



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 2025

For Year Ended Dec '25



St Nicks is a welcoming and inclusive church where everyone is embraced as part of our community.



bringing **People & God** together
Parish Office • Village Hall • Church Lane • Chislehurst • BR7 5PE
www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk
0208 467 0196
office@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk



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 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Rector

The Reverend Rachel Curley

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin

John Grant

Parish Office

St Nicholas Village Hall

Church Lane

Chislehurst BR7 5PE

Banks

Barclays Bank plc

and

CAF Bank Ltd

Independent Examiner

Zachary Ramsden

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: The Reverend Rachel Curley – Chair of the PCC

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin (Joint vice chair of PCC)

John Grant (Joint vice chair of PCC)

Associate Priest (PTO)

Rev'd June Hurn until February 2025

Reader with (PTO)

Peter Ridge

Licensed Lay Ministers

Theodora Chamberlain

Lynton Karmock-Golds

Members of the PCC:

NAME & Year of Office

ELIGIBLE TO STAND FOR RE-ELECTION in 2026

Philip Wilson (23)	(ends at APCM 2026)	yes
Jenifer Wilson (23)	(ends at APCM 2026)	yes
Mark Wilson (23)	(ends at APCM 2026)	yes
Lloyd Anderson (23)	(ends at APCM 2026)	yes
Michaela Davies (23)	(ends at APCM 2026)	Standing down
Barbara Russell (24)	<i>(ends at APCM 2027)</i>	Standing down
Carole Gray (24)	<i>(ends at APCM 2027)</i>	Standing down
Justine Grant (24)	<i>(ends at APCM 2027)</i>	N/A
Nicola Smith (24)	<i>(ends at APCM 2027)</i>	N/A
John Bernays (25)	(ends at APCM 2028)	N/A
Susan Brandon (25)	(ends at APCM 2028)	N/A
Joanne Papa (25)	(ends at APCM 2028)	N/A
Adrian Kerr (25)	(ends at APCM 2026)	yes

Co-Opted on 24 November 2025

7 representatives (1 vacancy).

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF PCC

Rev'd Rachel Curley – Rector

Churchwardens

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

Annie Hanifin

John Grant

Representatives on Bromley Deanery Synod

Diane Moorman

Peter Ridge

Charlie Clark stood down on 24 November 2025

3 vacancies in 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, www.rochester.anglican.org/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 £115,119 which approximates to just over our target of 50% of our average annual expenditure. The Church Repair Fund remains at £120,758 (2024: £120,758). Several projects as identified in the quinquennial report will be tackled in the coming year.

The PCC notes the £21,016 loss on investments (2024: gain of £21,742) but is very pleased that overall, these accounts show a net surplus before gains/(losses) on investments and gains on heritage assets of £33,543 (2024: deficit of £129).

OUR VISION, VALUES, AND MISSION

Guided by our vision to know Christ and make Him known, we seek to be a welcoming and inclusive church where all people experience the love, grace, and compassion of God.

Through worship, prayer, and learning together, we encourage discipleship and spiritual growth so that each person is equipped to follow Jesus and help others do the same.

Rooted in hospitality and forgiveness, we strive to love our neighbours and serve our community with generosity and care. By sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through service, outreach, and everyday relationships, we seek to transform lives and make disciples who make disciples.

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.

2025 in Photos



The Wedding Couple Tea February 2025



School Ash Wednesday Service



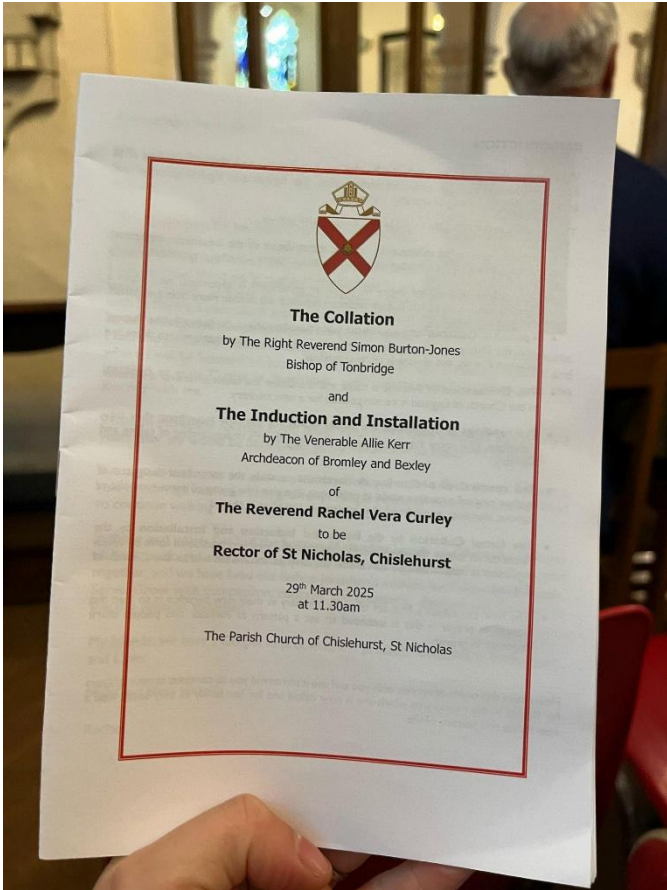
Rev'd Rachel on World Book Day



Rachel's final service as Curate

Rev'd Rachel's Installation as Rector; 29th March 2025





Home Sweet Home



It was a good sandwich!



Maundy Thursday Supper



Good Friday Service in High Street



Easter Eve; Service of Light



The Easter Bunny!



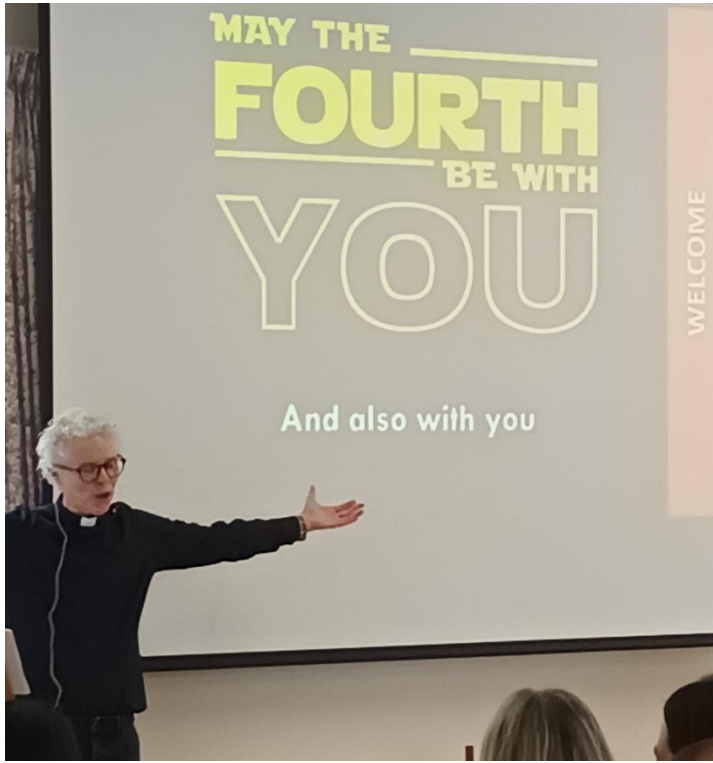
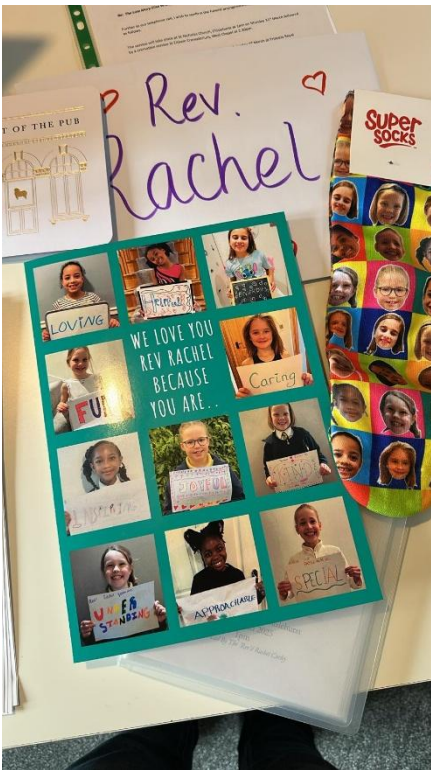
Alan's return to St Nicks!



Ascension Day Service



Admitting of Children to Holy Communion





Chislehurst Rotary Summer Fair



Archdeacon's Visitation – John and Annie are Licensed as Churchwardens

The Diocese of Rochester's **Leading Public Worship** course equips individuals to lead worship based on a Service of the Word. It is designed for those who feel called to take on a more active role in leading services within their parish on an occasional basis.

Upon completion, participants are authorised to lead services up to 12 times a year, with the agreement of their Incumbent and PCC, providing both the confidence and practical skills needed to lead worship faithfully and effectively.

We were thrilled when Charlie began this course, and Revd Rachel was delighted to present his certificate to him at Pentecost, marking this important step in his ministry.



