



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

# Reports for the APCM for St Nicholas Church, Winsley



**2022-23**

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, WINSLEY.  
MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND APCM,  
TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 AT 11.00HRS**

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
Election of Churchwardens**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

- 1) Opening Prayer**
- 2) Apologies for Absence**
- 3) Minutes of 2022 APCM** **Pages 3-6**
  - for approval
  - matters arising
- 4) Election of Lay Persons to PCC**
- 5) Election of Representatives to the Deanery Synod**
- 6) Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 7) To receive reports on** **Pages 7-24**
  - changes to the Electoral Roll
  - the activities of the PCC and the Parish generally, including the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
  - the Financial Statements for year ending 31/12/22
  - the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
- 8) Other Business**
- 9) Closing Prayer**

*Note. The Rector's Annual Report to the Benefice and a Churchwarden's Outreach Report are included in this pack as an Annexe at the end of the reports starting at Page 25. These may be discussed at the end of the meeting, however they do not form part of the formal APCM agenda.*

*DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT 2023 APCM*

**ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, WINSLEY  
MINUTES OF MEETINGS on TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

**Present:**

Revd Ann Keating (Chair), Cedric Pierce (Secretary), John Allison, Linds Batson, Paul Batson, John Baxter, Mary-Anne Baxter, Elizabeth Bush, Judith Cable, James Colquhoun, Daphne Cox, Heather Hawkings, Tim Hawkings, Mary Hewetson, Patricia Legge, Eric Legg-Bagg, Jean Legg-Bagg, Roy Ludlow, Penny Pierce, Dreen Rees, Sue Roberts, Paul Simmonds, Mike Young (non voting).

*Apologies were not recorded for this meeting.*

**PARISHIONERS' MEETING TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS**

Roy Ludlow was nominated by Penny Pierce and seconded by Cedric Pierce. Elected unanimously by show of hands.

Linds Batson was nominated by Cedric Pierce and seconded by Penny Pierce. Elected unanimously by a show of hands.

It was noted that this would be the fourth year in office for both Churchwardens.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

Revd Ann Keating opened the meeting with prayer.

**Minutes of the 2021 APCM**

There were no comments on the draft Minutes of the 2021 APCM, which were duly signed as a true record.

Under Matters Arising, John Baxter noted that he had agreed to review our current energy contracts although this task was subsequently passed to John Van Griethuysen who had reported that our existing contracts were competitive however the church should prepare for a two

to threefold increase in energy costs in the next year due to the current world situation. This was noted.

### **Election to Parochial Church Council**

None of the existing members of the PCC were due to retire at the current meeting, however Alan Bryant had retired at the end of 2021 and the meeting recorded its thanks to him for his service over the years.

Currently, there were up to six vacancies for Lay Members of the PCC, however there had been no nominations and nobody offered to stand for election in the meeting. Consequently, there was no election.

The high number of vacancies was noted, including for a new treasurer who would be needed to replace Patricia Legge from January 2023.

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

John Baxter proposed that Diane Aderyn be re-appointed as Independent Examiner, and this was seconded by Mary Hewetson.

Diane Aderyn was appointed by unanimous show of hands.

It was noted that Diane Aderyn had been undertaking the role in an unpaid capacity for a number of years, and it was agreed that Ann Keating would send her a token of the Church's appreciation for her ongoing service.

### **Changes to Electoral Roll**

Mary-Anne Baxter reported that there were now 96 people on the Church Electoral Roll, down from 98 last year. In the context of the recent pandemic and the church buildings being closed for periods in the last 2 years the slight decline in numbers was not considered to be significant at the current time.

Mary-Anne Baxter was thanked for her continuing work as the Electoral Roll Officer.

### **The Activities of the PCC and Parish Generally**

The written reports were noted, and Ann Keating thanked all contributors to the report both for their input and for their help and hard work through the year. It was noted that the LPAs had not been asked to submit a report, although in fact there had been a great deal of LPA activity completed over the year, often by telephone. Numbers attending

services at Avon Park village had been encouraging, as had the numbers from Avon Park attending normal church services. The LPA Team was thanked for its help over the year.

### **The Financial Statements for 2021**

Patricia Legge's report was noted, particularly that despite the pandemic income had been sufficient for Parish needs throughout 2021. The presence of a card payment machine in church was welcomed, and it was suggested that this might be a permanent feature for the future. Income from legacies was noted with thanks, and it was hoped that more people would leave money to the church in their wills. Patricia Legge noted that some people were donating via the church website, and there was at least one regular donation coming via that route.

The meeting noted that Patricia Legge will be retiring as Treasurer in December 2022, and it recorded its thanks to her for her contribution over many years.

### **The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church**

It was noted that there were no changes to report to the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church.

### **Safeguarding**

Caroline Billingham was unable to attend the meeting, but it was reported that there was nothing to add to what had been written in the Annual Report. Caroline and Ann continued to meet regularly with Safeguarding Officers from the other parishes within the benefice, and all DBS checks remained current.

