

**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 2017.**

**RECTOR:
THE REVD. MATTHEW HUGHES**

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

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



April 2018

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH

ST. GILES THE ABBOT and ST. NICHOLAS

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens:
Churchwardens (St. Giles)
(Proposed) Sue Simpson (St. Nicholas)

Deputy Wardens Ian Fordyce) St. Giles
Sue Rennie) St. Giles
Sheila Munns) St. Giles
Heather Vogt) St. Giles
Peter Russell) St. Giles
David Clark) St. Nicholas

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 22nd APRIL 2018 - 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

PRAYERS

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 30th April 2017, *(pages 5-8)*
3. **Matters arising**
4. **Reports**
 - (a) Electoral Roll, *(page 9)*
 - (b) Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council, *(pages 9-11)*
 - (c) Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report, *(pages 11-16)*
 - (d) Deputy Churchwardens' Report on the goods and ornaments of the churches in the Parish, *(page 16)*
 - (e) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2017 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas *(pages 16-18)*
5. **Elections**
 - (a) Members for the P.C.C.
St. Giles **FIVE** vacancies
St. Nicholas **ONE** vacancy
 - (b) Deanery Synod Members - **TWO** vacancies - both for St. Giles,
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 2019.**

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Rector, *(pages 19-21)*
Associate Rectors, report *(page 21-22)*
St. Giles Music, *(pages 22-23)*
Parish Sacristan, *(pages 23-24)*
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 24-25)*
St. Giles Bell Ringers, *(page 25-26)*
House Groups, *(page 26)*
St. Giles Flower Arrangers, *(page 26-27)*
Friends of St. Giles, *(page 27)*
St. Giles Website, *(page 28)*
Mothers' Union, *(pages 28-29)*
St. Nicholas Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 29-30)*

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 30th APRIL 2017

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

Vestry Meeting

Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens

Churchwardens:

Both Churchwardens were willing to serve for another year

Andrew Bailey (St. Giles)

Claire Couldridge (St. Nicholas)

Proposed by John Reber

Seconded by Richard Wood

Both Churchwardens were elected unanimously.

The Rector thanked Andrew and Claire for their hard work and support during the year.

Deputy Churchwardens:

Ian Fordyce and 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 Paul Bailey

Seconded by Barbara Wood.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens:

Proposed by Lindsay Barnes

Seconded by Stan Eperon.

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. This was followed by a round of applause.

The proposal that the licensed Readers are allowed to be members of Farnborough PCC was agreed. (It is customary across the Diocese that licensed Readers are allowed by virtue of their office to be full members of their PCC and has to be agreed at the Vestry or AGM Meeting).

Proposed by Heather Argent

Seconded by Ian Fordyce

This was agreed unanimously.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 30TH APRIL 2017 at 4.30 p.m.**

Present: 56 members

1. **OPENING PRAYERS.**

2. **Apologies for absence:** These were received from Clare Allen, David Allen, Jayne Calvert, David Clark, Diane Jacques, Jackie Mason, Sue Simpson, David Stokes, Molly Richardson.

3. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 17th April 2016 were read out, approved and signed by the Rector. Proposed by Julia Hoadley and seconded by Eileen Seed. The Minutes were passed unanimously.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising which did not appear elsewhere on the Agenda.

5. **REPORTS**

(a) **Electoral Roll Report:**

As at 6th April 2017 the figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 331 (St. Giles 273, St. Nicholas 58). 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 good and ornaments of the churches in the Parish:**

There were no comments or questions.

(d) **The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2016 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas; and the Report of the Independent Examiner:**

The accounts had been audited by the Independent Examiner, Ms. Nadine Crawford-Piper FCCA.

The Rector thanked Mr. Bill Ratford who had retired, due to ill health, for his work over many years as the Independent Examiner and expressed, on behalf of the members, our deepest sympathy to Bill and his family at this difficult time. A vote of thanks was proposed by Richard Wood and seconded by Alan Baker. Agree unanimously.

The Rector invited members to ask any questions concerning the Accounts.

St. Nicholas: It was agreed that the valuation of the Tangible Fixed Assets Church House, currently £169,265, should be investigated and whether the figure should be re-assessed periodically. Claire Couldridge, Churchwarden, to action.

St. Giles:

- Cambridge & Counties Bank has been chosen for the best rate of interest and easy access
- Garden of Remembrance Wall: the cost of £20,000 seemed high but the work included the removal, numbering, storage and replacement of each tablet. It was the lowest of the three quotes received and the work had been carried out by a reputable firm. It was pointed out that the work is self-financing from the purchase of tablets.
- Organ Fund: it was noted that the amount in the fund £15,769 for 2016, was the same as the previous year. Should money in future be added from income from weddings and funerals? The P.C.C. to discuss.
- Income from Offerings: Gift Aid and the tax recoverable was less than in 2016. Causes included elderly donors, who give more than younger members, moving into Care Homes, low interest on savings so members unable to increase their giving etc. The Rector pointed out that there are challenging times ahead due to a decrease in income.

The Rector gave his heartfelt thanks for the hard work of 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 Ms. Nadine Crawford-Piper for being Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

A vote of thanks was given to the Finance Teams at St. Giles and St. Nicholas for the invaluable work. Proposed by John Reber and seconded by Valerie Bailey. All were in favour. This was followed by a round of applause.

The Consolidated Accounts together with the Accounts for St. Giles and St. Nicholas were accepted.

Proposed by Julia Hoadley and seconded by Stan Eperon. Agreed unanimously.

5. ELECTIONS

St. Giles PCC: No vacancies.

St. Nicholas PCC: One nomination:

Richard Butterworth.

Proposed by Claire Couldridge

Seconded by Roger Allard

Agree unanimously.

Deanery Synod Representatives:

The Rector explained by the Deanery Synod was a forum for discussion, looking at local and national issues; it had no powers and made no decisions, but it was useful to meet other church members and exchange ideas similar to Churches Together.

St. Giles: After a gap of many years when St. Giles had not been represented, it was with pleasure that Judy Turner-Crowson had volunteered to be the representative. Proposed by Andy Fruin and seconded by Jean Bannister. Agreed unanimously.

St. Nicholas: No nomination had been received.

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.

