

**THE PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, KENT**

ST. GILES THE ABBOT
with
ST. NICHOLAS

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2016.**

**RECTOR:
THE REVD. MATTHEW HUGHES**

**ASSOCIATE RECTOR:
THE REVD. STEPHEN BROADIE**

**ASSISTANT PRIEST:
THE REVD. BILL MULLENGER**



April 2017

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH

ST. GILES THE ABBOT and ST. NICHOLAS

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens:
Churchwardens (Proposed) Andrew Bailey (St. Giles)
(Proposed) Claire Couldridge (St. Nicholas)

Deputy Wardens Ian Fordyce) St. Giles
Eileen Seed)
Vacancy)

Proposal that we allow all of our Readers to be members of Farnborough P.C.C. (It is customary across the Diocese that licensed Readers are allowed by virtue of their office to be full members of their P.C.C. This needs to be agreed at the AGM or Vestry Meeting).

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 30th APRIL 2017 - 4.30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYERS

May this meeting be in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

2 Corinthians 6: 1-10

Let us pray:

Rector: Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to go out and proclaim the gospel, to make disciples of all nations, to demonstrate the reality of your love through word and deed. We want to honour that calling, but we are aware of the danger of doing more harm than good through our witness, of putting people off rather than drawing them to faith. So now we pray once more for your guidance in mission. You have given us good news:

All: **teach us how to share it.**

Rector: Inspire and enable us to speak for you when the opportunity arises, not to fail in our responsibilities or rely on others to do what we should do ourselves, but to tell gladly and honestly what you mean to us and what you have done in our lives. You have given us good news:

All: **teach us how to share it.**

Rector: Show us those times when it is right to speak out, when the soil is ready to receive the seed of your word and bear harvest. But teach us also when it is necessary to let go, to recognise that we have done our best and must leave things in your hands. You have given us good news:

All: **teach us how to share it.**

Rector: Save us from making excuses to evade the call to witness, but save us also from pushing people against their will, forcing our faith upon those for whom it is not welcome. Teach us when it is time to speak and time to remain silent, time to encourage and time to hold back, time to try again and time to move on. You have given us good news:

All: **teach us how to share it.**

Rector: And teach us also that words are never enough, that it is the quality of our caring, the sincerity of our love and the genuineness of our actions which will finally speak the loudest. Grant that, like you, what we say will be matched by what we do, and what we believe be shown in who we are. You have given us good news:

All: **teach us how to share it.**

Rector: Lord Jesus Christ, you have touched our lives, you have brought us joy, you have given us life in all its fullness, and we want to share with others the blessings we have received. Inspire us through your love, equip us through your Spirit, and send us out to make you known. You have given us good news:

All: **teach us how to share it.**

Rector: In your name we pray.

All: **Amen.**

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 17th April 2016, *(pages 5-10)*
3. **Matters arising**
4. **Reports**
 - (a) Electoral Roll, *(page 10)*
 - (b) Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council, *(pages 10-12)*
 - (c) Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report, *(pages 13-17)*
 - (d) Deputy Churchwardens' Report on the goods and ornaments of the churches in the Parish, *(page 17)*
 - (e) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2015 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas *(pages 17-19)*
5. **Elections**
 - (a) Members for the P.C.C.
St. Giles **NO** vacancies
St. Nicholas **ONE** vacancy
 - (b) Deanery Synod Members - **FOUR** vacancies - 3 for St. Giles, 1 for St. Nicholas
6. **Appointments**
 - (a) Sidespeople
 - (b) Independent Financial Examiner.
7. Goodbyes and Thank-you's.
8. **Any other business and date of next A.G.M. April 2018.**

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Rector, *(pages 20-22)*
Associate Rectors, report *(page 22-23)*
St. Giles Music, *(page 23-25)*
Parish Sacristan, *(page 26)*
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 26-27)*
St. Giles Bell Ringers, *(pages 27-28)*
House Groups, *(page 28)*
St. Giles Flower Arrangers, *(page 29)*
Friends of St. Giles, *(page 30)*
St. Giles Website, *(page 30)*
St. Giles Facebook, *(pages 30-31)*
Mothers' Union, *(pages 31-32)*
St. Nicholas Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 32-33)*
St. Nicholas Website, *(page 33)*

The Accounts are on the Notice Boards of both Churches.

2. MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 17th APRIL 2016

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS

Vestry Meeting **Churchwardens**

Both Churchwardens were willing to serve for another year:

Andrew Bailey at St. Giles

Proposed by Julia Hoadley

Seconded by Richard Wood

Claire Couldridge at St. Nicholas

Proposed by Ian Fordyce

Seconded by John Tinham

Both Churchwardens were elected unanimously.

The Rector thanked Claire and Andrew for their hard work and support during the year. A Vote of Thanks was proposed to the Churchwardens: Proposed by Heather Argent and seconded by Jessie Tinham. All were in favour.

Deputy Churchwardens

Ian Fordyce, Eileen Seed (St. Giles) and David Clark (St. Nicholas) were all willing to serve for another year.

The Rector moved that all three candidates be elected. This was agreed unanimously. Proposed by Barbara Campedelli and Seconded by Rosemary Fordyce

A Vote of Thanks was proposed to the Deputy Wardens: Proposed by Richard Wood and seconded by Heather Argent. All were in favour. The Rector endorsed the Vote of Thanks for the good work carried out by them all for the good of the community.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING **SUNDAY 17th APRIL 2016 at 4.30 PM**

1. **OPENING PRAYERS**

2. **Apologies for absence:** These were received from Carol Fryer, Sheila Gunn, Irene Hawkins, Margaret Reen and Barbara Wood.

3. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St Nicholas on Sunday, 19th April 2015 were read out. The Rector asked if there were any errors in the Minutes for 2014. There were 2 corrections namely Page 3. 'The Rector thanked John Tinham (not Paul Wright) for organising the outstanding work in the fabric of St Giles and Page 7: Elections: Anthony Harding was seconded by Uberto (not Alberto) Campedelli. The Rector proposed that, after the corrections had been made, that the Minutes be accepted.

Proposed by Andrew Bailey and seconded by Julia Hoadley. The Minutes were passed unanimously, signed and dated by the Rector

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

The Rector asked if there were any clarifications or observations which anyone wished to make. There were none apart from the subject of 'Toilets' which would be taken in the Rector's Report.

5. **REPORTS**

(a) **Electoral Roll Report:**

As at the 21st March 2016, the figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 338 (St. Giles 281, St. Nicholas 57). There were no comments or questions.

(b) **Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council:**

There were no comments or questions.

(c) **Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report and St. Nicholas Fabric Report:**

There were no comments or questions.

(d) **Deputy Churchwardens' Report on the goods and ornaments of the churches in the Parish:**

There were no comments or questions.

(e) **The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2015 including Financial Statements for St Giles and Abbot and St Nicholas; and the report of the Independent Examiner:**

The accounts have been audited by the Independent Examiner, Mr. Bill Ratford.

Paul Beamiss, Treasurer St Giles:

Paul drew attention to his report on Page 14 which was to the 31st December 2015; Paul thanked Mark Augur, Honorary Accountant, for preparing the accounts and Bill Radford, Honorary Independent Examiner, who subjects the accounts to external scrutiny as required by the Charities Act 2011.

2015 was a quiet year financially with a surplus for the year of £13,070. The main item of expenditure was the replacement of the altar frontals, £17,394 - mostly funded by donations.

However, a £10,000 Altar Frontal donation was recorded in 2014 income although the expenditure occurred in 2015.

Income: No legacies were received in 2015. Ignoring the altar frontals in both years, voluntary income had reduced by £3,500. There was an increase in income from funeral fees but reliance cannot be made on a flexible income from funerals and weddings. It is the intention of the PCC to hold a Stewardship Campaign in 2016 to secure the future of St. Giles and full support of the congregation would be required.

Expenditure: Paul explained that 'Parish Offer' had replaced the old 'Parish Share' and now combines' clergy costs and the parish contribution to Diocesan costs; the total Parish Offer in 2015 was £66,639. It was explained that all incumbents are now paid the same rate; there are no variations as the previous salary ranges having been abolished. Overall, expenditure has been reduced in many areas giving a saving of £9,000 in church running costs.

In conclusion Paul stated that a surplus can only be produced by maintaining the voluntary income and containing or reducing expenditure. The number of funeral and weddings are falling due to the use of alternative venues.

Paul concluded his report by welcoming ideas and support from the congregation to increase income and to consider remembering St Giles in their Will as not only as it would be a benefit to the Church but it is also inheritance tax efficient. He thanked the Finance team, as mentioned in his report, and others who have helped in making sure the finances run smoothly.

Roger Allard, Treasurer St. Nicholas: Roger had highlighted the 2015 financial highlights in his report, Page15. He summarised that there was a deficit in 2015 of £7,632 but this should be seen in the context of spending £22,570 on the extension and improvement of the Leamington Room. Everyone at St Nicholas should be congratulated on financing 66% of the cost from within the year and building reserves over the years such that funds are available to finance the remaining 34%. The finances at St Nicholas remain in a strong position with current reserves of £64,524 at the year end and these are slightly more than the £62,751, being the current reserves, at 31 December 2015.