Caroline Billingham was thanked for her ongoing work as Safeguarding Officer.

### **The Proceedings of the Bradford on Avon Deanery**

The written report was noted without comment.

### **Other Business**

John Baxter raised several issues connected with the fabric of the church:

- A 2-3 year project was being developed to create more grave space in the churchyard along with an area where people could sit quietly for reflection with some cover from rain etc. This would

need both a faculty and funding and would be subject to full consultation in due course. It was noted that individuals and groups would be asked to sponsor elements of the overall project, which was seen as of benefit to the whole community and not just churchgoers.

- The church quinquennial (5-yearly) inspection was due later in the year and undoubtedly this would trigger expenditure on maintenance and repairs. The church should be prepared for this.
- Bob Williams, who has had responsibility for the churchyard for many years would be retiring later in the year, and a successor was needed to take on the role. The principal commitment was to organise the churchyard clear-up every 6 months or so. His place would become vacant on the Fabric Committee which could do with other additional members also.

Cedric Pierce noted that Ann Keating was now beginning her last full year of ministry at St Nicholas as she is due to retire on Pentecost Sunday 2023. The meeting recorded its huge thanks to her for her ongoing ministry and wished her well in her final year with St Nicholas.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

**END**

**St Nicholas Church, Winsley  
Annual Report and Accounts of The Parochial Church Council  
2022/2023**

**Administrative Information**

St. Nicholas Church is situated in the village of Winsley, Bradford on Avon, part of the Benefice of North Bradford on Avon and Villages, part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. Within the parish is a Church of England VC Primary School.

**The correspondence address is:**

The Rectory, 6 Millbourn Close, Winsley, BA15 2NN

**The Benefice Office is:**

Office 2, 1a Mount Pleasant Centre, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1SJ

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

**PCC members who have served from the 2022 APCM until the date this report was approved are:**

**Incumbent and Clerks in Holy Orders**                Revd Ann Keating, Chairman  
  Revd Tessa Mann

**Churchwardens:**                         Roy Ludlow (from April 2019)  
  Linds Batson (from June 2019)

**Representatives on the Deanery Synod:**

Cedric Pierce,	Retiring in 2023	(3 years)
<i>also PCC Secretary</i>		
Penny Pierce	Retiring in 2023	(3 years)

## Lay Members of the PCC

Dreen Rees	Resigned November 2022
Eric Legg-Bagg	Retiring in 2024 (3 years)
Jean Legg-Bagg	Retiring in 2024 (3 years)
Kathy van Griethuysen	Casual Member <i>appointed June 2022*</i>
Heather Hawkings	Casual Member <i>appointed June 2022*</i>
Sue Wright	Casual Member <i>appointed June 2022*</i>

*\* Note. Casual Members of a PCC are appointed by the PCC itself and serve until the next APCM where, if eligible, they may stand for election in their own right.*

**Note.** During the year under review John Baxter, Caroline Billingham and Patricia Legge were not members of the PCC but took the roles of Health & Safety Officer, Safeguarding Officer and Hon. Treasurer respectively.

## Election of Parochial Church Council members

The maximum number of lay PCC Members is 9. Currently there are 2 Lay Members of the PCC and neither are due to retire this year. There are six vacancies, three of which were temporarily filled by the appointment of Casual Members in June 2022. Nominations may be made up to the APCM.

## Election of Deanery Synod Members

Deanery Synod elections are held every three years, and an election will be held at this year's APCM. The maximum number of Deanery Synod representatives appointed by this parish is 2. Deanery Synod Representatives are automatically *ex officio* members of the PCC.



## **Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

### **Electoral Roll**

The Church Electoral Roll was updated shortly before the 2022 APCM. At that time the number of parishioners on the Roll was 96.

The Roll was undergoing its annual revision whilst this report was being prepared, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The number of Parishioners on the updated Electoral Roll will be advised at the APCM.

## **Aims and Objectives, Performance and Achievements**

1. The objectives of the PCC are defined by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956. St Nicholas PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Ann Keating, in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also maintains The Church Hall situated opposite the Church.
2. The PCC of St Nicholas, Winsley is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to serving our local school and community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship in the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve all groups within the community.
3. When planning activities, the PCC has considered guidance from the Charity Commissioners on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.
4. The main activities of the PCC seek to enable people to live out their faith in the parish and community through:

- The provision of regular public worship that is open and accessible to all. This includes services using different formats for Holy Communion, Prayer and Praise, Café-style Refresh (which takes place in the church hall), meditation services, and periodic services held in different churches across the benefice aimed for families, e.g. Forest Church and Lego Church.
- The provision of pastoral work by clergy and Lay Pastoral Assistants, including home administration of Holy Communion, hospital visiting, leading worship in our local Residential Care Homes, visiting the sick, the elderly, the bereaved and others with a particular need.
- The teaching of the Christian faith through sermons, home groups, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, Activities for Children, and Collective Worship and Open the Book in our local Primary School. Our local school, pre-school 'Acorns' and parents and toddlers' group 'Sunbeams' normally visit the church for key church year festivals and the former two for their graduation services.
- Sunbeams, a group for Carers and young children is held in the Church Hall every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday morning of the month and continues to be very popular.
- 'Kettle's On', a fortnightly coffee morning, is held in the Church Hall; it was started in September 2018 and has proved very popular with people from the village.
- "Soup's Up" is a "Warm Spaces" initiative introduced in November 2022 to provide a fortnightly hot meal and friendship to anyone that wanted to come. It has been received well in the community and the PCC will consider continuing with the initiative in winter 2023.
- Winsley School has up to two Foundation Governors, one of whom is Revd. Tessa Mann. Open the Book continues most weeks at the school, and periodically the school continues to hold services in our church building.
- The support of other charities involved in Christian outreach and development such as designated charities for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Carol Service donations and regular donations to The Hub which runs the local foodbank.

- Various church home groups, which run throughout the year enabling congregation members to support one another in their Christian journey and discipleship as well as additional groups meeting for Advent and Lent.
- Various Prayer Groups and a Men's Group that meet regularly and underpin our outreach, fellowship and discipleship.
- St Nicholas works with representatives from the other three Benefice churches to support one another with mission opportunities including using our churchyards for mission and arranging displays, Christmas Tree festivals etc to promote key times in the Christian calendar.
- The Benefice Communications Group has been disbanded and replaced by the weekly Four Churches Forum, discussed separately in PCC section and Rector's Report to the Benefice.

5. The church is a vibrant and active community, keen to pray, grow in faith and to serve the community.

6. The PCC takes very seriously the need to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are kept safe whilst involved in the church's activities and services. The PCC has adopted the Church of England Policy 'Keeping Children Safe' in addition to our Benefice Policy on safeguarding. Copies of this are displayed in the church and church hall. The Rector and Safeguarding Officer meet with other Benefice Safeguarding Officers regularly throughout the year, monitoring requirements for DBS checks and safeguarding training. A report on Safeguarding is made to each PCC meeting. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

7. Church Attendance: There were **96** parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll from April 2022.

9. The PCC has agreed each year to donate 10% of the proceeds from regular planned giving to charities at home and abroad. A sub-

committee makes recommendations to the PCC on which charities to support each year.

### **PCC Review of the year**

*Note. This section discusses the activities of the PCC only. There are other reports from the Rector, and Churchwardens at the end of this document.*

The PCC met a total of five times during the year. The first and last meetings were solely to allocate responsibilities and to approve the Annual Report; the three other meetings comprised an Awayday in June to review strategy for the year ahead, and business meetings in November and February to discuss routine business.

Safeguarding and Health & Safety continue to be standing items on every PCC agenda, and we are fortunate to have Caroline Billingham as our Safeguarding Officer, and John Baxter as our Health & Safety Officer. Our thanks are due to them.

Although proposals to combine the four parishes within the benefice remain on hold, the four parishes continue to work well together, sharing for example ministerial resources, the Benefice office and the Children & Families Worker. There is a monthly Benefice communion service, and Forest church also operates on a Benefice-wide basis. Towards the end of 2022 The Rector introduced a “Four Churches Forum” where representatives of all four churches come together on a weekly basis to exchange information and plan benefice activities. It is felt that this forum will be particularly useful after the Rector retires later this year when we have to plan together for the future

The Churchwardens report that there have been no notable changes to the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church.

## **ST NICHOLAS CHURCH WINSLEY FINANCIAL REPORT 2022**

Our financial accounts for 2022 have been examined by Diane Aderyn. These are attached with her signed Independent Examiners Report.

### **Unrestricted Funds**

The total receipts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 were £70,683. The total expenses were £77,935, resulting in a loss of £7,252.

The increase in expenses for 2022 were, Parish Share £2,000, Salaries Benefice Staff £2,400, Church Expenses £2,000, Hall Expenses £3,100 (church and hall mainly due to Gas increases).

We received 3 very generous Legacies from Alan Roberts, Lilian Staton and B Mitchell.

### **Restricted Funds**

Audio £4,180 Ladies £987, Fund Raising £144 and Family Worker £21,000.

### **Reserve Policy**

It is a PCC policy to try to maintain a balance in our savings account which equates to at least 3 months unrestricted expenses. Our monthly expenses are about £5,000 a month, therefore savings should be at £15,000.

Our balance as at the end of 2022 is £12,800. We have not drawn out of this account since 2016 and have not been able to save this past year.

Our current Unrestricted Bank Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 is £27,242.

Our share to the Diocese for 2023 will be £42,939 this is up by 3%.

Thank you to all who so generously support our wonderful church and Family Worker this year.

