

**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 2018.**

**RECTOR:
THE REVD. MATTHEW HUGHES**

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

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



April 2019

PARISH OF FARNBOROUGH

ST. GILES THE ABBOT and ST. NICHOLAS

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens:
Churchwardens Philip Lovelock (St. Giles)
Sue Simpson (St. Nicholas)
Deputy Wardens Peter Russell) St. Giles - 8.00 a.m.
Sue Rennie) St. Giles - 10.00 a.m.
Heather Vogt) St. Giles - 11.15 a.m.
Andrew Bailey) St. Giles - 6.30 p.m.
Sheila Munns) St. Giles - Thursdays 10.00 a.m.
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 28th APRIL 2019 - 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: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-17, 26-31

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

PRAYERS

In a moment of silence let us give thanks to God for Ian Fordyce and for all he undertook in the service of St. Nicholas and St. Giles.

Priest: Sovereign God, Lord of past, present and future, Lord of all, we come together, as we have so often come across the years, to thank and praise you.

We come rejoicing that, in all the uncertainties of life, we find in you one who is unchanging, a rock on which we can base our lives, a shield to guide our footsteps, and a love that fills our hearts with joy. You have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

All: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Priest: We come to praise you for all the ways you have blessed us, as individuals and as a church - for the times of fellowship we have shared, the faith that has been nurtured, the support given and received, and the friendships established. You have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

All: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Priest: We praise you for the experiences we have gone through together - the hopes realised, disappointments overcome, lessons learned, service offered. You have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

All: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Priest: Forgive us that we are slow sometimes to remember your goodness, and swift to forget your many blessings. We lose sight of the resources you put at our disposal, dwelling on our fears rather than your strength, our problems rather than your promises, our lives rather than your kingdom. We become wrapped up in what is unimportant, putting our trust in what finally cannot satisfy, and our energy into what ultimately is secondary to our calling. Our love, faith and commitment ebb and flow as each day passes, yet still you have been true to us, rich in mercy and grace. You have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

All: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Priest: Receive our thanks that you are so different from us - faithful, constant, unchanging, always willing to show mercy, forever reaching out in love. Receive our praise that you have been able to work through our lives, despite as well as because of us. You have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

All: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Priest: Sovereign God, go with us now in the years ahead. Help us to recognise that, though all else may fail, you will not, and may that knowledge shape our life together. Help us to build on all that has gone before, so that we may follow you more faithfully, love you more truly, and see more clearly what you would have us do. You have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

All: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Priest: To you be praise and glory, now and for evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 22nd April 2018, *(pages 5-8)*
3. **Matters arising**
4. **Reports**
 - (a) Electoral Roll, *(page 8)*
 - (b) Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council, *(pages 9-11)*
 - (c) Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report, *(pages 11-14)*
 - (d) Deputy Churchwardens' Report on the goods and ornaments of the churches in the Parish, *(page 15)*
 - (e) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2018 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas *(pages 15-17)*
5. **Safeguarding**
6. **Elections**
 - (a) Members for the P.C.C.
St. Giles **TWO** vacancies
St. Nicholas **ONE** vacancy
 - (b) Deanery Synod Members - **TWO** vacancies - both for St. Giles,
7. **Appointments**
 - (a) Sidespeople
 - (b) Independent Financial Examiner.
8. Goodbyes and Thank-you's.
9. **Any other business and date of next A.G.M. April 2020.**

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Rector, *(pages 18-20)*
Associate Rector, *(pages 20-21)*
St. Giles Music:
Clive Brearley - Organist/Junior Choirmaster, *(pages 21-22)*
Ralph Barlow - Organist/Adult Choirmaster, *(pages 23)*
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 24-25)*
St. Giles Bell Ringers, *(pages 25-26)*
St. Giles Flower Arrangers, *(pages 26-27)*
St. Nicholas Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 27-28)*
House Groups, *(page 28)*
St. Giles Website, *(pages 28-29)*
Friends of St. Giles, *(page 29)*
Parish Magazine, *(page 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 22nd APRIL 2018

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

Vestry Meeting

Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens

The Rector explained that due to the onerous task of being a Churchwarden, a plan had been devised to spread the workload. There would be one legal Churchwarden at each of the churches but these would be supported by one deputy at St. Nicholas and five deputies at St. Giles; one representative from each of the five services.

Churchwardens:

Philip Lovelock (St. Giles)

Sue Simpson (St. Nicholas)

Philip to be supported by: Peter Russell (8.00 a.m.), Ian Fordyce (10.00 a.m.), Heather Vogt (11.15 a.m.), Susan Rennie (6.30 p.m.) and Sheila Munns (Thursday). Sue Simpson would be assisted by Claire Couldridge.

Ian Fordyce would also continue to oversee the running of the St. Giles Centre.

Proposed by Andrew Bailey

Seconded by Andrew Fruin.