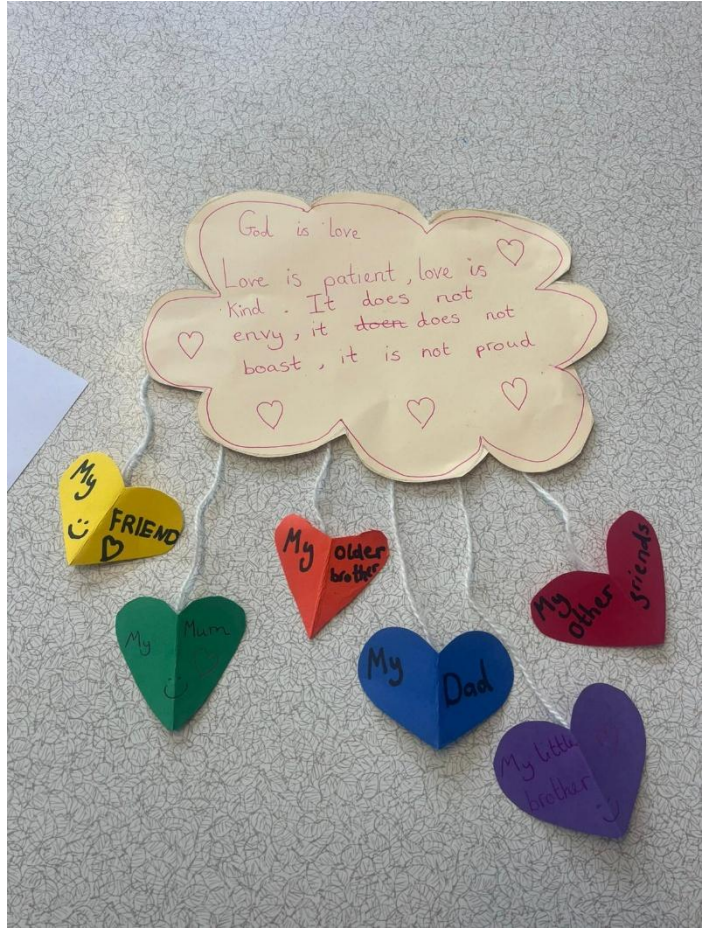
Fundraising Auction with Catherine Southon





Fundraising Auction with Catherine Southon





Everyone is Welcome at St Nicks





Back to School Sunday



**Confirmation Service
At Prince George, Duke of Kent**



Harvest Festival



Christmas Fair



Nativity Service





Christingle Service



Carol Service



Nativity Tableau

Rector's Report and Review for 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I find it hard to believe that I am writing a report for the year that was 2025. I am not quite sure where the time has gone since I arrived here in July 2022; so much has happened in that time.

I am now just under a year in post as Rector, and I can honestly say it has been the privilege of my life. At my Installation Service I said that we would walk beside one another in the years to come, through the good, the bad, the grief and the joy, and I believe we have truly done so this past year.

I began my incumbency with a clear vision, and I feel extremely proud of us as a church, and, if I may add, a little proud of myself, that we have stayed faithful to that vision. There has been no standing still here at St Nick's.

It has been encouraging to see continued growth in worship across all our services and age groups. I believe this reflects who we are as a church: inclusive, welcoming, and genuine. It has been encouraging to see continued growth in worship across all our services and age groups. I believe this reflects who we are as a church: inclusive, welcoming, and genuine. People are hearing about our church, both within and beyond our community, and are coming to see for themselves what it is about. When we say that everyone is welcome at St Nick's, we mean it, and people believe us.

We have also continued to move forward with plans to reimagine our Village Hall as part of our outreach and ministry. I am delighted that we were granted planning permission this year, a significant step forward. It has also been wonderful to welcome Andrew Stone to help lead the project as we begin turning this vision into reality for both the church and the wider community.

This year, we have had the privilege of walking alongside 89 families (44 in 2024) through baptisms, weddings, funerals, and burials, sharing with them in both joyful and difficult moments.

A particular highlight was our Admitting Children to Holy Communion service in June, followed by a Family Fun Day. I am especially grateful to Mrs Williams, Head of St Nick's School, for enabling me to teach the preparation classes during the school day.

It was also wonderful to welcome so many people to our Back-to-School Sunday service in August, including more than 50 children, with a visiting band helping to lead us in worship. I have to say I am already excited about next years service!

Our relationship with St Nicholas School has continued to grow. We have brought Collective Worship back into church, and it has been a joy to welcome each year group for class Communion services. Alongside this, I have continued leading the weekly lunchtime group, Leading Lights, and supporting RE lessons in school.

It was a real pleasure to welcome Rev'd Alan Mustoe and Kathleen back to St Nick's, and to share a Parish Lunch together. Alan kindly reflected: "We have heard on a good number of occasions how much the church and indeed parish appreciate your ministry, and we could see why. It's good to see with our own eyes what we've heard with our ears."

I remain deeply grateful for the heritage of St Nick's, and I look to the future prayerfully, trusting where God is leading us.

It was truly wonderful to record just under 4,000 people joining our services over the Christmas season. This is an incredible encouragement, and a reminder of the deep longing people have to connect with God, especially at this special time of year. We must never underestimate what this means. Every person who came through our doors carried their own story, their own hopes, questions, and prayers. It is a privilege to be a place where people feel able to come, to belong, and to encounter something of God's love.

I know that some people worry about how busy I am, but I think I would be more concerned if I wasn't. Often, busyness reflects people reaching out and encountering God in their lives. At the same time, I hope I have been able to model the importance of rest and time with God, and that you have seen me trying to practise what I preach.

As I look ahead to 2026, I sense that we will be busier still. Phase two of our vision will begin to take shape, and I pray that by the end of the year we will be closer to our new hall, improved accessibility and inclusivity, and, finally, a warm church in winter.

My friends, we know that the year ahead will bring both joy and its challenges. But as we sang at my Installation:

***We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.***

And so, we will continue to support one another as we journey together.

With my love and blessings

Rachel

Rector, St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst (this still always makes me smile!)

Junior Church on Tour at the Rotary Summer Fair.

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.

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

Added Sung Mattins to our list of services throughout the year as well as special services during the liturgical calendar.

Celebrated a special Mothers Union Members Communion Service where new members were enrolled.





As Rev'd Rachel was on leave before her installation service we unfortunately did not have a Lent Bible Study this year, however we did have an Advent Bible Study based on the film *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

The church continued to support local events throughout the year.

Over Christmas we were delighted to welcome an amazing number of people to our services, with **just under 4,000 people** attending across the season. Our **Christingle service** saw a record attendance—certainly the largest in the past eight years—with **over 150 people** taking part.

The **Nativity Tableau** also continues to grow year by year, drawing more members of our community to share in the joy and celebration

of Christmas at St Nicholas.

This year, for the first time, Baby Jesus went on an **Advent Journey** through our community, staying in over 24 homes. The journey began at **St Nicholas School**, and his final night was spent with **Wendy Lowdon** before returning to church for the **Nativity Tableau**. This initiative proved to be an even greater success than we had imagined, bringing joy and reflection to many homes in the community. We very much look forward to repeating the Advent Journey again in **2026**. Grateful thanks to David Sharpe for his help and planning.



Ministry through Life Events

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

In 2025 we conducted the following:

Marriages	8
Marriage Blessing	1
Baptisms	32
Funerals	29
Burials of Ashes	17





Not all of our ministry is filled with joy and celebration. One of the most significant and sacred aspects of parish life is our **funeral ministry**, which continues to be a genuine privilege.

During 2025, the number of funerals reached levels I have not seen during my time in ministry. Over the course of the year I officiated at **29 funerals at St Nicholas**, as well as several others for families and friends elsewhere. The most striking period came during **Advent**, when we held **16 funerals within just six weeks**.

Walking with families through the pain and sorrow of loss is never easy. The grief, love, and memories shared in those moments remind us of the depth of human connection and the hope we hold in Christ. It is a profound privilege to accompany people during such tender and difficult times, to hold their stories, and to commend their loved ones into God's eternal care.

We continue to pray for all those who mourn, trusting in the promise of resurrection and the comfort of God's presence. May those who grieve know the peace of Christ and may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

FABRIC REPORT

From the Churchwardens

This report gives an overview of the condition, maintenance requirements and necessary repairs or improvements for the church and other buildings in our care.

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 toilets 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, and is owned and maintained by the Rochester Diocese.

The fabric of the church and associated buildings has been generally well maintained during the year, with ongoing attention given to routine repairs and upkeep.

We plan to work alongside the Rector and Property Committee to develop and implement a full maintenance schedule for 2026. We are pleased to have made a start on this vision during the past year and are generally happy with the progress made and the plans ahead.

Full details of works undertaken, current issues, and planned maintenance are set out in the Property Report, to which this report refers.

Annie Hanifin and John Grant.

Churchwardens Report 2025

2025 began in a significant and memorable way for us as Churchwardens, as we took part in the interview process for the appointment of a new Rector alongside the Archdeacon. This was a new and an unusual experience, but we were committed to ensuring that everything was carried out carefully and properly. It is fair to say that we asked searching questions of Rachel, and in turn she asked important questions of us, helping everyone to understand clearly what lay ahead.