Patricia Legge  
Treasurer  
28<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

**St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley**  
**Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**Receipts and payments account**

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	2021
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>Voluntary receipts:</b>					
Planned giving		41,381	-	41,381	39,330
Gift Aid recovered	5a	9,388	-	9,388	12,965
Collections at services	5b	4,637	-	4,637	1,967
Other voluntary giving	5c	1,824	7,087	8,911	13,376
Legacies received		2,500	-	2,500	2,000
Grants received		-	-	-	1,561
		<u>59,730</u>	<u>7,087</u>	<u>66,817</u>	<u>71,199</u>
<b>Church activities:</b>					
Hire of Church Hall		6,142	-	6,142	5,369
Fees for weddings and funerals (net)		2,456	-	2,456	7,628
Other income		484	-	484	207
		<u>9,082</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,082</u>	<u>13,204</u>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>		1,705	812	2,517	1,466
<b>Investment income</b>					
CCLA deposit interest		166	-	166	7
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u><b>70,683</b></u>	<u><b>7,899</b></u>	<u><b>78,582</b></u>	<u><b>85,876</b></u>
<b>Payments</b>					
<b>Church activities</b>					
Parish share		42,724	-	42,724	40,688
Clergy expenses		2,357	-	2,357	2,463
Salaries of Benefice staff		6,156	-	6,156	3,689
Church running expenses	5d	14,970	1,065	16,035	12,903
Church Hall running expenses	5e	7,024	-	7,024	3,840
Tithed giving		4,704	-	4,704	2,385
Youth Worker		-	12,343	12,343	12,006
		<u>77,935</u>	<u>13,408</u>	<u>91,343</u>	<u>77,974</u>
<b>Total payments</b>		<u><b>77,935</b></u>	<u><b>13,408</b></u>	<u><b>91,343</b></u>	<u><b>77,974</b></u>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments/ (payments over receipts)</b>		<b>(7,252)</b>	<b>(5,509)</b>	<b>(12,761)</b>	<b>7,902</b>
<b>Cash at bank and on deposit at 1 January 2022</b>		<b>42,113</b>	<b>31,846</b>	<b>73,959</b>	<b>66,057</b>
<b>Cash at bank and on deposit at 31 December 2022</b>		<u><b>34,861</b></u>	<u><b>26,337</b></u>	<u><b>61,198</b></u>	<u><b>73,959</b></u>

**St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley**  
**Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	2021
		£	£	£	£
<b>Cash Funds at 31 December 2022</b>					
Treasurer's current account (inc. Petty cash)		22,038	5,248	27,286	35,230
Youth Worker current account		-	21,089	21,089	26,073
<b>Total bank current accounts</b>		<b>22,038</b>	<b>26,337</b>	<b>48,375</b>	<b>61,303</b>
Treasurer's deposit account		12,823	-	12,823	12,656
<b>Total Cash Funds at 31 December 2022</b>		<b>34,861</b>	<b>26,337</b>	<b>61,198</b>	<b>73,959</b>
<b>Other Monetary Assets at 31 December 2022</b>					
Gift Aid recoverable		1,869	5,800	7,669	4,828
Funeral fees outstanding		588	-	588	409
Ladies' Fund float		-	-	-	50
Amounts paid in advance for Benefice expenses	4	133	-	133	625
Payment in advance to British Gas		500	-	500	-
		<b>3,090</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>8,890</b>	<b>5,912</b>
<b>Liabilities at 31 December 2022</b>					
Parochial fees due to Salisbury Diocese	2	-	-	-	-
Organist's etc. fees outstanding		369	-	369	150
		<b>369</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>150</b>

**Notes**

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. In both 2021 and 2022, the element of fees paid to the PCC for weddings, funerals and memorials that was due to Salisbury Diocese was not calculated by the time that the accounts were prepared. It is not possible to estimate this liability because the amount due to the Diocese varies according to the type of fee received. In 2021, fees (including additional charges subsequently paid to vergers, organists, heating etc.) of £12,301 were received, of which £3,386 was due to the Diocese and was paid in 2022. During 2022, fees of £7,579 (including additional charges subsequently paid to vergers, organists, heating etc.) were received.

**St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley**  
**Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**Notes (continued)**

**3. The movements in restricted funds during the year were:**

	Youth Worker £	Held for Ladies Group £	Audio Fund £	Fundraising Fund £	Total £	2021 £
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations (net)	7,037	50	-	-	7,087	11,999
Fundraising	-	-	792	20	812	911
Grants received	-	-	-	-	-	1,561
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-	2,918
	<u>7,037</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>792</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>7,899</u>	<u>17,389</u>
<b>Payments</b>						
Salary (inc. NI)	11,658	-	-	-	11,658	11,143
Other	685	-	278	787	1,750	1,129
	<u>12,343</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>278</u>	<u>787</u>	<u>13,408</u>	<u>12,272</u>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments/ (payments over receipts)</b>	<b>(5,306)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>(767)</b>	<b>(5,509)</b>	<b>5,117</b>
<b>Balance at 1 January 2022</b>	<b>26,331</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>3,666</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>31,846</b>	<b>26,729</b>
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>	<b><u>21,025</u></b>	<b><u>988</u></b>	<b><u>4,180</u></b>	<b><u>144</u></b>	<b><u>26,337</u></b>	<b><u>31,846</u></b>

The Youth Worker Fund represents donations to be spent on the salary and incidental costs of the Children's and Families Worker.