Looking ahead to 2016 Roger expected to be able more or less to balance the books by the year end although there has been some unexpected expenditure to replace heaters in the Leamington Room and the office computer. On the plus side the Tumble Tots are taking a new 5 hour term time booking from September giving £4,000 per year income for Hall hire.

Work has started on Church House to renew the kitchen, bathroom and decorate ready for Isobel and Stephen to move in. With no Associate Rector in post, the PCC thought it appropriate to reduce the pledged offer to the Diocese during the interregnum period to provide funds for the refurbishment work.

Roger reminded everyone of the Italian Meal and entertainment at St. Nicholas on 30th April. There were no questions.

The Rector gave his heartfelt thanks for their hard work to both Treasurers and their teams for the unremitting and responsible work in producing the accounts and their work throughout the year.

The Rector wished to express his gratitude to Mark Auger for preparing the Parish and St. Giles' Annual Accounts and to Mr. Bill Ratford for being Independent Examiner for the Accounts.

The Consolidated Accounts together with the accounts for St. Giles and St. Nicholas were accepted. Proposed by Andrew Bailey and seconded by Jean Bannister (Consolidated and St. Giles Accounts). St. Nicholas accounts were accepted. Proposed by Barrie Bishop and seconded by David Clark.

5. **ELECTIONS:**

St .Giles PCC: Four nominations

Barry Bishop

Proposed by Julia Hoadley

Seconded by Anthony Harding

Sara Phillips

Proposed by Brett Phillips

Seconded by Heather Argent

Elizabeth Harriss-Orr

Proposed by Mathew Hughes

Seconded by Mary Compton

Paul Younger
Proposed by Mary Compton
Seconded by Paul Beamiss

The four candidates were elected.

St. Nicholas PCC: Two nominations:

Rosemary Fordyce
Proposed by Valerie Richardson
Seconded by Lynn Matthews
Susan Simpson
Proposed by David Clark
Seconded by Valerie Blinks

They were both elected

Deanery Synod Representative - St Nicholas: – Diane Stiff
No Deanery Synod Representative was found at the time for St. Giles.

The new PCC members were appointed on a show of hands
Proposed by Claire Allen and seconded by Iris Mumford.

6. **APPOINTMENTS**

(a) **Sidespeople:**

The Rector was very grateful to them all. On a show of hands, everyone was happy to have them as Sidespeople. Proposed by Chris Hallett and seconded by Ian Fordyce.

A Vote of Thanks was given to the Sidepeople at both churches. Proposed by Jean Bannister and seconded by Alison Reynolds. Agreed unanimously.

(b) **Independent Financial Examiner 2016:**

Mr. Bill Ratford had expressed his willingness to continue. It was proposed that Mr. Bill Ratford should be elected as Independent Financial Examiner. Proposed by Paul Beamiss and seconded by Richard Wood. Agreed unanimously.

7. **GOODBYES AND THANK-YOU'S**

The Rector thanked all those people who have served in different capacities and are standing down from being PCC members - St Nicholas: Jayne Calvert (Deanery Synod) and Sheila Dixey. St Giles - Julie Broom and Laraine Langley-Davis.

The Rector thanked all the serving members and officers of the Church for all their hard work, particularly the Churchwardens, Andrew Bailey and Claire Couldridge and the Treasurers, Paul Beamiss and Roger Allard who are all very much needed and appreciated. The Rector thanked the outgoing members and wished them a happy "retirement". The Rector thanked all the volunteers that keep the Churches going. It takes a minimum of 100 volunteers and £160,000 to run St Giles effectively. It was fantastic that we were supported by all the different teams.

Special thanks were given to Richard Wood for his work, over many years, not only on the Fabric team but for handling the sale of Memorial Plaques with tact and diplomacy and which had generated much income over the years for the church and the churchyard. A Round of Applause was given to Richard.

A Vote of Thanks was given to the Revd. Diana Coutts for her invaluable work at St. Nicholas during the Interregnum.

Proposed by Chris Hallett and seconded by Sue Simpson. All in favour.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS:

The Rector's Report:

The Rector spoke to his report, pages 17 -20, which covered the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to both churches.

Toilet for St. Giles Church: The Rector recapped on this subject as the matter had been considered over the past 16 years. At the APCM, held last year, it was stated that there were no easy solution and was it was left unresolved. This year, due to continued pressure for the need of a toilet in the vicinity of the Church, it was decided to reinvestigate and after much hard work by the Fabric Committee and Mr. Les Hardistry, the use of a Natsol biodegradable toilet in the churchyard seemed viable. The Rector emphasised that there were drawbacks to any scheme but this appeared to be the only possible solution.

NatSol were a well-established firm specialising in rural settings. The site under consideration, opposite the War Memorial, had maximum light and wheelchair access, and no named graves would be disturbed. A toilet was required by a wide range of age groups, not only disabled people. It would only be available to church people, weddings and funerals. The cost would be in the region of £15,000; funds may be available from Church reserves, the Friends of St. Giles and donations. The question of vandalism had been taken into account i.e. metal walls and pitched roof.

At the St. Giles PCC meeting (21.3.2016) it was passed that the scheme be agreed. The next step is to apply to the Diocese for a Faculty; this would be displayed in the Church and there would 28 days to lodge reservations and objections and an opportunity for that in favour of the scheme could also be voiced. The subject was opened for debate and a question was asked as to the liability cover but if it is shown that proper precautions had been taken there should be no problem but the insurance cover would be investigated.

The following alternatives/objections were raised:

- The redevelopment of the St. Giles Centre to take preference.
- The toilets in the St. Giles Centre should be available for all users. It was pointed out that this is not possible due to the Nursery school and the Centre is only open mid-week at set times and not at weekends.
- No toilet should be erected in the churchyard of St. Giles on consecrated ground which would desecrate nearby graves.

The Rector recognised the concerns raised but hoped that the planting of trees and bushes and with sensitivity, the toilet could be incorporated into the environment. It would be necessary to proceed with caution. The question of desecration would no doubt be addressed by the Diocese.

The rest of the Additional Reports were noted.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT AGM**

An Application for Election to the Electoral Roll was received from Mrs. Cathy Macpherson (St Nicholas) was agreed.

Date of APCM 2017: Sunday 9th April 2017 at 4.30pm

9. **CLOSING PRAYERS**

The meeting closed at 5.40 p.m.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

4. **REPORTS**

ELECTORAL ROLL Report (a)

As at 6th April 2017 the figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 331 (St. Giles - 273, St. Nicholas - 58). Our Electoral Roll cannot be seen as an accurate indication of our Parish's strength since it is only through a revision that we discover who has moved away, who belongs to the Roll and who does not attend worship regularly. However I am confident that the majority of people on the Roll are involved in the life and work of the Church. Our Electoral Roll membership continues to offer a solid base for the ongoing life of the Parish.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016 - Report (b)**

**ST. GILES THE ABBOT, FARNBOROUGH
With ST. NICHOLAS, ORPINGTON**

OBJECTIVES

The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Matthew Hughes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Centre complexes of St. Giles at Church Road, Farnborough and St. Nicholas at Leamington Avenue, Orpington.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") in accordance with Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC who served from 24 April 2016 until the date that this report was approved by the PCC were:-

Ex-Officio:

Rector The Revd. Matthew Hughes Chairman

Associate Rector The Revd. Stephen Broadie

Assistant Priest The Revd. Bill Mullenger

Lay Minister Mr. Paul Younger

Readers Mrs. Jean Bannister
 Mrs. Chris Hallett
 Mrs. Susan Midha
 Mr. Ian Gillies

<u>Wardens</u>	Mr. Andrew Bailey Miss Claire Couldridge	until APCM 2018 until APCM 2018	St. Giles St. Nicholas
<u>Deputy Wardens</u>	Mr. Ian Fordyce Mrs. Eileen Seed Mr. David Clark	until APCM 2016 until APCM 2016 until APCM2019	St. Giles St. Giles St. Nicholas
<u>Deanery Synod Rep.</u>	Mrs. D Stiff (co-opted)	until APCM 2017	St. Nicholas
Elected:			
<u>Hon. Secretary</u>	Mrs. Mary Compton		
<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mr. Roger Allard Mr. Paul Beamiss		St. Nicholas St. Giles
<u>Gift Aid Secretary</u>	Ms. Carol Fryer		
<u>Members</u>	Mrs. Barbara Campedelli Mrs. Angela Righelato Mr. Eddie Roberts Mrs. Charlotte Parkhouse Miss Judith Haines Miss Julia Hoadley Mr. Antony Harding Mrs. Adèle Cooke (co-opted) Mr. Barrie Bishop Ms. Sara Phillips Mrs. Elizabeth Harriss-Orr Mrs. Valerie Richardson Mrs. Clare Allen Ms Jane Palmer Ms Michelle Felstead Mrs. Rosemary Fordyce Mrs. Sue Simpson	until APCM 2017 until ACPM 2017 until ACPM 2017 until ACPM 2017 until ACPM 2018 until ACPM2018 until ACPM2018 until ACPM2018 until ACPM2019 until ACPM2019 until ACPM2019 until ACPM2019 until APCM 2017 until APCM 2017 until APCM2018 until APCM2018 until APCM2019 until APCM2019	St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Nicholas St. Nicholas St. Nicholas St. Nicholas St. Nicholas St. Nicholas St. Nicholas

The full PCC met twice during the year with an average attendance of 70 per cent. In addition the members representing St. Giles met six times (with an average attendance of 65 per cent) and those representing St. Nicholas met seven times (average attendance 85 per cent).

COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between meetings of the PCC:

- Standing & Finance Committee – this is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC
- St. Giles' Fabric Group
- St. Giles' Churchyard Group
- Ad hoc groups.

CHURCH ATTENDANCES

There were 332 names on the Church Electoral Roll for the parish as at 31st December 2016.

The usual Sunday attendance at services in 201 was 149 adults and 12 children at St. Giles, and at St Nicholas, 51 adults and 14 children; at festivals and special occasions the numbers are appreciably higher.

As a Parish we are available at times of birth, marriage and death. In 2015 the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

34	Baptisms
14	Weddings
34	Funeral services held in church followed by burial in the churchyard or Cremation
15	Funeral services held at a crematorium
39	Burials of ashes.

RECTOR'S REPORT AND REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The past year has been another busy and active time in the life of our Church. It was a joy to welcome Stephen as the new Assoc. Rector of St. Nicholas along with Isabel and their family. At the same time we welcomed Paul Younger as our new Licensed Lay Minister. Both churches continue to be in good spirits as we face difficult challenges and opportunities that are around for churches at current times. Our services continues to be well attended at St. Giles especially at the major festivals. Every year we sadly lose a number of our regulars through death and ageing. As I write we finished a year where we have managed to balance the books and all voluntary work is being undertaken. We have successfully restored and renewed the altar frontals and altar linen and we look forward to the refurbishment of the War Memorial in May of this year and the eventual rebuilding of the dwarf walls in the Garden of Remembrance. All in all I am very grateful for all the support that has been offered to St. Giles and St. Nicholas allowing our churches to reach out across the Parish in the service of Christ.

I confirm that the Church has complied with its care of duty towards children and vulnerable people under the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measures 2016.

Matthew Hughes, Rector

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Aggregated parish income for the year was £314,975 (2015: £338,303) and aggregated resources used were £314,629 (2015: £332,865). Net incoming resources amounted to £346 (2015: £5,438). St Giles recorded net incoming resources of £2,361 (2015: net incoming £13,070) and St. Nicholas recorded net ingoing resources of £2,707 (2015: net incoming £7,632).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates approximately to six months unrestricted expenditure. This was achieved at 31st December 2016.

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS Report (c)

ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD REPORT

This is the third report that I have written as the Churchwarden of St. Giles the Abbot Farnborough, having been in the post now for three years as at the end of March 2017.

This year there has not been as much work on St. Giles as in previous years, partly because our Quinquennial Report which gave us a very good clean bill of health as far as the fabric of the building is concerned. We have however done some significant tasks around the place over the last twelve months. The most obvious change is the work done to the Memorial Garden with the additional of a new wall along the Western side, providing more space for plaques. Another really apparent change has been the replacement of all the various notice boards in the Churchyard plus a number of new ones with a brand new uniform style set. These new notice boards convey a more unified professional and friendlier demeanour to St. Giles.

We have completed the programme of replacing the Altar Frontals, some of which had been in use for half a century or more, and had become irreparable. As well as getting new frontals we have also acquired matching sets of stoles, cushions, and other 'accessories'. Through the generosity of people we have been able to add three further sets compared to that we previously owned. We are grateful for all those who have so generously donated the necessary funds.

We have also replaced the Altar Linen, some of which had been around for a number of years and needed urgent replacement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of St Giles who made a very generous contribution to make this all possible.

We are continuing to work through our ongoing refurbishment programme.

Musically, we have seen change over the last year with the Choir. Ian Skipper left us at the beginning of 2016, and for a large part of the year Clive Brearley held the fort helping the choir to produce outstanding music to their usual high standard. We were then joined by Paul Burnett as the Organist and Choirmaster for the Senior Choir before Christmas, and it's good to have him with us. An outstanding effort has been made by all over the year at Good Friday, Christmas and the Carol Services, as well as the weekly services, to the immense appreciation of our congregation.

Another 'staff change' over the last year has been the appointment of Stephen Gordon as the new Verger. Welcome aboard.

We have had a good year socially, with a number of events held during 2016. St. Giles continues to offer a well organised range of social events, and I am grateful to the Social Committee for all their hard work. In particular I'd like to mention the Church Fete, which was again successful and well attended. It is not always realised that a lot of work goes into making this work and I'd like to thank everyone who was involved. We had another very successful Harvest Brunch at St. Giles after the morning service, which is an excellent opportunity for the whole congregation (and parish) to get together. We also had the equally successful Harvest Supper at St. Nicolas, where I don't think we could have squeezed any more into St. Nicholas.

I'd also like to mention the parish trip down to Broadstairs in July. This year we once again filled two coaches with parishioners of all ages, who all had a great time by the seaside. The Churchwarden was even tempted to let his hair down and take part in a rounders match (with his brother on the other team).

The Parish Magazine also continues to be a success under our Editor Eddie Roberts, attaining 4th place in the National Parish Magazine Competition and 1st for Print Quality, and all the other people who help in publishing it - so please keep up with your subscriptions! Nick Reynolds still works upon and enhances the Parish Website, which provides immense amounts of information on the church, its life and people. Thank you very much.

The Bell Ringing team continues well under the leadership of our Tower Captain, Nick Wilkins. This year we had a bell ringing competition held at St. Giles which was well attended by teams from across Kent – so ‘bell ringing’ wise St. Giles has well and truly arrived! The Flower team continues to expand with new members and flower arranging workshops. The end results continue to delight our congregation with their outstanding flower displays.

The Tuesday Churchyard team continues to do good work ensuring the church and surrounding area is safe, tidy and suitable for all our church functions and needs. A more detailed account of their work is covered in a separate report. I would however like to re-thank them for repairing the bracket for the processional cross in the choir pews, for which I am most grateful. They also took the opportunity for installing a second similar bracket in the Choir Vestry, so we can now safely store both crosses without worrying that they will fall over when we are not looking.

However, we are always looking for new young blood to support the churchyard and fabric teams. Over the past year we have continued with the Saturday Morning events where members of the congregation of all ages have come down to the church and ‘had a go’ doing odd jobs and major tasks. Most have been very well attended, and are actually great fun! I heartily ask that people seriously consider joining in on future events during 2017.

I’d like to again extend my thanks to all the hard work by Liz Diamond in our Parish Office, supporting Matthew, the Churchwardens and all the other groups, teams and organisations that are involved and connected with the parish. I would also like to thank our Pastoral Assistants and Readers who are forever on call.

On a personal note, this year I managed to fulfil one of the responsibilities of a churchwarden when I actually took two services at St. Giles. This only occurs when no clergy or readers are available, and so I was ‘let loose’ on the unsuspecting congregations.

As in previous years, so much of the above would be impossible to accomplish without the army of volunteers that I have had the pleasure to work with over the last twelve months. I appreciate that I have not been able to name and acknowledge everyone’s contributions personally, but on behalf of the people of St. Giles whom I represent I extend a heartfelt thank-you to you all.

My thanks go to my Deputy Churchwardens, Eileen Seed and Ian Fordyce, for all their hard work and assistance during the last year. I’d like to extend my appreciation to my fellow Churchwarden Claire Couldridge at St. Nicholas and her deputy churchwardens. I would also like to thank Anita Goodall, Diane Jacques and Kath Burles. I simply could not have done it without you!

Finally, and (again) not in order of importance, my thanks to Matthew for the opportunity of working as the Churchwarden at St. Giles. His support, encouragement and understanding over the year has been most appreciated.

Andrew T. Bailey
Churchwarden

ST. GILES CHURCHYARD REPORT AS PART OF THE CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT Report (c)

The Churchyard Group: There are now eight members including The Rector and Church Wardens as ex-officio. Since the last Report, the Group have met on five occasions.

Items on the Agenda have been on-going matters relating to the management of the Gardens of Remembrance and further provision of memorial plaques, the upkeep of Grave Registers, proposed toilet, new Notice Boards, War Memorial, Sound system within the church and one-off items as they occur.

The Tuesday Team: As has been happening for many years now the Team continue to meet every Tuesday morning, except that is on December 27th, otherwise, to coin phrase 'we never close'. Numbers have increased to 24 'on the books' with some changes in membership and it is now commonplace for around 15 to be in attendance on most Tuesdays: the cost of providing refreshments soaring! New members are always welcomed and although there is no age limitation it would be nice to have some younger members, say under 75.