A vote of thanks was given to the Sidespeople of both churches. Proposed by Eileen Seed and seconded by Paul Bailey.

(b) **Independent Financial Examiner 2017:**

Ms. Nadine Crawford-Piper had expressed her willingness to continue. It was proposed by Ms. Nadine Crawford-Piper 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 at St. Giles: Barbara Campedelli, Angela Righelato, Eddie Roberts and Charlotte Parkhouse. The Rector thanked the members and wished them a "happy retirement". The Rector also thanked the volunteers that keep the Church going.

The Associate Rector thanked the outgoing St. Nicholas PCC members: Clare Allen and Valerie Richardson.

A vote of thanks for all the outgoing PCC members was given. Proposed by Heather Argent and seconded by Rosemary Fordyce. Agreed unanimously.

The Rector thanked Mary Compton, outgoing St. Giles PCC Secretary, for her work for the past two years and presented her with flowers and a gift. A vote of thanks was proposed by Richard Wood and seconded by Julia Hoadley. Agreed unanimously.

The new St. Giles PCC Secretary, technically, should be chosen at the next PCC Meeting but may have to look outside the PCC for someone; the person would then be co-opted onto the PCC. This was agreed.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

The Rector's Report: The Rector spoke about his report (*pages 20-22*).

Toilet for St. Giles Church: The Rector recapped on this subject as the matter had been considered over the past sixteen years. At the APCM held last year it was stated the use of a Natsol biodegradable toilet in the Churchyard seemed viable. The original site under consideration, opposite the War Memorial, subsequently was agreed not to be suitable but instead could be sited behind the first Yew tree, opposite the rosebed. At the St. Giles PCC Meeting on 21st March 2016, it was passed that the scheme be agreed. A Faculty was applied for from the Diocese but the DAC would only give a temporary faculty as they stated a permanent toilet should be built on/in St. Giles.

A retired architect, Graham Jones (non-vatable) produced drawings with a toilet built on the Clergy Vestry with small kitchen, but this would have spoilt the view of the War Memorial and the fields beyond, and a drawing of a toilet built on the North side on the Choir Vestry with outside access. Deep concerns were expressed by some of the PCC members and the Fabric Committee concerning building on the outside of the Church building with sewerage pipes going over graves.

The Rector stated that the way forward may be helped by a recent legacy having been received enabling more options to be available in 2017, i.e. building near the St. Giles Centre or going back to the Diocese and saying we were going ahead with Natsol. One member quoted how Bishop James had expressed his concern of Diocese committees who put buildings before the needs of people.

It would be a momentous decision by the whole congregation, not only the PCC members. A special meeting would be called when required at that time with creative solutions.

Organ at St. Giles Church: The Rector outlined the problems with the pipe organ and he had spoken at length with Martin Cross, who had maintained the pipe organ since 1980, and who had expressed concerns about the conduit and re-wiring that is required at a ball park cost of £50,000-£60,000. It was suggested that additional quotes should be obtained.

The alternative solution would be the purchase of a digital organ. An Organ Committee had visited sites to listen to organs and three organs had been tried out over several weeks in St. Giles, the cost varying from £27,000-£30,000 with low maintenance. Consultation is ongoing at St. Giles taking into account what type is required to support the type of music currently enjoyed, being Anglican Choral. Consideration of future needs in ten to fifteen years has to be taken into account, i.e. would a similar type of organ be sustainable with the considerable time and effort required. A general discussion followed.

The Rector summed up by saying that a wider debate is required backed by expert advice.

The rest of the Additional Reports were noted.

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

Andrew Bailey, St. Giles Churchwarden, reported the infestation of St. Giles by ladybirds and requested advice on how to deal with the problem organically.

Date of APCM 2018: Sunday 22nd April 2018 at 4.30 p.m.

The Rector thanked the members of St. Nicholas for setting up the meeting and providing beverages before the meeting.

9. **CLOSING PRAYERS**

The meeting closed at 5.58 p.m.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

4. REPORTS

ELECTORAL ROLL Report (a)

As at 6th April 2018 the figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 338 (St. Giles - 276, St. Nicholas - 62). 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 2017 - 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 2017 until the date that this report was approved by the PCC were:-

Ex-Officio:

<u>Rector</u>	The Revd. Matthew Hughes	Chairman	
<u>Associate Rector</u>	The Revd. Stephen Broadie		
<u>Assistant Priest</u>	The Revd. Bill Mullenger		
<u>Readers</u>	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 2018 until APCM 2018 until APCM 2019	St. Giles St. Giles St. Nicholas
<u>Deanery Synod Rep.</u>	Mrs J Turner-Crowson	until APCM 2020	

Elected:

<u>Hon. Secretary</u>	Mrs Linda Montgomery	(co-opted 07/2017)	
<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mr. Roger Allard		St. Nicholas
<u>Gift Aid Secretary</u>	Ms. Carol Fryer		

<u>Members</u>	Miss Judith Haines	until ACPM 2018	St. Giles
	Miss Julia Hoadley	until ACPM 2018	St. Giles
	Mr. Antony Harding	until ACPM 2018	St. Giles
	Mrs. Adèle Cooke	until ACPM 2018	St. Giles
	Mrs M Compton	until ACPM 2018	St Giles
	Ms. Sara Phillips	until ACPM 2019	St. Giles
	Mrs. Elizabeth Harriss-Orr	until ACPM 2019	St. Giles
	Ms Alison Lovelock	(co-opted 07/2017)	
	Ms Michelle Felstead	until APCM 2018	St. Nicholas
	Mrs. Rosemary Fordyce	until APCM 2019	St. Nicholas
	Mrs. Sue Simpson	until APCM 2019	St. Nicholas
	Mr Richard Butterworth	until ACPM 2020	St Nicholas

The full PCC met twice during the year with an average attendance of 76 per cent. In addition the members representing St. Giles met six times (with an average attendance of 66 per cent) and those representing St. Nicholas met six times (average attendance 89 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 2017.

The usual Sunday attendance at services in 2017 was 146 adults and 14 children at St. Giles, and at St Nicholas 35 adults and 15 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 2017 the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

26	Baptisms
11	Weddings
34	Funeral services held in church followed by burial in the churchyard or Cremation
22	Funeral services held at a crematorium
50	Burials of ashes.

