



The Parish Church of St Nicholas, Chislehurst

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

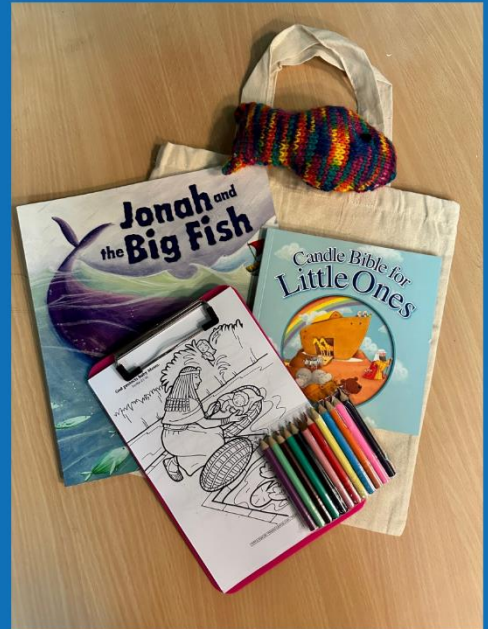
ANNUAL REPORT

2023

For Year Ended Dec '23



Seeking to Know and Share the Love of God



bringing **People & God** together
Parish Office • Village Hall • Church Lane • Chislehurst • BR7 5PE
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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 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Rector – In Vacancy

Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Bauer (term ended July 2023)

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

John Grant (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

Licensed Ordained Minister

The Rev'd Rachel Curley

Parish Office

St Nicholas Village Hall

Church Lane

Chislehurst BR7 5PE

Banks

Barclays Bank plc

and

CAF Bank Ltd

Independent Examiner

Christopher Archer FCA

Fidelis Accountancy and Taxation Services Ltd

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

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



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP

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

Rector & Chair of the PCC: *In Vacancy*

Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Bauer (term ended July 2023)

Church Wardens

Annie Hanifin (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

John Grant (Joint Chair of PCC in Vacancy)

Curate

The Rev'd Rachel Curley

Hon Associate Priest

The Rev'd June Hurn

Licenced Lay Ministers

Theodora Chamberlain

Lynton Karmock-Golds

Reader

Peter Ridge

Members of the PCC:

NAME	Year of Office (Term of 3 years)	ELIGIBLE TO STAND FOR RE-ELECTION in 2024
Barbara Russell	3 rd (ends at APCM 2024)	yes
Justine Grant	3 rd (ends at APCM 2024)	yes
Carole Grey	3 rd (ends at APCM 2024)	yes
Sarah Arnheim	3 rd (ends at APCM 2024)	yes
John Bernays	2 nd (ends at APCM 2025)	N/A
Susan Brandon	2 nd (ends at APCM 2025)	N/A
Sabina Oakes	2 nd (ends at APCM 2025)	N/A
Sheila Brittain	2 nd (ends at APCM 2025)	N/A
Philip Wilson	1 st (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Jenifer Wilson	1 st (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Mark Wilson	1 st (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Lloyd Anderson	1 st (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A
Michaela Davies	1 st (ends at APCM 2026)	N/A

The following members served their term (unless otherwise indicated) until the APCM on 14 May 2023: Diane Moorman (re-appointed as Representative on Deanery Synod) and Hannah White.

5 places up for election in 2024

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

1. The Rev'd June Hurn
2. Nicola Smith (from 25th September 2023)
3. Joanne Papa

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF PCC

Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Bauer (term ended July 2023)
Rev'd Rachel Curley – Curate

Churchwardens

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

Sarah Cordwell (term ended 6th July 2023)
Wendy Lowdon (term ended 6th July 2023)
Annie Hanifin (from 6th July 2023)
John Grant (from 6th July 2023)

Representatives on Bromley Deanery Synod

Theodora Chamberlain (term ended 14 May 2023)
Mary Williams (term ended 14 May 2023)
Peter Ridge (until 2025)
Charlie Clark (until 2025)
Diane Moorman (from 14 May 2023, until 2026)
Vacant

Aims and Purposes

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

The Parish

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

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

Risk Management

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

Our General Fund stands at £103,013 which approximates to our target of 50% of our average annual expenditure. The Church Repair Fund was increased to £95,758 (2022: £70,758) to help spread the costs of maintaining the church building over a five-year cycle.

The PCC notes the £59,846 gain on investments (2022: loss of £68,743) but is cognisant of the fact that investments rise and fall and are a long-term commitment.

OUR VISION, VALUES, AND MISSION

VISION *what kind of future are we working towards?*

This is ultimately God's vision, placed on our hearts:

"God's kingdom come, God's will be done."



VALUES *the behaviours and attitudes that characterise us;*

how we conduct ourselves to achieve our mission and vision

- Welcoming
- Inclusive
- Desire to serve
- Every member is encouraged to be in ministry
- All are cherished and nurtured
- Be a people of vision: *Proverbs 29:18 "without a vision, the people perish"*

MISSION *what we are trying to accomplish / the impact we want to achieve*

We are committed to working hard to be:

AN INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

SEEKING TO KNOW & SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD

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/teams 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.

2023 in Photos

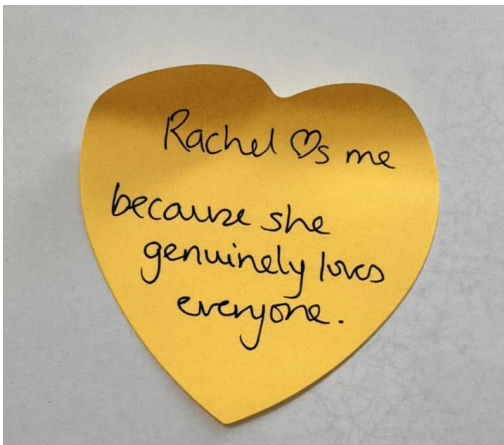


Nativity Tableau Audience



Christingle Apples!





Some of our St Nick's Bellringers!



Dear Lord,
We pray for Rachel. We love her and we ask you to take care of her because she is a good person and is very kind. Help her to do her job looking after all of us at St. Nicks,
♥️✝️😊♥️✝️🌸 Amen
A prayer written by Junior Church 01/10/23





Churchwardens services of Admittance



Pastoral Introduction from the Curate

The Rev'd Rachel Curley

What a year 2023 was. Following our Rector's departure in June, we have been in an Interregnum (again) for the rest of 2023 and into 2024.

I am so grateful for the love and care from the churchwardens (old and new) and many others in our wonderful church as we together grapple with the protocols and inevitable administration surrounding an Interregnum.

Jonathan wasn't with us at St Nick's for very long, but his impact on the church and parish has been considerable. We give thanks for all that he has done.

However, since his departure, I have had to learn and grow quickly into the role of Priest and am very grateful for those ministers who supported us prior to my Ordination to the Priesthood at the end of September.

I often reflect on my curacy, and how it isn't how it should be, however the opportunities afforded to me have been remarkable and lifechanging and I truly believe I will grow into a better Priest than I might have been, had I been given a more protected curacy.