The Rector expressed a huge thanks to Andrew Bailey for all his hard work over many years both as Deputy Churchwarden and the Churchwarden. The Rector described working with Andrew as a joy and privilege, and valued his very quiet, unassuming manner. The Rector also thanked Eileen Seed for her great support for 16–17 years. Both were presented with a voucher as a thank you for all they had done.

The Associate Rector expressed a huge thank you to Claire Couldridge for all her hard work as Churchwarden at St. Nicholas. He also expressed a huge thank you to David Clark for all he had done in his role as Deputy Warden. He explained that there had been a presentation for them both at St. Nicholas earlier that day.

The Rector raised a vote of thanks to those retiring as Churchwardens and thanked them for all their hard work.

Proposed by Andrew Fruin

Seconded by Paul Bailey.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING **SUNDAY 22nd APRIL 2018 at 4.30 p.m.**

PRESENT: 60 members

1. **Opening prayers.**

2. **Apologies for absence:** These were received from Mary Compton, Joyce Rackham, John Tinham, Jessie Tinham, Alison Reynolds and Roy Jones.

3. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 22nd April 2018 were read out, approved and signed by the Rector. Proposed by Molly Richardson and seconded by Heather Argent.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Addition that following last year's meeting Sue Simpson and Michelle Felstead, from St. Nicholas, agreed to attend the Deanery Synod meetings.

5. **REPORTS**

(a) **Electoral Roll Report:**

It was reported that there were 332 on the Electoral Roll as of 31.12.17. 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:**

A point was raised on the Churchyard Group's Report, pages 14–15 and in particular on the paragraph headed Proposed Toilet.

It was felt that reports to the APCM should be a factual account of what the reporting group has done in the year so there is an issue with the sentence, "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," as not being appropriate for inclusion in an annual report.

Furthermore this opinion is contrary to that of the Diocesan Advisory Committee who are quoted at the bottom of page 7 as stating a permanent toilet should be built on/in St Giles and is also expressed without waiting to hear what the architect appointed by the Friends has to say about what might be possible.

It was also felt, the way the next two sentences are written, "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" implies that the PCC and the Friends of St. Giles are not exactly seeing 'eye to eye', which is clearly and demonstrably not the case.

In August last year the Chairman of the Friends of St Giles wrote to the Rector saying, " ..The Friends of St. Giles are prepared to commission and fully fund .. a feasibility study .. with the brief to find a way if at all possible to install a toilet in the church. Should the study find that it is possible then the Friends would be prepared to fund a substantial amount of the cost from our available funds," and the letter was referred to the meeting of the United PCC on 18 September. On introducing the item at the meeting the Rector said that this was a most generous offer by the Friends and after discussion the Friends' offer was accepted unanimously by the United PCC. It was felt that this did not sound like two parties not seeing 'eye to eye' and this needs to be recorded clearly.

The Rector explained that people do have very differing views and it was important to keep opinions out of annual reports. He reiterated that building a toilet at St. Giles was still very much part of the feasibility study and he explained that he would discuss the issue with the Churchyard Group.

(d) **The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2017 including financial statements for St. Giles and St. Nicholas: and the report of the independent examiner:**

There were no comments or questions. The Rector raised a vote of thanks for all the hard work of Paul Beamiss, Richard Allard and Catherine Roffey and their teams.

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

Proposed by Paul Bailey

Seconded by Richard Wood

Agreed unanimously.

6. **ELECTIONS**

Members for the PCC:

St. Giles five vacancies: Those who have been nominated are Martin Parsons, Jenny Wilkins, Andrew Fruin, Linda Crisp and Philip Lovelock as Churchwarden. A discussion was held that if Deputy Churchwardens were to become members of the PCC also, then this would take it over the quota of 24. If we went over this quota, then there would need to be an additional vote to increase the size of the PCC and a need for this to be in balance with the size of the PCC at St. Nicholas. The Associate Rector expressed that they find it difficult to fill all current positions. It was decided that Deputy Churchwardens would be given the option to sit or not sit on the PCC at St. Giles.

St. Nicholas: no vacancies.

The Rector put forward a proposal that the above mentioned members should be elected to the PCC.

Proposed by Julia Hoadley

Seconded by Sheila Munns.

Deanery Synod Representatives: It was reported that Judy Turner Crowson was currently the only representative on the Deanery Synod and that Sue Simpson and Michelle Felstead, from St. Nicholas, had been attending to be able to keep up-to-date with any developments and proposals. Both Sue and Michelle were asked if they were happy to take on this role officially and they agreed. Therefore, the Rector put forward a proposal that the Parish Representatives would be Judy Turner Crowson, Sue Simpson and Michelle Felstead.

Proposed by Sheila Munns

Seconded by Paul Barnes

Agreed unanimously.

7. **APPOINTMENTS:**

(a) **Sidespeople:**

A huge thanks was given to all those who are currently a sidesperson at St. Giles and to Andrew Bailey for encouraging people to take on this very important role. It was explained that gaining enough people on the rota for all five services was a tricky job and new trainees were always welcome. It was pointed out that there are still currently vacancies on the 6.30 p.m. rota and volunteers should make themselves known.