Following the decision, although we knew the outcome before Rachel did, it was the Archdeacon's role to formally invite her to take up the post. John and I found ourselves waiting in the car outside Rachel's house so that we could celebrate together immediately afterwards, a moment of real joy and anticipation. This marked the beginning of the final months of the interregnum, and our attention quickly turned to planning the Induction and Installation service.

In February, we also marked an important transition as Rev'd June's Permission to Officiate (PTO) came to an end, and she stepped down from public ministry. We are both deeply grateful to June for her many years of faithful service to St Nicholas and all she has given to the life of the church.

March brought the wonderful occasion of Rachel's Institution and Installation service, at which we were privileged to be present alongside Bishop Simon, Archdeacon Allie, and Andrew, the Area Dean. This was a particularly special highlight of the year, with over 350 people gathered in church to celebrate, including members of our church family, the wider community, dignitaries, including the Mayor of Bromley, as well as Rachel's family, friends, and colleagues.

As is so often the case at St Nick's, we have not stood still. It has been a real encouragement to see Rachel's incumbency begin to take shape, particularly as she shares and develops her vision for the church. We appreciate the way in which she is moving things forward while ensuring that everyone has a voice in shaping the future of our church community.

We are also very grateful to Bernadette for taking on the leadership of the Property Committee, working closely with us and with Rachel to ensure that our buildings are well maintained and cared for.

It has been a joy to see our church continue to grow, with new people and families joining us week by week across our services.

Alongside the Installation, other highlights of the year have included our Back to School Sunday service and the service to admit children to Holy Communion, both joyful and significant moments in the life of our church.

While there will always be challenges ahead, we are thankful that, as a leadership team alongside Rachel, we work well together and support one another.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Jo Papa, our Treasurer, for all that she does, and to Nicola Smith, our PCC Secretary. We are blessed with a strong and committed leadership team at St Nicholas.

We also want to thank the many volunteers who give their time and energy so generously. You are essential to the life of this church, and we are deeply aware that it is through your contribution that St Nick's continues to thrive. To all who give financially or practically, please know that your support is seen and greatly appreciated.

Finally, we want to thank Rachel for her continued support, both to us as Churchwardens and to the wider community.

Her vision of "the Church in the community and the community in the Church" continues to bear fruit, and it is a joy to witness.

Annie Hanifin & John Grant

A Hall For All

In July we received the good news that planning permission had been granted for the new hall. However, there are several restrictions attached to the permission that we will need to amend. Most significantly, under the current conditions we would not be able to use the hall at Christmas or Easter, as these periods are classified as bank holidays.



Work to amend these restrictions is expected to take place in early 2026.

Rev'd Rachel has also invited Andrew Stone to lead the next phase of the project, allowing John Grant to continue focusing on his role as Churchwarden. We are very grateful to John for all his work in helping us reach the stage of securing planning permission. As the project moves forward, he will continue to work alongside Annie, Rachel, and Andrew in developing the new hall.

Our grateful thanks go to Mark, Alison and Mike from Chislehurst Matters and Joanna Friel from the Chislehurst Society for all their support.

In 2026, we also plan to bring together a group of people to serve as **Community Champions**, helping to strengthen links between the church, the new hall, and the wider community.

In 2025 we held our first **Auction Fundraiser**, and we are extremely grateful to Catherine Southon, the auctioneer, and especially to her assistant Katy for all their hard work in making the event such a success. We are also very thankful to **Chislehurst Golf Club** for generously allowing us to use their space free of charge. The event raised an impressive **£13,500**.

We would also like to thank **Carl Murdock-Smith**, who enabled us to match fund **£1,000**, further boosting the total raised to **£14,500** with a profit of £12,105.

In addition, we organised a Games Afternoon, hosted a talk by Joanna Friel on the graves at St Nicholas, and enjoyed a further talk on Saint Nicholas himself. We also ran a "Barrow of Booze" at the Christmas Fair.

In total we added £20833 to the VH fund (as shown in the accounts). £13,205 of this was from fundraising and £7,628 was from direct donations .

Special thanks must also go to **Tom Allen**, who generously allowed us to auction two dinners with him and Rev'd Rachel. These lots alone raised **over £4,000** for the new hall project.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Weekly Notice Sheet

The weekly notice sheet is printed each week and available in church during worship. It continues to be an important communication tool and provides the readings and liturgy for the main Sunday service. It is also circulated electronically each week through our e-news.

E-news

To complement the weekly Notice Sheet, we have also developed an online e-news system. This enables us to circulate the Notice Sheet ahead of each Sunday and to include a range of articles, updates, and opportunities for people to engage with news and events in the life of the church.

The e-news is currently sent to around **500 email recipients**.

IT System

During 2025 we installed a new IT system, upgrading all church email addresses to ensure they comply with current **data protection requirements and GDPR regulations**. This has helped strengthen the security of our communications and improve how we manage church information digitally.

The new system also provides a more consistent and professional approach to email communication across the church, supporting both staff and volunteers in their work.

Website

Our website continues to be an important resource for people seeking information about St Nick's. It provides up-to-date details about our services, life events, and the many activities and opportunities the church offers. During 2025, traffic to the website increased by **50%**, showing that more people are using it to connect with the life of the church.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a key part of our life together, both within the congregation and in the wider community.

Through both formal and informal means, St Nicholas responds to the needs of our members and to human need more broadly in a variety of ways.

- Pastoral visits, including the taking of Holy Communion to the housebound and those in hospital or hospice care.
- 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.
- 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 WarChild, MANUP?, Two's Company Befriending, Bromley Brough Foodbank, Welcare
- Continued Support for Christian Aid and The Salvation Army.

In 2025, Rev'd Rachel was privileged to be invited to become a **Trustee of Welcare**. Welcare is a Christian charity that supports children and families facing challenges such as poverty, family breakdown, and social isolation. Through practical support, family mentoring, and early intervention work, Welcare seeks to strengthen families and improve outcomes for children across the communities it serves. Rachel's involvement as a trustee strengthens the links between St Nicholas and the wider work of supporting vulnerable families, reflecting our shared commitment to care for those in need and to serve the community.

REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Baptism Helpers

Overseen by Sarah Arnheim

Group Aims To have as many baptisms and welcome new members into the St Nick's family.

A busy year with over 30 Baptisms of babies, children and adults.

It is always a great privilege to help on these happy occasions.

I would like to thank the team of volunteers for their continued support and to thank those new volunteers for joining our team.



Bellringers

Overseen by Maralyn Evans and Bernadette Katchoff

Meets Sunday service ringing (when possible with the help of district members)
Monthly Wednesday evening practice



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

- Sunday service ringing when district members were able to support
- Monthly practice night ringing for all levels has been well attended- our thanks to district members Peter, Nigel and Colin for their teaching support
- Rang for 8 weddings and 1 funeral with the help of district members
- Rang for Rev'd Rachel's Collation to be Rector, on Saturday, 29 March 2025

Tenor: 15-2-19 in E

1260 Grandsire Triples (Composed by Julian O Howes)

1. Becca C Hardy
2. David Holdridge
3. Svetlana Sokolova
4. Graham Long
5. Peter D Oates
6. Nigel Pointer (C)
7. Colin J E Wyld
8. Peter A Norwood

Our congratulations to Stephanie, one of our new recruits, for ringing the tenor bell in a quarter peal at St Mary Cray in October

- Our other two learners continue to improve
- Handbell practice with Junior Church thanks to Bernadette

Hosted well attended Christmas District Social with excellent ringing and Refreshments provided by Bernadette and team.

Visit by the Clerical Guild of Ringers in October

Hopes and aspirations for the future

Sunday service ringing will become more frequent as our learners continue to improve and to continue to provide ringing for special events.

CHLOE

“CHLOE”
(Chislehurst Ladies Over Eighteen)

Overseen by Muriel Partridge and Shelia Brittain

Meets Once a month

Group Aims To encourage friendship and fellowship amongst the ladies in the congregation of St Nicholas Church.



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.

Achievements this year An interesting programme of events

Hopes and Aspirations for the future To continue producing a varied programme and to attract new members.

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



Events Team

Overseen by Justine Grant

Aspirations Continue to assist with the increasing social activities of the Church. More people to join the team!

Monthly All Age Breakfast Service – Breakfast prepared and served each month.

Monthly Soup Lunch – Homemade soup and cake

Pancake and Praise – Tuesday 4 March – Pancakes in the hall after the service in the Church

Rachel's Installation Service – Sunday 29 March – Finger buffet in the hall after the service

Maundy Thursday Supper – Thursday 17 April – Shared meal with the Passover liturgy

Twelve Hour Prayer Event – Friday 27 June – Tea and cake served in the Church

Admitting to Holy Communion Service – Sunday 29 June – Tea and cake served in the Hall after the service followed by a ‘bring your own’ picnic with bouncy castle!

Parish Lunch with Alan and Kathleen – Sunday 28 September – Shared lunch at the Hall

Christmas Fair – Saturday 29 November – Our annual fair raising funds for our four chosen charities

Advent Carol Service – Sunday 7 December – Mulled wine and mince pies served in Church after the service

Carol Service – Sunday 21 December - Mulled wine and mince pies served in Church after the service

Hopes and aspirations for the future

Continue to assist with the increasing social activities of the Church. More people to join the team!



