the lonely and isolated.
- The Community Soup lunch (2nd Thursday of the month in the Village Hall).

Mission and Evangelism and outreach

This includes:

- Mission / Giving to other charities, including Marylebone Project, Bromley Welcare, Compassion, MANUP? and Two's Company.
- Support for Christian Aid
- Practical support for Whitechapel Mission.

Each of our church members, too, are ambassadors of the church and representatives of Christ in their respective locations, communities, and relationships. Mission and ministry and outreach are not the reserve of 'the professionals', they are Gospel imperatives for all of us.

REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Baptism Helpers

Overseen by Sarah Arnheim

Group Aims *The aim is to help set up behind the scenes items needed for Rev Rachel to use during Baptisms, so that she can concentrate on the important bits!*



Since June last year, when I took on the role, Reverend Rachel has presided over twelve baptisms and has a further 13 booked in the coming months.



Bellringers

Tower Captain *Maralyn Evans*

Meets *Sunday service ringing -
suspended at present due
to lack of available
ringers. Monthly
Wednesday evening
practice*



Group Aims *Support ringing for services and special events with main
bells, Ellacombe chimes and handbells*

*Rang bells for 4 weddings with help of district members
Rang Ellacombe chimes for Nativity tableau Monthly practice night ringing
for all levels has been well attended - our thanks to Peter and Colin for
their teaching support
Stephanie, one of our learners, is now competent to ring unaided and has
so gained membership of Lewisham District Ringers
Our other 2 learners continue to improve
2 new bell ropes fitted in May
Scheduled bell maintenance undertaken in November by external company
and all found to be in good condition
Handbell practice with Junior Church*

Hopes and aspirations for the future

*Our 3 new ringers are continuing to improve and hopefully they will be able
to support Sunday service ringing soon
Hopefully we can ring for Rev Rachel's installation as well as a quarter peal
after the ceremony with help from district members*

When our learners are competent, I am hopeful that regular Sunday
morning service ringing will continue.
Involvement of Junior Church and St Nicholas Primary School learning to
ring the handbells.

CHLOE

"CHLOE"
(Chislehurst Ladies Over Eighteen)

Overseen by *Ann Dyer and Muriel Partridge*

Meets *Once a month in the afternoon from
September to July*



Group Aims *To share friendship, fun and refreshments*

CHLOE is a social group of ladies meeting in different houses once a month in the afternoon with the aim of having fun and time to chat. We have a planning meeting in September and decide what activities we would like to share.

There are popular choices, like a film showing, a time to share poetry, a walk, a meal in a restaurant, and a musical afternoon.

Some highlights from last year were a talk by Joanna Friel about the history of the Old Chapel, in the Old Chapel, now the home of the Chislehurst Society, and an enjoyable afternoon playing charades which was a new event. The book which was chosen for the book review was 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus which provoked a lively discussion about the status of women in society from the 1950s onwards.

Thank you to the generous hostesses of our meetings, and we look forward to meeting more people in the future.

*Look out for notices each month in eNews!
Please come along and join in!*



Churches Together in Chislehurst & Bickley

Represented by: *Rev'd Rachel Curley (Vice-Chair)*
Barbara Adie (CTCB Secretary)
Frances Foley (CTCB Social Media)
Philippa Robinson (CTCB Treasurer)



Meets *Spring and Autumn meetings*
Summer AGM

Group Aims *Churches Together consists of nine churches, of which St Nicholas is one.*

As representatives of all the 9 churches in the area, we aim to show those in Chislehurst and Bickley that our faith is relevant and active, and to share our faith with the people in our community.

Achievements this year

- Holding a Service for Christian Unity at Christ Church. The guest speaker was Mike Harrowing from Spinnaker Trust. The trust works with primary schools, delivering collective worship and RE lessons.
- Supporting the World Day of Prayer at St George's Church. The service had been prepared by Christian women of Palestine. Stories of individual women's experiences were told and the theme was 'bearing with all in love..'.
- Organising the Good Friday Walk of Witness along Chislehurst High Street, giving out hot cross buns and holding a short service in the Garden Room.
- Running a stall at Chislehurst Thrives – sharing our Christian faith and emphasising spiritual well-being.
- Celebrating 20 years of Chislehurst Youth for Christ (CYFC), which works collaboratively with other organisations to support young people: working in schools, holding knife crime awareness courses and running a youth club. CYFC is financially supported by the 2gether Charity Shop.
- Continuing to support our Two's Company Befriending Project and start the recruitment process for a new project coordinator. St Nicholas continues to lead the project.

- Spreading the Christmas message by distributing Christmas cards with information about services at all nine churches and re-establishing carol singing at Chislehurst and Bickley stations.

From St. Nicholas: Rev'd Rachel is the Vice-Chair, Barbara Adie continues as secretary and Philippa Robinson as Treasurer. Frances Follin has responsibility for social media posts.

Hopes and aspirations for the future

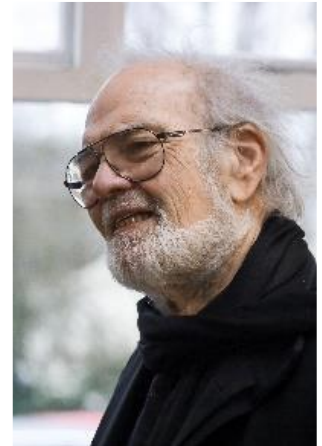
- To be an active and visible sign of our faith and God's love in Chislehurst and Bickley and look for more opportunities to do so.
- To recruit a new project coordinator and secure continued funding for the Two's Company Befriending Project to enable its further development and growth.



Church Choir

Overseen by *Michael Bell FRCO*

Meets *Rehearsals are now on Thursdays (7.30 – 9pm) in the vestry (and/or choir stalls). NEW RECRUITS are urgently welcome in all voices.*
Please contact the Organist & Choirmaster for further details.