The Ladies Group make donations to the PCC to be held until allocated by agreement with the Ladies Group to specific expenditure of the PCC.

The Audio Fund represents donations received to fund the purchase of a projector and associated audio visual equipment, and on-going recurrent expenditure.

The Fundraising Fund represents the proceeds of activities held to raise funds for specific needs in the Church and the Church Hall. In 2021, funds were raised for the purchase of a piano for the Church Hall which was bought in 2022.

**4. Benefice Office expenditure**

Expenditure by the Benefice of North Bradford on Avon and Villages is shared amongst the four parishes within the Benefice in proportion to their Parish Share. The Benefice Office expenditure attributable to St. Nicholas (including the £133 paid in advance at 31 December 2022) is:

	£	2021 £
Clergy expenses	2,357	2,463
Salaries of Benefice staff	6,156	3,689
Upkeep of services	-	3
Other church running expenses	142	595
Benefice Office rent & phones	1,493	1,638
Benefice Office printing and stationery	2,292	1,433
	<u>12,440</u>	<u>9,821</u>



**St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley**  
**Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**Notes (continued)**

**5. Further analysis of Receipts and Payments**

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	2021
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>a. Gift Aid recovered</b>				
Stewardship	9,388	-	9,388	9,136
Collections and donations	-	-	-	911
Youth Worker	-	-	-	2,918
	<u>9,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,388</u>	<u>12,965</u>
<b>b. Collections</b>				
Collections at services	3,642	-	3,642	1,967
Special collections	995	-	995	-
	<u>4,637</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,637</u>	<u>1,967</u>
<b>c. Other voluntary giving</b>				
Alms boxes	256	-	256	281
Income from donors	1,568	7,087	8,655	13,095
	<u>1,824</u>	<u>7,087</u>	<u>8,911</u>	<u>13,376</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>d. Church running expenses</b>				
Upkeep of church Insurance	1,875	-	1,875	1,831
Utilities	3,779	-	3,779	2,333
Cleaning and caretaking	1,410	-	1,410	1,410
Maintenance	1,134	-	1,134	1,265
	<u>8,198</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,198</u>	<u>6,839</u>
Upkeep of services	1,424	-	1,424	965
Organists' fees	675	-	675	225
Benefice Office rent and phones	1,493	-	1,493	1,638
Benefice Office printing and stationery	2,292	-	2,292	1,433
Other	888	-	888	1,537
Audio equipment and consumables	-	278	278	266
Purchase of piano	-	787	787	-
	<u>14,970</u>	<u>1,065</u>	<u>16,035</u>	<u>12,903</u>
<b>e. Church Hall running expenses</b>				
Insurance	938	-	938	916
Utilities	2,982	-	2,982	937
Cleaning and caretaking	1,410	-	1,410	1,410
Maintenance and other costs	1,694	-	1,694	577
	<u>7,024</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,024</u>	<u>3,840</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE PCC OF ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, WINSLEY**

This report is on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner**

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act: and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and,
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations.

have not been met with; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Diane Aderyn FCA  
65 South Wraxall  
Bradford on Avon  
BA15 2SE



25 March 2023

### **Message from the Rural Dean, Canon Andrew Evans**

As I step down as Rural Dean after 15 years, I am aware of the challenges that lie ahead for us as a deanery. In 2022, it became clear to us that not everyone was going to return to churchgoing after the interruption of the pandemic. This has affected some parishes more than others and produced a knock-on effect on finances. The census has been seized upon by the media as evidence of the decline in Christian faith in our society. That is not news to us, but the spin the media has given to it is unhelpful to the message we are trying to get across. As Christians, I think we are all aware that we are increasingly living in a world that is not going our way. What then to do?

I think we all need to do a bit of soul searching. Are we prioritising the things that really matter in the light of eternity? Are we prioritising the things that are proven to attract the presence, favour and attention of God? Are we making disciples who make disciples? Those are three big questions, all of which take some unpacking and thinking about.

The Archbishop of Canterbury came up with the idea of 'Simpler, Humbler, Bolder' and I hope some of that will come into our Diocesan strategy emerging in 2023. Bishop Stephen has stated that there will be no reduction in clergy numbers in 2023, but after that I am sure that there will have to be a balancing of the books.

The simple truth is that we each need to be clear about the positive difference Jesus makes to our lives and to share that with others.

### **Synod meetings in 2022**

09 February via Zoom  
18 May St. John's Parish Centre Upper Studley  
12 October St. Michael & All Angels in Melksham

### **Speakers in 2022**

February Grace McSharry, Communications Department at Diocese of  
Salisbury  
May Anna Hardy, Giving Advisor Diocese of Salisbury  
October Rev. Tessa Mann, Associate Priest, and Zoe Yeomans, Children  
and Families

## Worker and both from North Bradford- On Avon & Villages

Grace spoke about all things communications and shared some very helpful thoughts and encouragements for churches to consider implementing during the year and tried to demystify social media and what can seem like a tricky field to navigate.