RECTOR'S REPORT AND REVIEW OF THE YEAR

This is a shortened version of my fuller report which is in the Additional Reports at the back. This past year has been another and eventful year in the life of our Parish with its fair share of challenges and opportunities as is customary in Farnborough. It is great to see Stephen and his family happily ensconced at St. Nicholas and doing a great job and I remain enormously grateful to the numerous volunteers in both churches that give so much that our common life may be sustained and flourish. It would be hazardous for me to start naming lots of individuals but a huge thank you to Claire and Andrew our outgoing Church Wardens, my colleagues in our Ministry Team, to Paul our Treasurer and to Irene Dancer who has done a huge amount of work on our Child Protection policies.* I am delighted that we have managed to raise the required money for the refurbishment on the organ which I know through people's generosity is a much valued part of our Church's life.

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 £414,649 (2016: £314,975) and aggregated resources used were £304,299 (2016: £314,629). Net incoming resources amounted to £110,350 (2016: £346). St Giles recorded net incoming resources of £96,327 (2016: £(2,361)) and St. Nicholas recorded net incoming resources of £14,024 (2016: £2,707).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (less fixed assets) which equates approximately to six months unrestricted expenditure. This was achieved at 31st December 2017.

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS Report (c)

ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD REPORT

This is the fourth (and last) report that I have written as the Churchwarden of St. Giles the Abbott Farnborough, having been in the post now for four years as at the end of March 2018.

This year there has been a fair amount of work on and around St. Giles compared to previous years. 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 War Memorial, which was professionally cleaned and some repair work done to the cross. The results speak for themselves. We also added an extra plaque onto the memorial in 2017 remembering Foster Raine, a local man with no known memorial in the UK. It was dedicated by his brother and family in a very moving service.

Internally we replaced the old boiler in November, which was increasingly becoming difficult to maintain due to its age and the lack of spare parts. The new boiler is also a better size for a building like St. Giles, and so should hopefully bring down our fuel bills and running costs.

We are continuing to work through our ongoing refurbishment programme.

An interesting 'addition' to St. Giles was a house! The parish was left a property in Wentworth Close in a parishioner's will. The plan is to rent it out as a source of income to support the work of St. Giles across the parish.

Musically, we have again seen a lot of change over the last year with the Choir. We were joined by Paul Burnett as the Organist and Choirmaster for the Senior Choir before Christmas 2016, but things did not work out and he left during 2017. Since then Clive Brearley has once again been holding the fort, covering both the Junior and Senior choirs. We have also been running a monthly Music Group over the course of 2017, encouraging musical talent from across the wider congregation.

Recently we have also been joined by Ralph Barlow, and it's good to have him with us. Despite all these 'ups and downs' the choir has produced outstanding music to their usual high standard over the year at Good Friday, Christmas and the Carol Services, as well as the weekly services, to the immense appreciation of our congregation.

During 2017 we started the process of deciding what to do with the existing organ at St. Giles. After 'trailing' a number of modern electronic organs the consensus of opinion was that the only real replacement was another 'pipe organ'. Fund raising has started apace, and the Organ Appeal is going well – but keep up the effort! The end result will be well worth all the work.

We have had a good year socially, with a number of events held during 2017. St. Giles continues to offer a well organised range of social events, and I am always 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 the logistical effort that 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 parish to get together. We also had the equally successful Harvest Supper at St. Nicolas, with the hall packed to capacity.

I'd must also mention the parish trip down to Broadstairs in the summer. This year we had a good crowd of parishioners of all ages, who all had a great time by the seaside. Another social event in the St. Giles calendar that I'd like to mention at this point are the Film Evenings held monthly in the St. Giles Centre. They are a good evening out where you can watch a film and socialise. One of these days I hope to get the original 'Italian Job' or 'Star Wars IV' onto the timetable.

The Parish Magazine also continues to be a success under our Editor Eddie Roberts, with many interesting and thought provoking articles. He is ably supported by a host of 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. They put a good show of ringing for the major services, which I believe enhances the presence of St. Giles in the wider. For me it reinforces that traditional older image of the village church with bell ringing in the background – a reassuring anchor in an ever changing world!

The Flower team continues to grow with new members and flower arranging workshops. The end results continue to delight our congregation with their outstanding flower displays.

During the year we had a Fire Assessment of St. Giles carried out following Grenfell Tower. This was done by a properly qualified inspector, and a number of recommendations were made. One of these was the provision of fire emergency equipment, including torches and a bell (for catching people's attention). Another recommendation was ensuring that our sides-persons and other church workers are familiarised with the emergency procedures in the church. This included a workshop in October where we went through these procedures. I believe that we should continue to do this at least annually, and during the summer.

Talking about sides-persons, we do need a few more at St. Giles. It's not onerous work, and can be quite fun. If you feel inclined, please contact the Parish Secretary.

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 the separate report.

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 2018.

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 constantly on hand. Another thank you has to be given to our Verger Stephen Gordon, who is always there ready and waiting to open and shut the church at all the odd hours of the week – your efforts are most appreciated.

I would especially like to thank our Finance Team at St. Giles, from the people who collect the money at the end of every Sunday to the Treasurer who keeps the PCC up to date with accurate information on the state of the finances. Their work is invaluable and very much appreciated.

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, and four years in total. 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, each and every one.

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 the late Kath Burles.

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 past four years has been most appreciated.

Andrew T. Bailey
Churchwarden

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

The Churchyard Group: The membership of the Group remains the same as last year i.e. eight members including The Rector and Church Wardens as ex-officio. Since the last Report, the Group have met on six 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, War Memorial, Sound system within the church and one-off items as they occur.

The Tuesday Team: At least some of the members have met every Tuesday at the Churchyard, the exception being Boxing Day which happened to be a Tuesday, and there were a couple of Tuesdays where rain stopped play. Numbers attending vary from a hard core of around 15 to sometimes up to 20. New members have been welcomed, but some others have retired. There is always room for more members and although there is no age limitation it would be nice to have some younger members, say under 75.