Group Aims *To contribute, musically, to the enhancement of worship for the praise and glory of God.*

The Church Choir sings at Sunday services at 9.30am on the second, fourth and fifth Sunday of each month. On the first Sunday of the month the Church Choir sings at 6.00pm Choral Evensong. On the third Sunday of each month the Church Choir sings at 11.15am Choral Matins. Additional services on various week days (at 6pm usually) are on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Saturday and Ascension. A number of Weddings and Funeral Services also call upon the Choir.

It has been possible to field a four-part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) choir throughout the year. Our members are loyal, talented, experienced and conscientious singers, able together to sustain a high standard and a wide repertoire of music ranging from the effectively simple to the undeniably challenging.



My thanks yet again are due to them for maintaining this so apparently cheerfully throughout the year.



Churchyard Volunteers

Overseen by *Alex Roeder*

Meets *Second Saturday of the month.
(weather & numbers dependent).
9am-12 roughly*

Group Aims *To maintain the planting around
the churchyard, collection and
disposal of rubbish and keeping
an eye on what needs seeing to
in general*



Achievements this year:

With emphasis on reducing trees and bushes
Leaf vacuum has been particularly helpful.
Also have our first (non-relation) DoE volunteer.

LOOKING AHEAD

- We hope to get some more volunteers! And we all aspire to keeping the churchyard as neat and viable as possible for the future.



Community Soup Lunch

Overseen by *Rev Rachel Curley*
 Rota co-ordinator: Barbara Adie



Meets *Monthly in the Village Hall*
 12.45pm for 1.00pm every second Thursday (not August)

Group Aims *To provide an opportunity for members of the church and wider community to meet socially, find companionship and chat over a shared lunch; to meet up with old friends and make new ones.*

Achievements this year

A steady number of guests, between 32 – 40, attend soup lunch each month. Everyone appreciates the meal, with frequent compliments for the food and volunteers.

Christmas lunch was made special with crackers and mince pies, but the highlight was St Nicholas school choir coming to sing once again. We are very grateful to the new Head Teacher, Laura Williams and also Katie Harris for making this happen.

Since our last report, a number of things have been put in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of Environmental Health, Bromley. We had notes of our initial meeting with an action plan and this was supplemented with:

- a) Written procedures on running the Soup Lunch
- b) A food hygiene training plan for volunteers, including a quiz and printed handout
- c) A record of volunteers who have been trained
- d) Copies of the certificates of the 4 members of the team who have completed their Food Hygiene certificates (level 2)
- e) A chart recording the temperature of the soup before serving

At the inspection in September, we are pleased to report that we were awarded 5-stars, so all the hard work was worthwhile.

We continue to be grateful to Justine Grant, who makes both the soup and cakes for us each month, as well as providing printed allergy information, which is displayed on the welcome table.

We have a diligent team of 17 volunteers, from church and the local community, without whom this activity would not be possible. Both volunteers and guests help make things work smoothly on the day.

The soup lunches have a lovely friendly atmosphere and continue to provide a very welcome opportunity to meet and socialise in comfort, to relax and chat.

Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

Soup lunches are a valued community event, and we are hoping to encourage increasing numbers from the wider community to join us.



Deanery Synod

Report Submitted By: Charles Clark

The Area Dean and Synod Chair is the Rev'd Andrew McClellan (Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Bromley).

The Synod Lay Chair is Mrs Cath Johnston (Licensed Lay Minister from Christ Church, Chislehurst).

Deanery Synod is a meeting of clergy and laity from each PCC within the deanery and usually occurs thrice per annum. The main purpose is to act as an intermediary between PCCs and Diocesan Synod and to elect the Deanery's Lay Representatives to Diocesan Synod.

St Nicholas, Chislehurst is one of 13 churches in the Bromley Deanery, within the Archdeaconry of Bromley & Bexley and the Diocese of Rochester. The representatives from St Nicholas, Chislehurst are Charles Clark, Peter Ridge and Diane Moorman.

Tuesday 21st March 2023 @ Christ Church, Chislehurst

- Claire Boxall, Diocesan Strategic Framework Manager gave a presentation on mission: Change, Serve, Grow.

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 @ St Nicholas, Chislehurst

- We successfully hosted Deanery Synod for the first time in many years and whilst still in vacancy: 9 clergy and 15 laity were present as the Rev'd Rachel Curley led us in worship.
- It was announced that the Area Dean, the Rev'd Canon Victoria Pask, would become Associate Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley on 1st October. A new Area Dean would therefore be required.
- The Rev'd Canon Pamela Ive, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations gave a presentation on vocations across the C of E and in relation to parishes within the Deanery.
- Election results for the next triennial of Deanery Synod were announced as follows:
 - House of Clergy – The Rev'ds Dr Julie Bowen, Andrew McClellan, James Harratt & Matt Lloyd.
 - House of Laity – Cath Johnston, Richard Latteman & Angela Ivey.

- The Rev'd Julie Bowen was elected to the Diocesan Board of Education.

Thursday 7th November 2024 @ St Mary the Virgin, Hayes

- The Ven. Allie Kerr, Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley, formally commissioned the Rev'd Andrew McClellan as the new Area Dean of Bromley.
- The Archdeacon presented an update on the Diocesan strategy, which generated much discussion, in response to which, the Archdeacon explained there is a Leading Worship course to license capable lay persons to ministry roles and the Area Dean expressed his intention that Deanery Synod ought to be more practically useful for members to go back to their PCCs and parishes.

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Plans for 2025

- The Bishop of Rochester was planned to give a talk to a joint meeting of Bromley and Beckenham Deanery Synods at Christ Church, Chislehurst in March 2025 on the vision and strategy of the diocese.
- A new Deanery Synod Secretary is required.
- A renewed Deanery Website will be launched.

Electoral Roll

Overseen by *Giles Cordwell*

Aims *Maintaining an accurate record of Church membership.*



For the year 2024, running the Electoral Roll has been very straightforward, with relatively little maintenance needing to be undertaken.

This will be made up for in early 2025, however, when church rules require the existing roll to be scrapped and a completely new one to be created.