The Rector raised a vote of thanks to all who carry out this role.

Proposed by Richard Wood

Seconded by Philip Lovelock.

(b) **Independent Financial Examiner 2018:**

The Rector put forward a proposal that Chris Jones from Baxters should continue as the Parish Independent Financial Examiner. This was reiterated by the Treasurer, who found him to be very efficient.

Proposed by Paul Beamiss

Seconded by Paul Bailey

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

The Rector thanked all those who have served at St. Giles and St. Nicholas over the past year and are stepping down from their role, for retiring PCC members and those in many other capacities. The Rector also thanked all those who had taken time to write a report for this meeting.

9. **ADDITIONAL REPORTS**

The Rector's Report: The Rector presented his Report. One comment was made regarding the building of a toilet at St. Giles and the feeling that there was no longer a proposal to build a toilet in or around the Church. The Rector responded by reiterating that although there has been discussion about the redevelopment of the St. Giles Centre, there was still a need for a toilet to be built in or around the Church.

The Associate Rector's report: The Associate Rector presented his Report. There were no other comments or questions.

The rest of the reports were acknowledged.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Diane Stiff, from St. Nicholas, made a request to members at St. Giles for help with both Messy Church and the Summer Club. She explained that many who help were now elderly and some had passed away. She explained that members do not have to attend all events, supporting just one or two would be very helpful.

11. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT APCM**

Sunday 28th April 2019 at 4.30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church.

12. **CLOSING PRAYERS**

The meeting closed with prayer at 5.48pm.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

4. **REPORTS**

ELECTORAL ROLL Report (a)

This year there was the customary six year revision of the Electoral Roll where everybody had to come off and re-apply. As at 31st March 2019 the figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 338 (St. Giles - 286, St. Nicholas - 52). 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 2018 - 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 2018 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. Philip Lovelock Mrs Sue Simpson	until APCM 2022 until ACPM 2022	St Giles St Nicholas
<u>Deputy Wardens</u>	Mr Peter Russell Mr Ian Fordyce Mrs Heather Vogt Mrs Susan Rennie Mrs Sheila Munns Miss Claire Couldridge	Not on PCC until APCM 2022 Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC until APCM 2022	St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles St Nicholas
<u>Deanery Synod Rep.</u>	Mrs J Turner-Crowson Ms Michelle Felstead Mrs Sue Simpson	until APCM 2020 until APCM 2021 until ACPM 2021	St Giles St Nicholas St Nicholas
Elected:			
<u>Hon. Secretary</u>	Mrs Linda Montgomery		
<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mr. Roger Allard		St. Nicholas
<u>Gift Aid Secretary</u>	Ms. Carol Fryer		

Members

Ms. Sara Phillips	until ACPM 2019	St Giles
Mrs. Elizabeth Harriss-Orr	until ACPM 2019	St Giles
Ms Alison Lovelock	until ACPM 2020	St Giles
Mr Martin Parsons	until ACPM 2021	St Giles
Mrs Jenny Wilkins	until ACPM 2021	St Giles
Mr Andrew Fruin	until ACPM 2021	St Giles
Mrs Linda Crisp	until ACPM 2021	St Giles
Mrs. Rosemary Fordyce	until ACPM 2019	St Nicholas
Mr Richard Butterworth	until ACPM 2020	St Nicholas

The full PCC met twice during the year with an average attendance of 80 per cent. In addition the members representing St. Giles met five times (with an average attendance of 60 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 333 names on the Church Electoral Roll for the parish as at 31st December 2018.

The usual Sunday attendance at services in 2018 was 141 adults and 13 children at St. Giles, and at St Nicholas 141 adults and 13 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 2018, the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

29	Baptisms
9	Weddings
36	Funeral services held in church followed by burial in the churchyard or Cremation
15	Funeral services held at a crematorium
67	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 eventful year in the life of our Parish with its fair share of challenges and opportunities as is customary in the life of our Church. I am delighted that the refurbishment of the organ is underway and that we have made considerable progress with the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of our Church and Churchyard. It has been very sad to lose a number of cherished members of our congregation this year but also heartening to welcome some new people as well. I am enormously grateful to all of you who give so generously of your time and resources for the mission and ministry both of St. Giles and of St. Nicholas. It would be hazardous for me to start naming individuals but a huge thank you to Philip Lovelock and Sue Simpson, our Churchwardens, and our Deputy Wardens, Claire Couldridge, Ian Fordyce, Peter Russell, Sheila Munns, Heather Vogt and Susan Rennie, and Andrew Bailey who has been such a support to our new team. I am also grateful to my colleagues in our Ministry Team; to Paul and Carol our Treasurers and to Irene Dancer who continues to do so much work with our children and young people. I would like to thank those who are standing down from the PCC for their contribution. I can also confirm that the Church has complied with its care of duty towards children and vulnerable adults under the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measures 2016. I can also confirm that we have fulfilled our obligations under the new GDPR regulations and guidance concerning the use and storage of personal data.