It's hard to focus solely on 2023 when I am writing this report having just led our church through Holy Week and Easter, but this is our report on the past year, and it is important that we focus on the achievements of that year of which there have been so many.

At the end of June I said to our new wardens we need to survive July and August as that's how it felt at the time, we were in survival mode, and survive we have, as a church I am proud to see how during an Interregnum we have grown. Churches are struggling to grow and it is common for churches to lose people during a vacancy, however it is testament to all at St Nick's that each week someone new joins our community of faith, people from near and far are hearing about our church and what we do, and they want to join us, and to be part of our family, and I thank God daily for that.

So having survived the summer, we found ourselves in Autumn, at my Ordination, how proud I was when I turned around in the Cathedral and saw my church family smiling back at me. The support you all gave me it did not go unnoticed by the Bishops, and I am truly grateful for that.

Since that first time presiding at the Eucharist on the 1st October, first of all at our 9.30am service and then at BCP service where I Presided at the High Altar we haven't looked back.

It was wonderful to welcome the Rev'd Canon Tim Hatwell to St Nick's to preach on that first Sunday and to welcome my new training Incumbent Rev'd Dave Johnston, the Vicar of Christchurch, Chislehurst who came to "Watch" on week two!

Late autumn saw us heading into our Advent Bible Study, this year based on the film A Christmas Carol, and what a journey that was, I was very nervous about leading Bible Study when I started here in 2022, however they really are a wonderful experience for all who attend, myself included, and if you haven't joined one yet, I urge you to do so, you may just enjoy it!

Christmas was remarkable, our church was full, in the two weeks surrounding Christmas over 2500 people came through our doors, with over 1000 people listening to the greatest story ever told, the birth of Jesus at the Nativity Tableau. And I am not sure I or you will ever forget our Christmas Day Karaoke sermon! And that was our year, a hard year, not the one I expected when I went to bed on New Year's Eve 2022. But I do believe everything happens for a reason, and God has a plan, what that plan is I don't know; however, I will trust in Him that He will do what is right for St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst and for my future ministry, wherever that may be.

As we delve deeper into 2024, it is hard to believe that my curacy will soon finish, my time here has been the absolute privilege of my life. I knew when I first walked through the doors at St Nick's that it was special, I felt that within seconds, little did I know just how special it is and you are.

My brothers and sisters, I think you for everything, with God by our side, all will be well, and remember, if we have Faith, Hope and Love, we do not need anything else.

With my love and Blessings.

Rachel



Churchwardens Report

Annie Hanifin and John Grant

It is with great joy and gratitude that we present to you the annual report of St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst for 2023.

We are thrilled to share with you the wonderful achievements and milestones that the church has accomplished in the past year.

Having been nominated and voted in as your Wardens at last year's APCM, we were somewhat surprised when Jonathan announced he was leaving, however we were determined to ensure Rachel had (and has) our full support, needed through the difficult times that we faced together, and in sharing the joyous occasion of her Ordination.



Our church has been dedicated to fostering spiritual growth and engaging with the community throughout the year. It has been a privilege to witness the outreach to not only our church community but our community in Chislehurst, strengthening the faith of our church and reaching out to those in need.

The church has been actively involved in various mission and outreach programmes, both locally and nationally. We have supported missions in underprivileged communities, provided aid to those affected by natural disasters, and spread the message of love and compassion to all.

Our youth and children's ministry have flourished in the past year, with engaging programmes and activities that have nurtured the faith of our younger members.

We are pleased to report that the church's financial stewardship campaign was well received, and we are grateful to the Finance Committee and especially to our Treasurer Jo for all their hard work.

Whilst it has been a challenging first year as churchwardens, it has been a privilege to lead our church congregation and support our Curate and ministry team during the Interregnum.

Whilst there are many people to thank, first we have to thank Rachel for her amazing ministry, leadership, commitment and dedication in her curacy, ably supported and guided by Rev June Hurn – we thank June for her support and continued participation at services. We also thank Rev'd Dave Johnston for stepping in as Rachel's Training Incumbent.

We'd like to thank all the PCC members and Deanery Synod Reps for their hard work and dedication in supporting Rachel, and us as churchwardens.

St Nicholas has many dedicated volunteers who keep St Nick's thriving, looking good, running well and functioning. We must especially thank all of our Congregations, across our many services, it is all of you that have ensured St Nick's is the welcoming community of faith that it should be - it has been a rewarding experience getting to know more of you better.



REVIEW of 2023 - Achievements and Performance (activities and ministries); Worship and the Household of Faith

Worship at St Nicholas has continued and thrived during 2023, our All Age Breakfast Service has continued to grow, with the youth taking a greater role within the service.

The weekly E-news is sent to over 400 email addresses.

We continued developing plans to re-envision our Village Hall facilities as a key part of our outreach and ministry resourcing.

Had a record-breaking Christmas Fair in support of our mission / charitable giving.

Delivered 57 Life Event services: baptisms, weddings, funerals, and burials / burial of cremated remains.

Welcomed over 100 people to our All-Souls' memorial service for the bereaved and conducted two services on behalf of local funeral directors for their Christmas memorial services.



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

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

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

Welcomed children from the Midfield School in Orpington.

Took the lead on offering free games and crafts for children at the Chislehurst Summer Fair, also handing out leaflets and offering pastoral support.



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

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

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



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

Every hour, on the hour we will share together in prayer, please come and go as you wish. In between these prayers, prayers will be said or the businesses, homes and the people of Chislehurst.

Rev'd Rachel
Curate, St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst

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

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

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

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

Celebrated a special Mothers Union Members Communion Service.

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

Took part in the Kent Churches Ride and Stride event.



STILL STANDING
 A Lent course based on the Elton John movie **ROCKETMAN**
 Wednesday Evenings
 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March 2023
 St Nicholas Village Hall
 7.30pm

Welcoming Inclusive Serving
 St Nicholas Church

Contact: Rev'd Rachel to book
 revrachelcurley@outlook.com

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

Faith Will...
 ...create lasting change near and far

When we're united, our faith is powerful. We can help both our local church community and global neighbours to flourish. That's why Christian Aid, UK churches and Quaker meetings are coming together this September to discover the power of gifts in Wills and the difference they can make. Your faith is powerful, and so is your Will.

To find out more, join our Faith Will event

Time: _____
 Date: _____
 Place: _____

Eng and Wales charity no. 1036851 Scot charity no. SC030950. Company no. 517525.
 © Christian Aid. May 2023 Photos: David Brooker/Robin Prime/Christian Aid.



Charles Dickens tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas past, present and yet to come is a familiar one to most people. But have you ever paused to wonder where Jesus is in this story, and what God might want you to learn through it about living unselfishly, about repentance, forgiveness, and restoration?

Why don't you join us and we can find out together.

Monday's
 27 Nov, 4 Dec, 11 Dec, 18 Dec at 11am
 in the meeting room
Wednesday's
 29 Nov, 6 Dec, 13 Dec, 20 Dec at 7pm
 in the hall

Supporting Christian Aid with their Faith Wills campaign.