At the end of 2024, it had 282 members listed, with 12 new names added and 10 removed during the year 2024, either through moving away or because a member has died. The membership was made up of 89 (32%) who live in the parish, 102 (36%) in the rest of Chislehurst and 92 (32%) who live elsewhere. This demonstrates a diverse and inclusive congregation, which can only be positive for the Church.

I will be able to report on the progress of the new Electoral Roll at the APCM if needed.



Finance Committee

Overseen by Sarah Cordwell
Meets Quarterly
Group Aims Management and oversight of church finances

Management of church finances is a daily event, and we remain incredibly grateful for the work Jo Papa carries out on the finances of the church thus easing the work of the Committee.

During the last calendar year we managed to keep our expenditure low but we know there are increases coming again in 2025. Again, in 2024, we carried out no “Major Works” on the church. But the upcoming Quinquennial Review is likely to show works that need to be undertaken.

We continue to “manage” our offering to the Diocese (Parish Share), as we are no longer in a position to pay the additional amounts we used to compensate for those parishes less fortunate than us.

We managed to maintain our Away Giving to the same level as 2023, mainly due to the generosity of planned events – The Christmas Fair, The Tableau and Christingle Service – we are most grateful to everyone who manages these events and their success.

Whilst our Stewardship campaign in February 2024, highlighted concern for our finances., and a number of people either increased their contributions or started contributing for the first time (our thanks for that), but this wasn’t enough.

There was only a 1 per cent increase on 2023 in income from planned giving and collections at services. we see a very slight increase on 2023, and planned giving in 2024 was still 28 per cent less than our planned giving in 2019. I know we can’t keep looking back and we recognise that life is tough for everyone, but the Church receives no grants or monies from anyone else other than our congregation.

The card machine continues to help bring in additional monies that we wouldn’t otherwise have.

We remain so very grateful to all those who contribute to the finances of our wonderful church.



Junior Church

Overseen by Sarah Armstrong and
Kate Murdock-Smith

Meets Twice a month (2nd and 4th Sunday)

Group Aims *To welcome families and children into the Church;
To bring the message of God to our younger members of
the congregation;
To form positive relationships between children and
families at St Nicks*



We have welcomed new families and helpers to our group this year including children learning the hand bells;

We have continued to bring the message of God and stories from the Bible to our younger children through craft, song, game and story;

We have, with the support of Rachel, led a lovely Nativity service at Christmas.

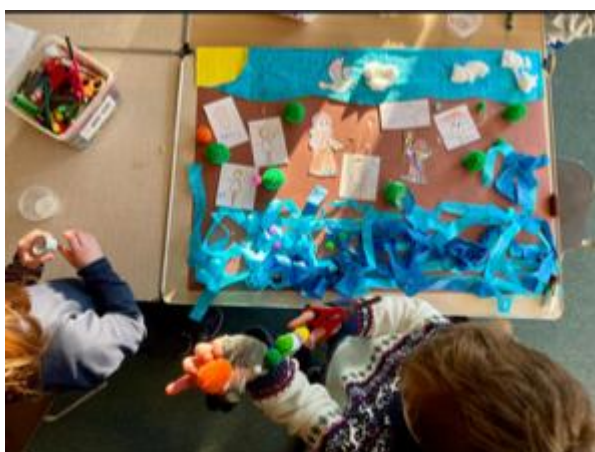


Hopes and aspirations for the future

To continue to welcome new families and their children to the St Nicks' family;

To expand and build upon making links to other areas of the Church community (e.g. bell ringing and the fantastic new Baby & Toddler group).

To bring new life and joy to our children through exciting activities.



Knitting Group

Overseen by *Barbara Adie and Carole Gray*

Meets *Tuesday's 10.30-12.00 in the Bulls Head.*

Group Aims *To provide an opportunity for those in the community interested in knitting or crochet to meet, share creative ideas and support each other.*



The knitting group is blossoming! We continue to grow in numbers, with 18 – 20 members each week.

A dynamic group - we have lost a few good friends this year, but continue to welcome new ones.

As always, we are grateful to The Bull for hosting the group. Due to the increased numbers, self-service coffee is now provided. Skills are varied, but all contribute to an amazing array of items. A range of goods have been provided to charities: Children in Distress, Whitechapel Mission, Shoe boxes and Refugees. We also had a splendid display at the Christmas Fair, raising over £1000. The group love to meet socially too. We had an afternoon tea in Barbara's garden in May, the annual Christmas lunch at the Bull and a lunch at Easter too.

Running for over 10 years, the knitting group is open to all members of the community and continues to provide a warm welcome to newcomers, so pop in one Tuesday morning 10.30-12.00 - join us for a chat and release your creative abilities!

Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

With new members, come new ideas and we already have projects planned and underway. The group plans to increase their social activities in the coming year.



Memorial Garden

Overseen by *Sue Thorogood*

The Memorial Garden is a special place in our Churchyard, and I have had the privilege of overseeing its care and maintenance for over 23 years. Like all gardens it requires constant care, and we are helped by a team of volunteers who work on a rota basis during the spring and summer months. However, due to the number of floral tributes that are left there a lot of extra time is spent through the week watering and clearing away dead flowers and plants and I appeal to those who leave them to help with this.



I am currently looking for someone to cut the small area of grass once a month and this shouldn't take more than about half an hour.

I am sure the garden is appreciated by all those whose loved ones rest there and I hope it will always be a place of peace and reflection.



Mothers' Union

Overseen by *Sally Hayhow and Dorothy Baldwin*

Meets *On the morning of the third
Thursday every month (except
August)*

Group Aims *To share friendship and fellowship*

The M.U. is a worldwide association where members within the Anglican communion find fellowship in an organisation which supports marriage and family life.

The branch here at St. Nicholas has more than 20 members and meets monthly in The Bull at 10.30am on the third Thursday of the month.