Matthew Hughes, Rector

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Aggregated parish income for the year was £931,280 (2017:£414,649) and aggregated resources used were £360,422 (2017:£304,299). Net incoming resources amounted to £570,858 (2017:£110,350). St Giles recorded net incoming resources of £568,458 (2017:£96,327) and St. Nicholas recorded net incoming resources of £2,400 (2017:£14,024).

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 2018.

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS Report (c)

ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD REPORT

This report is my first Churchwarden's report and it is an honour to serve St. Giles and its community.

The Wardens are a "new team" this year and as such we have taken the opportunity of taking a fresh look at the role and responsibilities of the Churchwarden which includes being supported by a team of deputy wardens. Having accepted the role I feel honoured to have been asked by the Rector to be the Churchwarden and to have such fantastic Deputy Wardens whom I'm very grateful to for their support and guidance with the delivery of our mission.

Furthermore, such dedication of all those involved with St. Giles leaves me in awe of their gift of time and efforts that make St. Giles the great Church it is! We are truly a great team and community.

St. Giles has welcomed several new families to the church community and this will hopefully continue.

The feeling of community can be seen in the success of the summer fete and various other social events. Much fun was had at the traditional summer fete with the assistance of the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Training Band and the Punch & Judy show. Once again this was possible due to the numerous volunteers who offered their free time and efforts. Thank you!

The Barn Dance at the Harvest Supper was another enjoyable and great success organised by Carol Fryer and her team. It was a fabulous opportunity to bring young and old together and have fun. I would heartedly recommend you coming to the next one.

With 2018 being the centenary of the ending of World War One St. Giles paid its respects to those who fell and never returned. A special Remembrance tea brought back to life those 'missing' as a brief recount of the life of each fallen soldier was recited by Anne Francis. Additionally, music was provided by the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Training band whereupon they played music that the men and boys would have sung upon their way to battle. It was overall a very moving experience and one which further unites the communities of the past with ours in the present.

The Remembrance Sunday service was attended by over 700 people and had a true feeling that the Church and the community came together as one, it was tangible in feeling, atmosphere and voice. The War Memorial wall was completed and I hope you will agree that this is now much improved.

Christmas closely followed. Again, the Church led the community in its celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and the significance of this event.

Currently, many have seen the erection of scaffold within the Church as the organ refurbishment is taking place and the discovery of wood infestation has brought a new challenge to our work at St. Giles. This project will ensure the organ is in an excellent position for our future generations. Many have honoured a family member by purchasing a pipe which I feel makes the restoration even more significant.

Another project we are working towards is the provision of a toilet for users of the Church and 2019 looks set to be the year that we will begin putting plans into action.

Whilst we have committed to some large projects this past year, the year ahead will no doubt present further challenges and I know we will all meet those challenges with our continued dedication and faith, I am sure then that together we cannot fail.

I would like to particularly thank Andrew Bailey for his advice and constant encouragement. I certainly could not have undertaken this role without him and sincere thanks to the Rector who has had belief in me at a time in my life where I have struggled with personal recent events. A special thanks also to all those who assist with delivering of our one mission, the word of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philip Lovelock
St. Giles Churchwarden

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

The Group: The membership of the Group remains the same as last year i.e. eight members including the Rector and Churchwardens as ex-officio. Since the last Report, the Group have met on five occasions.

Since the Churchyard Group formally became the Churchyard and Fabric Group, items on the Agenda have included provision of toilet at St. Giles Church, redevelopment of St. Giles Centre, Organ restoration, rebuilding the dwarf walls in the Garden of Remembrance including provision for additional Memorial Plaques, rebuilding the low wall in front of the War Memorial including a new planting scheme, resurfacing of the tarmac area in front of the War memorial and on-going matters relating to the general management of the Churchyard carried out by the Tuesday Team.

The Tuesday Team: When they can, members meet every Tuesday morning, that was except Christmas Day and New Year's Day which both occurred on Tuesdays, so we can't say 'we never closed'. The Team is not quite as able as it was, most are elderly and inevitably tend to get more elderly also we've had a couple of retirements. 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, otherwise the Team might just fade away.

I won't rehearse all the various jobs that the Team undertake as these have been stated many times in earlier Reports. Some are on-going and some are seasonal and some are one-offs, suffice it to say that the Churchyard would not be so attractive and litter free as it is today – removal of waste often a problem. Some members of the Team carry out maintenance items within the Church.

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. A regular survey is carried out on Monuments on graves (mainly headstones) and where possible the Team maintain their safety. 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. The brick arch structure at the foot of the South bank referred to as the Undercroft has undergone extensive work by the Team to make it waterproof. This is a much valued storage facility for the Tuesday Team.

The Original Gardens of Remembrance: The demolition and the rebuilding of dwarf walls, accommodating all the existing plaques and raising the two side walls to provide accommodation for a further 136 new one person stone plaques has now been completed. The placing of new plaques has already begun on one of these raised areas.