Churches Together in Chislehurst & Bickley

Overseen By: Edmund Glynn, Chair – Hope Church
(until June)
Rev Rachel Curley, Chair – St Nicholas (from
June)

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.

Highlights of our year

Supported the Two's Company befriending project: appointed a new project lead, Nicola Maguire sought new sources of funding advertised widely for additional volunteers.

Debt advisory service - After many years our local service closed, but we have established links with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Bromley to seek new ways of supporting those in debt.

At our AGM, we elected Rev Rachel Curley as our Chair for the next two years.

Held a Service for Christian Unity at Christ Church in July. The guest speaker was Martin Pointing from CAP.

Supported the World Day of Prayer at St Mary's Church. The service had been prepared by Christian women of the Cook Islands. Stories of individual women's experiences were told and the theme was 'Informed Prayer and Prayerful action'.

Organised the Good Friday Walk of Witness along Chislehurst High Street, giving out hot cross buns and holding a short service in the Garden Room.

Introduced a new Fellowship service at St. Nicholas Church in October.

Improved our social media presence via Facebook, X and setting up CTCB website.

In December we:

- o gave out our annual Christmas cards
- o sang carols at Chislehurst and Bickley stations
- o had a beautifully decorated tree at the Christmas tree festival at the Methodist church.

Chislehurst Youth for Christ (CYFC) - Brigitte Sewell (CEO) advised she will be standing down from her role in the New Year.

- CHYC has youth teams providing mentoring and group sessions in some local secondary schools
- Held a Youth Worship night in July run by young people.

From St Nicholas: Barbara Adie continues as secretary and Philippa Robinson as Treasurer. Frances Follin has responsibility for social media posts. Rev Rachel manages the website.



St Nicholas Churchyard

Michaela Davies and Barbara Russell.

Our role on the PCC is to provide information about those who are buried in the churchyard, but mainly about ensuring that the graves themselves are tended and are in a good state of repair.

We are fortunate to have many fascinating and in some instances distinguished people buried within the churchyard of Saint Nicholas. Some of these include William Willett Daylight Saving, Sir Malcolm Campbell Landspeed Record Holder, Lord Arthur Hay who was the President of the British Zoological Society as well as renowned Ornithologist and his wife Lady Helena Hay, who was a Lady in waiting to Queen Victoria's children; Sir Thomas Firbank a Welsh lawyer and Member of Parliament, 19th century renowned English Rugby player Louis Birkett.

Whilst we have many interesting graves, it's also important to note that there are memorials to very influential families and organisations within the church itself, such as missionaries, painters, aristocratic families and soldiers who fought and died in both world wars.

Over the years there has been much interest in our graveyard incumbents, so much so that we are fortunate to have a list of people who attend the graves on a voluntary basis.

Our aspirations for the future are that we can continue to encourage people to engage with their local history in this unique way. We would like to think that the descendants of those buried to Saint Nicholas would be proud that we continue to care for their ancestors and that they have not been forgotten.

We also hope to secure funding to repair any graves that need it.

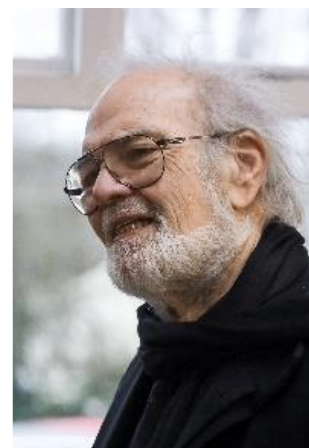
Church Choir

Overseen by Michael Bell FRCO

Rehearsals are on Thursdays (7.30 – 9pm) in the vestry (and/or choir stalls)

NEW RECRUITS are urgently welcome in all voices.

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

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

Achievements this year:

Managed to keep the churchyard looking good.

Gained more volunteers.

2 DoE volunteers

Raise the crowns of various trees to improve visibility across the churchyard.



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.



Electoral Roll

Overseen by Giles Cordwell

To maintain an accurate record of Church membership and to encourage all regular worshippers to join the Electoral Roll.



It was an exciting year for the Electoral Roll, as this was the year we had to throw away the existing roll and create a new one from scratch.

This is something that has to be done every six years, to ensure that people who no longer attend are removed from our records.

We managed a pretty seamless transition from the old roll to the new, though our numbers dropped (as expected for the reasons given above) from 283 to 240 at the end of 2025.

This number will probably gradually climb over the next few years until the next time that we start again in 2031.

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

The soup lunches have been running for four years now. They run smoothly, each volunteer team is familiar with the routine and our guests know what to expect. There is a lovely atmosphere and we provide a very welcome opportunity to meet and socialise in comfort, to relax and chat.

We continue to be grateful to Justine Grant for making the delicious soup and cakes required each month, feeding between 30- 40 guests. The lunches start with Grace and finish with After Eight / Celebration chocolates.

Unfortunately, January's lunch had to be cancelled at short notice due to the ice in the hall car park – we couldn't risk our guests taking a tumble. At Easter time, we added extra gifts of chocolate eggs for our guests to take home. Christmas lunch, which included crackers and mince pies, finished, with the children from St. Nicholas Primary coming to sing their winter themed songs and carols. It really was the highlight of the year.

We have to thank our team of 16 volunteers for generously giving their time to support these lunches. We couldn't do it without them!

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: Diane Moorman

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

The Deanery Synod is a meeting of Clergy and Laity from each PCC within the Deanery. We meet 3 times a year.

St Nicholas, Chislehurst is one of 13 churches in the Bromley Deanery within the Archdeaconry of Bromley and Bexley and the Diocese of Rochester. The representatives from St Nicholas are Diane Moorman, Peter Ridge, and Charlie Clark, who has since had to resign due to work and family commitments.

Monday 10/3/25 @ Christ Church, Chislehurst.

Bishop Jonathan gave a talk to joint Bromley and Beckenham Deanery Synods on the vision and strategy of the Diocese on change, serve and grow. He also spoke about a renewed Deanery website that would be launched, each parish would be included in it.

Wednesday 2/7/25 @ St Peter & St Paul, Bromley.

The Area Dean congratulated our three Deanery Curates Becky Willoughby, Laura Polaine, Tim Aldread, all were ordained to the Presbyterate (priest) on the 28/6/25.

Cath Johnston announced her intention to step down as lay chair. She was thanked for her many years of service, was presented with a thank you card and flowers.

The Synod was also reminded that there is a vacancy for secretary as well.

Thursday 6/11/25 @ St Nicholas, Chislehurst.

Becky Chantry, our newly elected lay chair, sent her apologies. In her absence she was congratulated by the Area Dean for taking on the role.

Representatives from three parishes were invited to share stories of mission around the Deanery.

St Nicholas: Rev'd Rachel shared her experience of young people engaging with the church following last year's confirmation service.

St George's, Bickley: Vicar Henry Everett talked about his enquirers' group, but unfortunately hardly anyone came. Christ Church, Bromley: Lay member Angela outlined their forthcoming mission week, with speaker Glen Scrivener.

Rev'd Rachel gave an update on the Deanery website which is now live at www.bromleydeanery.com/. We were encouraged to look up the site. Well done Rachel for setting this site up.

This was followed by small group discussions on working with volunteers.

Health and Safety

Overseen by John Bernays – Health and Safety Officer

Taking care of the spiritual welfare of our church family is obviously a primary concern here at St Nicholas. However, it is also important to protect the physical safety and welfare of this family, and other members of the wider community, as they use our church building, village hall and churchyard. We prepare a regular Health and Safety Risk Assessment highlighting issues which need urgent or longer-term attention, as well as working reactively to problems as they occur.



We are very fortunate that our church is solvent enough to be able to afford to keep our buildings and grounds in good repair. Generally, most issues can be dealt with by and through the PCC without the need to bother the wider congregation. However, there are a few matters of interest which do warrant reporting here.

Our risk assessment noted that much of the floor covering in the church was well passed its prime and, in many places, poses a significant trip hazard, particularly to our children and older, less-able folk. To date, some new coir matting has been installed and the old loose mat removed at the south door, but we are currently gathering information and quotations for a complete recarpet.

We are also aware that the automatic south entrance door can seem to have a mind of its own and we are seeking a solution to ensure safer operation.

In the hall, there have been a couple of very noticeable Health and Safety driven improvements. The replacement of the main entrance doors has made a huge difference, enhancing security, aesthetics and ease of operation. The refresh of the interior of the hall was precipitated by the worsening hazard of the holes in the floor. Further professional investigation also revealed a potential asbestos hazard, so the new flooring was a timely and necessary solution. The result is much-improved space for church activities and for our many community hall hires.

It is also time to review our Fire Safety Policy, including procedures for evacuation in the event of fire or other emergency. We are delighted that the Sidcup Fire Brigade is going to help us produce and maintain a robust policy.

Here's to a healthy and safe year ahead!

Finance Committee

Overseen by Sarah Cordwell
Group Aims To help with the management of church finances



Management of the church's finances is an ongoing responsibility, and we are extremely grateful for the work of our Treasurer, Jo Papa, whose careful oversight of the church's finances greatly supports and eases the work of the PCC.

We are fortunate that we manage to cover our operating costs year on year. We started 2025 expecting a deficit, but through prudent spending and planning we have ended the year with a small surplus. We are very grateful to all those who contribute either through planned giving (Stewardship) or by "cash" giving, using the various card machine payments or actually giving cash when the plate is handed round.