During the last 12 months we have held events during our meetings to raise funds for several of the many current M.U. initiatives including literacy programmes and projects to empower women, particularly in parts of Africa where the M.U. plays an important role. AFIA another vital project which we support, providing a much needed escape for families going through tough times with a chance to "Get Away From It All" and has blessed countless people with moments of respite, hope and joy.

Once a year in July, we take part in the Wave of Prayer in Church, a continuous act of praying by members starting in January in Eswatini, Tanzania, Nigeria, Norwich and India right through the year and ending in South Sudan, Kenya, Australia and India. This continuous act of prayer expresses our commitment to each other, in all the places we work and reside and where we can be part of something bigger than ourselves.

Our 24/25 programme has included a special communion service, an Advent meditation both led by Rachel and a visit to the Teapot Island and Museum in Yalding followed by a delicious lunch. We hold an annual Summer Supper bringing our favourite dishes to share while enjoying a warm evening in Philippa's garden. Gwen came to our meeting to describe how the Bromley FoodBank works and another given by Jette about the important work at The Primrose Centre at the PRU where she volunteers.

Additional funds are raised by providing refreshments at some of our Church events such as the Memorial Service and the Wedding Couples' Tea.

Rachel's support for our M.U. branch and its ethos of mutual support and fellowship is deeply appreciated and we are delighted to know that she will be our Rector in the years ahead.



Parish Administrator

In the Parish Office, Mon-Fri, 9am – 1pm.

Overseen by *Rev'd Rachel*

Report submitted by *Selina Lindsey*



2024-25 has been a very successful year in general for the Church and the office, even though for the past year being in an interregnum, with Rachel holding down the fort, we have been busier than ever.

We presented and baptised 23 children in 2024/25 and have 14 confirmed to be baptism from April 2025.

Nine Weddings are booked from April. A successfully attended new Toddler Group has started every month, the Junior Church is thriving, general attendance at the Sunday services have increased.

Hall bookings are increasing whereby we have to turn down bookings because I cannot accommodate all the enquiries. It has been an absolute pleasure to work for St Nicholas and work with Rachel.



PCC Secretary's Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) co-operates with the Parish Priest to promote the whole mission of the Church in the parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

Membership of the PCC is governed by the Church Representation Rules, amended in 2020. Members are either elected or ex-officio.

Most members are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for a three-year period. They may stand again (without a break) for a second successive term (so a maximum of 6 years). After this they are not eligible for re-election until at least one year has passed.

The PCC may also co-opt up to three additional members.

PCC membership during 2024 is set out on page 4 of this report.

Sub-Groups

The PCC has set up sub-groups to carry out particular functions on its behalf:

- **Standing Committee:** This is the only committee required by church law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.
- **Finance Committee:** Works with the Treasurer to ensure good financial management and effective stewardship of resources.
- **Property Committee:** Oversees the extensive work required to maintain our built heritage, properties and grounds
- **Safeguarding Team:** Embeds current good practice and legislation to make sure safeguarding training, awareness and practice is a top priority for everyone within St Nicholas Church

- Hall Development Team: Oversees the plans for the new Village Hall. To date this has involved submitting our proposals for planning permission.
- Village Hall Team: Maintains the hall and oversees its day-to-day running.
- Events Team: Planning and running church and community events.

PCC Meetings during 2024

The full PCC met 5 times during 2024, with good attendance on most occasions:

- 22 January 2024
- 11 March 2024

14 May 2024: Annual Meeting

- 3 June 2024
- 9 September 2024
- 4 November 2024

The Standing Committee and sub-groups met regularly. Where necessary, the PCC received and discussed reports of their activities.



Property Committee

Overseen by *Charles Clark*

Who we are: A number of lay members (some from outside of the PCC) who work together to assist the Churchwardens in maintaining (and in some cases improving!) our fifteenth century church.

There are a large number of routine maintenance tasks and urgent works that are overseen by those who do not sit on the team, in particular Peter Appleby and Anthony Faulkner, to whom a special thanks must go to for their unstinting work in ensuring the building remains in the condition it does.

Sanctuary Pavement

Over Christmastide we removed the blue carpet that was laid in 1983 which had completely covered the Sanctuary.

As was hoped for, we discovered a red and cream-coloured Italian marble pavement that was designed by the noted Gothic Revival architects Bodley and Garner in 1896.



This has received a very positive reaction from members of the church, the wider community in Chislehurst and across social media, with over 12.5k engagements on one post on X/Twitter alone.

Ongoing projects

- Attention required to the degradation of external masonry to the SW buttress.
- We are currently looking into the installation of a handrail to the pulpit steps, to ensure safe access and egress for all who preach/read from the pulpit.
- To improve the lighting in the chancel and also externally in the churchyard.
- To review access to the belfry.
- To fully restore the uncovered Sanctuary pavement.

Hopes and aspirations for the future: To welcome anybody with the skills, time or love to join or even lead our team to help care for the oldest and most beautiful building in Chislehurst



Safeguarding

Overseen by *Susie Hemming-Clark*

Meets *The committee meets every 6-8 weeks and may meet more frequently if there is a need.*

Group Aims *The committee regularly reviews its role and its constitution so that we continue to reflect the ever-changing landscape that safeguarding demands. Thus ensuring St Nicholas church is kept up to date with current safeguarding affairs.*



Rev Rachel Curley, Sally Hayhow and Sue Brandon continue to be committed members of the safeguarding group. The Team members continue to manage our safeguarding process and when appropriate, issues are escalated to our local Diocese safeguarding representative.

Digital Technology:- Safe storage of data & documents



We use a secure shared electronic filing system where the records are collated and stored. All the information is stored following GDPR guidance.

DBS Process - Resources



Sue Brandon and Sally Hayhow handle the DBS process. The Church of England determines which roles need DBS clearance as “anyone appointed/elected by or on behalf of the church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay/ volunteer (paid or unpaid)”.

All Parochial Church Council (PCC) members are aware of their DBS responsibilities.

We continue to support the Churches Together Two's Company project by carrying out the DBS process for them.