Church Registers/Burial Records/Website: These very essential roles are dealt by a member of the Team – see separate Reports.

Churchyard Maintenance Contract 2019: This has again been awarded to P.R.O. Landscapes and remains the same as 2018 in the sum of £6,700 for 20 visits (March to November) with additional payments of £63.00 for occasional disposal of waste. There was an additional visit in January to deal with the huge accumulation of waste which became more than the Tuesday Team could cope with. Maintenance of the layered hedge (between Churchyard and Church fields) has become an additional item for P.R.O. now that a volunteer is no longer able to carry out this work.

Three Memorial Rose Beds: On-going attention to rose beds and summer bedding plants are carried out by the Tuesday Team and the roses are looked after by an additional volunteer with expert knowledge in the care of roses.

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: Over the winter there was only one incident involving a large branch becoming detached from one of the Beech trees occasioning the services of professionals to bring it to ground level where it was then disposed of by The Tuesday Team.

Proposed Toilet at St. Giles Church: No doubt on-going efforts to find an acceptable location for a toilet within or associated with St. Giles Church are reported elsewhere.

Re-development of St. Giles Centre: Local Architects Brouard were instructed to provide a feasibility study for the re-development of St. Giles Centre. The Churchyard/Fabric Group are unanimous that the scheme presented by Brouard at one of their meetings should be recommended to the P.C.C. for acceptance. Significantly the scheme allows for an accessible toilet. It is understood that the P.C.C. now regard this as the definite answer to the re-development.

John Tinham
Chairman Churchyard Group

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Well my first year as Warden has been an extremely busy one. After several ups and downs the floor is now completed. We then, through a legacy from Iris Mumford's family, bought new chairs. Next step will be redecorating the Church thanks to an amazing Gift Sunday, we were very emotional as our target was passed and thank all the St. Nicholas congregation. Some of the money is being used for our new website which will enhance our profile in the community.

We had a wonderful 60th anniversary celebration weekend with an exhibition and prayer trail, a wonderful celebration service with Bishop James, and on the Sunday a cream tea. Again thanks to our wonderful congregation for making it happen.

Our Christmas fair was again a big success and again supported a local charity and our Church. Other events have included a ladies breakfast, quiz night and a jumble sale, light and bright party and another excellent holiday club. Alpha for both adults and young persons and some things I am sure I have forgotten. Christmas was again well attended and busy. Messy church is still very popular and our evening worship once a month has been growing in popularity.

Thanks go to Stephen and Diane and Claire and Roger and Catherine who have helped me in my first year and also to all those who have helped at the many events and who have been supportive of my requests for help.

St. Nicholas is a wonderful Church with wonderful people and here I go for year 2

Sue Simpson
St. Nicholas Churchwarden

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

At the time these AGM papers were compiled Ian's report had not been submitted so I would like to use this space to acknowledge a debt of gratitude to Ian for all he has done at St. Giles and St. Nicholas over many years. Ian was generous with his time and helpful with his advice. Ian undertook lots of behind the scenes unglamorous work that wasn't very visible and yet was vital and indispensable to the smooth running of our Church. Ian brought a humility and discretion to his roles that made him a pleasure to work with. This is not to say that he did not have strong opinions about things and he was prepared to articulate them when necessary. It was a privilege for me to work with Ian as Deputy Warden for a number of years. He was totally reliable, very thorough and a great support to me and his fellow Wardens. I could ask Ian to do and chase up a range of repetitive jobs and he never once declined. People like Ian form the backbone of the Church of England at its parochial level and we will all miss him very much indeed. I will cherish my memories of Ian and particularly the Christmas socials where he and Rosemary were able to relax with his fellow Wardens.

Matthew Hughes
Rector

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2018, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

In 2018, our total income was £814,124 exceeding total expenditure of £245,666 by £568,458. However, our record surplus is achieved only after entering 10 Wentworth Close into our accounts at the probate value of £540,000, following its transfer, in trust, to Rochester Diocese.

Muddying the waters still further is £27,770 donated to the organ fund in 2018, the sum of £18,156 given to our war memorial renovation fund and our first full year's net rental income of £13,408. However, confusing everything even further was expenditure on the dwarf walls of £33,480, work to the war memorial small wall costing £9,300 and the payment of a deposit of £10,636 to F H Browne & Sons Ltd, our organ restorers.

I have done the sums for you and taking all this into consideration we are left with a comparable surplus of £22540.

Other noteworthy items include the ongoing reduction in planned giving, a decline in parish centre lettings and rent received. We continue to sustain income from fundraising events, mainly the summer fair. As always, the PCC continues to explore new income streams and maintain control over expenditure.

A sole legacy of £1000 was received 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 2018, our Parish Offer was £72,727. Our provisional offer for 2019 is £73,860 although nothing has yet been settled, as consultations are still ongoing regarding the methodology of the calculation of the 'indicative offers'. A nice new name to be added to the pile (share, offer, contribution, quota etc.).