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

Guest Preachers from Christian Aid, CompassionUK and Two's Company were welcomed to our services.



In September we welcomed the rector (Fr Jonathan Beswick, SSC), parishioners and friends of St Peter, London Docks to our church for the 143rd anniversary of the death of Father Charles Fuge Lowder.

Known in Wapping and Chislehurst as Lowder Day, this was the first time that Lowder Day had been marked in Chislehurst for some years.

Charlie Clark gave a talk on the history of the church and the connection of Father Lowder and St Peter, London Docks with St Nicholas, Chislehurst and how he came to be buried here. This was followed by a short service led by Fr Jonathan at the graveside.



Chislehurst Summer Fair

Ministry through Life Events

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

In 2023 we conducted the following:

Marriages 8

Blessings 3

Baptisms 12

Funerals 23

Burials of Ashes 14



Worship at St Nick's

All of our services have continued at St Nick's; We have even managed to add extra services throughout the year.

Thanks to the technology of iKnow, we can monitor the increase in our worship attendance at all our church services during the course of 2023.

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

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

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

We strongly believe that Rev'd Rachel's personal ministry mission statement has become that of St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst.

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



FABRIC REPORT

From the Churchwardens, Annie Hanifin and John Grant.

1. **Introduction:** This report is intended to give an overview of the condition, maintenance requirements and necessary repairs or improvements for the church and other buildings in our care.
2. **Description:** St. Nicholas Church in Chislehurst, England, dates back to the 15th century. 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. There has been a hall here since the late 19th century with the current hall being over 50 years old. Architecturally, the hall is characterized by a blend of traditional and functional styles, often featuring elements of vernacular or utilitarian design rather than adhering strictly to a specific architectural movement.

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

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

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

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

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

and the Committee look after the Curate's house. External contractors are used for regular specialist maintenance (boiler, lightning conductors, organs etc). The churchyard team look after the churchyard.

4. Summary key points :

The Church

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

Churchyard

- A new powered leaf vacuum has been purchased, greatly improving and assisting the effectiveness of the Churchyard team.
- The east fence will need to be repaired in the next financial year.

Village Hall

- Spending has been kept to a minimum as we embark on a new 'Village hall for all' project.
- We entered into new cheaper contracts for energy (green), phone and broadband supplies
- Safety checks were made on the fire precautions, emergency lighting, and the boiler

Southbeech

- A new porch, doorstep and handrail were fitted.
- The rear garden fence will need to be repaired in the next financial year.

The Rectory

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

- The driveway has been resurfaced.
- The property is being maintained in a vacant condition. Water and heating have been isolated.

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

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

The Property Committee, the Churchyard Team, the New Hall Committee and the Village Hall Committee have all produced reports, which are contained in the overall annual report.



PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Weekly Notice Sheet

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

E-news

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

The e-news is currently sent out to 400 email recipients.

IT System

Rev'd Rachel managed to use her previous contacts to secure us a charity contract with Microsoft, which has enabled us to move over to a new, free online storage system, allowing Rachel and Parish Administrator Selina the use of shared folders, as well as all those who chair the many committees at St Nick's.

Website

Our website is proving to be a great resource for people, where they can find up-to-date information on our services, as well as life events and the many "extra's" St Nick's has to offer.



The screenshot shows the website for St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst. At the top left is a logo with the text "Welcoming Inclusive Serving" and "St Nicholas Chislehurst" next to a silhouette of a church. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Groups, About Us, Giving, Hall Hire, Life Events, Two's Company, and Safeguarding. On the right is the "iKnowChurch" logo with the text "Click for church diary". The main content area has a blue background and contains the following text:

Welcome to St Nicholas Church, Chislehurst

We believe in an inclusive Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

The Church is open for you to visit between 9am and 5pm every day.

If you wish to get in touch with us, you can either click **here** for more details, call the parish office direct on: 020 8467 0196 or contact the office via email stnicholaschislehurst@outlook.com.

Please note, hall bookings can only be made via the Parish Office.

Our Services for Sunday 14th April

8am	Said Eucharist BCP
9.30am	Parish Communion
10am	Wednesday 10th Said Eucharist BCP

Our usual Service Pattern

Sunday	
8am	Said Eucharist (BCP)
9.30am	Main Parish Communion (Common Worship) 2nd & 4th Sunday
9.30am	All Age Breakfast Worship in the Village Hall

Pastoral Care

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

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

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

Mission and Evangelism and outreach

This includes:

- Mission / Giving to other charities, including Marylebone Project, Bromley Welfare, Compassion, MANUP? and Two's Company.
- Support for Christian Aid
- Practical support for Whitechapel Mission which we aim to increase during 2024

Each of our church members, too, are ambassadors of the church and representatives of Christ in their respective locations, communities, and relationships.

Mission and ministry and outreach are not the reserve of 'the professionals', they are Gospel imperatives for all of us.

REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Baptism Helpers

Overseen by
Group Aims

Sarah Arnheim

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



After several years in charge, Jackie White has passed the baton to Sarah Arnheim. Thank you Jackie, for all that you did.

We are reminded of our vibrant Baptism activity by the socks under the font, we ask each family to provide us with a memento of that wonderful day when their child joined our growing church family.

12 Baptisms were held at St Nick's this year and again a wonderful Baptism Tea (catered superbly by our Mothers' Union) preceded by a short service (see photo) allowed the families to get to know each other and exchange experiences, love and laughter.



Bellringers

Tower Captain *Maralyn Evans*
Meets *Sunday Service ringing*
Wednesday evening
practice

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



Achievements this year

After sudden decrease in membership in 2020 we have now returned to a healthier number of 7 ringers. In addition, following a recruitment drive this year we have 3 new learners who are progressing well.

Lewisham District Practice hosted here in April during which the peal board in memory of Mark Jones was blessed and a dedicated touch rang.

Ellacombe chimes were rung on 6 May as part of the Ringing for the King celebrations.

Rang quarter peal for Rev Rachel's ordination.

Rang bells for nine weddings.

Handbells displayed and rung for Open House Sunday.



All 8 bells were rung half muffled on Remembrance Sunday.

Rang Ellacombe chimes for Nativity tableau.

We have joined the Junior Church team where members are being taught to ring 'baby bells' in advance of learning to ring the historic handbells when they are older.

Hopes and Aspirations for the future

To increase attendance at service ringing.

When our learners are competent, I am hopeful that regular Sunday morning service ringing will continue.

Involvement of Junior Church and St Nicholas Primary School learning to ring the handbells.

CHLOE

Overseen by *Ann Dyer and Muriel Partridge*
Meets *Once a month in the afternoon from
September to July*
Group Aims *To share friendship, fun and
refreshments*

“CHLOE”
(Chislehurst Ladies Over Eighteen)



Chislehurst Ladies Over Eighteen. A group of ladies who meet together. There is no membership – you can just come along to whatever you fancy.