Anna spoke passionately about finances and provided some examples of what other churches have done to fund raise, shared about the installation of online and onsite giving, and offered to speak to PCCs, Treasurers about all things finance. She was inspiring and very excited about what can be achieved even in difficult financial circumstances.

Rev. Tessa and Zoe spoke about the wonderful success of their outdoor forest church and it was brilliant to hear about this positive and encouraging new service for this particular benefice.

### **Synod meetings**

Synod meetings are open to all those who wish to attend with meeting dates and locations arranged well in advance. The intention is to share good practice around the Deanery, and for it to be a place where ideas can be shared. As part of the meetings there is always opportunity to share what has been taking place and to learn from each other, offer support and receive encouragement whether during the business part of the meeting or during the comfort break.

### **Officers**

Information Officer	Dawn Farmer
Lay Chairman	John Joy
Lay Pastoral Officer	Marilyn Stubbs
Secretary	Dawn Farmer
Treasurer	David Robinson

### **Clergy and laity news**

Rev. Jake Eggertsen licensed as Rector for St. James' Trowbridge and St. Leonard's Keevil

Rev. Joy Albone licensed as Associate Priest to Canalside Benefice

### **Deanery Share 2022 – David Robinson (Treasurer)**

#### **Share**

2022 has been yet another challenging year for all our PCCs, and for the Diocese. As of 31 January we had paid 87.8% of Share requested by Salisbury, or £616,591. This was, disappointingly but not surprisingly, lower again than last year when we had paid £677,885 or 93%.

Although I am pleased to report that we are close behind the Diocesan average of 88.5%, I fear the ramifications for the future and our clergy numbers.

100% of Share was paid by all but five parishes, three of which had made significant efforts to pay what they could. We must thank them and all PCCs for the efforts and dedication to have paid Share, often using dwindling reserves.

### **Kadugli**

In spite of the struggles to pay Share, we still received donations from our parishes for Kadugli – some £5,500 in 2022 of which £3,200 was sent there. And we have some £3,990 available for transfer. And to be noted that since January 2012 we have raised over £73,000 with £69,000 so far distributed.

### **Deanery Account**

The account ended the year in credit in the amount of £643.67.

To note that Share has gone up for this new year by 3% across the Diocese and across our Deanery. The increase comes after a 5% increase last year, all in order to try to reduce the Diocesan budget deficit. However, the lower collection of Share does nothing to reduce the deficit and can only put pressure on the number of stipendiary clergy we have in this Diocese – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the country at the last published account – as well as all other aspects of Parish Ministry and an even greater workload on the clergy remaining.

So please do your utmost to ensure that Share is paid fully.

### **Report on Deanery link with Kadugli – John Joy**

The highlight of 2022 came in August when, following the Lambeth Conference, Bishop Hassan visited the deanery, accompanied by Bishop Ismail of El Obeid. It was a pleasure to renew our friendship with Bishop Hassan, and to meet with Bishop Ismail, and we learned much about the current situation in Sudan and something of the recent history of the church there.

Last year we expressed concern for the physical welfare of the people of Kadugli and of Sudan as a whole. The military coup in October 2021 has damaged the economy, terrorist incidents continue, and law and order are not being maintained. As an example, recently one of the kindergarten staff was murdered on her family's farmstead. Sudan continues to suffer from international sanctions, and these make it difficult to transfer money there.

Peace Primary School, which opened in 2021 in Kadugli, and the new kindergarten, continue to thrive. Currently there are about 450 pupils. Education in Sudan, however, is not free, and we wish to support the children of the poorest families. Many in the deanery have contributed to this, and we endeavoured to send £3,200 for school fees for these families. Unfortunately, banks have been unable to transfer this money, and have not disclosed the reasons. We suspect the obstacle is the international sanctions mentioned earlier. We continue to look for means to get this money to Kadugli.

We look for an opportunity to visit Kadugli again. We hoped to be able to do so last year, but it was not considered safe to do so; perhaps things will improve this year. Among other things, we should like to encourage the existing Rooted in Jesus groups and to strengthen the church in Kadugli.

Kadugli Diocese is part of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), and in November ECS held a synod. Archbishop Ezekiel, who has visited Bradford Deanery, was due to retire, but the synod altered the retirement age so he could remain in post. While we would not wish him to forgo a well-deserved retirement, we welcome the continuation of his wise and godly leadership. The synod also decided to divide Kadugli Diocese and create a new diocese based on Heiban. We have no further information, but it may take some time to create and launch the new diocese.

We mentioned the military coup. This has given rise to demonstrations, which continue, particularly in Khartoum. The military government has promised to move to a more democratic form of government, and progress, albeit slow, is being made.

Please remember our brothers and sisters in Kadugli and the whole of Sudan in your prayers.