Through this generosity we are able to maintain our Parish Share to the Diocese, ensure that the Church is heated (I know it feels cold, but we do heat it!), we are able to put money away to continue the important maintenance of our cherished Church, and we are able to maintain our "away giving" to our nominated charities through the on-going success of the Christmas Fair, the Tableau and the Christingle Service. In fact, in 2025, the Tableau raised the 2nd ever highest amount of money – we are truly blessed to have wonderful volunteers who organise these events and make them so successful and part of the life of the local community.

However, we need to be honest and transparent with regards our finances. Whilst they might on the surface look reasonably healthy, our regular giving (Stewardship) for various reasons, has dropped by 11% since 2022 when it was a particularly good year. Cash giving is up slightly, but not having the regular giving makes it hard to budget and plan as we can't be sure what monies we might receive.

Our costs continue to rise, but like all good "households", we continue to manage our expenditure, keeping things going, and saving costs where we can. We had a small saving in 2025 on our parish expenditure due to a change in one of the utility providers. We need to ensure we maintain our church to keep it "fit for purpose", and we don't get any money/support from the Church of England, so we rely on you - our Parishioners - to support us with your generous giving. If you feel you can increase your Stewardship (or start to give regularly) please do consider this option.

We are in a very lucky position that we are able to do what we need to maintain the life of the Church, but there is so much more would like to be able to do, and we need to continue to plan for future maintenance programmes.

Thank you for your financial support of the Church – without you we wouldn't be in the position we are in today.

If you can contribute to church or indeed if you already do and feel able to increase your giving, please scan the QR code for more details or visit the church website giving page at;
www.stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk/giving



Junior Church

Overseen by Sarah Armstrong and
Kate Murdock-Smith

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



Over the past year, the Junior Church group has continued to grow in numbers, creativity, and sense of belonging within the wider church community. One of our most joyful highlights was taking part in the Nativity service at Christmas. The young people embraced their roles with enthusiasm, helping to retell the Christmas story in a simple and engaging way. Their willingness to participate, learn lines, and support one another made the service both memorable and uplifting for the whole congregation.

Another significant milestone was contributing to Reverend Rachel's Installation Service. Being included in such an important occasion helped the children and young people feel valued as active members of the church family. Their involvement demonstrated not only their commitment but also the vital role that Junior Church plays in the life of the parish. It was a proud moment to see them represent the future of the church with such positivity and reverence.

Throughout the year, the group has also built stronger relationships, encouraging friendship, kindness, and a deeper understanding of faith through shared activities, songs, crafts, discussions, and worship.

Hopes and Aspirations for the Future

Looking ahead, we hope to continue building on this strong foundation by encouraging even greater involvement of our young people in regular church services. This could include opportunities such as leading prayers, reading lessons, helping with music, or taking part in special services, allowing them to feel more confident and connected in their faith journey.

We also aspire to grow Junior Church in both numbers and diversity, welcoming new children and families into our community. By creating a warm, inclusive, and engaging environment, we aim to make Junior Church a place where every child feels valued, supported, and excited to learn.

In addition, we hope to expand the range of activities we offer, combining faith-based learning with creativity, games, and opportunities for reflection so that sessions remain enjoyable and meaningful for all age groups. Strengthening links between

Junior Church and the wider congregation will remain a priority, helping to foster a true sense of unity across all generations.

Ultimately, our vision is to nurture young people in their faith, helping them grow in confidence, compassion, and understanding, while inspiring them to play an active role in the life of the church now and in the future.



**Knitting Group - Tuesday's 10.30-12.00 in the Bulls Head.
Overseen by Barbara Adie and Carole Gray**

Group Aims Encouraging those who would like to join the group to come and knit and chat. Those that want to can knit for a range of different projects, supporting both church and community.



With 28 regular members this year, the knitting group continues to grow. When asked what the knitting group meant to them, these were some of the replies:

- 'Friendship and motivation'
- 'Learning new skills'
- 'Lovely support network'
- 'Alleviated my mental health issues'
- 'Since my stroke, I am learning to knit again'
- 'Jolly good company and sense of community'
- 'Exchanging ideas and caring for each other'
- 'It's like a therapy session'
- 'Getting to know new people and learn new skills'
- 'It means everything; company, conversation, and friendship – so important when you are living on your own'
- Knitting with a purpose and raising money for good causes'
- Encouragement to take on new projects and having people to chat to'
- I don't feel so lonely, as I spend much of the time on my own'
- I love crafting and making things for the Christmas Fair – it got me back to church!

Four members of the group went to the 'Big Knit' at Rochester Cathedral in October. This event supports 'Making Miracles', The Birth Trauma and Baby Bereavement Care Charity.

The group love to meet socially too. We met at Barbara's in August for lunch (despite the rain), then in the village hall in October. As usual we had our annual Christmas lunch at the Bull, celebrating the success of the Christmas Sale.

As always, we are very grateful to the management and staff at The Bull, who provide self-service coffee and don't mind us moving their furniture around, as we extend the group along the bar. In thanks we provided 12 knitted / crafted Christmas beer pump covers for the bars again this year.

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! Donations of wool are always gratefully received.



Memorial Garden

Overseen by Sue Thorogood

We have continued to care for the Memorial Garden throughout the last year and endeavour to keep it to a high standard. It does come with some challenges though. The drought last summer being one of them and then the huge amount of leaves that fall on it during the autumn and winter.



We would really value extra help in clearing these. We would also appreciate it if those who left floral tributes and pot plants could clear them away when they die rather than leave it to the few volunteers.

The Memorial Garden is a special place in the Churchyard and it is a privilege to care for it. If anyone would like to help I would be pleased to hear from them.



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

Our M.U. branch meets at 10.30am on the 3rd Thursday of the month in The Bull where we are always made to feel welcome.

The programme for the meetings is varied and of necessity very flexible as so often the needs and contributions of those present might take precedence over the topics planned in advance. This complies perfectly with the aims and values set out 150 years ago by Mary Sumner our founder, which were to promote marriage and family life through prayer and practical support. M.U. members find friendship through shared faith and purpose where friendships grow through meeting together, church worship and mutual care.

The annual Global Wave of Prayer reflects our commitment to each other and to the places where we live and work and here in the diocese of Rochester this will take place in Church during the week of 12-18th July.

Our branch has around 20 members and meetings are well attended and always enjoyable.

Friendship is at the heart of the M.U., it sustains, encourages and reminds us that no-one walks this journey alone. Some of our members have moved away during the year. We shall miss them and wish them well and will keep in touch.

During the year we have enjoyed hearing about both The Primrose Centre and Chartwell from two members who work as volunteers there. Rachel led our Advent Meditation in November and will enrol 3 new members at a corporate communion service in the near future. We went for lunch in The Bull after last year's enrolment service and hopefully this arrangement will long continue. Summer Supper, another tradition started many years ago was a highlight in July where we raised a considerable amount for the Summer of Hope Appeal.

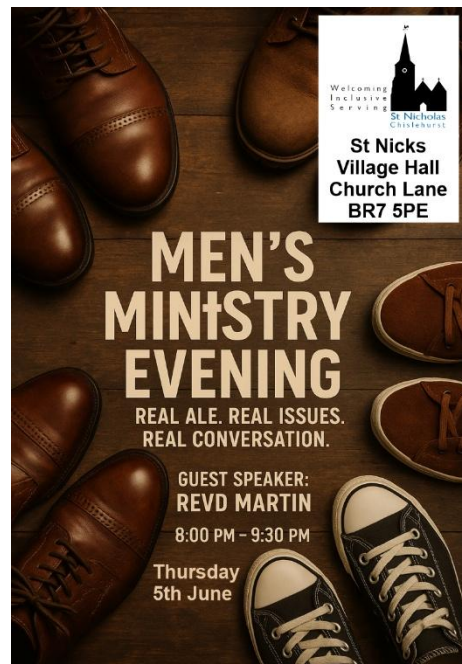


Men's Ministry

Overseen by Rev'd Rachel and John Grant

As you know, men's mental health is something very close to my heart, and it is the reason I have launched our new men's ministry group.

I am grateful to my friend, Revd Martin, for leading the first session and helping us begin to explore what this could become. I am really looking forward to developing this further and seeing it grow in 2026.



Parish Administrator

Parish Office, Mon-Fri, 9am – 1pm.

Report submitted by Selina Lindsey

This year has been extremely busy for Rachel and the office, baptisms, funerals, hall hire have been more than in previous years. The hall and office had a face-lift, which has made showing the hall to prospective hirers a lot easier as it is now a lot brighter and fresher.



The general comments are that it is much better. The photocopier was upgraded, after 5+ years the old one was obsolete.

I look forward to another busy year as the administrator and to work alongside and support the Rector as much as I can.



RIDE AND STRIDE – 13th September 2025

Once again St Nicks continued to support 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 Peter Appleby and myself raised just over £1100 and Nicholas has benefited from receiving 50% of that money, so thank you to everyone who sponsored us.

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.