For first time readers of these Reports the following couple of paragraphs is a repeat from last year:

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. Some of the many Memorial Benches are now being maintained by the Team despite these being the responsibility of the donor. Churchyard footpaths and boundaries are maintained including replacement of fencing in some areas. And finally but not least of all, clearance of autumn leaves.

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. Also now look out for a newly launched website www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk See separate Report for Parish Website.

The Original Gardens of Remembrance: The PCC approved a Report put up by the Churchyard Group proposing demolition and the rebuilding of dwarf walls, accommodating all the existing plaques and raising the two side walls by 300mm (1' 0") to provide accommodation for a further 116 new one person stone plaques. All documentation i.e. Reports, Specifications, Schedule of Works and Working drawings had been prepared 'in house'. These works were designed to ensure the upkeep and future life of the Gardens for many years. A Contractor has been selected and at the time of preparing this Report approval is awaited from the Diocese of Rochester. It is expected that the work will be completed during this year.

Churchyard Maintenance Contract 2018: This has again been awarded to P.R.O. Landscapes in the sum of £6,700 for 20 visits with additional payments of £63.00 for occasional disposal of waste.

Refurbishment of the War Memorial: Repairs and cleaning of this most significant and treasured monument were completed last year in June and a design is in preparation for the replacement of the dwarf wall in front of the memorial.

Three Memorial Rose Beds: On-going attention to rose bushes and summer bedding plants are carried out by the Tuesday Team.

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: During the course of last year and continuing this year there have been a number of efforts to establish an acceptable solution to the provision of a toilet associated with St. Giles Church. The Churchyard Group are of the opinion that the best option is to concentrate on the need to rebuild St. Giles centre and incorporate an accessible toilet in the design. The PCC have agreed to appoint an Architect to provide a Feasibility Study for the redevelopment of St. Giles Centre. Meanwhile it is understood The Friends of St. Giles have also appointed an Architect to further explore the possibility of providing a toilet at St. Giles.

Change of Name: For some years now there has not been a formal Fabric Group. At the meeting of the Churchyard Group on January 23rd this year it was proposed by Matthew that since a number of matters on the agenda for Churchyard Group meetings are related to the church as well as to the churchyard, and there bring no other persons involved, that the name of the Group be changed to Churchyard and Fabric Group, with Ian Fordyce taking the lead on matters of Fabric. Members present at the meeting agreed to this proposal.

John Tinham
Chairman Churchyard Group

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

St Nicholas has had another busy year with Stephen and the family celebrating their first year with us which seems to have gone very quickly the year has seen some changes in the style of worship which has seen an increase in the number of young families which has seen an increase in the number of young families which is a blessing to see.

In late summer a number of the congregation went down to Burrswood to discuss the future of St Nicholas. It was a very productive day with lots of new ideas coming forth. One which is already up and running is an evening service once a month with different styles of worship, others are in the pipeline. It all ended with a picnic in the ground and an act of worship. An enjoyable day was had by all. And we look forward to seeing the results of our discussion and with God's guidance. The summer also saw another very successful holiday club with increased numbers, thanks to Diane stiff and her team

The autumn saw our usually Autumn Fair which was well attended by the local community and was another successful event raising money for both the local community and St Nicholas This and all that take place at ST Nicholas could not work without everyone in congregation working together as a family and that's what makes St. Nicholas so special.

Christmas was as usually busy, the Christingle being the busiest. But all the services were well attended by members of the community and congregation alike. It's great to see everyone mixing in one big family.

The New Year sees us planning for our 60th anniversary celebration in June which will contain celebration service to which pass clergy and hall hirers as well as our usually congregation will be invite along with other events. Something to look forward to.

By this time our new floor will have been laid, this is due to some flooding earlier in summer from the dishwasher. The blessing being that all the work will be covered by our insurance company and will not cost us anything.

It has been a sad year for us at St Nicholas for we have lost 3 of our older members. Fred, Jeanette and Iris each gave so much to us as a church and they will each be very sadly missed . And with one or two moving away it has been a time of change.

My thanks to everyone on the PCC and in the congregation for their support this year especially David Clark, and also to Stephen for his encouragement. Best wishes to my successor.

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 the Churchyard & Fabric Group, details of their progress during the year are included in a separate report

Personally I would like to congratulate the Churchyard Working Group now exceeding 20 in number on their diligence and weekly Tuesday morning work as they have been able to quickly resolve many problems before they became costly items.

During the year we have experienced minor storm damage to the office felt roof, and tiling to the Clergy Vestry which were promptly rectified.

Also Church boiler was replaced and a new service agreement put in place

Ian Fordyce
St. Giles Deputy Churchwarden

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2017, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST.NICHOLAS

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

In 2017, our total income was £302,253 exceeded total expenditure of £205,926 by £96,327. Our income increased mainly because of three legacies totalling £55,394 and the donations to the organ restoration fund of £21,394. There were also marked increases in churchyard donations and donations to the junior choir fund. It is pleasing to note that general donations have increased following our stewardship campaign. There was also an increase in funeral income. Expenditure mainly decreased because of the costs of the memorial wall built in 2016.

Other noteworthy income items include an increase in parish centre income and income from fundraising events, mainly the summer fair. As always, the PCC continues to explore new income streams and maintain control over expenditure.

We received three legacies last year. Richard Hanchett left £4,000. Dorothy Greenhalgh left £31,934 and Daphne Leach bequeathed £20,000 plus her house at 10 Wentworth Close. The PCC made the decision to retain the house to benefit from the general rise in property prices, which is presently exceeding interest rates. However, the decision was mainly based on providing St Giles with a secure footing in future years when income from other sources might decline. The house is now rented out and net income to St Giles is £16,200 per annum.

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 2017, our Parish Offer was £70,953. Our offer for 2018 is £72,727. We have already have notice that the system will change again for 2019.

There were no major works carried out on the Church, Churchyard or Centre in 2017.

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 always keep expenditure below income.

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. Andrew has now resigned and his replacement is Linda Crisp.

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 and other fund raising events.

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.

Paul Beamiss
Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles

ST. NICHOLAS

The St Nicholas PCC approved a balanced budget for 2017 but as the year progressed it became apparent that we would be in surplus at the year end provided there was no significant unexpected expenditure.