Apart from the work carried out by the Churchyard Maintenance Contract (PRO Landscapes - principally grass cutting), all other tasks are carried out by the Team including some jobs within the church and St. Giles Centre. During the months of December, January and February when there is no attendance from the Churchyard Maintenance Contractor, the Team assume responsibility for the waste management of the Churchyard: it is clearly evident that nobody takes their rubbish home with them.

In addition to the above, the Team are responsible for the provision of holes for cremated remains, either in Gardens of Remembrance or into graves, the on-going management of the provision of Memorial Plaques and the provision and recording of locations for cremated remains both in the Garden of Remembrance and within graves.

Church Registers/Burial Records: Records are dealt by a member of the Team. They are held in the Church and on the Farnborough Parish Website. www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk. There is a steady stream of requests from members of the public looking for family graves and further information. The number of burials in 2016 was 67, which is in line with the long term average.

The Gardens of Remembrance: A contract referred to in last year's Report for the removal and replacement of Memorial Plaques at ground level on concrete strips, provision of a new stepped plinth & new wall providing accommodation for a further 510 one person plaques, has now been completed. The Churchyard Group have now returned to addressing the situation of the continuing deterioration of the dwarf walls and plaques relating to the Original Garden of Remembrance. A Report to PCC proposes demolition and the rebuilding of the walls, accommodating all the existing plaques and by raising the two side walls by 300mm (1' 0") providing accommodation for a further 116 new one person stone plaques. All documentation i.e. Reports, Specifications, Schedule of Works and Working drawings have been prepared 'in house'. These works would ensure the upkeep and future life of the Gardens for many years.

Churchyard Maintenance Contract 2016: This has again been awarded to P.R.O. Landscapes in the sum of £7,000 for 20 visits which is the same amount as last year.

Refurbishment of the War Memorial: It is anticipated that work will commence in the beginning of May to carry out repairs and cleaning of this most significant and treasured monument.

Memorial Rose Beds: A further rose bed for provision of Memorial roses has been created in front of the War Memorial and a number of rose bushes are already planted.

Bird Boxes: An ex member of the Team continues to Monitor, care for and report on the performance with the many bird boxes located within the Churchyard.

Existing Trees: There has been no significant works required during the past year.

Proposed Toilet: An Architect, Mr Graham Jones has been appointed to carry out a survey of the church and to advise on the feasibility of providing accommodation for a toilet accessed externally. At the time of preparing this Report there is no further information available.

John Tinham
Chairman Churchyard Group

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

St. Nicholas has had an exciting year with the arrival of the Broadie family at the end of May and Stephen's induction in July. In the being of June we held a cream tea organised by Lyn Matthews and team to celebrate the Queen's birthday. It was well attended by the community and also give people a chance to meet the Broadie Family in less formal setting.

The joint induction and licensing service for Stephen and Paul Younger respectively was a great success. There had been a lot of hard work put into the service as well as a lot of prayer of fine weather. In the event it proved to be one of the hottest days of the summer. Even with all the doors and windows open it was still very hot. We welcomed members of Stephen's old parish in Welling along with clergy that had helped us out during the interregnum, as well as congregations for both St Giles and St Nicholas. To say the church was full would be an understatement. After the service the hall was quickly reorganised for the reception. People spread outside to enjoy the fine weather. It was a very special event for in the life of ST Nicholas also for one of the Broadie family for it was also the birthday of Stephen's daughter's. There can't be many children who have over 200 people singing to them on their birthday.

After the excitement of the induction, life at St Nicholas returned to its more normal pace. Another successful holiday club was held, numbers were a little down but those that attended had a great time. Stephen and Isabel opened up church house for afternoon tea so that people could see all the work that had been done.

With any one new there are going to changes, which people might find difficult to accept. We now have morning prayer in the chapel 4 times a week at 9.15pm. Also with the large growth of our children's work, thanks to Diane stiff and her team, we now average about 15-20 children and young people on a Sunday and with Stephen's children already taking communion, it was decide that any child with

parent's consent and over the age of 7 would be allowed after attending a course designed by the church of England which would allowed them to take communion providing they had been baptised. So on the Sunday before Christmas ,we had a joint baptism and first communion service for those who had completed the course. It was a great service and adds to the excitement of Christmas. The number of baptisms since Stephen's arrival has also increased which adds to our numbers

Christmas at St Nicholas was as busy as usual with all the services especially the christingle being well attended.

The new year saw Stephen and Isabel running an Alpha course, an another holiday club is planned for the summer, along with some of us going either to Greece or to new wine this summer or both

We've also lost one or two people this year either due to moving away or through departing this life, they will be sadly missed.

The Church is made up of people who all work together, so in finishing this report I would like to thank everyone who makes St Nicholas the place it is especially David Clarke .Ian Gilles ,Diane Stiff and all the PCC. Also to Stephen and family for putting up with a churchwarden trying to keep things running smoothly and keeping the peace in the early stages.

***Claire Couldridge
Churchwarden***

DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCHES IN THE PARISH Report (d)

The goods and ornaments of the parish are well preserved and in good order.

As Deputy Warden I have attended meetings of a sub committee of the PCC regarding St. Giles Centre. We have identified the elements of work required to improve both the look and efficiency of the building. Provisional estimates have been obtained, and it is proposed to execute these works as and when finance becomes available.

In the last year we have replaced the whole of the heating system, and redecorated the Meeting Room.

***Ian Fordyce
St. Giles Deputy Churchwarden***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2015, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST.NICHOLAS

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

In 2016, our total income was £218,921 and total expenditure of £221,282 exceeded this by £2,361. Unfortunately, although our expenditure did not increase this year our income showed a marked reduction. This reduction was due mainly a difference in our accounting procedures in dealing with the Garden of Remembrance wall plaques scheme and a decline in funerals held last year. There was also a marked decline in donations and we expect that our stewardship campaign last year will help to reverse this drop.

However, there are still noteworthy income items, tax recoverable on gift aided planned giving etc. and the Summer Fair. Although the PCC continues to explore new income streams when suggested, fresh ideas have become rare. We drew £2,361 from our reserves to cover the deficit and total funds carried forward for St Giles decreased by this amount to £528,840.

We received no legacies last year.

The Parish Offer (previously Parish Share or Diocesan quota/contribution) is paid to the Diocese and consists of an affordable offer from the parish together with a sum to cover clergy stipends and costs. In 2016, our Parish Offer was £70,253. Our offer for 2017 is £70,953.

There were no major works carried out on the Church in 2016. A new replacement memorial wall was built in the Garden of Remembrance at a cost of £20,489. We redecorated the St. Giles Centre and a new more efficient heating system was installed.

The congregation continues to give generously, through planned giving, collections and specific fund raising, as well as time and skills, to the upkeep and work of the Church. Fees from funerals and the wall plaques also help fund maintenance of the Churchyard. The St Giles congregation has also been very generous supporting other charities through Charity of Month activities and collections. The Junior Choir continues to receive generous contributions to provide for their ongoing costs.

Previous generous legacies provide security, as well as the ability to fund major building repairs and projects, as fabric wears and needs renewing or replacing. However, these funds are not utilised for the running costs of the church and the work of the church. The Rector and PCC monitor running costs with the aim to keep expenditure below income. This was not achieved in 2016 but we have budgeted for a small surplus in running costs this year.

As ever, many thanks to all who help with the St. Giles financial work. The finance team work especially hard so my gratitude and appreciation goes to, in alphabetical order, Ken Butchers, Mary Compton, Carol Fryer and Andrew Temple.

Thank you to Eddie Bellamy, administrator of the Memorial Wall fund, in again providing a generous income stream. Thanks are also due to Adele Cooke for her continued sterling work to obtain advertising income for the Parish magazine. I must also thank Carol Fryer for organising a very successful Summer Fair.

In addition, I would again like to thank Carol Fryer for her work as Gift Aid Secretary. It is also important to thank the Sunday Cash Collecting Team, Pam Stacey (Planned Giving Envelope Scheme Secretary) and Mary Compton for their work in this area.

Finally, thanks to David Clark for looking after the insurance policies and to Mark Auger, for preparing the Parish and St Giles Annual Accounts. Last, but definitely not least, my gratitude to Nadine Crawford-Piper who took over the position of Independent Examiner at the last minute following Bill Ratford's illness and resignation.

Paul Beamiss
Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles

ST. NICHOLAS

This time last year I was saying that we would do well to achieve a surplus on the year by the time we came to 31 December although the St Nicholas PCC had approved a balanced budget for 2016. We had already faced unexpected expenditure in the early months of the year in needing to replace the two heaters in the Leamington Room, £2792, and the computer in the office, £562 including setting up costs. We had also included £12000 in the budget for the renewal of the kitchen and bathroom and complete redecoration of Church House ready for the new Associate Rector and his family with the possibility that the final cost would exceed the budget provision.