### **Diocesan Synod Meetings in 2022 report from Chris Hicks, Lay Member of Diocesan Synod**

The Diocesan Synod and Diocesan Board of Finance met three times during last year, as follows:

- Meeting held on 12 February online using Zoom
- Meeting held on 21 June at St Paul's Church, Fisherton Street, Salisbury
- Meeting held of 24 September at St Nicholas, Corfe Mullen, Dorset

#### **A) February mtg of Diocesan Synod (& Diocesan Board of Finance)**

This online meeting had 124 attendees from the three houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity. It was chaired by the **Acting Bishop of Salisbury, Rt Revd Karen Gorham** who gave the Presidential address. She had visited several parishes and was struck by those who had a vision for the future and those who did not. This echoed the famous biblical verse that states that without vision the people perish.

She had spent weeks in meetings including the General Synod, which had looked at the future of the church. This underlined the difference of approach of those people who can and those who cannot plan for the future.

Please refer to previous report that was given to Bradford Deanery Synod held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for further information.

#### **B) June mtg of Diocesan Synod (& DBF)**

This was the first meeting to welcome the new **Bishop of Salisbury, Rt Revd Stephen Lake**. The House of Laity Chair introduced **Bishop Stephen – the 79th Bishop of Salisbury**. In his presidential address he mentioned that he and his wife Carol have been 'bowled over by the welcome we received'. He shared some of the inspirational stories following his gift to all attendees and invitation during the Inauguration – *"This £10 talent is for you to take home and to make it grow as a sign of the Kingdom of God."* – "Salisbury's got talent".

Headlines from the presidential address:

'The Diocese of Salisbury can be and should be one of the jewels in the crown of the Church for England. We ought to be leading the way in generosity and evangelism, in social engagement and community resilience. To do this requires understanding the future we are already in and deciding together what we are going to do about it. This is a theological task, a leadership task and an organisational task for our time and place.'

'We need a good strategy that fulfils the priorities of the Gospel today that is an investment in who we are and who we can be. The task is clear. Pastoral care and evangelism need to go hand in hand. The bishop must be ambitious, must ensure alignment and action, and together we must hold ourselves accountable to God and to each other.'

Here is a link to his Presidential Address which is well worth viewing and hearing:-

[\(28\) Bishop Stephen Presidential Address June 2022 - YouTube](#)

### **This was also the AGM for the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF)**

***Outgoing Chair of the DBF – Nigel Salisbury*** introduced the AGM section of the meeting – an encouraging story with progress and innovation in the DBF.

Liz Ashmead gave an overview of the accounts accompanied by slides (Accounts Slides) Salient points on the 2021 DBF annual accounts include:

- Overall positive movement in funds by £2.8m mainly due to investments increasing in book value (most of this increase has already been 'lost' in Q1 of 2022 due to the volatile markets)
- The balance sheet is strong at £128m which gives us option; however, 72% / £92m is tied up in clergy property
- Of investments £34m, 26% (£12m) is Glebe and although we have a disposal strategy for part of this it is not a very liquid asset. Cash, if needed, can only come from a) Sale of surplus clergy houses (not many), b) Sale of investments (not advisable at present and we are reliant on investment income) and c) Sale of Glebe lands (some development potential and some sales prospects 2023-2024)
- Our current surplus cash will quickly be used in 2022-24 by the structural deficit and the bank loan repayment
- The external auditors are currently content that the DBF is a going concern as we have some options to utilise our assets such as investments, Glebe and the sale of Church House; we have a plan to eliminate the deficit by 2025; total return does give us a bit more security/options but must be carefully used.

### **C) September mtg of Diocesan Synod (and DBF)**

The meeting started with a welcome to representatives of the Cathedral Chapter. Then followed a short service of Eucharist with Loyal address and the National Anthem.

The Dean of Salisbury Cathedral, Very Revd Nicholas Papadopoulos presented the Annual Report of the Cathedral's life and events.

The presidential address from Bishop Stephen was given and a related discussion of **Vision and Strategy 'Your Kingdom Come: here and now'** took place.

Approval of the Diocesan Board of Finance Budget for 2023 was given.

[ NB. A guide to the budget was circulated after approval by the Bishop's Council, 15<sup>th</sup> September] please see here: [2023-budget-guide-sept-22-dbffin.pdf \(d3hgriq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3hgriq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/2023-budget-guide-sept-22-dbffin.pdf)

This guide contains the need to balance the budget where **the request is for each Parish to increase their contribution by 3%. This is a straight increase for all parishes** except where there has been a change in share deployment in the benefice.

As trustees of the DBF, Bishop's Council must ensure that **the charity remains a 'going concern'. This is at risk.** Synod was asked **to approve a budget which takes us forward to 2025, as per our 5-year plan**, with a targeted reduction of deficit each year. This still leaves a substantial operating deficit for 2022. As well as a £642k deficit, which will be funded by the selling of clergy houses, it includes a drawdown of £250k from unapplied Total Return which will come from selling of Glebe land and will be used to subsidise stipend payments.

**A Business Plan will be developed in response to the strategy, covering all areas of income and expenditure.** There was then an update from the Exploring Options Share survey, and next steps given by the new DBF Chair, Jane McCormick.