The surplus at the year end amounted to £14024 and the net current assets have increased to £81255, their highest ever level. This provides a valuable reserve should income diminish or the need for major unplanned expenditure occur in future years. In that regard we will no doubt need to replace the felt roof at some point in the future – it has been replaced once in the life of the building in the mid 1980s after some 30 years and this roof has already lasted that time.

2017 was the first full year following the interregnum after the Revd Alison Newman left in October 2015 and this was a contributing factor to the surplus. Giving and donations were up £4000 on budget and we also benefitted from a legacy of £2000. Hall lettings were £3300 over budget, a combination of increased rates and new bookings. On the expenditure side the main variations were Church House repairs and maintenance up £1200, the Church Administrator's salary up £900 as she took on responsibilities for the Hall Lettings during the early part of the year, offset by savings of £1800 on Church Hall repairs and maintenance.

During 2017 the maple flooring to the main hall suffered some considerable damage following an escape of water from the kitchen and the whole floor is scheduled to be replaced in April 2018. We are fortunate in that our insurers have agreed to meet these costs otherwise there would be a 40-50% reduction in our net current assets. The St Nicholas PCC have agreed the 2018 budget with a small deficit but come the year end the net current assets should still be in the region of £80000 provided there is no significant unexpected expenditure.

At the 2017 APCM there was a question raised about the valuations of the fixed assets, namely the Church Hall and Church House. These were quite out of date but the opportunity has been taken to update these in the 2017 accounts with the latest available valuations as explained in note 1c to the St Nicholas accounts.

In conclusion I would like to say a big thank you to Catherine in the St Nicholas Office who does an excellent job with 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 since February also the role of Hall Lettings Manager. We are extremely fortunate that these parts of the financial administration are in such very good hands.

Roger Allard
Hon Treasurer, St Nicholas

5. ELECTIONS

FIVE MEMBERS FOR THE ST. GILES P.C.C.

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

TWO DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES, both for ST. GILES

6. APPOINTMENTS

SIDESPERSONS -

St. Giles:

Mrs. R. Arney, Miss S. Attwood, Mr. P. Barnes, Mrs. L. Barnes, Mr. U. 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. V. Blinks, Miss I. Broadie, Mrs. P. Butcher, Mr. D. Clark, Mrs. P. Clark, Mrs. B. Couldridge, Mr. D. Couldridge, Mrs. S. Dixey, Mrs. M. Felstead, Mrs. C. Gibbons, Mrs. Anne Howlett, Mrs. L. Matthews, Mrs. S. Rennie, Mrs. S. Simpson.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Acting under delegated powers (A.G.M. 2001) The P.C.C. appointed Mr. Christopher Jones, F.C.C.A., Baxter and Co. as independent examiner for the 2017 accounts.

The PCC recommends Mr. Jones's appointment for the year 2018 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

This year has been another busy year with plenty of challenges, successes and opportunities along the way. Our purpose remains the proclaiming and building up of God's kingdom. Below is an outline of how we have attempted to fulfil this. As Trustees the PCC have acted in compliance with the aims and objectives of our 'Charity'.

Although the structure of the Church's year remains the same and predictable, it is always different, as the life of the Holy Spirit within each of us and collectively finds fresh expression and encounter. As always ministry is a collaborative effort and the recent Volunteers Tea highlighted the sheer volume of people involved in the day to day running of our Church and just what is required to allow St. Giles, and indeed St. Nicholas, to function.

Parochial Ministry moves us between the past, the present and the future. The past reminds us of our roots and our connectedness to what we have inherited both in terms of our Church building and the ministry that was faithfully offered here in years past. Reading through parish archives can be a humbling experience as one learns of all the hard work that our predecessors undertook and the challenges that they faced, (many of which are almost exactly the same as the ones today). Part of our work is to honour and maintain this heritage, both in terms of our responsibilities to our building and in terms of the people and traditions.

This present time feels like one of transition and adaptation, as we continue to find ways to not only maintain the life of our Church, but to spread the message of God's love and the saving death of Jesus to a busy and, at times, indifferent world. If I could find one word that sums up the challenge for the church today, then it would be 'relevance.' As long as what our Church, and indeed any church does and communicates is relevant and accessible to people, then I believe that the church will always play an important part in peoples lives, rather than just becoming the preserve of a dwindling number of the initiated. Jesus once commended those who were able to access and work with both the old and the new and this sounds like the kind of balancing act that we live with at St. Giles.

In terms of the future, although it is impossible to predict, the trends point to some very challenging times ahead for the Church of England, with some commentators

suggesting that in many parishes the church is just one generation away from extinction. St. Giles is not, and will not be, immune from these challenges. The problems are usually fourfold, ageing congregations, declining volunteers, receding finances and dilapidated buildings create a perfect storm, which becomes overwhelming for the few faithful souls who still attend. The churches response to this is to cut back on the clergy and combine churches into Multi Parish Benefices with one full time priest to cover it all. A response which sadly precipitates more decline. Fortunately we are not in such extremis at St Giles, but we must not be complacent. We are at the moment trying to put into place measures and strategies which will help to place St. Giles on strong foundations for these hard times ahead, so it can in the long term continue its ministry as a single parish benefice with two churches and two clergy. I have listed them below. (Not in any order of priority).

- The investment in our music, which will continue to be an attraction to our public worship
- The maintenance of our building to a high standard and the consistent engagement of fabric and churchyard issues.
- The spiritual development of our Church and our engagement with the wider community and society
- The careful and thorough pastoral care of our church members and others in our community
- The sustaining of our good reputation in the wider community
- The nurturing of our children and family work
- Careful use of our financial resources, such as the letting out of our property to offset the decline in fee income and to build reserves where possible for the future
- The exploration of the best use of our resources, including the development of the Centre site and the provision of toilets
- The ongoing renewal and engagement with our volunteer teams.

Churches never consciously decide to decline, it just happens, as churches simply continue to do what they always do, yet with ever diminishing returns. When we think of St. Giles let us give thanks and honour what has been, let us remain steadfast and faithful in proclaiming the message of our faith in relevant and accessible ways in the present, and let us do all we can to engage intelligently and resourcefully with the difficulties and challenges that we, and those who are going to come after us, will almost certainly face.