In September we have a planning meeting and ideas are put forward for the year, with offers of hospitality and dates.

There are some regular suggestions like a film, a musical event, games, poetry, a meal in a restaurant, and an afternoon tea at Hall Place Bexley but we would like some different ideas too.

During 2023 we enjoyed all of these plus a London Walk on a hot day, a cheese tasting, and a Beetle drive. We enjoy tea, coffee and cake together along with lively conversation.

Our aims are to encourage more ladies to come and join in – there are usually between 10 and 20 people but there is room for more.

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



Churches Together in Chislehurst & Bickley

Represented by: *Rev'd Rachel Curley*
Barbara Adie (CTCB Secretary)
Frances Foley (CTCB Social Media)
Philippa Robinson (CTCB Treasurer)
Meets *Spring and Autumn meetings*
Summer AGM
Group Aims *Churches Together consists of nine
churches, of which St Nicholas is one.*



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

Achievements this year

Churches Together:

- Successfully launched The Two's Company Project and Project Lead, Danielle Francis has made amazing progress. There are now 9 active volunteers providing support to a number of service users. She has also sourced outside funding to support the project from the National Lottery, Chislehurst Rotary and The Chislehurst Society. Danielle has been invited to St.Nicholas Church and Christ Church to talk about the project, encouraging people to volunteer. Rev Rachel Curley oversees the project now.
- Continues to financially support the Chislehurst Debt Advisory Service.
- Benefits from the 2gether shop, which funds Chislehurst Youth for Christ and actively supports the group.
- Promotes churches through a presence at the Chislehurst Summer Fair, Walk of Witness on Good Friday and distribution of an annual Christmas card



Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

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



Church Choir

Overseen by

Michael Bell FRCO

Meets

every Thursday, 7.30pm-9pm for rehearsal (in vestry)

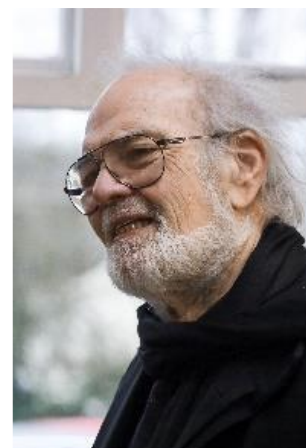
Sings on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays at 9.30am

and also on 1st Sunday at 6pm, and 3rd Sunday at 11.15am

Occasionally at weekday services

Group Aims

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



The Choir of St Nicholas maintains a tradition established by many Parish Churches in the early nineteenth century; a four-part ensemble (i.e. Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) singing hymns, psalms, anthems and other settings at main services Sunday by Sunday. Additionally on the first Sunday evening of each month they sing 'Prayer Book' Evensong and likewise on the third Sunday morning Matins is still sung.

The 'top line' (boy Trebles until around the start of the present century) is maintained by sopranos now and the male Altos of yesteryear tend to be female "Contraltos" nowadays. We have managed to 'field' all four parts every Sunday this year, sometimes by skin of teeth it must be said.

Many other church choirs are somewhat less fortunate, but it highlights a pressing need for new recruits to share the workload. My total admiration of present members' continuous and remarkable dedication and enthusiasm is here recorded once again. Practice is now held usually on Thursdays – 7.30-9.00pm in the vestry. New members would certainly be very welcome to join us.

There have been even fewer Weddings this year. More couples now choose to supply their own groups/soloists than previously. However there seems to have been an increase in the number of Funerals requesting the church choir.



Churchyard Volunteers

Overseen by *Alex Roeder*
Meets *Second Saturday of the month.
(weather & numbers dependent).
9am-12 roughly*
Group Aims *To maintain the planting around
the churchyard, collection and
disposal of rubbish and keeping
an eye on what needs seeing to
in general*



Achievements this year:

- Devised a system of disposing of green waste, which allows it to be removed more easily and slightly more cost effectively. This involves filling tonne bags and placing in the tip. Thus reducing the hours of shovelling up waste at irregular intervals required to dispose of it in the past. Replacing the large bin by the tip with 2 smaller, has made rubbish disposal much easier.
- The mortuary shed has had a general clear out of broken/irrelevant tools and accumulated general rubbish. We have put up shelves to help with keeping the clutter under control.
- There is still the ongoing battle with ivy, brambles and leaves.
- We now, thanks to the PCC, have a petrol powered leaf vacuum. This works well and means that some of our less youthful volunteers can help with leaf collection. Also, the purchase of decent brooms and another wheelbarrow is much appreciated.
- We continue to work on our removal of bushes/trees growing out of and damaging graves, tree thinning and crown raising in consultation with council, Diocese and PCC.
- Clearing a grave of a relative has led to a new volunteer joining us. We also have the son of St. Nick's head teacher helping us now, along with a passing volunteer who is also now helping us.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Basically, as per last year, I would hope to get some more younger volunteers! And we all aspire to keeping the churchyard as neat and viable as possible for the future.

- We are considering building compost bins in the NW corner, with parishioners being able to “ help themselves” under guidance.
- We have a few trees to trim back this year so will be doing that once we get some new chainsaw blades.
- Our biggest concern in the churchyard is the east fence along Church Lane, where the existing posts need extra support.
- And finally, as always, new volunteers would be well received.



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

Guests now look forward to our monthly soup lunches, with a regular attendance of 32 - 40 people.

Christmas was made special with seasonal table decorations, crackers, but the highlight was St Nicholas school choir coming to sing once again.

Following advice from Environmental Health, Bromley, our procedures have changed slightly this year. Three members of the team have completed their Food Hygiene certificates (level 2) and basic training will be provided for all our volunteers.

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

We have a diligent team of 16 volunteers, welcoming 4 new helpers this year. This activity would not be possible without their support.

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

Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

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



Deanery Synod

Representatives: Charles Clark, Diane Moorman and Peter Ridge.

Meets *Usually three times a year.*

Group Aims *The main purpose is to act as an intermediary between PCCs and Diocesan Synod and to elect the Deanery's Lay Representatives to Diocesan Synod. Further information about the deanery, including full minutes of each synod can be accessed on <https://bromleydeanery.simdif.com>.*

St Nicholas, Chislehurst is one of 13 churches in the Bromley Deanery, within the Archdeaconry of Bromley & Bexley and the Diocese of Rochester.

Tuesday 21st March 2023 @ St Mary's, Plaistow

- Received a talk on how to be a family friendly church, followed by a Q+A session, from Laura Webster, Diocesan Children and Young People Mission & Ministry Advisor Bromley & Bexley.
- Received updates from recent Diocesan Synod and the Living in Love and Faith process.

Tuesday 16th May 2023 @ Christ Church, Chislehurst

- Extra meeting to meet the new Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, the Ven. Allie Kerr. This was a very open and frank meeting for Synod members to 'get to know' our new archdeacon.