Legal responsibility

Church officers are required to renew their DBS authorisation every 3 years.

Safeguarding Sunday 17.11.2024 – During the 9.30am Service



The purpose of this session was to remind the church community to continue to be aware and alert and to report any concerns where anyone's safety is at risk.

Safeguarding Communications



There are notices positioned in strategic places around the church and church hall with more detailed information on noticeboards.

We redesigned our safeguarding posters to simplify them and increase their impact.

The church website and e-news has a safeguarding poster. Safeguarding is also mentioned in the Notice Sheet.

Safeguarding Dashboard for the Diocese

We update the database as and when is required.



www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/safeguardingdashboards.php

Training: <http://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

The courses below are the 4 main areas of training that our staff and volunteers are required to complete:

- Basic Awareness.
- Foundation.
- Leadership and safer recruiter.
- Domestic abuse awareness.

The safeguarding team will inform the volunteers which courses they will need to complete when they take up their role so they are compliant with Church of England recommendation. The volunteers will be reminded when their next training is required: The Rochester Diocese have also now produced a simpler version to highlight who needs what training. This will be displayed on the notice board

The Junior Church Volunteers have completed their safeguarding training.

We still have three volunteers who need to complete the leadership course run by the diocese.

For further information: -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual> useful site for updates and policies.

Hopes

Our church community continues to be a safe place for all.

Aspirations:

- All of our church officers complete their training where required, and provide certificates, in a timely manner and the team's expectation going forward for the new calendar year is that all volunteers are assigned or booked onto training or have completed their training in the first month of being in post.
- The church officers and the congregation work hard to keep our church a safe place.
- That training and safeguarding processes will continue to be prioritised and carried out vigorously in all areas of our church management, and to evaluate our practices and responses regularly.
- At each PCC meeting, to discuss safeguarding scenarios to embed safeguarding further within our church community.
- To start DBS renewals and to book all training within 4 weeks of expiry
- To end lone volunteer working in church (particularly cleaners, flower arrangers and vergers).

- To adopt the new diocese safeguarding hub which will be a more comprehensive and robust system to keep track of safeguarding training and DBS's for our volunteers.
- To continue to embed National Standard for Safeguarding 2023 into our church community:

Standard 1	CULTURE, LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY Church bodies have safe and healthy cultures, effective leadership, resourcing and scrutiny arrangements necessary to deliver high quality safeguarding practices and outcomes.
Standard 2	PREVENTION Church bodies have in place a planned range of measures which together are effective in preventing abuse in their context.
Standard 3	RECOGNISING, ASSESSING AND MANAGING RISK Risk assessments, safety plans and associated processes are of a high quality and result in positive outcomes. The assessment and management of risk is underpinned by effective partnership working
Standard 4	VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS Victims and survivors experience the timeliness and quality of Church bodies' responses to disclosures, and their subsequent support, as positively meeting their needs, including their search for justice and helping their healing process.
Standard 5	LEARNING, SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT All those engaged in safeguarding related activity in Church bodies receive the type and level of learning, professional development, support and supervision necessary to respond to safeguarding situations, victims and survivors, and respondents, effectively.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/national-safeguarding-standards>

**“Safeguarding remains everybody’s business
whatever the community setting“
(Working together to Safeguard Children 2023)**



Welcoming
Inclusive
Serving

Promoting

a safer church

Safeguarding at St Nicholas, Chislehurst



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

Susie and the team have the training and support to be resilient and confident regarding Safeguarding policy and practice.

If you or someone you are concerned about is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999. If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm, please contact one of our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers.



St Nicholas' Church School – Rev'd Rachel



ST NICHOLAS
CE Primary School
Part of the Aquinas Trust

I have continued to thoroughly enjoy my time in St Nicks School and am very grateful to the new headteacher Mrs Laura Williams for allow me to continue my classes.

It was sad saying goodbye to Sophie Sear who had been a great support to me, however Laura Williams has taken over with great enthusiasm and it is equally a joy to work alongside her.

In 2024 I became a trustee (Governor) of St Nicks as part of the Aquinas Advisory Council where my specific role is that of staff welfare.

My lunchtime class *Leading Lights* has continued to grow with the children helping out at various school services but equally during non-school church services.

Report by Laura Williams – Head teacher at St Nick's

In the summer, after I was appointed as the new head teacher to St Nicholas school, Rev'd Rachel was one of the first members of the community that I was introduced to by the previous head teacher - Mrs Sear. Rev'd Rachel welcomed me to the school and the church and from the very start, I knew we would work in great partnership with each other.

Rev'd Rachel is a core part of our school community and is with us regularly and in so many roles. She leads school worship at least once every six weeks enriching children 's spirituality within the school.

Additionally, Rev'd Rachel has led a number of services at the church including Eucharist, St Nicholas day service and the Christmas carol service. These services have deepened pupils' understanding of their faith and enabled them to share this faith with their families and class mates.

Rev'd Rachel is part of our Aquinas Advisory Council for St Nicks and here she has taken on the role of looking out for staff wellbeing. This was felt

especially when she sent words of support – and biscuits – when we had our recent Ofsted inspection in November.

Rev'd Rachel has continued to run the Leading Lights lunchtime group, where pupils feel supported in their spiritual and emotional growth. These children proudly read prayers during the St Nicholas day service and also took part in the Shrove Tuesday service – followed by pancakes - of course!

We also invited Rev'd Rachel to join us for World Book Day in which she read to the whole school. It is clear to see that our school and the church are strongly joined together and both Rev'd Rachel and I will continue to look at ways that we can do even more together in the future.



Third Sunday Singers

Overseen by *Muriel Partridge*

Meets *Every third Saturday and Sunday in the month*

Group Aims *To sing during communion and to lead the congregation hymns on the third Sunday in the month*



Achievements this year

Loyal attendance and commitment to helping worship on the third Sunday every month.

Singing at the Christmas Fair.

Adding new music to our repertoire.