The major works as outlined in the first paragraph were carried out in the Church, Churchyard or Centre in 2018.

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 in Focus activities and collections.

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 always to 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, Linda Crisp and Carol Fryer.

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.

My parting shot is to point out that the Junior Choir only received £70 in donations last year.

Paul Beamiss
Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles

ST. NICHOLAS

The St. Nicholas PCC approved the budget for 2018 with a small deficit of £3300.

The accounts show that there was a small increase in the net current assets from £81254 at 31 December 2017 to £83654 at 31 December 2018.

However closer examination of the accounts does show a rather different picture. Unrestricted expenditure exceeded unrestricted income by £1861. During November St. Nicholas held a Gift Day to raise funds for a new web site, redecoration of the main hall to complement the new floor, which had been installed during the year following the water damage and for which the insurance company had paid, and new signage. With related Gift Aid this raised the sum of £4711 of which £450 had been spent by 31 December on a first payment for the new web site. The remaining £4261 is included in the Balance Sheet as Restricted Funds and once the money is spent in 2019 then the net current assets will in effect be reduced to £79393.

At the year end there were a number of small variations between budgets for the year and the actual income and expenditure at 31 December 2018. There was no one significant area of lower income or over expenditure that could be considered to cause the deficit but suffice to say that had Hall Lettings income not fallen short of the budget by some £1900, not helped by two hirers cancelling their regular bookings during the year, then the accounts would have shown a break even position at the year end.

Looking ahead 2019 is going to be a very challenging year financially for St. Nicholas. At its meeting in January the PCC increased hall hire rates from September for regular hirers and with immediate effect for occasional hirers and we are hopeful of further bookings once the new web site is fully up and running. In raising rates in what is still a difficult financial climate the PCC has had to balance the need for additional income with ensuring that the increase does not cause our main hall hirers to reduce their bookings or even stop altogether. The same financial climate also affects the amount of giving from the congregation and it does not seem realistic to expect any significant increases in these sums unless new members join St. Nicholas.

There are significant concerns on the expenditure side going into 2019. Last year cracks in the concrete on some of the corners of the building were discovered. These have been investigated and we have the benefits of a structural engineer's report and the results of testing samples of the concrete from the affected areas. We are currently discussing with the structural engineer the necessity and urgency of carrying out repairs, but if they are to go ahead then they will have a significant impact on the St. Nicholas financial reserves.

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, inputting all the data on to the accounting system and 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. SAFEGUARDING

6. ELECTIONS

TWO 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

7. APPOINTMENTS

SIDESPERSONS -

St. Giles:

Mrs. R. Arney, Miss S. Attwood, Mr. P. Barnes, Mrs. L. Barnes, Mrs. M. Compton, Mrs. C. Coyle, Mr. M. Dancer, Mrs. I. Dancer, Mrs. H. Edwards, Mrs. C. Fryer, Mrs. A. Goodall, Lovelock Family, Mr. C. McArdell, Mrs. J. Palmer, Mrs. S. Pugh, Reeves Family, Russell Family, Scarlett Family, Mr. R. Stringer, Mr. R. Tolman, Mrs. H. Vogt, Mrs. E. Walker, Mr. J. White.

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. 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 2018 accounts.

The PCC recommends Mr. Jones's appointment for the year 2019 accounts and the A.G.M. is requested to approve this proposal.

8. GOODBYES AND THANK YOU'S.

9. 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

INTRODUCTION

Once again we look back over a busy and eventful year in the life of St. Giles and our Parish as a whole. As usual the year has reflected times of opportunity, growth, loss, challenge, joy and hope.

COMMUNITY

I start with this for it is our Church community which is at the heart of all we are and all we do. In worshipping, working and socialising together bonds of friendship and togetherness are formed, which makes being part of our Church a life enhancing and meaningful experience. The messages we receive from scripture, our common life of prayer and love aid us in our relating to each other in the Church and outside as well. When we participate in the life of the church we make ourselves available to others, as they do to us, in this way we are built together into a living temple, a beacon of light and a place of love. It is essentially this that will continue to make our Church a place that people will want to join and be part of.

CREATIVITY

I am increasingly struck by the experience of a church as a place of creativity, a place where we reflect the very nature of our creator God who fashioned us and made the world. Music, gardening, floral arts, reading, Sunday school craft work, poetry, bell ringing, serving, magazine and website, to mention a few, are all expressions of our need to create and to make things. It is well attested that creativity and having hobbies and interests are good for one's mental health. My vision and hope is that St. Giles will continue to offer a creative experience that we may praise God by what flows from us and through us.

TEAMS

St. Giles works through teams and can only work through teams. Each of our teams at St. Giles has a dedicated team leader. On behalf of all us I do want to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to our team leaders and the members of their teams for all they do in their respective areas.

FABRIC

This item is covered by our Churchwarden, however I do want to say thank you to everyone who contributed to our organ refurbishment appeal. We are now all looking forward to the completion of the work and hearing what we hope will be a much improved and enhanced instrument, which will also be in a good state of repair for years to come. Thank you to Clive Brearley for his indefatigable work on this project.