Wednesday 12th July 2023 @ St John the Evangelist, Bromley (first meeting of the new Deanery Triennial)

- Agreed by the House of Laity that Cath Johnston (Christ Church, Chislehurst) is to continue as Deanery Lay Chair. House of Laity also

agreed for Jonathan Hutton (St Peter & St Paul, Bromley) to continue as Secretary and Richard Latteman (Christ Church, Bromley) as Treasurer. Charles Clark (St Nicholas, Chislehurst) to also join the Standing Committee.

- Agreed by the House of Clergy that to join the Rev'd Victoria Pask (St Mark's Bromley) and the Rev'd Andrew McClellan (St John the Evangelist, Bromley) on the Standing Committee would be: the Rev'd Steve Spencer (St Augustine & St Luke, Bromley Common) and the Rev'd Paul Farthing (The Annunciation, Chislehurst).
- The Rev'd Andrew McClellan (Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Bromley & Inter-Faith Advisor for the Archdeaconry of Bromley and Bexley) gave a talk on inter-faith relations, followed by an engaging Q+A session.

Thursday 16th November 2023 @ Christ Church, Bromley

- Mike Harrowing, CEO of Spinnaker Trust, gave an engaging presentation on their work in teaching schoolchildren the Holy Bible. This was followed by an open discussion on how best we can engage with those outside of the church and in particular children.
- Received updates from Diocesan Synod.

St Nicholas, Chislehurst is to host Deanery Synod for the first time in a number of years on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 in the Village Hall. We look forward to welcoming our brothers and sisters in Christ from our neighbouring parishes and the three reps from our church could certainly do with some assistance in providing tea, coffee and biscuits to all of those who are attending!

Electoral Roll

Overseen by

Giles Cordwell

Aims

Maintaining an accurate record of Church membership.



This has been a slightly more active year for the Electoral Roll. It is the fifth year since the most recent creation of a new roll in 2019, so it has been a case of keeping my head down and trying to keep things ticking over before the next major task – creating the next roll – next year.

Improved communication has helped greatly with maintaining an accurate record this year.

At present, the Electoral Roll has **281** members listed, with 26 new names added and 14 removed, either through moving away or because a member has died.

The membership is made up of 89 (32%) who live in the parish, 101 (36%) in the rest of Chislehurst and 91 (32%) who live elsewhere.

The number on the Church Electoral Roll determines the numbers we are permitted on the Deanery Synod and also determines the number of lay members on the PCC. As we have more than 200 on our Roll, we are allowed 4 Deanery representatives and up to the maximum of 15 members lay representatives on the PCC.

Church Electoral Roll Application Forms are available from the Parish Office.



Finance Committee

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

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

Our accounts show some stark facts. Income from voluntary donations in 2023 was 25% less than in a pre-Covid 2019. We therefore have less to spend on our church than we need.

Utilities costs were £9,000, which was less than the forecast £12,000 due to further cost cutting, including severe restrictions on church heating. Changing church insurers to Aviva in 2022 resulted in a saving of £3,000.

For the first time in many years, we carried out no “Major Works” on the church.

Further cuts were to our offering to the Diocese. We have always paid a bit extra than our share to compensate for those parishes less fortunate than us. This year we were not able to pay this bit extra, saving us £15,000 compared to 2019. Our “Away Giving” to charities was unfortunately less than half the sum we gave in 2019.

We hope the 2024 Stewardship campaign will be successful and help towards restoring our finances.

Once a suitable machine came on the market we installed a contactless card reader in April 2022. It was envisaged that the main source of donations using the machine would be from Funerals and Baptisms. The use of the machine is, however, from all services plus casual visitors and has now taken £10,000 since it was installed. Far more than expected.

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



Junior Church

Overseen by *Sarah Armstrong and Kate Murdock-Smith*

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

Group Aims *To bring the message of God to our younger members of the Church; For young people to feel a sense of community with others; To engage the younger generation in the message and values of our Church community*



JUNIOR CHURCH
LEARNING & GROWING

We have had a busy year in Junior Church. We have been delighted to welcome several families with young children join us throughout the year as well as several new volunteers to our teaching team.



We have continued to follow the 'Roots on the web' programme which supports the stories of the Bible with activities, games and crafts alongside important events in our calendar including Mothering Sunday.

We have been blessed with Bernadette coming along to teach some of our older children the hand bells and over the weeks, they are getting much more confident and fluent in following the music! Our children have really looked forward to her visits- thank you, Bernadette! We look forward to continuing to include music and the joy it brings to our sessions.

We continue to be very grateful to Rachel and the team for their unwavering support for our group; our children are confident and proud to share their efforts in Church each week and we hope that this will encourage more youngsters to come along and join in the fun.



We are always looking for more ways to bring the joy of faith to our young people and would welcome any ideas and support from our wider community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the team who make Junior Church possible; your enthusiasm and commitment to our young people is so valued and we really look forward to building on our foundations in the coming year to spread the word of our group and welcome more young people.

Hopes and aspirations for the future:

- To build more of a community of young people to our sessions;
- To give opportunities for our older children to get involved in the sessions with the younger ones
- To spread the word of our Junior Church to our wider community, raising the profile of our group



Knitting Group

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

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



Achievements this year

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

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

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

The group love to meet socially too. We had an afternoon tea in Barbara's garden in May, the annual Christmas lunch at the Bull and a lunch at Easter too.

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

Hopes and Aspirations for the future:

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



Memorial Garden

Overseen by *Sue Thorogood*

The Memorial Garden is a special place in our Churchyard and we endeavour to maintain it to a high standard.



We do have a rota of helpers in the summer months but there is also a lot of work involved in the autumn and winter when copious amounts of leaves fall on and around the garden.

Many people leave flowers and plants over the year which have to be cleared away as they die off and it would really help if those leaving them could come and clear them .

I would like to thank those of you who help to look after the Memorial Garden and would love to hear from anyone who would like to join us.



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 meetings take place in The Bull's Head where the coffee is very good indeed. In the better weather we reserve one of the pods in their garden.

We value the unique opportunities for friendship and fellowship that belonging to the Mothers' Union affords in what has been a difficult time for many and we continue to feel grateful that we can meet together. We support each other especially when illness or accidents have happened and we pray for them, send cards and share news of their progress.

We have held meetings every month, apart from August, and have enrolled 2 new members. Our Advent Meditation, attended by 18 members, was led by Rev'd Rachel to whom we are most grateful for her continuing support and commitment to thrive and develop. She also celebrated a special and well attended M.U. communion service for us in October.

We raise funds for M.U. projects by holding raffles, sales tables and by providing cakes and refreshments for church events. At our most recent meeting there was a sales table and £73 was raised which was donated to an M.U. initiative celebrating Mothers' Day. This project "Empowering Women" funds small businesses started by women in developing countries helping them to survive, feed their families and supporting them in getting their children to school more easily.

We look forward to another year of getting together every month and please know that you would be very welcome if you would like to join us.

Parish Administrator

*In the Parish Office, Mon-Fri, 9am – 1pm.
Overseen by Rev'd Curley & Churchwardens
Report submitted by Selina Lindsey*



2023 being in an interregnum for the past 6 months, I can say that the office and all administrative work have continued to run smoothly under the care of our Curate Rev Rachel Curley.