Hopes and Aspirations for the future

To continue our service on the third Sundays.

To extend our repertoire of music.

To participate in special services if required.

We say goodbye to one of our singers, Steve, who is moving away and thank him for his loyalty and commitment.

We would be delighted to welcome new members. If you love singing and would like to be part of the group, please contact any of the members, or speak to us on the Third Sunday before or after the service



Verger's Report

From Peter Appleby – Verger (Philip Wilson, Deputy Verger)

(Definition of a Verger: - A church officer who takes care of the interior of the building and acts as an attendant during ceremonies).

Fulfilment of these duties has been as follows:-

1. The **clock** has been serviced and adjusted at seasonal time changes. It maintains high accuracy.
2. Some **11 grave sites** were selected and after liaison with grave diggers MDH, dug. **5 Burial of Remains (BOR) sites** were selected dug and closed after services. Some 11 Funeral and Memorial Services were **attended** and assistance rendered to the Priest. Proper **records** were entered into the **Registers** providing the ability to trace the location of each BURIAL. **Preparations for funerals(11)** were made.
3. Within the churchyard, the **water supply** was adjusted when icy conditions threatened.
4. The **Lightening Conductor** was checked regularly and received its tri-annual professional check.
5. **Gutters, down-pipes, gullies and drains** were serviced annually and also as required.
6. As a member of the churchyard working party **yew trees** were trimmed.
7. Within the church, the **heating system** was checked regularly and serviced.
8. The **cellar and loo drainage** were maintained by clearing mud intakes and rodding.
9. **Lighting** was maintained by replacement of bulbs. An inspection and Certification of the Church's electricity system was conducted. Flood lighting was installed to light both the tower, spire and the churchyard itself. _ Grateful thanks to The Chislehurst Society for its **Grant**.
10. Modification of the exterior Gas junction housing was made to provide more ventilation and thus safety.
11. The **Southern Porch Doors** were checked for functionality.



(For a more detailed listing of a Verger's duties, refer to **The Sacristan and Server** by the **Rev. S.E.B. Serle, Vicar of the Annunciation Church 1927**. Here, Sacristan can reasonably equate to Verger).



Village Hall team

Overseen by: *Steve Ripley*

Aims: *To keep the Village Hall premises running, safe, and used as much as possible, while a replacement is being prepared.*

Selina (Administrator) and Nadine (cleaner) do a great job in keeping the hall occupied.

The monthly All-age Breakfast Praise, held in the Hall, is particularly successful.

Spend on maintenance and improvements has been kept to a minimum. However, as the Hall will need to be available and suitable for hire for at least another 3 to 4 years some essential repairs and redecoration are necessary - these are currently being prioritised and costed.

The Hall remained operational and open for use throughout the year, with short exceptions when the heating failed:

- we entered into a new cheaper contract for a printer/copier, and purchased some new tables
- various repairs were made to lights, plumbing, and sockets
- we reviewed and updated our hire publicity, terms/conditions, and rates
- The large sycamore behind the sheds is unhealthy, we are awaiting a decision on an appeal - removal approval having been turned down
- safety checks were made on the fire precautions, emergency lighting, and the boiler
- New signage to identify the Hall is in place:

The Hall and Church continue to be Emergency Rest Centres for Bromley Council, if required.



Village Hall Development

The PCC have committed to the development of a new 'village hall for all' scheme. 2023 saw the production of plans and specialist reports required to submit to planning in 2024.



A VILLAGE HALL *for all*

A design and access statement will accompany the plans.

Five specialist surveyor reports are required to feed into the design & access statement, updates as below.

The Architect will need to update plans and proposals to reflect the report findings, and to produce the design & access statement accordingly, for this to be then issued for comment prior to planning submission.

Transport (Kronen Ltd)

Video survey complete. Recommendation for revised disabled bay and turning space to be included in the plans. Architect has incorporated the findings and has updated the plans.

Noise (Sharps Redmore)

Initial survey complete. Follow up survey also complete. Requirements discussed with the Architect and the plans/proposals have been updated by the Architect.

Ecology (Greenlink Ecology Ltd)

Updated report (the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal) issued to planning consultant and Architect. Positive commentary and feedback. The report states a low impact/risk to development.

Drainage

Report complete. The report concludes '...The proposed development is considered acceptable from a surface water drainage perspective...' but also recommends '...a surface water drainage strategy based on an attenuated discharge to the public sewer is recommended...' (a means of holding back rainwater and slowly releasing to the sewer).

Trees (Chartwell Tree Consultants)

Tree survey and findings are complete and incorporated into the proposals.

Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council

of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst (the Church) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Church, 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 Church'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 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 Church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.



Christopher Archer

Date : 03.05.2025

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd
The Vicarage, Rose Lane, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 8DB

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £	2023 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Voluntary income	3(a)	107,938	1,202	-	109,140	117,303
Activities for generating funds	3(b)	35,860	4,296	-	40,156	34,292
Income from Church activities	3(c)	10,597	-	-	10,597	16,157
Income from investments	3(d)	4,231	-	9,987	14,218	12,936
Other income	3(e)	<u>11,623</u>	<u>3,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,263</u>	<u>13,364</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>170,249</u>	<u>9,138</u>	<u>9,987</u>	<u>189,374</u>	<u>194,052</u>
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>						
Church activities	4(a)	172,862	5,963	4,136	182,961	188,114
Exceptional costs	4(b)	-	5,885	-	5,885	2,125
Governance costs	4(c)	<u>657</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>657</u>	<u>769</u>
Total resources expended		<u>173,519</u>	<u>11,848</u>	<u>4,136</u>	<u>189,503</u>	<u>191,008</u>
<u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES</u>		(3,270)	(2,710)	5,851	(129)	3,044
<u>NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS</u>	7(b)	<u>9,602</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,140</u>	<u>21,742</u>	<u>59,846</u>
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</u>		6,332	(2,710)	17,991	21,613	62,890
<u>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</u>		6,000		(6,000)	-	-
Balances brought forward 1 January 2024 (2023)		<u>344,968</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>619,526</u>	<u>966,119</u>	<u>903,229</u>
<u>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</u>						
31 DECEMBER 2024 (2023)		<u>357,300</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>631,517</u>	<u>987,732</u>	<u>966,119</u>