I am sure I speak for all of us when I say how good it has been to see the completion of the new walls in the Garden of Remembrance and in front of the War Memorial with the accompanying new plants. Thank you to everyone who contributed funds to this. The pathway is to be re-surfaced in April.

TOILETS

No AGM would be complete without a mention of this. Progress is being made. At this year's AGM all the various options will be presented so we can discuss a way forward. The provision of toilets has never been questioned, what has been harder to achieve is a clear understanding and consensus of where they should be positioned and how they could fit in with a wider vision of what resources we have and how we use our buildings. Please remember that every solution has its drawbacks! We are all clear that we need to build toilets, what is essential if this is to be achieved is a broad consensus as to where and how. It is only through a broad consensus that we will be able to secure the funding and support that such an undertaking will require. The PCC have worked very hard this year to gather together a number of possible solutions not only to the toilet issue but as to the future of the Centre. I am grateful to the Friends for their contribution to this process. The next stage will be for us to identify the right way forward and then to enter into a period of consultation amongst the PCC, Electoral Roll and wider community.

CHALLENGES

The Church of England, in its parochial setting is facing huge challenges and we are certainly not immune from them here at Farnborough. In a sense it is the perfect storm of a secular society, which has less call on churches ministry, and an over-reliance on older, retired people. A shift in attendance patterns, a decline in income and the accompanying responsibility for old and complex buildings. To some extent we have managed to face these challenges and even to get ahead of some of them. Although we are very reliant on an older generation of church-goers, we still have new people joining St. Giles and regular Confirmations. We have a large body of volunteers who give generously of their time. Our Church building is in a very good state of repair and we have managed over the past 18 years to invest upwards of £300,000 in the Church and its surrounds. Yet the challenges remain and will be increasingly marked as we go forward. One area that we will need to address is the decline in our income due to the lessening of weddings and funerals at St. Giles and some changes in regular giving. Every three years we hold a stewardship campaign to renew and increase our monetary giving and volunteering. I am always so encouraged by the sheer generosity of people towards St. Giles, a sign of how much our Church is valued. So may I thank you in advance for your support of our Stewardship Campaign which will run throughout October 2019.

HIGHLIGHTS

There were a number of highlights at St. Giles and St. Nicholas. One of the stand out ones was the way in which we marked the centenary of the end of WW1. The Memorial Tea and Flower Festival were excellent and attracted many. It was standing room only at our main service. Christmas and Easter were once again wonderful expressions of our common life, creativity and sincerity, as we welcomed hundreds of people to our acts of worship. The music at St. Giles has been wonderful and life enhancing to all of us. Huge amounts of work and effort go into it and we all benefit from the very high standard that is offered and maintained. The poetry evenings have proved hugely popular and it was wonderful to see almost 200 people turn out on a sweltering evening for our Rudyard Kipling service. St. Giles is also blessed with an active and well organised social programme which I know is appreciated by many. Finally the Churchyard in bloom is a constant and yearly highlight for me, how important it is to acknowledge that some of the best things are the simple ones.

THE FUTURE

This year much has been achieved, and celebrated. We have gained some new friends along the way and lost some much loved members as well. There are challenges ahead, but I have faith that with God's love we will continue to witness faithfully and effectively to Jesus Christ in this Parish.

Priorities:

- To build up the spiritual and numerical life of the Church and in particular our provision for children and young people
- To agree an action a plan for the provision of toilets and the future of the Centre
- To have a successful Stewardship Campaign that will place our finances on a secure footing.
- To complete the work on the organ and the War Memorial area
- To make sure all our teams are well resourced
- To continue to make sure that we maintain St. Giles as a safe place for children and vulnerable adults by the implementing of our Child Safeguarding policy
- To maintain and build up the musical provision at St. Giles
- To offer sensitive and comprehensive pastoral care in our congregation and community.
- To continue to see St. Giles flourish as a place of creativity and healing.

THANK YOU'S

It would be unwise of me to start naming individuals as I am very grateful to all the 300 people who volunteer at our Church! However I must acknowledge the particular support I receive from the Ministry Team and from our Treasurers Paul and Carol and also from all our Churchwardens. I am grateful to Phil Lovelock our legal Warden at St. Giles who has proved a great support to me and others.

Together this year we have helped to spread abroad the gospel of our Lord in Farnborough, well done and thank you all very much

Matthew Hughes
Rector

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

2018 was a significant year for St. Nicholas, as we celebrated 60 years since the opening of the church. Perhaps appropriately in our Diamond Jubilee year, we had some significant changes to our fabric. During the month of April, a new maple wood floor was laid in our main hall, following the water damage caused in 2017 by flooding. In addition to the new floor, two legacies enabled us to purchase a new set of chairs for the main church. The 100 new chairs arrived just in time for our 60th Anniversary Celebration Service at the end of June. It was a huge privilege to be at the Celebration Service, which was attended by the Lord Bishop of Rochester and the Mayor of Bromley, as well as many familiar faces from St. Nicholas' history, including 3 former clergy – Malcolm Gribble, Eric Heselwood, and Wendy Cranidge. We were able to learn much about the history of the Church in preparing for our exhibition that weekend, and to finish our celebrations with an afternoon tea on the day that England beat Panama 6-1 in the World Cup! It was a chance to reflect on the strong connections that St. Nicholas has always had with the community, and to celebrate the many good things that continue to take place at St. Nicholas throughout the year.