As the year progressed the financial position improved and at the 31 December there was a small surplus of £2707. We did indeed spend more on Church House £14225 compared with the £12000 in the original budget. We had made a smaller pledged offer to the Diocese for the first five months of the year for the express purpose of covering the cost of the work and the final cost represented only a small overspend on the funds we had set aside in this way. Other significant budget variations which contributed to the surplus were an additional £3800 of Hall Lettings income and underspends of £1100 on Council Tax as Church House was empty during the interregnum and £1000 on the Hall gas and electricity.

2015 was the first time in a number of years that there was a deficit at the year end - £7632. We have recovered some of that this year but we still need to make a surplus of £4925 before the net current assets are back to the level they were at 31 December 2014 - £72156. Net current assets at 31 December were £67231. This represents just under 70% of our 2017 expenditure budget and looking forward this provides a valuable reserve should our income diminish or the need for major unplanned expenditure occur in future years. The St Nicholas PCC has approved a balanced budget for the current year and at this stage we can look forward to a positive outcome at the year end.

In conclusion I would like to say a big thank you to Catherine in the St Nicholas Office who does all the day to day financial work in banking the income, paying the bills and inputting all the data on to the accounting system and to Ian Fordyce, the Hall Lettings Manager, who has played such a key role in ensuring that our hall users pay their bills on a prompt and regular basis. Ian decided to relinquish his role in February 2017 and at least for the time being Catherine is carrying out these important duties. Over the years Ian has built up the Hall Lettings income and the budget for 2017 is just under £45000, 45% of the St Nicholas income and an essential part of the finances. So I would like to thank Ian not only for his work during 2016 but also over the years and to say that the sound financial position that St Nicholas is in today is in no small way due to the healthy Hall Lettings position that Ian has built up.

Roger Allard
Hon Treasurer, St Nicholas

5. ELECTIONS

NO MEMBERS FOR THE ST. GILES P.C.C.

ONE MEMBER FOR THE ST. NICHOLAS P.C.C.

FOUR DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES, 3 FOR ST. GILES and 1 FOR ST. NICHOLAS

6. APPOINTMENTS

SIDESPERSONS -

St. Giles:

Mrs. R. Arney, Miss S. Attwood, Mr. P. Barnes, Mrs. L. Barnes, Mr. U. Campedelli, Mrs. B. Campedelli, Mrs. C. Coyle, Mr. M. Dancer, Mrs. I. Dancer, Mrs. H. Edwards, Mr. R. Jones, Lovelock Family, Mr. C. McArdell, Mrs. J. Palmer, Mrs. S. Pugh, Reeves Family, Mrs. M. Reen, Russell Family, Scarlett Family, Mrs. E. Seed, Mr. R. Stringer, Mr. R. Tolman, Mrs. H. Vogt, Mrs. E. Walker, Mr. J. White. Mr. J. Worton, Mrs. M. Worton.

St. Nicholas:

Mr. H. Bavin, Mrs. I. Bavin, Mrs. V. Blinks, Mrs. P. Butcher, Mr. D. Clark, Mrs. P. Clark, Mrs. B. Couldridge, Mrs. S. Dixey, Mrs. M. Felstead, Mrs. C. Gibbons, Mrs. Anne Howlett, Mrs. L. Matthews, Mrs. G. Mazinke, Mrs. I. Mumford, Mrs. J. Palmer, Mrs. J. Rackham, Mrs. S. Rennie, Mrs. D. Stiff, Mrs. G. Stevenson, Miss A. Walker

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Acting under delegated powers (A.G.M. 2001) The P.C.C. appointed Mr. W.F. Ratford, F.C.A. as independent examiner for the 2016 accounts.

The meeting recommended Mr. Ratford's appointment for the year 2016 accounts and the A.G.M. is requested to approve this proposal.

7. GOODBYES AND THANK YOU'S.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To be notified at the beginning of the meeting.

Date and time of next A.G.M.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

Last year was another full and active time in the life of St. Giles and I am grateful to everyone who gave so generously of their time, skills and finances to help our Church fulfil its sacred mission in proclaiming the love and grace of our Lord, and in serving in word and deed our local community. At the moment a tea is being organised to say thank you to all our volunteers, invitations have gone out to 250 people, so thank you to everyone.

There were a number of highlights last year, including the induction of Stephen Broadie as the new Associate Rector at St. Nicholas, it has been so good to have him in the Parish along with Isabel his wife and their family. Also at the same time there was authorisation and Licensing of Paul Younger as Licensed Lay Minister, and it has been great to see Paul in action across our Parish after so many years of study and training. Also there has been the commissioning of new Pastoral Visitors, the appointment of a new Verger, our annual Confirmation service, and the wonderful way that our Church is attended by so many at our various festivals, especially Christmas and Easter.

What we have accomplished:

I am delighted that we have now been able to replace all the altar frontals and add three more colours. They all look splendid

Through the help of the Friends of St Giles we have been able to purchase new altar linen

We are in the process of replacing the Servers' robes and cassocks

We have built a new dwarf wall in the Garden of Remembrance

We have welcomed new members to the Flower Arranging team, Fabric team and Choir.

Annual Confirmation service, and growing attendance at our 10.00 a.m. service. We have consolidated and grown our work amongst children and young people and continued to offer opportunities for Christian study through our house groups.

Our Parish Magazine continues to be a great credit to us and I was delighted this year that we came 4th in the National Parish Magazine competition, a move up of two places from last year, and we were placed 1st for print quality. Congratulations to the editors, Eddie and Helen, all the team and to T&C Printers.

Thank you to everyone who agreed to help the Church via our Stewardship Campaign, we have been able to steady the ship and make up for past reductions in our regular giving. (Our joint yearly income remains well under £500,000).

We have also accomplished a full and well attended social programme and excellent Summer Fete.

The Friends of St Giles continue to work very hard in raising funds for the life of our church and they are always generous in supporting current needs and opportunities. I am very grateful to them for all they do.

In May we will start the refurbishment of the War Memorial and once again I was staggered by the generosity of so many, thank you to everyone who contributed.

It was very good to unveil a plaque in St. Giles to Eric Lubbock, Lord Avebury, in July last year following his death and to welcome members of his family and friends to the service. We greatly value our links with his family and the historic links we share.

I confirm that the Church has complied with its care of duty towards children and vulnerable people under the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measures 2016.

Challenges and opportunities ahead:

The provision of toilets continues to elude us, as every plan and option runs into difficulties, objections and reservations from some quarter. This of course is to be expected and is the reason that this problem has not been solved these many years. Currently we have asked our architect, Mr Graham Jones, to come up with some possible designs and drawings for a sighting of toilets adjacent to the Church (as specified by the Diocese).

I am delighted to report that Daphne Leach has remembered St. Giles in her Will leaving her house for the use of St. Giles.

One of the delights for me has been singing with our wonderful Choir, who are so skilled and hard working in producing a range of wonderful music to aid us in our worship. Singing has brought home to me the huge effort that is required to offer sacred music at St. Giles. We may spend up to 2 hours rehearsing one anthem and a number of chants, if there are 15 in the Choir that is 30 hours of work. One of the challenges we face is widening the age range of the Choir and getting more people involved in making music. Currently we are looking at ways that we can widen the appeal of singing at St. Giles. I am enormously grateful to both Paul and Clive for all their hard work in making music at St Giles. I have been around long enough to realise that without good music we will not be able to grow or sustain our Church. Along with all our musicians the PCC continues to commit a significant amount of resources to the choral tradition at our Church.

The present organ at St. Giles requires over £60,000 worth of work on it. Currently the PCC is exploring a way forward including digital instruments.

Finance will continue to be a challenge as fee income will remain unpredictable and losses will accrue as we lose members of our congregation through death and ageing. These are straightened times for many churches as we continue to try and make head way in a culture that at times has reduced interest in expansion of community life.

Our traditional services are just about holding up, although Mattins remains vulnerable, as once again this year we lost a number of faithful regulars which are not easily replaced as the younger generations do not seem to value this service, which is a pity.

Conclusion

As we look back over the year there is much to give thanks to God for both at St. Giles and at St. Nicholas. What we offer to the community continues to be valued and new people are coming to faith and finding a place in our Church community. People continue to express their appreciation of our churches through their participation in our common life and through the very generous donations that are given for the things we need. I know that many calls have been made upon your time and finances but this year we have continued our refurbishment of the fabric of St. Giles and many people comment on how beautiful and well maintained the Church and its grounds look. There are challenges ahead but I am confident that with God's grace and the commitment of our members we will continue to shine as a light of faith, hope and love across the Benefice. A huge thank you to everyone for all your help and support to my colleagues in the ministry team, my wonderful Churchwardens, Andrew and Claire, our Treasurers, and particularly Andrew Bailey who I work closely with at St. Giles, and all the team leaders who do so much in the various areas of our Church. May the Lord bless all our endeavours.