The bookings for parties in the hall have continued to increase, most Saturday and Sunday afternoons every month.

12 baptisms were held from May-November 2023 and currently 8 scheduled from April to July 2024. e-News, and iKnow is still working well, enabling many people to access information and news about St Nicholas online, subscriptions to e-News increase steadily.



PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Members are elected for a three-year period and may stand again. The PCC may also co-opt up to THREE additional members, as set out in the Church Representation Rules as amended in 2020.

Details of the membership of the PCC during 2023 are set out elsewhere in this report.

Sub-Groups

The PCC has set up various sub-groups which carry out particular functions on behalf of the PCC:

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by church law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Finance Committee

Works with the Treasurer to ensure good financial management and effective stewardship of resources.

Property Committee

Oversees the extensive work required to maintain our built heritage, properties and grounds.

Safeguarding Committee

To ensure that current good practice and legislation is adhered to ensure Safeguarding training and awareness is of first concern for everyone in the community of St Nicholas' Church.

Events Committee

Involved in the planning and smooth running of church and community events.

Hall Development Team

Oversees the development of the new Village Hall, involved in initially submitting plans and then grant applications, fundraising and project management.

Village Hall Committee

Committee that works on the maintenance of the hall and the smooth running of all aspects of the village hall life.

Churchyard Team

Oversees the general good maintenance of the churchyard and Memorial Garden.

PCC Meetings during 2023

The full PCC met 6 times during 2023 (dates below) with good attendance on most occasions. The Standing Committee and Teams met regularly, and reports of their activities were received and discussed where necessary by the PCC.

23 January 2023

13 March 2023

14 May 2023 – Annual Meetings

12 June 2023

17 July 2023

25 September 2023

13 November 2023



Property Committee

Overseen by *Charles Clark*

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

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

Sanctuary Pavement

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

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



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

Ongoing projects

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

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



Safeguarding

Overseen by *Susie Hemming-Clark*
Meets *Regular meetings to continue 6-8 weekly, these may be more frequent according to the need*



Group Aims *To ensure sustainable management of all safeguarding issues at St Nicholas Church*

Rev Rachel Curley, Sally Hayhow and Sue Brandon continue to be committed members of the safeguarding group. The Team members continue to manage our safeguarding process and where appropriate any issues that have arisen escalate to our local Diocese safeguarding representative:

Digital Technology:- Safe storage of data & documents



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

DBS Process - Resources



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

All Parochial Church Council (PCC) members are currently up to date.

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

Legal responsibility

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

Safeguarding Sunday 26.11.2023 – During the 9.30am Service



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

Safeguarding Communications



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

We are currently looking at redesigning the posters to simplify them and increase their impact.

The weekly eNews and pew leaflets, display poster as reminders, as well as our church website.

Safeguarding Dashboard for the Diocese

We update the database as and when is required.

www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/safeguardingdashboards.php

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



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

Basic Awareness

Foundation
Leadership and safer recruiter
Domestic abuse awareness.

The safeguarding team will inform you of what courses you need to complete when the volunteer takes up their role and will remind the volunteer when their next training is required:

The Junior Church Volunteers have completed their safeguarding training. We still have three volunteers who need to complete the leadership course run by the diocese.

For further information: -

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

Hopes

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

Aspirations:

All of our church officers complete their training where required.

The church officers and the congregation work hard to keep our church a safe place.

That training and safeguarding processes will continue to be prioritised and carried out vigorously in all areas of our church management, and to evaluate our practices and responses regularly.

To embed National Standard for Safeguarding 2023 into our church community

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

“Safeguarding remains everybody's business whatever community setting you are in“

Welcoming Inclusive Serving St Nicholas Chislehurst

Promoting a safer church

Safeguarding at St Nicholas, Chislehurst

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

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

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



St Nicholas' Church School – Rev'd Rachel



ST NICHOLAS
CE Primary School
Part of the Aquinas Trust

I have been extremely lucky since my arrival here that the head teacher at St Nick's School, Sophie Sear, has welcomed me with open arms and allowed me to spend as much time as I wish at school. I regularly lead school collective worship (assembly), and we have welcomed the children into church for various services and celebrations, including their Leavers' Service, class Communions, Carol Concerts, and the school participating during our 12 hour prayer event.

Report by Sophie Sear – Head teacher at St Nick’s

Rev'd Rachel has been a consistent presence in leading worship sessions at St. Nicholas School. Her engaging and uplifting presentations have inspired both pupils and staff, fostering a sense of community and spirituality within the school. Additionally, Rev'd Rachel has led Eucharist services with individual year groups, providing pupils with the opportunity to participate in this important sacrament in a meaningful and age-appropriate manner. These services have not only deepened pupils' understanding of their faith but have also encouraged reflection and introspection.



Beyond her role in leading worship, Rev'd Rachel has actively engaged with pupils in the classroom, teaching in various year groups. Her expertise in theological concepts has been invaluable in supporting teachers with challenging topics, ensuring that pupils receive a comprehensive religious education. Rev'd Rachel's approachable nature and ability to simplify complex ideas have made her an asset in the educational development

of the pupils.

Rev'd Rachel has demonstrated a strong commitment to the St. Nicholas School community by actively participating in school events. She has been a visible and supportive presence. Her involvement has helped strengthen the bond between the school and the local church, fostering a sense of unity and belonging among pupils, staff, and parents.

One of Rev'd Rachel's key contributions has been her proactive efforts in developing the school chaplaincy programme. Recognising the importance of providing pastoral care and support to pupils, she has worked closely with school leaders to establish and expand chaplaincy services. This includes establishing Leading Lights, which has created a nurturing group where pupils feel supported in their spiritual and emotional growth.



As the academic year progresses, it is evident that Rev'd Rachel's dedication and passion for her role continue to enrich the lives of those within the school community.

Third Sunday Singers

Overseen by *Muriel Partridge*
Meets *Every third Saturday and Sunday in the month*
Group Aims *To sing during communion and to lead the congregation hymns on the third Sunday in the month*



Achievements this year

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

Singing at the Christmas Fair.

Singing the Coronation anthem composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber for the coronation of King Charles

Hopes and Aspirations for the future

To continue our service on the third Sundays.

To extend our repertoire of music
To participate in special services if required.

To attract new members



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



Verger's Report

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

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

Fulfillment of these duties has been as follows:-

- The **clock** has been serviced and adjusted at summer-time changes. It maintains high accuracy.
- Some 12 **grave sites** were selected and after liaison with grave diggers MDH, dug. 12 **Burial of Remains (BOR) sites** were selected dug and closed after services. Services were **attended** and assistance rendered to the Priest.
- Proper **records** were entered into the **Registers** providing the ability to trace the location of each **BURIAL OF ASHES**.
- Preparations for funerals(13) and weddings (5) were made by stationing road cones to facilitate **parking of cars and grave-digging machines**. The 'Resting Gate' (under the Lych Gate) was opened for each funeral.
- Within the churchyard, the **water supply** was adjusted when icy conditions threatened.
- The **Lightening Conductor** was checked regularly.
- **Gutters, down-pipes, gullies and drains** were serviced annually and as required.
- As a member of the churchyard working party **yew trees** were trimmed.
- Within the church, the **heating system** was checked regularly and serviced.
- The **cellar and loo drainage** were maintained by clearing mud intakes and rodding
- **Lighting** was maintained by replacement of bulbs.
- The **Southern Porch Doors** were serviced under contract.