The notes on pages 68 to 74 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	funds £	funds £	Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Tangible	7(a)	60,260	-	232,500	292,760	292,760
Investments	7(b)	<u>230,586</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>391,329</u>	621,915	<u>600,173</u>
		<u>290,846</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>623,829</u>	914,675	<u>892,933</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Debtors & prepayments	8	7,486	-	-	7,486	12,813
Short term deposits		45,651		7,688	53,339	52,624
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>32,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	32,228	<u>25,834</u>
		<u>85,365</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,688</u>	93,053	<u>91,271</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u> due within one year	9	<u>(18,911)</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>-</u>	(19,996)	<u>(18,085)</u>
			=			
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>		<u>66,454</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>7,688</u>	73,057	<u>73,186</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>		<u>357,300</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>631,517</u>	987,732	<u>966,119</u>
<u>FUNDS</u>						
<u>Unrestricted:</u>						
General		96,096	-	-	96,096	103,013
Designated:						
Church Repair Fund	11(a)	120,758	-	-	120,758	95,758
Church Hall Building	11(b)	60,260	-	-	60,260	60,260
Village Hall Fund	11(c)	80,186	-	-	80,186	85,937
<u>Restricted:</u>	14	-	(1,085)	-	(1,085)	1,625
<u>Endowment</u>	12	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>631,517</u>	631,517	<u>619,526</u>
		<u>357,300</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>631,517</u>	987,732	<u>966,119</u>

Approved by the PCC on 2nd May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:-



Rev'd Rachel Curley

The notes on pages 68 to 74 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS *For the year ended 31 December 2024*

1. CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTRATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst was registered with the Charity Commission on 28 September 2009, with Registered No. 1131855. It is required to file its annual report and accounts with the Commission and must also send these to the Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP FRS102 (second edition). The policies are set out in full on page 74 of this report.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2024 £	2023 £
(a) <u>Voluntary income</u>					
Planned giving	72,432	-	-	72,432	70,562
Tax recoverable	18,912	-	-	18,912	18,715
Collections at services	15,294	1,202	-	16,496	17,453
Donations/ Legacies	<u>1,300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>10,573</u>
	<u>107,938</u>	<u>1,202</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,140</u>	<u>117,303</u>
(b) <u>Activities for generating funds</u>					
St Nicholas Fair	-	4,296	-	4,296	4,739
New Village Hall Projects	5,410	-	-	5,410	-
Church Hall hiring	<u>30,450</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,450</u>	<u>29,553</u>
	<u>35,860</u>	<u>4,296</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,156</u>	<u>34,292</u>
(c) <u>Income from Church Activities</u>					
Fees	8,167	-	-	8,167	13,033
Parish magazine	6	-	-	6	-
Social events	<u>2,424</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,424</u>	<u>3,124</u>
	<u>10,597</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,597</u>	<u>16,157</u>
(d) <u>Income from investments</u>					
Dividends & interest	<u>4,231</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,987</u>	<u>14,218</u>	<u>12,936</u>
	<u>4,231</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,987</u>	<u>14,218</u>	<u>12,936</u>
(e) <u>Other incoming resources</u>					
Curate Housing Grant	9,856	-	-	9,856	9,500
Southbeech Rental Income	-	-	-	-	-
LPOW VAT relief	1,767	-	-	1,767	994
Sequestration Income	-	3,474	-	3,474	2,588
Flower income	-	166	-	166	282
	<u>11,623</u>	<u>3,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,263</u>	<u>13,364</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</u>	<u>170,249</u>	<u>9,138</u>	<u>9,987</u>	<u>189,374</u>	<u>194,052</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £	2023 £
(a) Church activities					
Mission and charitable giving	3,585	5,498	-	9,083	9,536
Ministry:					
Parish Offer to Diocese	76,550	-	-	76,550	74,000
Secular charities	72	-	-	72	-
Clergy working expenses	2,098	-	-	2,098	3,709
Clergy housing costs	2,930	-	-	2,930	5,325
Church services & music	16,582	-	-	16,582	13,055
Church:					
Insurance	3,476	-	-	3,476	3,349
Utility costs	5,548	-	-	5,548	8,985
Repairs & maintenance	4,042	-	265	4,307	7,988
Major works	-	-	-	-	-
Southbeech costs	-	-	1,519	1,519	11,053
Churchyard upkeep	3,391	-	2,352	5,743	3,931
Education & Training	24	-	-	24	114
Church Hall running costs	20,257	-	-	20,257	20,209
New Church Hall Planning	11,461	-	-	11,461	9,424
Cost of social events	2,169	-	-	2,169	2,313
Administration	20,677	-	-	20,677	14,680
Flower Expenses	-	465	-	465	443
	<u>172,862</u>	<u>5,963</u>	<u>4,136</u>	<u>182,961</u>	<u>188,114</u>
(b) Exceptional costs					
Sequestration costs	-	5,885	-	5,885	2,125
(c) Governance costs					
Independent examination	460	-	-	460	440
Bank charges	<u>197</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>329</u>
	<u>657</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>657</u>	<u>769</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>173,519</u>	<u>11,848</u>	<u>4,136</u>	<u>189,503</u>	<u>191,008</u>

5. STAFF COSTS (included in the above figures) for the Administrator, the Hall Cleaner and the Organist/Choir master amount to £25,627 (2023 - £23,885).
The stipends of the Rector and the Curate are paid by the diocese.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCC AND RELATED PARTIES

Note 4(a) shows the total of PCC payments to the Rector, Honorary Associate Priest and Curate towards their working expenses and housing costs. The total stewardship income from members of the PCC in 2024 was £9,363 (2023-£8,970). Groundforce1, a company closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £7,195 (2023-£3,920) for grass cutting and trimming at the Churchyard and Rectory. Toby Hurn-Torr, who is also closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £nil (2023-£575) for Gardening Services relating to the Village Hall.

7. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible assets used by the PCC

Freehold land and buildings: Cost at 1 January 2024 and at 31 December 2024

£292,760

The Curate's house at Southbeech, Old Perry Street, BR7 6PL was purchased in 2001 for £232,500.

St Nicholas Village Hall was given to the PCC in 1921, mostly rebuilt in 1977 and extended in 1987.

The total historic cost was £60,260. Neither sum is being depreciated.

(b) Investments – movements during the year: -

	£	Represented by shares in CBF Church of England Funds:	£
Market value on 1 January	600,173	Global Equities Investment Fund	83,340
Net gain on revaluation	<u>21,742</u>	Investment Fund (Equities)	<u>538,575</u>
	<u>621,915</u>		<u>621,915</u>

8. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	2,186	2,238
Tax recoverable	4,764	9,827
VAT recoverable	536	748
	<u>7,486</u>	<u>12,813</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) *For the year ended 31 December 2024*

9. LIABILITIES due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Goods and services	10,358	8,978
Donations allocated out of 2024 (2023) income	8,553	9,107
Sequestration account deficit	<u>1,085</u>	=
	<u>19,996</u>	<u>18,085</u>

10. GIVING TO MISSIONS & CHARITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Welcare in Bromley	1,838	1,959
Children in Distress	250	-
Whitechapel Mission	579	604
Children's Society	43	62
Church Army, Marylebone Women's Hostel	1,838	1,959
Churches Together In Chislehurst & Bickley	150	150
Compassion UK	1,838	1,959
MANUP?	1,838	1,959
Salvation Army	579	604
Assistance to poorer parishes and other items	<u>130</u>	<u>280</u>
	<u>9,083</u>	<u>9,536</u>
Secular charities	<u>72</u>	=
Total	<u>9,155</u>	<u>9,536</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

11. Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance £	Income in year £	Expenditure in year £	Inter Fund Transfers £	Investment Result £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted						
General	103,013	164,539	(162,058)	(19,000)	9,602	96,096
Designated						
Church Repair	95,758	-	-	25,000	-	120,758
Hall Building	60,260	-	-	-	-	60,260
New Village Hall	85,937	5,710	(11,461)	-	-	80,186
Restricted						
Minor funds	1,162	166	(465)	-	-	863
Sequestration	463	3,474	(5,885)	-	-	(1,948)
Away Giving	-	5,498	(5,498)	-	-	-
Endowments	<u>619,526</u>	<u>9,987</u>	<u>(4,136)</u>	<u>(6,000)</u>	<u>12,140</u>	<u>631,517</u>
Totals	<u>966,119</u>	<u>189,374</u>	<u>(189,503)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,742</u>	<u>987,732</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Financial provision is being made via designated funds for future non-annual repairs and renewal.

- (a) **Church Repair Fund** - The Fund stood at £95,758 at the start of the year. A further £25,000 has been transferred from General Fund to spread the burden of anticipated exceptional costs over a five-year cycle. As part of this the PCC makes regular deposits into diocesan accounts as recommended by the diocesan surveyor, for future quinquennial fabric repairs to the Church and the Curate's house. In the year to 31st December 2024 no money was spent on major repairs to the church. This leaves a balance of £120,758 in the fund at the end of the year.
- (b) **Church Hall** - The hall is run on a self-financing basis to generate sufficient funds to meet any major work on the fabric of the Hall. The annual income and expenditure and the resultant financial surplus or deficit from its operations is accounted for within the General Fund Statement of Financial Activities. The designated fund represents the historic book value of the building which as such is an illiquid asset.
- (c) **New Village Hall Fund** – The fund stood at £85,937 at the start of the year . Donations totalling £300 for the Re-building were received in the year and £5,410 was made from fundraising projects. A further £11,461 was spent on work towards the Planning Application. This leaves a balance of £80,186 in the fund at the end of the year.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

12. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Capital funds which the PCC has no power to expend (permanent), or which may be spent in certain circumstances (expendable). The income is available for specific purposes as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| (a) Churchyard fund - to maintain 29 graves in St Nicholas churchyard | } | Permanent endowments |
| (b) Fabric Trust - for repairs to the church fabric | | market value |
| (c) Nussey Trust - for church maintenance | | £96,422 |
| (d) Clergy House Trust - an expendable endowment. It holds the curate's house (see note 7(a), investments of £281,958 and short-term deposits £7,688 . The income arising is available to the PCC and the capital is available for ecclesiastical purposes in or near the parish under the oversight of the Diocese as custodian trustee. It has been decided by the PCC to transfer £6,000 from this fund into the General Fund. | | |
| (e) Hawes Trust - it is agreed that the capital may be invested in an accumulating fund, provided that the two-family graves are maintained. The capital may be used after May 2059 (Market value £12,949). | | |

13. CONNECTED CHARITIES

Monies handled by the St Nicholas branch of the Mother's Union are not included in these accounts.

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

- The church holds a fund of £603 available to meet the objects of 'Chislehurst Relief in Need' (2023 - £603)
- In the year the Flower Fund had income of £166 and expenses of £465, leaving a balance of £260 (2023 - £559)
- As St Nicholas is in an interregnum a Sequestration Account has been set up. This holds the fees for Weddings and Funerals that would normally be due to the parish less any expenses relating to visiting clergy and the upkeep of the Rectory. At the end of the year there was a balance of £(1,948); (2023 - £463) in the account. At the end of the interregnum if the account is in surplus the funds are due to the Diocese. If there is a deficit the PCC will have to meet the cost.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP FRS102 (second edition).

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

Fund Accounting

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments that is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are income funds that are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted, and the PCC may move any surplus to other general funds.

Resources expended

Donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with the s.10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. The Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Charities Act 2011

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £5,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

A sneak peek into 2025



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St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst



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