Toilet Provision at St. Giles

What would an AGM report or meeting be without a mention of this issue? With some increase in resources at St. Giles due to a legacy and the support of the Friends we are probably in a better position than ever before to realistically tackle this issue. The debate is not around whether we need toilets, but the possible siting of them and what might be viable and desirable. There will ultimately be a debate and decisions over this and currently the PCC are exploring all options, with a view to laying before the church, the community and numerous authoritative bodies the different choices. I am grateful to The Friends who are contributing to this feasibility study.

Final thoughts

It remains an honour to be Rector of St. Giles and over the years of my incumbency I continue to grow in love and admiration for all of you, that is why it feels particularly difficult when we lose long standing members of our Church and this year has been no exception. Faith in Christ however does bring its own rewards one of which is a

shared hope and vision of the life that is yet to come and our inheritance in it. Being sustained in this hope does colour these sad partings with the love of Christ.

This year marks the final term in office of Andrew Bailey and Claire Couldridge as our Church Wardens. Both of them have worked so hard for our parish and on behalf of all of us. I want to acknowledge their service and to thank them most sincerely for all they have done. It has been a joy to work with Andrew who has been a tremendous support to me and many others, his quiet, methodical, unflappable temperament and approach have been a blessing to us all. His father, Peter (who was also a Churchwarden), would have been very proud of him and what he has done as Churchwarden is an honour to his memory and to us all.

Thank you also to all our team leaders who have elected to take responsibility for different parts of our Church's life and thank you to all the people who share the work with them. I am particularly grateful to Paul our Treasurer who does so much in this very important and most legislated area of our common life.

Jesus ministry was marked by his love, compassion, healing, teaching and sacrifice as we are now his body on earth this is what we are called to live and express, this life of Christ remains the bench mark of our common life, whether in prayer, in action, in worship, and in membership.

Matthew Hughes, Rector

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

It is now over two years since I first accepted the post of Associate Rector at St Nicholas, and by the end of 2017 I felt I had experienced this church in all its different seasons. The year began well with a new Alpha course which we held at Church House. 8 participants completed the course, which included a 'Holy Spirit away day' at HTB Onslow Square, a church in west London. We were able to finish the course with great celebrations, as three of the participants asked to be baptised. At the end of April 2017 we held a joyful baptism service and welcomed many guests as these three made a public commitment to Christ in front of their friends and family.

As a church, we went away to Burrswood at the beginning of September to look at the theme of vision. This day was led by Revd. Rob Dillingham, who works in the diocese of Chichester helping churches look at mission and vision. As well as worship, teaching and discussion we also enjoyed good weather and a picnic outdoors. The children's work was ably led by friends from local Baptist churches. During the course of this day we established a new vision statement for St Nicholas church, which is 'transforming our community through the presence of Christ'. In many ways this statement simply describes what we believe is already happening here. So many good things take place at St Nicholas week in and week out, including lunch club, parent and toddler group, 'Just Babies', Mothers' Union, house groups, Messy Church, activity mornings, holiday clubs, 'Light and Bright', kids club, Youth Alpha, to name just a few!

However, as well as the causes for celebration, 2017 was also a hard year in some ways. We lost some very significant members of our congregation, and as we approach the 60th anniversary of this church we acknowledge our debt to the generations who have gone before us, faithfully witnessing to Christ in this community since 1958.

Before I came to Orpington I felt God reminding me that I was just a small piece in a big puzzle, and that ultimately he held all the pieces. With that in mind, I must express my heartfelt thanks to the whole team at St Nicholas who make everything we do possible. I genuinely feel that ours is a church where everyone plays their part,

from making coffees to visiting the housebound, to helping with worship or setting up the church. Whatever it may be, so many people help out that it almost seems unfair to single out individuals. However, I would like to express particular thanks to Claire Couldridge, who served faithfully as a warden through the interregnum and in my first couple of years here. She has been an invaluable source of support and wisdom, and is probably quite relieved to be stepping down as a warden at this APCM! I must also thank the different lay ministers at St Nicholas, including Diane Stiff who is both a pastoral assistant and our very capable children's and families worker, serving tirelessly week in and week out to help children grow in their faith. Thank you also to Ian Gillies as Reader for his preaching and leading, and to Rosemary Fordyce our Pastoral Assistant. I am also very grateful to David Clark who has been acting as deputy warden, and for his help also in leading and preaching. Thank you to Jayne Calvert, our Director of Music, and to all who help with the music. I would also like to thank Catherine Roffey for all she does as church administrator and now also as lettings manager, building on the excellent work done in previous years by Ian Fordyce. My prayer with Catherine is that Charlton Athletic will reach the play-offs this year. Thank you also to Roger Allard, our treasurer, who has overseen an increase in church income over the past year under his wise and steady management. Thank you also to everyone else who helps in so many ways in the day to day life of our church. It is a huge privilege to serve this community which has made our family feel so welcome ever since we arrived here. We pray God will continue to bless our church in 2018.

Stephen Broadie, Assoc. Rector

ST. GILES MUSIC

The last year has generally been positive for music at St. Giles, although Paul Burnett's decision to move on has left us with a gap to fill that has not proved easy. Both choirs have seen an increase in membership and I shall always remember the Service of nine Lessons and Carols with some 40 bodies crammed into the chancel.

The Junior Choir now has 18 members. We have decided that everyone is welcome to stay until they reach school leaving age, although they are more than welcome to join the Senior Choir or to sing with them on occasions. I believe that this policy has been of great benefit: we have members who have been there for a long time and have really good singing capability, can sight sing and are musicians in their own right. They would be a great asset to any choir of mixed ages and abilities as those who have less experience or ability benefit greatly from singing with those who have more. What I find exciting for the future is that I can see younger members who might not make a big sound at present but who have good musicality and will possibly be excellent singers in future years. All this means that the Junior Choir is now able to sing music that is written in several parts. Choirs always need challenges - if they are not given things to sing that are a bit out of their comfort zone things quickly stagnate. So the challenge for *me* in the coming year is to give *them* challenges, in the music they sing and in musical development.

We try to make Junior Choir membership something that both the members and their families can commit to. This means that rehearsal time is limited - on average once every two weeks for one hour. I am very fortunate to have Ann Vincent to help me by taking new members out of the choir practice to do some ground work which saves much valuable time and I am intending to work on other ideas to do more with the time that can be available.