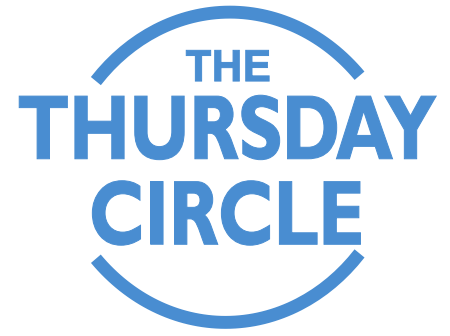
Some less agile can still gain sponsorship by acting as ‘welcomers’ to our incoming visitors.

In 2026, please do sign up and join in, it’s a great way to get some fresh air, visit local churches and to raise money for our church.

Rev’d Rachel and Peter Appleby.

The Thursday Circle

Overseen by June Hurn and Carol Gray



At the beginning of the year, Rachel invited us to look into bringing back the old Wednesday Circle, which had been run for many years by Shirley Strong.

We were delighted to restart it, now with the new name **Thursday Circle**.

The Thursday Circle meets on the last Thursday of the month at 11am at Hawkswing (June's home).

In September we welcomed Sue Ward who told about the Shoeboxes which we sent to Children in Distress in Romania and how much they were appreciated by children and old people there.

In October, Peter Gray, Carol's brother from Australia, gave us a fascinating talk about Pink Diamonds and how to write a thriller.

In November, The Reverend Canon Gordon Oliver's talk "Do you know what time it is" gave us much food for thought before Advent.

There are some very interesting speakers lined up for 2026 as you will see in Enews and everyone is welcome to join us at Hawkswing.

PCC Secretary's Report

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

Membership and roles

The number of members on the PCC is governed by the size of our Electoral Roll. As the Roll was completely renewed in 2025 (see report on page 45) our PCC was reduced in size.

Number of PCC members 2024, plus Rev'd Rachel in each case:

- January to April = 20
- May to December = 17

Each member has a specific role within the PCC. Membership at the end of 2025 was:

Lloyd Anderson	Property Committee
John Bernays	Health and Safety
Sue Brandon	Safeguarding
Charlie Clark	Deanery Synod (resigned from PCC, November 2025)
Michaela Davies	Graveyard
Annie Hanifin	Churchwarden
John Grant	Churchwarden
Justine Grant	Events
Carole Gray	Thursday Circle
Annie Hanifin	Churchwarden
Adrian Kerr	Men's Ministry (co-opted to PCC, November 2025)
Diane Moorman	Deanery Synod
Joanne Papa	Treasurer
Peter Ridge	Deanery Synod
Barbara Russell	Graveyard
Nicola Smith	PCC Secretary
Jennifer Wilson	Rector's Vestry Steward
Mark Wilson	Property Committee
Philip Wilson	Deputy Verger

Sub-Groups

Sub-groups carry out specific functions on the PCC's behalf and report to PCC meetings:

- Standing Committee - this has power to transact PCC business between its meetings.
- Finance Committee
- Property Committee
- Safeguarding Team
- Hall Development Team
- Village Hall Team

PCC Meetings during 2025

The full PCC met 5 times during 2025 (attendance is shown in brackets):

- 3 February (62%)
- 23 June(83%)
- 14 July (61%)
- 22 September (56%)
- 24 November (79%)

11 May - Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

PCC minutes are displayed in the children's corner in church, after they have been approved and signed.

Nicola Smith, PCC Secretary



Property Committee

Overseen by Bernadette Katchoff

The Property Team works closely with the Rector to carry out a planned schedule of maintenance, repairs, and essential works, helping to ensure that our buildings remain safe, well cared for, and fit for purpose. This work also supports Rev'd Rachel's vision plan, preserving our buildings for the future and enabling them to serve both the church and the wider community.

Achievements this year

- Preparing Southbeech for rental and securing tenants.
- Cleaning of the Sanctuary pavement.
- Undertaking essential works to redecorate existing Village Hall to ensure it operates in a safe and effective way; making it more appealing for hire whilst the new village hall is developed via a separate committee. Works included redecoration throughout, a new floor and entrance door.

Hopes and aspirations for the future

- St Nicholas is a church belonging to us all. It is important therefore, to maximise involvement of the congregation with suitable skills to undertake maintenance tasks that do not require an insured contractor.
- 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.
- Explore lower carbon heating options for the Church.

Report submitted by Bernadette Katchoff & John Grant

This report gives an overview of the condition, maintenance requirements and necessary repairs or improvements for the church and other buildings in our care. At the start of the year, Charlie Clarke was the temporary Chair of the committee. Charlie stood down mid-term, and the Wardens took temporary charge. We thank Charlie for his input and care. A new chairperson was appointed in September 2025 – Bernadette Katchoff.

Bernadette has brought a fresh perspective to the committee, helping to organise and simplify the approach to undertaking regular planned and unplanned maintenance. As a committee, we are transitioning many of the essential repairs and reactive maintenance to verified and insured tradespeople. This gives us the added reliability of work being warranted as well as ensuring health and safety of any workforce undertaking activities.

The Village Hall maintenance was headed by Steve Ripley, and this is covered in a separate report.

Summary key points:

The Church

- The annual maintenance rota has been updated and maintained, attending to various repairs such as organ tuning and servicing, boiler checks, clock and bells servicing.
- We have implemented a '*Contractors' Sign-in Book*' to record attendance and activity in church.
- The fire risk assessment was reviewed by a committee member. The annual fire safety check is due as a priority, to be undertaken in 2026. The next fire extinguisher checks are due in 2028.
- The organ has had extensive maintenance undertaken this year and is in good condition considering its age.
- Attention is still required to the degradation of external masonry to the SW buttress –a technical specification for tendering to stonemasons has been received and we await receipt of relevant tenders.
- The installation of a handrail to the pulpit steps has been put on hold, pending a review of use and potential faculty.
- The external floodlighting in the churchyard has been restored; there have been problems with setting timers correctly for seasonal lighting variations.
- Access to the belfry remains an action.
- The uncovered Sanctuary pavement was cleaned by a stone mason but not fully restored as this requires a Faculty and further funding. This is an ongoing action for the property team which has been rescheduled for 2026.
- An informal review of the internal lighting took place with proposals to improve illumination to the choir, organ, nave, pulpit and lectern.
- There were numerous leaks to the church roof; a contractor was used to resolve these and a useful drone video showing the condition of the roof was provided.
- The Quinquennial inspection took place in August 2025 but there has been prolonged delay in receiving the report despite having been chased repeatedly. This remains outstanding at time of writing report.

Churchyard

- The Churchyard team continue to provide essential maintenance alongside the regular contractor's work.
- The gardening team continue to provide essential monthly input to the general upkeep and maintenance of the grass, shrubs and trees.
- Path lighting deficits were reported between the south door and the lychgate. Proposals to install spotlights at the base of the Yew trees were declined in favour of reducing the height/breadth of Yews to improve existing daylight transfer and lamp-post illumination, to ease access. This work was recently completed.

Southbeech

- Numerous maintenance tasks were undertaken in preparation for rental.
- New tenants moved in on 01/07/26 with a one-year tenancy.
- JDM were engaged on a Property Management contract.
- Quotes for replacement of upstairs rear sealed double glazing units, resulted in the recommendation to replace the windows, since repair required scaffolding which is cost prohibitive. Condition of the windows will be reviewed in 2026.

The Rectory

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

- Early in 2025, the property was prepared to be occupied by the new Rector.
- The property was repainted throughout and refreshed prior to occupation. The PCC elected to fund the replacement of carpets.

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

Safety and Compliance

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

We will ensure that major tasks and those involving H&S risk are undertaken by skilled/trained contractors with appropriate public liability insurance and necessary certifications.

Environmental Considerations

We have considered environmental factors such as energy efficiency, sustainability and conservation measures in our maintenance activities.



The St Nicholas Safeguarding Committee

Susie Hemming-Clark	Parish Safeguarding Officer
Claire Palmer	Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer
Sally Hayhow	Safer Recruitment Lead
Susan Brandon	Safeguarding Administrator
Rev'd Rachel	Safeguarding Officer

Meeting Frequency

The Safeguarding Team meets every 6–10 weeks, depending on the needs of the parish. Additional communication takes place between meetings via Microsoft Teams and email.

Overview

The remit and responsibilities of the Safeguarding Team are broad and often wider than many realise. As our congregation grows, so too does the number of people who require our care, attention, and protection.

As an inclusive church, we must ensure that all ministries, gatherings, and activities are delivered safely.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility: every member of the church community plays a vital role in maintaining a safe environment.

Achievements in 2025

Refreshed and updated risk assessments for all groups using the church hall.

Improved response times from the congregation regarding DBS checks and safeguarding training, alongside proactive monitoring of renewal dates.

Increased visibility of the Safeguarding Team through e-news communications and updated posters.

Regular safeguarding discussions and scenario reviews incorporated into every PCC meeting.

Members of the team delivered a safeguarding awareness talk to the Mothers' Union.

Hopes and Aspirations for 2026

To welcome a male representative from the congregation onto the Safeguarding Team to help reflect the full diversity of our parish community.

To ensure that every member of the congregation knows who the Safeguarding Team are and feels confident in approaching them.

To achieve 100% completion of training and DBS checks promptly, with minimal need for follow up.

To maintain a strong culture of safeguarding awareness, recognising that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

To continue promoting a healthy, transparent, and accountable church culture.