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.*



Spend on maintenance and improvements has been kept to a minimum. The Hall remained operational and open for use throughout the year, with short exceptions when the heating failed:

- we entered into new cheaper contracts for energy (green), phone and broadband supplies
- various repairs were made to lights, plumbing, sockets, curtains, and the Committee Room trolley
- Rev'd Jonathan donated a wall heater (see pic above) which was installed in the Committee Room.
- We reviewed and updated our hire publicity, terms/conditions, and rates.
- A tree with ash dieback was removed; a neighbour kindly shared the cost.
- The large sycamore behind the sheds (see pic.) also needs removing, and we are awaiting Council approval
- we dealt successfully with visits by wasps and rodents
- safety checks were made on the fire precautions, emergency lighting, and the boiler



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

Hopes and aspirations for the future: We look forward to the building of a new hall, with hope and faith.



Village Hall Development

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



A VILLAGE HALL *for all*

A design and access statement will accompany the plans.

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

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

Transport (Kronen Ltd)

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

Noise (Sharps Redmore)

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

Ecology (Greenlink Ecology Ltd)

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

Drainage

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

Trees (Chartwell Tree Consultants)

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

Next Steps (2024)

Revise plans, elevations and the Design & Access statement.
Hold a second public consultation meeting.
Submit application in Q1 2024.

Start to raise funds.



A previous Village Hall

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 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Christopher Archer

Date : 30 April 2024

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

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
					2023 £	2022 £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Voluntary income	3(a)	116,033	1,270	-	117,303	122,775
Activities for generating funds	3(b)	29,553	4,739	-	34,292	29,860
Income from Church activities	3(c)	16,157	-	-	16,157	13,752
Income from investments	3(d)	3,111	-	9,825	12,936	11,633
Other income	3(e)	<u>10,494</u>	<u>2,870</u>	-	13,364	<u>18,155</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>175,348</u>	<u>8,879</u>	<u>9,825</u>	194,052	<u>196,175</u>
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>						
Church activities	4(a)	171,837	6,452	9,825	188,114	210,841
Exceptional costs	4(b)	-	2,125	-	2,125	-
Governance costs	4(c)	<u>769</u>	-	-	769	<u>626</u>
Total resources expended		<u>172,606</u>	<u>8,577</u>	<u>9,825</u>	191,008	<u>211,467</u>
<u>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</u>						
Before other recognised gains & losses		2,742	302	-	3,044	(15,292)
<u>NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS</u>	7(b)	<u>23,288</u>	-	<u>36,558</u>	59,846	<u>(68,743)</u>
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</u>		26,030	302	36,558	62,890	(84,035)
<u>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</u>		6,000		(6,000)	-	-
Balances brought forward 1 January 2023 (2022)		<u>312,938</u>	<u>1,323</u>	<u>588,968</u>	903,229	<u>987,264</u>
<u>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</u>						
31 DECEMBER 2023 (2022)		<u>344,968</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>619,526</u>	966,119	<u>903,229</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	funds	funds	Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Tangible	7(a)	60,260	-	232,500	292,760	292,760
Investments	7(b)	<u>220,984</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>379,189</u>	600,173	<u>540,327</u>
		<u>281,244</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>611,689</u>	892,933	<u>833,087</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Debtors & prepayments	8	12,813	-	-	12,813	14,072
Short term deposits		43,162	1,625	7,837	52,624	43,267
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>25,834</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	25,834	<u>31,953</u>
		<u>81,809</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>7,837</u>	91,271	<u>89,292</u>
LIABILITIES due within one year	9	<u>(18,085)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	(18,085)	<u>(19,150)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>63,724</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>7,837</u>	73,186	<u>70,142</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>344,968</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>619,526</u>	966,119	<u>903,229</u>
<u>FUNDS</u>						
<u>Unrestricted:</u>						
General		103,013	-	-	103,013	181,920
Designated:						
Church Repair Fund	11(a)	95,758	-	-	95,758	70,758
Church Hall Building	11(b)	60,260	-	-	60,260	60,260
Village Hall Fund	11(c)	85,937	-	-	85,937	-
Restricted:	14	-	1,625	-	1,625	1,323
Endowment	12	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>619,526</u>	619,526	<u>588,968</u>
		<u>344,968</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>619,526</u>	966,119	<u>903,229</u>

Approved by the PCC on 28th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by :-

John Grant

The notes on pages 61 to 67 form part of the accounts

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS *For the year ended 31 December 2023*

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 67 of this report.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2023 £	2022 £
(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving	70,562	-	-	70,562	71,051
Tax recoverable	18,715	-	-	18,715	19,754
Collections at services	16,183	1,270	-	17,453	21,389
Donations/ Legacies	10,573	-	-	10,573	10,581
	<u>116,033</u>	<u>1,270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,303</u>	<u>122,775</u>
(b) Activities for generating funds					
St Nicholas Fair	-	4,739	-	4,739	3,353
Church Hall hiring	29,553	-	-	29,553	26,507
	<u>29,553</u>	<u>4,739</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,292</u>	<u>29,860</u>
(c) Income from Church Activities					
Fees	13,033	-	-	13,033	8,976
Parish magazine	-	-	-	-	11
Social events	3,124	-	-	3,124	4,765
	<u>16,157</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,157</u>	<u>13,752</u>
(d) Income from investments					
Dividends & interest	3,111	-	9,825	12,936	11,633
	<u>3,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,825</u>	<u>12,936</u>	<u>11,633</u>
(e) Other incoming resources					
Curate Housing Grant	9,500	-	-	9,500	4,750
Southbeech Rental Income	-	-	-	-	6,586
LPOW VAT relief	994	-	-	994	6,644
Sequestration Income	-	2,588	-	2,588	-
Flower income	-	282	-	282	175
	<u>10,494</u>	<u>2,870</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,364</u>	<u>18,155</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>175,348</u>	<u>8,879</u>	<u>9,825</u>	<u>194,052</u>	<u>196,175</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2023 £	2022 £
(a) Church activities					
Mission and charitable giving	3,527	6,009	-	9,536	10,589
Ministry:					
Parish Offer to Diocese	74,000	-	-	74,000	75,000
Clergy working expenses	3,709	-	-	3,709	2,349
Clergy housing costs	5,325	-	-	5,325	4,467
Church services & music	13,055	-	-	13,055	13,989
Church:					
Insurance	3,349	-	-	3,349	3,043
Utility costs	8,985	-	-	8,985	5,733
Repairs & maintenance	7,728	-	260	7,988	6,597
Major works	-	-	-	-	34,283
Southbeech costs	3,804	-	7,249	11,053	1,254
Churchyard upkeep	1,615	-	2,316	3,931	5,394
Education & Training	114	-	-	114	-
Church Hall running costs	20,209	-	-	20,209	16,084
New Church Hall Planning	9,424	-	-	9,424	13,838
Cost of social events	2,313	-	-	2,313	2,319
Administration	14,680	-	-	14,680	15,523
Flower Expenses	-	<u>443</u>	-	443	<u>379</u>
	<u>171,837</u>	<u>6,452</u>	<u>9,825</u>	188,114	<u>210,841</u>
(b) Exceptional costs					
Sequestration costs	-	2,125	-	2,125	-
(c) Governance costs					
Independent examination	440	-	-	440	420
Bank charges	<u>329</u>	-	-	329	<u>206</u>
	<u>769</u>	-	-	769	<u>626</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	172,606	8,577	9,825	191,008	211,467