The Senior Choir continues to flourish. The present aim is to continue Paul Burnett's work to increase the repertoire of anthems and service settings. In the past there has been a tendency to sing these mainly on feast days etc. but many

choirs of the standard that we see at St. Giles would normally sing at least one anthem every week. Maintaining a repertoire of anthems is a bit like the old plate spinning act: pieces of music need a regular airing, if they do not have it they are soon forgotten, and much work on learning and interpretation has to be done all over again. We have taken steps to ensure that in the future this does not happen. Many of the congregation have indicated their appreciation which makes it all worthwhile. We also ensure that an anthem is sung at the 10.00 service on the 4th Sunday in the month which the Senior Choir attends, which means that both choirs regularly sing something together.

Times have changed and we are giving thought to how we adapt. In the past, many choir members have committed to attending two or even three services on a Sunday and some still do. However, the majority now cannot turn out at both ends of the day and we have to find ways to accommodate this - perhaps, we need a larger choir so that we can have people turning out on a rota basis. I can see that, certainly in the medium-term future, it will be difficult to find tenors and basses and we are actively looking for ideas on how we might have to fill the gap. To new members the BCP offices of Mattins and Evensong along with Anglican chant and traditional hymns are sometimes almost like learning a foreign language as so many parishes hardly ever use this format. We help with induction sessions and instruction sheets and existing members are aware that help sometimes needs to be given.

The Let's Sing Group has continued to meet although we have unfortunately had to miss a couple of months due to my absence. Numbers have stayed fairly constant. What we need is more experienced singers to join us - as with the all amateur choirs, people with little or no experience of singing really benefit from having people with experience singing with them. We also need more men to join in. The aim is to put on some kind of a concert at some time in the not too distant future: again, even though singers always need something to work towards.

The Organ appeal has gone extremely well and it is not far to go to reaching the target. It is encouraging to realise that so many parishioners are interested in seeing the instrument survive. When it comes to organs, St. Giles is probably as difficult a place as one could find for getting things right - the building is not an easy one for music and we have very varied demands to make on a musical instrument. In the past, it seems that work done to improve things has been highly thought of at the time (it even hit the musical press in 1963), only to be rubbished a few years later. Actually, it seems to me that every time work has been done to the organ it has been carefully considered and the Parish has done the very best that it can so I am aware that we have a responsibility to carry on in this vein and continue to do the best that can be achieved given the resources available..

We must extend our grateful thanks to Ralph Barlow, who has looked after things during my absence, taking over at less than a day's notice. I am not quite sure what we would have done if he and his family had not moved into the area at exactly the right time.

Clive Brearley
Organist and JuniorChoirmaster

PARISH SACRISTAN

I can't help thinking that the title of 'Parish Sacristan' is a bit of a misnomer, as it implies that I am responsible for the whole parish. This is not so as I am only responsible for St. Giles, and not St. Nicholas who I am sure manage quite well without my help. However, that is the title bestowed upon me and one which I regard as a privilege to accept.

After a busy first three years as Parish Sacristan, I am pleased to say that the past year has been more quiet now that various assignments have been fulfilled, including the replacement of altar frontal sets and linens, and acquiring new robes for the Serving team.

Another important part of my role is purchasing church supplies which also entails being aware of how much things cost. Inevitably prices have risen in recent years and will continue to do so, but there are ways in which I am able to keep costs down. When I first took on this role four years ago, one of the first things I purchased was a paschal candle for Easter. At the time I was unsure what size candle to buy. Subsequently I purchased one that was so big it has lasted several years, which is just as well as it was quite expensive. This will be the fourth Easter that we will be using the same paschal candle, and all I have had to do is buy a new transfer each year with the current year date on it and new wax pins to put on the candle. The Rector, Matthew, has been somewhat impressed by my money-saving abilities on this!

One area I have not been able to continue saving costs is on communion wine. A few years ago I was introduced to a British Ruby Fortified Wine which could be purchased from Tesco's at about £5.50 per bottle, roughly half the price of 'proper' communion wine. We were able to make use of these savings for about 2 or 3 years. However, last year I discovered that Tesco's no longer sell it, so I have had to revert to buying 'proper' communion wine from our church suppliers. I try to keep costs down by buying 12 bottles at a time, enough for 6 months. I also try to limit the number of orders I place with suppliers to about two or three a year. By bulk buying, as well as saving me time, I can order goods to a total value high enough to qualify for free delivery on most occasions, thus helping to keep overall expenditure down.

I would like to end by thanking everyone involved with the Serving team at St. Giles for all their continued hard work and dedication to their roles, whether as a Server/Chalice Assistant or organising the rotas, and also to those who assist with the laundering of the altar linens.

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. This year we have welcomed a number of new families to church.

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.

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. The past year has seen us working on a range of topics, including learning about Moses, thinking about The Fruits of the Spirit, Celebrations and the annual themes around the church year.

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.

Before the summer break last July, 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. Sunday school and the Junior Choir each sang a song which greatly added to the occasion.

During the summer, myself and some of our children attended the Holiday Club held in St Nicholas Church hall. This is a week of craft, song and Christian learning.

In December, five young people attended Confirmation classes and 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.

Christmas Eve services for children continue to be very well attended, attracting families from the local area. Our Sunday School Nativity, 'God Loves us more than.....' was enjoyed by all. The younger children took on the acting and singing 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.

The annual Big Breakfast event, where children from a number of local churches meet to enjoy a morning of activity and praise has just taken place. Two of our children and myself attended. We took part in craft activities and worship, all after a big breakfast was served and enjoyed. It would be good to see more children take part in this event and so I will continue to advertise opportunities to meet with other Christians outside of our own church.

At the time of writing, a Youth Lent Group is meeting fortnightly to take part in Matthew's Lent course.

My thanks go to everyone who supports and participates in working with families and children at our church. The time you give and the talents you offer are greatly appreciated.

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 but since our ringers AGM on 14th January 2018 we've resolved to hold practices at St Giles on first Sunday afternoons at 4.45pm and we held the first of these in March.