Welcoming Inclusive Serving
ALTERNATIVE CREATIVITY

Promoting
a safer church
at St Nicholas, Chislehurst

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Susie Hemming-Clark
safeguarding1@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

DEPUTY PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Claire Palmer
safeguarding@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

LEAD RECRUITER
Sally Hayhow
safeguarding3@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATOR
Sue Brandon
safeguarding2@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER RECTOR
The Rev'd Rachel Curley
07814 750500
revrachelcurley@outlook.com

Susie, Claire 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 (office hours):

Lead Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Greg Barry - 07585 952174
greg.barry@rochester.anglican.org

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers
Caroline Smith - 07768 036590
caroline.smith@rochester.anglican.org

Anthony Glockling - 07825 315748
anthony.glockling@rochester.anglican.org

Need to call out of hours?
Please call Thirtyone:eight on **0303 003 11 11** who provide our out of hours support.

If there is immediate risk or danger, please contact the Police on **999**

St Nicholas' Church School – Rev'd Rachel



ST NICHOLAS
CE Primary School
Part of the Aquinas Trust

I continue to greatly value the time I spend in our schools, both when visiting them and when the school community joins us in church. The relationship between the church and the school continues to grow stronger, and it is a joy to see the ways in which faith, learning, and community life connect.

I serve as part of the ACC governing body, where I work alongside the Headteacher, Laura Williams, and the staff team, offering support and encouragement wherever I can. It is a real privilege to be involved in the life of the school and to help nurture the partnership between church and school.

Our **lunchtime class** continues to grow, with more pupils joining us each term. It is a wonderful opportunity to explore faith together in an informal and engaging way. I am especially grateful to **Kate Murdock-Smith**, who generously gives so much of her time to help lead the class each week alongside me.

Ministering within our school community, through collective worship, school services, and pastoral support remains a deeply rewarding part of my ministry, and I am grateful for the warm welcome I continue to receive from both staff and pupils.

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

I am pleased to say that our relationship with Rev'd Rachel and St Nicholas church has become even stronger this year.

Rev'd Rachel and I both felt that we could create improved connection by having more regular visits to the church. St Nicholas school children now visit the church at least once each half term for school worship. Within these services Rev'd Rachel is able to teach the children about various aspects of the church. A good example of this is when Rev'd Rachel taught the whole school about Baptism and showed us the font and talked about how it is used.

Rev'd Rachel continues to be a core part of our school community holding school Communion services, Christmas Carol service and the St Nicholas day service. She is a member of our Aquinas Advisory Council and continues to champion staff wellbeing.

Rev'd Rachel has continued to run the Leading Lights lunchtime group, where pupils feel supported in their spiritual and emotional growth. These children have also become a wider part of the community under Rev'd Rachel's guidance when they performed their St Nicholas day story to the residents and staff of Prince George, Duke of Kent Home.

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.
Expanding our repertoire.
Singing at the Christmas Fair.

Hopes and Aspirations for the future

To:

- continue our service on the third Sundays
- keep extending our repertoire of music
- participate in special services if required
- attract new members.

If you love singing and would like to be part of the group, please speak to any of us.

There is no audition and previous choir experience is not necessary - just a desire to make a joyful noise!



Verger's Report

Rev'd Rachel and Philip Wilson

The role of the Verger at St Nicholas is a vital part of the life and worship of the church.

Peter has always helped to ensure that the 8am and 10am services run smoothly and reverently, preparing the church, assisting clergy during worship, and caring for the building and its practical needs.

Much of the work happens quietly behind the scenes, but it is essential in enabling our worship and the many events that take place in the church.

This year has seen something of a transition in the role. As many will know, Peter has had to take a step back from his duties after many years of dedicated and faithful service. We remain incredibly grateful to him for the care, commitment, and wisdom he has given to St Nicholas over so many years. The reason this transition has been so smooth is largely because Peter has left us so well prepared.

In fact, Peter first made contact with me even before I arrived at St Nicks, kindly inviting me for a tour of the church. I saw everything, from the basement to the door leading to the tower. I must confess that I still have not quite made it to the very top yet. Perhaps that could be a future fundraiser, although me abseiling down the side of the church might not be quite the spectacle people are hoping for. But I digress.

Peter has been instrumental in helping Philip transition into the role of Verger, and his guidance and encouragement have made that process much smoother. Even when not physically present, Peter continues to support us in ways that make my life, and the life of the church, much easier.

We remain deeply thankful for Peter's many years of service and for the way he has helped ensure that the role of Verger at St Nicholas continues to flourish in this new chapter.



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.

The monthly All Age Breakfast Service, held in the Hall, is particularly successful.

Several improvements were introduced to make the Hall more attractive to hirers which included; Internal redecoration, and a new floor in the main hall / replacement of the main entrance doors and upgrading the HIVE heating control system with radiator valves. We thank the Rochester Diocese Net Zero Team for helping us with a grant for the doors and the HIVE valves.

We also held a big tidy up for the parking area and the garden - thanks to all who attended, and to Karen and Terry Baskett for the beautiful plants in the front garden. We look forward to repeating the tidy up in the Spring of 2026.

The Hall remained operational and open for use throughout the year, during which: we entered into a new cheaper contract for gas and electricity. Various repairs were made to lights, doors, plumbing, and sockets. We reviewed and updated our hire publicity, terms/conditions, and rates.

The large sycamore behind the sheds is unhealthy, we are still awaiting a decision on an appeal - removal approval having been turned down by the Council safety checks were made on the fire precautions, electrical appliances, emergency lighting, and the boiler. The hot water heater in the kitchen needs replacing.

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



Rector's Vestry Steward - Jennifer Wilson

Over the past year a new role has started to take shape following conversations and ideas from Revd Rachel. She saw that there was a need for someone to help support communication in the vestry, and I have begun to take on this role.



At the moment it is still very much developing. The role hasn't been set out with a fixed list of responsibilities, but instead it is something that will grow over time as we see where help is most needed.

So far it has involved communicating with the choir and Michael, ensuring the noticeboards are up to date, and helping to keep the vestry tidy.

As time goes on we expect the role to develop further and become clearer as we learn what works best.

I'm grateful to Revd Rachel for seeing the need for this and for the encouragement to begin exploring how the role might develop.

It will take a bit of time to grow, but hopefully it will become a helpful part of supporting the life and ministry of the church.



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 2025.

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.

Zachary Ramsden

Zachary Ramsden FCA **Date : 24th March 2026**

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
63 Deakin Leas, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 2JT

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2025 £	2024 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Voluntary income	3(a)	120,693	1,483	-	122,176	109,140
Activities for generating funds	3(b)	43,863	4,000	-	47,863	40,156
Income from Church activities	3(c)	23,459	-	-	23,459	10,597
Income from investments	3(d)	3,659	-	10,207	13,866	14,218
Other income	3(e)	<u>19,124</u>	<u>1,847</u>	-	<u>20,971</u>	<u>15,263</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>210,798</u>	<u>7,330</u>	<u>10,207</u>	<u>228,335</u>	<u>189,374</u>
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>						
Church activities	4(a)	178,736	5,694	8,372	192,802	182,961
Exceptional costs	4(b)	-	1,188	-	1,188	5,885
Governance costs	4(c)	<u>802</u>	-	-	<u>802</u>	<u>657</u>
Total resources expended		<u>179,538</u>	<u>6,882</u>	<u>8,372</u>	<u>194,792</u>	<u>189,503</u>
		31,260	448	1,835	33,543	(129)
<u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES</u>						
<u>NET (LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENTS</u>	7(b)	<u>(4,417)</u>	-	<u>(16,599)</u>	<u>(21,016)</u>	<u>21,742</u>
<u>GAINS ON HERITAGE ASSETS</u>	7(c)	<u>11,000</u>	-	-	<u>11,000</u>	-
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</u>		37,843	448	(14,764)	23,527	21,613
<u>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</u>		(1,416)	1,416		-	-
Balances brought forward 1 January 2025 (2024)		<u>357,300</u>	<u>(1,085)</u>	<u>631,517</u>	<u>987,732</u>	<u>966,119</u>
<u>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</u>						
31 DECEMBER 2025 (2024)		<u>393,727</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>616,753</u>	<u>1,011,259</u>	<u>987,732</u>

The notes on pages 72 to 78 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	funds £	funds £	Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Tangible	7(a)	60,260	-	232,500	292,760	292,760
Investments	7(b)	226,168	-	374,731	600,899	<u>621,915</u>
Heritage Assets	7(c)	<u>11,000</u>	-	-	11,000	
		<u>297,428</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>607,231</u>	904,659	<u>914,675</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Debtors & prepayments	8	9,187	-	-	9,187	7,486
Short term deposits		49,740	779	9,522	60,041	53,339
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>55,422</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	55,422	<u>32,228</u>
		<u>114,349</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>9,522</u>	124,650	<u>93,053</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u> due within one year	9	<u>(18,050)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	(18,050)	<u>(19,996)</u>
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>		<u>96,299</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>9,522</u>	106,600	<u>73,057</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>		<u>393,727</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>616,753</u>	1,011,259	<u>987,732</u>
<u>FUNDS</u>						
<u>Unrestricted:</u>						
General		115,119	-	-	115,119	96,096
Designated:						
Church Repair Fund	11(a)	120,758	-	-	120,758	120,758
Church Hall Building	11(b)	60,260	-	-	60,260	60,260
Village Hall Fund	11(c)	96,223	-	-	96,223	80,186
Other		1,367	-	-	1,367	
<u>Restricted:</u>	14	-	779	-	779	(1,085)
<u>Endowment</u>	12	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>616,753</u>	616,753	<u>631,517</u>
		<u>393,727</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>616,753</u>	1,011,259	<u>987,732</u>