Matthew Hughes, Rector

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

As I write this, it is hard to believe that it was only just over 7 months ago that the Bishop of Rochester came to St Nicholas for my licensing as Associate Rector of this parish. Those who were there will remember that it was the hottest day of the year, made even hotter by the large number of people crammed into our church building. It was a joyful occasion, and the welcome we were given as a family on that day has continued in the months since. Along with Isabel and the children I have been overwhelmed by the welcome and support we have received since moving here.

2016 was a time of great change for St Nicholas as a church. I am aware of the huge amount of work that went into keeping everything going during the interregnum, and in particular all the work that was done on Church House. I am reluctant to thank specific people, as I am conscious that so many people at our church did so much in 2016, to ensure the smooth running of the church during the interregnum, to prepare for our arrival, and to make us feel welcome in this parish. I am aware also of so many who worked behind the scenes or anonymously. I am grateful to everyone who prepared a rota, set up church, cooked a meal, preached, read, prayed, fixed something, decorated something, dropped round a card or a present, or helped in any way big or small during the interregnum and during our first few months here. From next year I will learn to be selective in my thanks, but for the moment I would like to express our gratitude as a family to everyone at St Nicholas for welcoming us.

For me, 2016 was a year of many firsts, including experiencing my first Holiday Club, my first Autumn Fair, and my first Christingle at St Nicholas. It was a joy to see so many members of the community attend what are clearly annual highlights for many in our parish. We also began a daily service of Morning Prayer in our side chapel, and made plans for an Alpha course to run at the beginning of 2017. Within the past year, a new house group has also sprung up. In 2016 we also saw a number of other families join the congregation, and it has been wonderful for our own children to be able to be part of such a thriving and growing 'Kids Club' at St Nicholas.

Back in September, we spent some time as a PCC thinking about what the strengths of our church were, and also thinking about our vision and values. One of the main words that came up as a strength of the church was 'welcome', and the fact that the church was welcoming, and hospitable. Along with this, the word 'community' came up, in reference to our strong links with the community, and the community events run by the church. It was also felt that this was a church where the whole congregation was able to be involved. Following this, we gave some thought to what we felt were the core values of St Nicholas church. I took away the notes from that PCC meeting, along with numerous different coloured post-it notes that PCC members had written on, and tried to summarise what our values were. After some thought, we settled on our core values. After a later reflection on Jesus' own experiences in being led by the Spirit, at the beginning of Matthew, into a place where he was then dependent on God's word, we also added a value connecting the Spirit and the Word. The final values we agreed on were that at St Nicholas, we aim to be a church that is: Christ-centred, Grounded in Prayer, Motivated by Love, Guided by the Spirit and the Word, and Growing Relationships that Lead to God.

It is our hope that these values will give us some guidance as together we seek God's vision for us as a church in the coming years. As a family, we are really excited to be a part of this church, and we are looking forward to what the future holds.

Stephen Broadie, Assoc. Rector

ST. GILES MUSIC

As I look back over my 50 years of involvement with Anglican Church choirs I reflect on the changes that have taken place in lifestyles as we face the future challenges.

Not that long ago children would arrive for choir practice on their bikes which they had often paid for out of the money they had earned from the 80 weddings per year that they had attended. Some of the time at the two choir practices every week would be spent on training for RSCM badges and children would occasionally come on a third night to do further work. I never met some of the parents.

Times are different now, of course. There have been big changes in lifestyle, we have child protection legislation etc. to comply with and many parishes have given up trying to recruit younger choir members. This has led to problems with maintaining adult church choir membership and St. Giles should be proud of its commitment to promoting the idea of choir membership, not only by maintaining a junior choir but also running the Saturday choral workshops. There is no easy answer to how we continue to provide good music in church but we certainly know that doing nothing is not the way. One of the many things that I find really encouraging at St. Giles is that over the past year I have found no need to run any kind of a recruiting drive - I have enough wanting to join (and usually they ask before they know that they will be paid!)

Having one choir practice every two weeks on average does not give as much time as one would like. Over the past months Anne Vincent has been helping me by taking out the newer members to help them work towards full choir membership. This has effectively increased choir practice time by 50% and her support and enthusiasm has been invaluable.

We are looking for ways in which to encourage the older members to stay with us at least until they leave school. Hannah and Esther Fruin often join with the senior choir: this transition is relatively easy for them as their parents are in the senior choir but for others it would be difficult and we are always considering ways in which they can be given interesting things to do that will be to their and St. Giles' benefit.

Some things from the past year stand out. Alexander's playing of the Last Post and Reveille on Remembrance Sunday was one - it's some feat to get so much musicianship into a few bars. Hannah adds so much to the hymns at Family Communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month with her flute playing. Esther's organ scholarship is another very important part of St. Giles' commitment to music now and in the future.

I also see much that gives me reason to see a good future for the Junior Choir. Lasting friendships are made through choir membership and I see this happening. Before choir practice I watch tiny hands at the piano making musical sounds. During choir practices questions are asked which need in-depth answers and quite advanced musical concepts are understood. There is plenty of potential here.

Clive Brearley
Organist and Junior Choirmaster

It is now nine months since I started at St Giles as organist and director of the senior choir, and I believe we have in that time together produced some outstanding performances – the Advent and Christmas Carol Services; our contribution to the John Betjeman evening (a memorable occasion on many other fronts too); *Greater Love* by John Ireland on Remembrance Sunday which I thought we sang excellently both in the morning and the evening; most recently *Blessed be the God and Father* by Samuel S. Wesley; and many more besides. I have equally cherished the many small-scale performances, perhaps just in unison, which the choir has often sung with great beauty and feeling.

I do hope that that is the view of the majority at St Giles, and I am naturally enormously heartened by the numerous appreciative comments from members of congregation; some of them given to me, some to choir members, and some which I have overheard spoken between others (which can possibly mean even more to me)

I am grateful to all the choir members for accepting my occasional outbursts of passion for reaching the highest possible standards. As I always say, there would be no point in bothering about high standards if the choir was no good at all, and my passion is therefore intended, and I do hope taken, as a great compliment to all our singers. The quality in all parts is enviable, and if particularly noticeable with the men, that is not at all because they are so much better than the ladies, but because it is in my experience so unusual to have such excellence in the tenors and basses. The prize for the most improved section may well go to the sopranos, all of whom sound like a choir of twenty-year-olds, possibly early thirties (which they likely are), whilst I generally take for granted that the altos will be excellent anyway.

Also very successful has been the collaboration between ourselves and Clive Brearley and the junior choir on the fourth Sunday of the month, and at the carol service when I thought that Clive's training of the juniors produced singing right up to the standard of the seniors.

Some others might define a 'good performance' as one where all the notes are correct. But no congregation member has, to my knowledge, ever left the church extolling the choir's accuracy of notes. Some right notes help of course, but it is beauty of sound, balance and blend of the voices, the meaning of the music and, above all, passionate communication of that meaning to our congregations that matters most to me.

This is all much harder to achieve than in earlier years. So many church choirs have been allowed to die, and St Giles is a wonderful exception. There has for many years now been much less singing taking place in schools (cue Gareth Malone and his 'crusade' that singing shall not be allowed to die out). And cue also St Giles' own 'Gareth Malone crusader' in the form of our Rector. Matthew Hughes is a gift to the Church in numerous ways, not least in his excellent, relevant sermons, and in his recognition that a musical church is an alive church. His support for me and the choir has been first-rate.

Also exemplary has been Matthew's Saturday morning *Let's sing* initiative to attract new singers, which I have been privileged to lead. This has been highly successful in terms of enjoyment and standard of singing, and we hope it will bear much fruit for St Giles in the future.

A successful singing Church needs a good choir, also a good organ. People listen to Carols from Kings, Choral Evensong on the radio, or to Youtube, etc., and they know what a top organ sounds like. The poor state of the present organ's wiring is well documented, as is the evidently serious latent danger from that, and to ignore that would be to show a singular lack of wisdom. I have noticed electrical faults to be worse in heat: they diminished from around November, but returned with the packed houses at Christmas, which seriously worried me. There is now a new permanent cipher appeared on one of the pedal stops.

This is not the place to discuss new organs in any detail. I will only say how delighted, indeed relieved, I am that trials of different possible replacements is now under way, and that I share completely the Rector's passion that a stand-out organ should grace a stand-out Church such as St Giles.

Paul Burnett
Organist

PARISH SACRISTAN

I have been Parish Sacristan for three years, a role which is divided into two parts: Sacristan, and Head Server.

As Sacristan I am responsible for making sure the church is stocked with various supplies including: Altar wine and wafers, candles (for advent, altar, baptism/confirmation, birthday, candlelit services, and Easter/paschal etc), palm crosses, incense/charcoal and any other supplies required for use during services at St. Giles church. I place the main orders twice a year, at the beginning of Lent and then again in early September, usually ordering enough supplies for 6 months ahead, or longer for candles and other non-perishables. I usually purchase the wine we use for Holy Communion about every three or four months. Although I occasionally clean altar linens, Janice Davis usually does this job and I would like to thank her for taking on this responsibility.