The bells have also been rung for special church and national occasions (such as Passchendale commemoration) as well as weddings and funerals. For the Passchendale Service last year we rang the heavy Gillett & Johnston bell which was very moving – it's the memorial bell to the fallen of the Parish.

Forty five quarter peals were rung in 2017, many on Tuesday mornings, an increase on the 32 in previous year and seven peals were rung last year (Three peals in 2016).

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 this has become increasingly rare and one Sunday earlier this year we had 12 ringers turn up to ring the six bells! I'm pleased to say that we've managed to recruit two new ringers who are now up to Service Ringing standard (One encouragingly is a youngster) and teaching/training sessions are generally on Wednesday afternoons at 3.30pm. The bells are easy and rewarding to ring and our youngest ringer is seven years old!

Whilst we are pleased that the clock now seems to be working reliably again, the hour chime which strikes on a separate bell from the six ringing bells has been unreliable. 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 to 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 still get favourable comments from passing dog walkers!

Nick Wilkins

HOUSE GROUPS

Thanks to our faithful leaders and hosts, there are many thriving house groups continuing to meet regularly across the parish.

This Lent they are all studying a 5 session course written by Matthew entitled 'A Psychology of Love', based on 1 Corinthians 13, together with an additional forty people who have signed up to join in too. I would particularly like to thank Rev Diana Coutts-Pauling and her husband Bill Pauling for hosting and leading an extra group once more and to Summerlands sheltered housing for accommodating a group there again too.

Heather Argent
House Group co-ordinator

ST. GILES FLOWER ARRANGERS

Summary

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 – Sadly 2017 has shown a drop in our membership, due mainly to retirements and illnesses, and although we advertise our group well numbers have not yet increased sufficiently.

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. During March we held a “Triangle Design Workshop” and during October a “Step-by-step Workshop” which proved extremely popular and with good results. More workshops are being organised for this year.

Current Issues

Memberships – Due mainly to retirements and illnesses, our membership has dropped despite a concerted effort during 2017 to recruit more members. We continue to advertise our group through our regular workshops and distributing leaflets to the congregation and other groups throughout St Giles church.

Storage – The allocated storage cupboards in the church vestry continue to prove their worth. It has made our working environment so much easier and helps to keep everything tidy and orderly.

Funding – This continues to be an issue and we have to rely on the generosity of the congregation and donations. We have been employing different ideas to try and raise money.

1) With the help from the Friends of St Giles a calendar for 2018, was made up from photographs of our past displays.

2) Placing small arrangements on the harvest supper table in 2017, whereby people could give a donation and take one home.

Although careful research is made to find the best prices and stretch our budget, special appeals are still frequently needed particularly when there is a festival. We would like to thank the PCC for their support in this connection.

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 of St. Giles are very fortunate to have a loyal group of supporters. Our main aim is to support the needs of the Church building.

The Friends, fully and unanimously supported by joint PCC, offered to commission and pay for a feasibility study into providing a toilet in the Church. To that end we have met with the Architect, Paul Sharrock of Thomas Ford and Partners, and we await his ideas and suggestions.

Julia Hoadley

ST. GILES WEBSITE

This year has seen a significant change to the St. Giles website. In November the section devoted to Farnborough Village History was removed, creating the opportunity to reorganise the menu structure. There is now more prominence given to pages highlighting the various ways that people can join in with activities within the church, building on the very successful Cream Tea for Volunteers held in September. Following this change the Church website now has about 100 pages.

A second website was then launched during January 2018, devoted to Farnborough Village History. This contains expanded versions of the pages removed from the St. Giles site, also some new material. The website already has about 45 pages - further contributions will be most welcome.

The two websites can be found at these addresses, with links between the two on the front pages.

www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk / www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk

It is early days for the new Village site so more information will be given about usage next year, but the main St Giles site had over 21,500 unique visitors during the year with some 100,000 pages downloaded. These are 21% and 4% up on 2016 respectively. The busiest month was April, with over 260 visits per day over the month. The busiest day was Christmas Eve, with nearly 700 pages downloaded by 375 unique visitors (180 megabytes).

A particular benefit of the website is being able to display larger photo sets following parish events than is possible in other media. Typically photo sets are retained on the website for about nine months before removal. I am most grateful to those who send in photos following parish events.

Running costs are about £50 per annum for the domain name and web space. The website is maintained and developed 'in-house'. An advantage of this, in addition to the considerable cost saving, 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 specific website development experience.

Nick Reynolds

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.

For more than 60 years there have been members of the Mothers' Union in the parish of St Giles, Farnborough. There are more than 20 members at present, who all attend services at St Giles and St Nicholas, and are involved in the regular Sunday morning and week day parish activities.

MU supports 'Make a Mother's day' campaign every year. Last year we collected over £250, which supported various UK & international MU projects, especially parenting classes and sessions in literacy and numeracy.

Proceeds of over £400 from last year's charity lunch was given to the General Fund (directed to areas of greatest need). This year's overseas lunch is on Tuesday 12th June 2018 at St. Nicholas, 12:00 – 2:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Several members of Farnborough Mothers' Union & others are still knitting colourful squares, which are then sewn up into blankets. Last year they were directed specifically to Haiti in response to their local needs. Some blankets also go to UK charities.

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 in the UK & 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. 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.

In the past year we have looked at the resurrection appearances of Jesus; Found out about the Kings David and Solomon; and did a series on the theme of praise during which we wrote our own psalm which we sang in a Sunday service. 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. At the moment numbers are low so please spread the news about Just Babies to any mothers you know with young babies.

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. Stories we have looked at this past year include ones about hidden treasure, the ten bridesmaids, a stairway to heaven and families.

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, and crafts.

HOLIDAY CLUB

The children's holiday club took place last summer. The theme was 'Trail Trekkers' and we had great fun looking at Bible stories through drama, games, craft and watching a DVD. We looked at the life of Jesus and learnt how to continue following him on our journeys of faith. The Community Police came and visited us. The children also learnt the recovery position and how to do bandaging with a visiting first aider. We had a family lunch on the Friday and the week finished with a holiday club service on the Sunday.

I would like to thank all who help with the children and family activities at St Nicholas.

Diane Stiff

Family and Children's worker St. Nicholas

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.