Approved by the PCC on 23rd March 2026 and signed on its behalf by :-



Rev'd Rachel Curley

The notes on pages 72 to 78 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS *For the year ended 31 December 2025*

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 39 of this report.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	2025 £	2024 £
(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	70,343	-	-	70,343	72,432
Tax recoverable	18,626	-	-	18,626	18,912
Collections at services	17,728	1,483	-	19,211	16,496
Donations/ Legacies	<u>13,996</u>	=	=	<u>13,996</u>	<u>1,300</u>
	<u>120,693</u>	<u>1,483</u>	=	<u>122,176</u>	<u>109,140</u>
(b) Activities for generating funds					
St Nicholas Fair	-	4,000	-	4,000	4,296
New Village Hall Projects	13,204	-	-	13,204	5,410
Church Hall hiring	<u>30,659</u>	=	=	<u>30,659</u>	<u>30,450</u>
	<u>43,863</u>	<u>4,000</u>	=	<u>47,863</u>	<u>40,156</u>
(c) Income from Church Activities					
Fees	20,882	-	-	20,882	8,167
Parish magazine	-	-	-	-	6
Social events	<u>2,577</u>	=	=	<u>2,577</u>	<u>2,424</u>
	<u>23,459</u>	=	=	<u>23,459</u>	<u>10,597</u>
(d) Income from investments					
Dividends & interest	<u>3,659</u>	=	<u>10,207</u>	<u>13,866</u>	<u>14,218</u>
	<u>3,659</u>	=	<u>10,207</u>	<u>13,866</u>	<u>14,218</u>
(e) Other incoming resources					
Curate Housing Grant	1,967	-	-	1,967	9,856
Southbeech Rental Income	11,309	-	-	11,309	-
LPOW VAT / Heat Grant	5,848	-	-	5,848	1,767
Sequestration Income	-	1,720	-	1,720	3,474
Flower income	-	127	-	127	166
	<u>19,124</u>	<u>1,847</u>	=	<u>20,971</u>	<u>15,263</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>210,798</u>	<u>7,730</u>	<u>10,207</u>	<u>228,335</u>	<u>189,374</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2025 £	2024 £
(a) Church activities					
Mission and charitable giving	3,434	5,566	-	9,000	9,083
Ministry:					
Parish Offer to Diocese	78,500	-	-	78,500	76,550
Secular charities	-	-	-	-	72
Clergy working expenses	2,157	-	-	2,157	2,098
Clergy housing costs	9,393	-	-	9,393	2,930
Church services & music	14,460	-	-	14,460	16,582
Church:					
Insurance	3,562	-	-	3,562	3,476
Utility costs	5,394	-	-	5,394	5,548
Repairs & maintenance	3,865	-	271	4,136	4,307
Major works	-	-	-	-	-
Southbeech costs	-	-	5,693	5,693	1,519
Churchyard upkeep	1,915	-	2,408	4,323	5,743
Education & Training	-	-	-	-	24
Church Hall running costs	30,030	-	-	30,030	20,257
New Church Hall Planning	4,796	-	-	4,796	11,461
Cost of social events	3,132	-	-	3,132	2,169
Administration	18,098	-	-	18,098	20,677
Flower Expenses	-	<u>128</u>	-	<u>128</u>	<u>465</u>
	<u>178,736</u>	<u>5,694</u>	<u>8,372</u>	<u>192,802</u>	<u>182,961</u>
(b) Exceptional costs					
Sequestration costs	-	1,188	-	1,188	5,885
(c) Governance costs					
Independent examination	600	-	-	600	460
Bank charges	<u>202</u>	-	-	<u>202</u>	<u>197</u>
	<u>802</u>	-	-	<u>802</u>	<u>657</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>179,538</u>	<u>6,882</u>	<u>8,372</u>	<u>194,792</u>	<u>189,503</u>

5. STAFF COSTS (included in the above figures) for the Administrator, the Hall Cleaner and the Organist/Choir master amount to £24,829 including £548 employers pension costs (2024 - £25,627 including £576 employer pension costs).

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 2025

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCC AND RELATED PARTIES

Note 4(a) shows the total of PCC payments to the Rector and Curate towards their working expenses and housing costs. The total stewardship income from members of the PCC in 2025 was £7,830 (2024-£9,363). "AlexThePainter", who is closely connected to one member of the PCC, was paid £5,363 (2024-£nil) for Decorating Services relating to The Village Hall , Rectory and Southbeech properties.

7. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible assets used by the PCC

Freehold land and buildings: Cost at 1 January 2025 and at 31 December 2025 **£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	621,915	Global Equities Investment Fund	76,687
Net loss on revaluation	(21,016)	Investment Fund (Equities)	524,212
	<u>600,899</u>		<u>600,899</u>

(c) Heritage Assets

It has recently been discovered that St Nicholas Chislehurst own a Flemish Close Helmet and a 16th Century European Sword . Both of these were from the tomb of Sir Edward Walsingham c.1549 and have been on loan to the Royal Armouries in Leeds since 1999.

These assets are included in the accounts at the lower auction value of £11,000 but insured by the Royal Armouries at the higher auction price of £15,000 .

	2025	2024
	£	£
	<u>11,000</u>	-

8. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	4,479	2,186
Tax recoverable	4,292	4,764
VAT recoverable	416	536
	<u>9,187</u>	<u>7,486</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) *For the year ended 31 December 2025*

9. LIABILITIES due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Goods and services	10,563	10,358
Donations allocated out of 2025 (2024) income	7,487	8,553
Sequestration account deficit	=	<u>1,085</u>
	<u>18,050</u>	<u>19,996</u>

10. GIVING TO MISSIONS & CHARITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Two's Company	1,501	-
War Child	1,501	-
Bromley Borough Foodbank	1,501	-
MANUP?	1,501	1,838
St Nicholas Mens Mental Health Project	1,200	-
Wecare in Bromley	606	1,838
Salvation Army	606	579
Children's Society	271	43
Churches Together in Chislehurst & Bickley	200	150
Children in Distress	-	250
Whitechapel Mission	-	579
Compassion UK	-	1,838
Church Army, Marylebone Women's Hostel	-	1,838
Assistance to poorer parishes and other items	113	130
	9,000	9,083
Secular charities	=	<u>72</u>
Total	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,155</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2025

11. Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance £	Income in year £	Expenditure in year £	Heritage assets £	Inter Fund Transfers £	Investment Result £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted							
General	96,096	188,598	(174,742)	11,000	(1,416)	(4,417)	115,119
Designated							
Church Repair	120,758	-	-		-	-	120,758
Hall Building	60,260	-	-		-	-	60,260
New Village Hall	80,186	20,833	(4,796)		-	-	96,223
Other	-	1,367	-		-	-	1,367
Restricted							
Minor funds	863	127	(211)		-	-	779
Sequestration	(1,948)	1,720	(1,188)		1,416	-	-
Away Giving	-	5,483	(5,483)		-	-	-
Endowments	<u>631,517</u>	<u>10,207</u>	<u>(8,372)</u>		-	<u>(16,599)</u>	<u>616,753</u>
Totals	<u>987,732</u>	<u>228,335</u>	<u>(194,792)</u>	<u>11,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,016)</u>	<u>1,011,259</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

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

Church Repair Fund - The Fund stood at £120,758 at the start and end of the year. No money has been transferred from General Fund in this financial year . 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 2025 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.)

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.

New Village Hall Fund – The fund stood at £80,186 at the start of the year . Donations totalling £7,629 for the Re-building were received in the year and £13,204 was generated from fundraising projects. A further £4,796 was spent on work towards the Planning Application. This leaves a balance of £96,223 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 2025

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
market value
£92,567 |
| (b) Fabric Trust - for repairs to the church fabric | | |
| (c) Nussey Trust - for church maintenance | | |
| (d) Clergy House Trust - an expendable endowment. It holds the curate's house (see note 7(a), investments of £269,366 and short-term deposits £9,523 . 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. | | |
| (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 £12,797). | | |

CONNECTED CHARITIES

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

RESTRICTED FUNDS

- The church holds a fund of £520 available to meet the objects of 'Chislehurst Relief in Need' (2024 - £603)
- In the year the Flower Fund had income of £127 and expenses of £128, leaving a balance of £259 (2024 - £260)
- St Nicholas was in an interregnum at the start of the year . The Sequestration Account had a balance of £(1,948) at 1st January 2025 . The Sequestration Account 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. The interregnum came to an end on 29th March 2025 and the final balance on the Sequestration Account was £(1,416) . As the account is in deficit the PCC has to meet the cost and the balance has been transferred to the General Fund.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For the year ended 31 December 2025

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.

Heritage assets

Heritage assets are held for their contribution to knowledge and culture. They are measured at valuation.

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 2026



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St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst



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