As Head Server, I am responsible for training and mentoring new members of the serving team at St. Giles. When I first started as a Server, some years ago, I made notes to remind me of my duties. When I became Parish Sacristan I updated the notes to produce a guide to serving, and all new servers and chalice assistants receive a copy as part of their training to help them with their duties. In the last three years, with some assistance from the Rector, I have trained several new servers and chalice assistants. There are currently 19 Serving Team members who, between us, do all the Sunday Holy Communion services and the 10.00am Holy Communion service on Thursday mornings, plus other occasional services during the week.

I have also been quite busy with other jobs, much more so than I thought I would be when I first agreed to take on this role! The Rector asked for my assistance in purchasing new altar frontal sets, and we also have new altar linens and cloths. As I write, the Rector has informed me that we now have new cassocks, and that new cottas are in the process of being ordered, thus providing new robes for the serving team.

I would like to end by thanking all the servers and chalice assistants who serve at our Communion Services on Sundays and during the week, for their hard work and dedication to their roles. I would also like to thank Liz Diamond, our Parish Secretary, for doing all the rotas and Andrew Bailey, our Churchwarden, for sorting out our duties over Christmas and Easter. Finally, I would like to thank the Rector, the Revd. Matthew Hughes for his support in my role as Parish Sacristan here at St. Giles church.

Ailsa Chapman

ST. GILES FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

Families with children are continuing to attend our various services and groups at St Giles on a regular or 'come when you can' basis. With so many other activities open to families, especially on a Sunday morning, it is encouraging that so many enjoy worshipping with us.

Lollipop Club, which offers 'Fellowship and Fun' and a warm, friendly welcome to our youngest church members and their parents or carers, continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month. We make a monthly poster, which is displayed at the front of church, and enjoy toys, games and song. Refreshments are served at the end of the session before older children are collected from school.

Sunday School, where children aged 3+ can develop 'Friendship and Faith' meets weekly, apart from when we celebrate with others at our All Age Services. Sunday school provides experience of both the Old and New Testament and teaching through craft, song, story and prayer. We have a new range of toys and activities to engage the children and encourage sharing and co-operation.

Crossbearers, our Sunday school for our older children, continues to meet at the same time as the younger children. They follow a well designed programme at their own pace.

Christmas Eve services for children continue to be very well attended, attracting families from the local area. Our Sunday School Nativity, 'We're going on a star hunt' was enjoyed by all. The younger children took on the acting roles while the older ones helped to narrate the story.

In January we held a Christmas Party for the children, with Mr Marvel once again providing magic and fun. Both young and old had a wonderful time.

In December, two children were confirmed alongside the adult candidates. The service was a wonderful occasion and the children were supported by their families and members of our congregation.

Before the summer break we held our annual Children's Celebration Service. All children with links to the church were invited. Sunday school prizes were given out to those who attend and a small gift was given to other children who are members of the wider church congregation. The presence of so many children in our church, involved in so many different groups was indeed something to be celebrated.

As I write I have just returned from The Big Breakfast, where children from both St Giles and St Nicholas joined other children from local churches in a morning of activity and praise. The children took part in craft activities and worship based on the theme of 'unity'. A big breakfast was indeed served and enjoyed. Another opportunity to work alongside friends from St Nicholas came during the summer Holiday Club, which some of our children attended and all enjoyed. Such events will continue to be made available to St Giles families.

At the moment, preparations are being made for the Lent groups to meet, including a dedicated group for 11-15 year olds.

My thanks go to everyone who supports and participates in working with families and children at our church. It is not an easy task to engage busy families in the life of the church, but rewarding none the less.

Irene Dancer

ST. GILES BELLRINGERS

During the last year, St Giles bells have again been rung almost every Sunday morning prior to the Family Service with the only very rare exceptions being when we have had insufficient numbers. Practices have been very infrequent due to the difficulty in getting enough ringers available at the same time. We're all very busy people! Choir practices on Sunday afternoons have meant that it has generally not been possible for us to ring prior to the 6.30pm Service.

In addition, the bells have been rung for special church and national occasions as well as weddings and some funerals.

Thirty-two quarter peals were rung in 2016, an increase on the previous year and three peals (One peal in 2015).

As well as having supplemented our ranks in 2015 with three mature ringers who originally learnt to ring elsewhere, and which I mentioned last year, I've been teaching a couple of new and enthusiastic recruits. Almost everyone who visits St Giles likes the bells which are physically easy to ring and very popular with young and old.

On occasions when we've been short of the full complement of six ringers on Sunday mornings I've been pressed into ringing two bells but, as previously mentioned, if anyone is interested in learning to ring, please let me know.

We are pleased that the clock now seems to be working reliably again and chimes the hour on a separate bell from the six ringing bells. It would be nice if the clock could chime on the sonorous heavier former Service bell, which, as a plaque says on the wall in the base of the tower, was cast in 1951 as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the Service of their Country.

Finally, I'd again like thank Matthew for his continued enthusiasm and support and the members of the band that turn up regularly to ring. We also hope those in the village living within earshot of the bells and who hear our performances on a regular basis enjoy the sound and we often get favourable comments from passing dog walkers!

Nick Wilkins

HOUSE GROUPS

Eleven House groups have been meeting throughout the past year. One group has decided to disband; however, a new group has recently been formed under the leadership of Sue Simpson, aided by Isobel Broadie. Apart from Lent, each group decides what their programme will be. For example, one group listened to some talks about the New Testament by an American professor and found them very interesting and informative; other groups have used the Scripture Union Lifebuilder series on a variety of topics; one of these, on the subject of Angels proved quite challenging and thought-provoking.

It's good to have a joint groups focus during Lent and this year Matthew has chosen a course for us to follow based on the film 'Les Miserables', culminating with a showing of this on DVD. As in previous years, and with thanks to some additional leaders and hosts, we have set up some extra house groups so that others can join in. One of these is specifically for young people aged 10 to 15. We pray that these will be opportunities for people to grow in faith and fellowship.

Heather Argent
House Group co-ordinator

ST. GILES FLOWER ARRANGERS

Summary

The introduction in 2015 of a joint leadership for the group is functioning well. Mrs Valerie Bailey and Mrs Doreen Wilson continue as the current Joint Co-ordinators.

General

Organisation – We operate under a ‘group system’, i.e. 4 individual groups of approximately 7 members, each headed up by a Team Leader who oversees and organises their group. Each group works in rotation and schedules in this respect are distributed to all members at the beginning of the year. There is also a list of people on standby who can be called upon if any group requires extra help. For the larger festivals, however, it is often “all hands on deck”. This system works well. Additionally, we have a number of helpers who assist with the clearing up and general tasks, also supplying refreshments at festivals – an excellent asset to the group and much appreciated by all.

Meetings – Three regular annual meetings are held: (i) AGM at the beginning of the year; (ii) a Wedding Preparation Course (Joint Co-ordinators only), and (iii) a dinner or buffet which is open to all members. Other regular meetings attended by the Joint Co-ordinators are updates with Rev Matthew Hughes and discussions with Team Leaders, mainly focussing on our regular festival events.

Memberships – Following our recruitment drive the membership increased during 2016. This is the result of recruitment through our regular workshops and distributing leaflets to the congregation and other groups throughout St Giles church.

Publications – We continue our practice to produce a Newsletter once a year for our membership. We also contribute items to the Parish magazine.

Workshops, Demonstrations – Our workshops are very popular and are well attended. The process of watching and then trying yourself while a tutor is still at hand to help is a positive feature and is giving confidence to some of our newer recruits. More workshops have been organised for this year.

Current Issues

Memberships – As our membership dropped in 2015 a concerted effort was made during 2016 to recruit more members. By advertising our regular workshops and distributing leaflets to the congregation and other groups throughout St Giles we have now managed to boost our numbers again. We will continue our promotion for new recruits to help maintain our numbers.

Storage – The allocated storage cupboards in the church vestry are proving a great asset to our group. They are now well equipped with our floral paraphernalia and have made our working environment so much easier. Thank you Matthew.

Funding – This continues to be an issue and we have to rely on the generosity of the congregation and donations from weddings. Although careful research is made to find the best prices and stretch our budget, special appeals are still frequently needed especially when there is a festival.

Our special thanks to the congregation for their continued support in helping us provide flowers for St Giles Church. We do hope you get as much pleasure from the arrangements as we do in creating them.

Valerie Bailey and Doreen Wilson

FRIENDS OF ST. GILES

The Friends are very fortunate to have a local group of supporters. Our main aim is to support the needs of the Church building, particularly in an emergency.

During the past twelve months we have raised money through a joint venture with St. Nicholas - an Italian evening. We have held our twice yearly quizzes in the Village Hall; thanks to Sylvia Addison and Valerie Bailey the Christmas Quiz continues to be popular. Also on the agenda is our annual Jumble Sale on Sat. 8th April.

At the end of last year we decided to have a change from a Christmas Bazaar as there are a good many of those in the village and so we have tried a Book Fair to be held in the Church. An outing to Rochester Cathedral took place on 4th April.