5. STAFF COSTS (included in the above figures) for the Administrator, the Hall Cleaner and the Organist/Choir master amount to £23,885 (2022 - £23,370).
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 2023

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PCC AND RELATED PARTIES

Note 4(a) shows the total of PCC payments to the Rector, Honorary Associate Priest and Curate towards their working expenses and housing costs. The total stewardship income from members of the PCC in 2023 was £8,970 (2022-£8,779). Groundforce1, a company closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £3,920 (2022-£3,115) for grass cutting and trimming at the Churchyard. Toby Hurn-Torr, who is also closely connected to one member of the PCC was paid £575 (2022-£nil) for Gardening Services relating to the Village Hall.

7. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible assets used by the PCC

Freehold land and buildings: Cost at 1 January 2023 and at 31 December 2023
£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	540,327	Global Equities Investment Fund	78,431
Net gain on revaluation	<u>59,846</u>	Investment Fund (Equities)	<u>521,742</u>
	<u>600,173</u>		<u>600,173</u>

8. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments	2,238	2,556
Tax recoverable	9,827	10,169
VAT recoverable	748	1,347
	<u>12,813</u>	<u>14,072</u>

9. LIABILITIES due within one year

Goods and services	8,978	9,236
Donations allocated out of 2023 (2022) income	<u>9,107</u>	<u>9,914</u>
	<u>18,085</u>	<u>19,150</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2023

10. GIVING TO MISSIONS & CHARITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Welcare in Bromley	1,959	1,308
Children in Distress	-	1,000
Whitechapel Mission	604	729
Children's Society	62	1,889
Church Army, Marylebone Women's Hostel	1,959	1,308
DEC Ukraine Appeal	-	590
Churches Together In Chislehurst & Bickley	150	300
Compassion UK	1,959	1,308
His Charity	-	1,308
MANUP?	1,959	-
Salvation Army	604	669
Poverty & Hope	-	100
Assistance to poorer parishes and other items	280	80
Total	<u>9,536</u>	<u>10,589</u>

11. Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance	Income in year	Expenditure in year	Inter Fund Transfers	Investment Result	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted						
General	181,920	174,348	(163,182)	(113,361)	23,288	103,013
Designated						
Church Repair	70,758	-	-	25,000	-	95,758
Hall Building	60,260	-	-	-	-	60,260
New Village Hall	-	1,000	(9,424)	94,361	-	85,937
Restricted						
Minor funds	1,323	282	(443)	-	-	1,162
Sequestration		2,588	(2,125)			463
Away Giving		6,009	(6,009)	-	-	-
Endowments	<u>588,968</u>	<u>9,825</u>	<u>(9,825)</u>	<u>(6,000)</u>	<u>36,558</u>	<u>619,526</u>
Totals	<u>903,229</u>	<u>194,052</u>	<u>(191,008)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,846</u>	<u>966,119</u>

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) *For the year ended 31 December 2023*

DESIGNATED FUNDS FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

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

- (a) **Church Repair Fund** - The Fund stood at £70,758 at the start of the year. A further £25,000 has been transferred from General Fund to spread the burden of anticipated exceptional costs over a five-year cycle. As part of this the PCC makes regular deposits into diocesan accounts as recommended by the diocesan surveyor, for future quinquennial fabric repairs to the Church and the Curate's house. In the year to 31st December 2023 no money was spent on major repairs to the church. This leaves a balance of £95,758 in the fund at the end of the year.
- (b) **Church Hall** - The hall is run on a self-financing basis to generate sufficient funds to meet any major work on the fabric of the Hall. The annual income and expenditure and the resultant financial surplus or deficit from its operations is accounted for within the General Fund Statement of Financial Activities. The designated fund represents the historic book value of the building which as such is an illiquid asset.
- (c) **New Village Hall Fund** – It has been decided by the PCC that the monies from the Church Refurbishment Fund which were put back into the General Fund in 2022 should now be used for the New Village Hall. Therefore, this amount £94,361 (£108,199 less amounts spent on the Village Hall Planning in 2022 £13,838) has been transferred out of the General Fund into the New Village Hall Fund. A donation of £1,000 for the Re-building was received in the year and a further £9,424 was spent on work towards the Planning Application. This leaves a balance of £85,937 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 2023*

12. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

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

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| (a) Churchyard fund - to maintain 29 graves in St Nicholas churchyard | } | Permanent endowments |
| (b) Fabric Trust - for repairs to the church fabric | | market value |
| (c) Nussey Trust - for church maintenance | | £94,264 |
| (d) Clergy House Trust - an expendable endowment. It holds the curate's house (see note 7(a), investments of £272,605 and short-term deposits £7,837 . The income arising is available to the PCC and the capital is available for ecclesiastical purposes in or near the parish under the oversight of the Diocese as custodian trustee. It has been decided by the PCC to transfer £6,000 from this fund into the General Fund. | | |
| (e) Hawes Trust - it is agreed that the capital may be invested in an accumulating fund, provided that the two family graves are maintained. The capital may be used after May 2059 (Market value £10,936). | | |

13. CONNECTED CHARITIES

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

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

- The church holds a fund of £603 available to meet the objects of 'Chislehurst Relief in Need' (2022 - £603)
- In the year the Flower Fund had income of £282 and expenses of £443, leaving a balance of £559 (2022 - £720)
- As St Nicholas is in an interregnum a Sequestration Account has been set up. This holds the fees for Weddings and Funerals that would normally be due to the parish less any expenses relating to visiting clergy and the upkeep of the Rectory. At the end of the year there was a balance of £463 in the account. At the end of the interregnum if the account is in surplus the funds are due to the Diocese. If there is a deficit the PCC will have to meet the cost.

ST NICHOLAS CHISLEHURST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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

Resources expended

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

Fixed assets

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

Incoming resources

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

Charities Act 2011

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



**St Nicholas Parish Office
The Village Hall
Church Lane
Chislehurst
BR7 5PE**

0208 467 0196