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**Bradford Deanery Synod Meetings for 2023 at 19:30 taking place as follows:**

15 February St. Katharine's Church, Holt  
14 June Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon  
18 October St. James' Church, Trowbridge

***ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS APPROVED BY THE PCC ON 02<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2023, AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF BY REVD ANN KEATING, PCC CHAIR***

***[SIGNED COPY HELD ON FILE]***





## **Churches of North Bradford on Avon and Villages**

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon,  
St James' Church, South Wraxall,

St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh  
St Nicholas Church, Winsley

## **Annual Report from the Rector 2022 – 2023**

### **Introduction**

The past year in many ways has been a rather strange one as much of my time has been spent putting in place new structures that will support you following my retirement in May, as well as continuing with day-to-day ministry and helping to lead our churches to flourish and reach out in love and care to our respective communities. I want to leave the Benefice in as strong a position as possible to support our ministry team and churchwardens who will hold the fort during the vacancy.

With the ministry team, I have been succession planning so that hopefully when I leave, there will be a smooth handover of responsibilities. None of us knows what the future holds for our Diocese, and future recruitment, but we do know that there will be a strategic review of the Benefice, and there are ways we can show that we are well organised, joyful worshipping communities, working together as a Benefice.

### **Looking back.....**

Looking back over the past year, there is so much to be thankful for, to name one item from each church:

- the successful funding bids for Christ Church's *Discover Christ Church!* project and the *Future for Christ Church* project
- the completion of the bells restoration project at St James
- the underpew heaters in St Peter's
- the *Soups Up* initiative in St Nicholas.

Dozens of loaves of bread have been baked, and litres of soup have been lovingly made for our 'warm spaces' projects, hundreds of cakes have been baked, bears have been knitted for our baptised babies, and angels knitted for all our children at Christmas.

Our Four Churches Forum, open to anyone who wishes to come, was launched in October, and has proved to be an excellent way of worshipping together and improving communication.

Each week, on a Thursday morning, members of our ministry team, church leaders and supporters meet in St Nicholas Church Hall at 9.30 for Morning Prayer, followed by croissants and coffee. We then review the past week's services and events, have items for discussion; we share knowledge and information, pastoral issues and discuss future services, projects, and fund-raising initiatives. Notes are taken and distributed, including to all PCC members.

Regular meetings of our ministry team take place and I am indebted to our ministers Tessa, Paul, Tim, Bernard, Rachel, Penny and Cedric who bring their wisdom, experience, and creativity to take our worship and Benefice forward. Supported by our Benefice Administrator Bridge, our Children's and Families Worker Zoe, our *Thrive* members, our *Open the Book* and Collective Worship groups, our Housegroups, our Safeguarding Group, our Lay Worship Leaders and our Lay Pastoral Assistants as well as so many who support behind the scenes, we are able to help our churches to blossom and to reach out to our different communities and schools.

Thanks also need to be given to our eight hardworking and dedicated Churchwardens, our wonderful musicians, our Treasurers and PCC members and to all who help to maintain our buildings, to decorate our porches and churches with seasonal prayer stations, to those who clean the brass and decorate the churches with flowers and those who continue to pray for our churches and communities.

We said farewell to Keith Charnley at Christmas, giving thanks for his ministry and praying that he will continue to enjoy his retirement spending more time with family, and to Caroline in our Benefice Office for all she contributed to NewsLink and the website. This year we have welcomed Bridge as our new Administrator, Zoe and Alison as newly licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Richard on the organ, David on the piano and Gillian and Becky who join us in April as employees working on the *Discover Christ Church!* project.

### **Looking forward.....**

Looking forward, as members of our churches pray for the future and discern what they need in a new Rector, I hope you attract just the person you need to take our Benefice forward into its next phase of exciting ministry. With an inspirational ministry team and eight churchwardens leading our churches, with parishes who pay their share, and with so much happening, this should be an attractive post for those seeking a new opportunity for ministry.

It has been a privilege to serve you over the past almost ten years and I wish you every success in the future.

God Bless you all.  
Ann, Rector

**St Nicholas Church Outreach Activities  
CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT to APCM - 2023**

**The following events take place on a weekly or fortnightly basis:**

- Collective worship in Winsley School
- Kettle's On - community café
- Open the Book in Winsley School
- Soup's Up - community lunches
- Sunbeams - mother and toddler group

**The following take place on a monthly basis:**

- Forest Church
- Holy Communion at Avon Park
- Holy Communion at Wiltshire Heights
- Nature Chains = meetings to promote the conservation of God's Creation
- Refresh - informal service
- Songs of Praise at Avon Park

**The following take place on an occasional basis:**

- Lego Church

**The following take place annually:**

- Christmas - Carol singing in and around the village
- Special activities in Acorns and Winsley School
- Easter - Special activities in Acorns and Winsley School

**General**

- Support of foodbank at The Hub in Bradford-on-Avon

*All activities are greatly appreciated by members of the wider community*

RA Ludlow, Churchwarden.  
March 2023