Julia Hoadley

ST. GILES WEBSITE

The current website was developed during 2011 and went live in February 2012. It replaced an earlier one dating from 2002, which was by then technically obsolete. The website has expanded from about 65 pages at time of launch to over 100 now. One of the drivers for developing the website was to post forms and other material that users could download directly. This saved a considerable amount of time in the parish office, as well as money spent on postage. The greatly increased amount of general information made available also reduced the need for the parish office to field enquiries made by phone.

The availability of burial records which are now published in full on the website is of considerable help to family members doing research. Follow up queries are regularly received for further information, which can and do come from anywhere in the world. The number of visits to the website in the 12 months to end December 2016 was over 20% up on the same period the previous year. The number of unique visitors is also over 20% up, at nearly 50 per day over the whole year, and nearly 60 in December. Content is taken from the parish magazine and pew-sheets, plus custom articles compiled by church members. There are a number of external links to other church and village websites.

A particular benefit of the website is being able to display larger photosets following parish events than is possible in other media. Typically photo sets are retained on the website for about nine months before removal.

Running costs are about £50 per annum for domain name and web space. The website is maintained and developed 'in-house', currently by Nick Reynolds. One advantage of doing this in-house, apart from saving on charges from third parties, is that changes can be made very quickly, and the website is always up to date. If anyone is interested in getting involved with the website and sharing the authorship we would be keen to discuss this further – general aptitude with IT is required, but not specifically website management experience.

Nick Reynolds

ST. GILES FACEBOOK PAGE

The St Giles Facebook page was created in 2014. The purpose of the Web page was to promote events, services and activities at St Giles church, not only to those who are regular members of the congregation but also to the wider community. The focus was to show the church as a lively, active and welcoming community with something to offer every generation.

Over the past 3 years the Facebook page has allowed members of the congregation that have moved out of the area and people who hold St Giles dear to their heart to keep in touch with the church, seeing photos of friends at the church that they otherwise would not be in touch with.

There have also been questions and requests submitted via the Facebook page. Questions like “Can I get my baby Christened in St Giles”. “How can I hire the church hall”. These questions were passed on to the Rector or secretary. The fund raising for the memorial refurbishment was also promoted via the Facebook page and a number of people contacted via the Facebook page to ask how to donate to the fund. The St Giles Facebook page currently has 209 likes on the page. This means that 209 people will see updates and promotions posted on the page. If these people then like and share the posts, St Giles will be seen by more and more people. The highest number of views was 904 for a video of St Giles.

To keep the church alive in the community, we need to encourage more people to walk through the door but this can be an almost impossible challenge to break into people’s busy lives. Facebook gives the church an opportunity to show the wider community what it’s really like to be part of the church congregation. It is also a great way to let people know service times, details of courses and guest speakers and for support groups.

Often people think about going to church on a Sunday morning but then it slips down the priority list of life. If we use the page wisely Facebook can trigger conversations and thought processes that stimulate and remind people to come back to church.

Facebook will only remain a useful tool if it is kept up to date and interlinked with the community. Regular updates from the Farnborough village page and promoting other village activities helps increase the audience.

To improve interaction and awareness the Facebook page needs to have tighter links to the St Giles Web page, the Magazine and should be promoted in the services. On every service sheet there should be a “Follow us on Facebook” or “Share your photos on our Facebook page”.

Weddings and Christenings should also be encouraged to “Tag” St Giles in their photos and posts. This again would spread the awareness of St Giles to a wider audience.

Having introduced all the suggestions above, the page will need to have an active editorial team to ensure all the updates are posted regularly. Currently this is managed by one person but Editors rights can easily be shared. The ideal co-editor will be an active member of the congregation who has an understanding of Facebook. With the consent of the PCC a second editor will be recruited and the Facebook page will be promoted as detailed above.

Julie Broom – St Giles Facebook Page Editor.

MOTHERS' UNION

Mary Sumner, a clergyman’s wife living in Old Alresford, became concerned about how local mothers related their Christian faith to family life. Wanting to encourage them she founded a small group called “Mothers Union” in 1876, which is an international Christian membership charity that has over 4 million members found throughout the Anglican Communion. Approximately 70,000 members are active within the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The organisation is committed to promoting loving, respectful and stable family relationships where parents and children can flourish. No one is excluded because of the kind of family unit they come from or are currently living in. Married, partnered, divorced, single, with children, without children, male or female – you can be a member provided you are baptised in the name of the Trinity and accept the aims of the organisation.

Last year MU celebrated its 140th birthday. Our patron, The Queen, invited MU members to attend a party in The Mall as part of her 90th birthday celebrations, a very special occasion.

For more than 60 years there have been members of the Mothers' Union in the parish of St Giles, Farnborough. The Group Currently has 30 members. They are all regular members of the St Giles and St Nicholas congregations and are involved in all the regular Sunday morning and week day parish activities.

MU supports 'Make a Mother's day' campaign every year. Last year we collected over £200, which supported various UK & international MU projects, especially parenting classes and sessions in literacy and numeracy.

Proceeds of over £300 from last year's overseas lunch was given to the General Fund (directed to areas of greatest need). This year's overseas lunch is on Tuesday 30th May 2017 at St Nicholas, 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

Over the past year MU has done a great deal to support refugees. Last autumn Canon Jean Kerr asked us to provide warm clothing & treats for males in 'The Jungle': Calais. Various branches around the country have donated 'welcome packages' & help to all refugees arriving in their areas. We also got involved with providing at Christmas presents for patients with dementia in hospital.

We meet monthly at St. Nicholas, the 1st Monday at 7:30 pm and the 3rd Thursday at 2pm.

1st. Thursday 10:00am – Corporate Communion at St. Giles Church.

4th. Tuesday 10:00am – Prayer Group Meeting at St. Nicholas Church.

Meetings are varied with occasional speakers on local issues or Mothers' Union work overseas. There have also been trips to the local theatre, a visit to Mary Sumner House & meals out. All meetings being underpinned by prayer.

If you are interested in coming to any of our meetings, contact:

Call Jayne Calvert on 01959 439153 or Maureen Woodman on 01689 858276

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

ST NICHOLAS TODDLER GROUP

The St Nicholas Toddler Group meets on Wednesday mornings during term time. Each week about 65 toddlers plus their mums, dads and carers come along. A variety of toys are available and there is a craft or messy play activity for the adults to do with their children each week. The morning finishes with a story and song time. Once a month a Toddler Service takes place with a Bible story, prayer and associated craft. Over the past year we have had Phoenix card and Avon sales, and visits from a photographer and Father Christmas. Our summer and Christmas parties are great fun, though they are very busy with about 100 children plus adults. Thank you to everyone who helps.

KIDS CLUB AT ST NICHOLAS

KIDS CLUB takes place on Sunday mornings during the church service. It is for children from about 3 years old upwards and we divide into groups for age appropriate activities that include a Bible story songs, prayer and craft. We have grown in size over the last year and regularly have about 16 children.

Towards the end of 2016 we ran a Children and Communion Course and at the end of it five of our Kids Club members were baptised and ten took their first Communion. The children are involved in some of the all-age services and also take part in the Christingle Service. Recently some of us were able to attend the Big Breakfast event organised by the Churches Together in Orpington's children team and we had a great time.

JUST BABIES

Just Babies takes place in the Mother and Baby room at St Nicholas on a Tuesday afternoon and is for mothers and their babies, up to crawling age. It provides an opportunity for mums to develop friendships and to chat over a cup of tea in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church happens monthly on a Friday afternoon after school. About 25 children come along with parents each month to join in playing games and to do craft activities which are linked to a Bible story. Drinks and cakes have a very important part to play in our sessions as well and once a term we come together for a meal. Each month the chapel is turned into an interactive prayer room. Themes we have looked at this past year include Pentecost, The Lord's Prayer, Thankfulness, Salt & Light, Trusting God, Christmas, and forgiveness.

LIGHT AND BRIGHT and EASTER ACTIVITY MORNING

These events are open to all in the community and are very popular. They provide opportunities to build up relationships with people and to share the good news of Jesus through games, Bible teaching and crafts.

HOLIDAY CLUB

The children's holiday club took place last summer. The theme was 'Treasure Seekers' and we had great fun looking at Bible stories through drama, games, craft and watching a DVD. We discovered that real, lasting treasure are the things of God. We also had a visit from an organisation called Animal Encounters and we met a variety of rescued animals including a pig!

I would like to thank Jane Palmer for all her help, encouragement and support over the last couple of years in the various children and family activities that have taken place. And we wish her all the best in her new home.

Diane Stiff

ST. NICHOLAS WEBSITE

The St. Nicholas website is maintained to a professional standard by our webmaster, Chris Browne. Chris created the website using the program Adobe Muse. He has the original files saved locally and uses them to make monthly amendments and update the life website. A number of people have commented on the contemporary look and feel of the website, and its ease of use.

9. CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.