Some of these have been going for decades, and some have begun more recently. The weekly Lunch Club, Parent and Toddler group, 'Just Babies', House Groups, Kids Club, and Youth Group, continue to go strong. Other activities that take place once or twice a month, or even once a year, include Messy Church, Mothers' Union, the Alpha course, Activity Mornings, Holiday Clubs, the 'Light and Bright' party, and of course the Autumn Fair. Through all of these, we continued to make connections with the community through 2018. In addition, as part of our vision statement, 'Transforming Our Community Through the Presence of Christ', we began in 2018 to hold an Evening Service on the first Sunday of each month. Through these, we have been able to explore different styles of worship, including Contemporary Worship, a 'Songs of Praise' style service, and the more meditative worship style of Taizé. These have enabled us both to connect with different members of the community, and to 'practise the presence of Christ' in different ways. As a Church, we held a Giving Day towards the end of 2018, which raised over £4700 towards a new church website, redecorating the Church hall in 2019, and new signage. Personally, I was overwhelmed by the incredible generosity of the congregation, and it has been a great encouragement as we look to complete those different projects during the course of 2019.

As I have said before, ours is a Church where everyone plays their part. So many people help out in so many ways that it always seems unfair to single out individuals. However, I would like to express particular thanks to Sue Simpson, who has done an outstanding job in her first year as Churchwarden, alongside Claire Couldridge, our Deputy Warden and Sacristan. I must also thank the different Lay Ministers at St. Nicholas: Diane Stiff, our tireless Children's and Families' worker and Pastoral Assistant, Ian Gillies, our 'Reader with Permission to Officiate', and Rosemary Fordyce, our Pastoral Assistant. I am also very grateful to David Clark, who became Chair of our Fabric Committee in 2018, to Roger Allard, our Treasurer, and to Jayne Calvert, our Director of Music, and to all who help with the music. Thank you also to Catherine Roffey for all she does as Church Administrator and Lettings Manager. Her unrelenting support of Charlton Athletic demonstrates the truth of Hebrews 11:1, that 'faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see'. I also want to thank everyone who helps in so many different ways, from running the Lunch Club, to helping with 'Just Babies', Toddlers and other activities during the week. Thank you to all who help with all the different aspects of the Sunday services, from setting up for Sunday, to helping during the services, to making coffee and tidying away at the end. Thank you to those who visit the housebound, who lead house groups, who help with our different annual events. The life of this Church, which began as a 'hall church' in 1958, and has now been a worshipping community for over 60 years, would not be possible without everyone who helps in so many ways. We pray God will continue to transform our community through the presence of Christ in 2019.

Stephen Broadie
Assoc. Rector

ST. GILES MUSIC

ST. GILES JUNIOR CHOIR

The Junior Choir has 17 members at present. Membership is very stable, which is particularly important to a choir trainer and it is gratifying to see some who joined on my first day at St. Giles some 31/2 years ago not only making a positive contribution to the singing but becoming more and more enthusiastic as time goes by.

I now have a bit more time to give to the Junior Choir so during the year we started on the Royal School of Church Music's 'Voice for Life' training scheme. I make myself available for this for half an hour before each practice, spending time with those who wish to take advantage of it. The speed of progress can depend on what musical knowledge the participant starts with – for example, learning an instrument means that there is already ability to read music. However, several have now passed the first stage and a couple have passed the second, which is an extremely good start. We shall certainly reap the benefits in the coming years.

In addition to the special music sung at festivals etc., the Junior Choir now sings an anthem once a month on every 4th Sunday, normally with the Senior Choir. Whilst practice time is limited, only an hour every two weeks on average, progression through 'Voice for Life' along with the majority of members learning an instrument means that we can use the time more effectively than we could a couple of years ago.

The **'Let's Sing Together Group'** format has changed. We found that trying to be 'all embracing' by singing many different types of music meant we were not pleasing anyone for much of the time. There are plenty of opportunities locally for those who want to sing different types of music and we decided that we should concentrate on giving people the understanding and the confidence potentially to join in with the music at St. Giles – i.e. concentrating on church music. Meetings take place in Church on the first Monday of the month at 19.30 and new participants are always welcome. We concentrate on music reading, different styles of Anglican church music and singing technique. I am greatly indebted to members of the Senior Choir who come along to support this venture: it is very difficult to teach people from a standing start without more experienced singers alongside.

The Organ Restoration Project is progressing well. The project is considerably larger than was originally envisaged. However, the original proposals, which amounted to little more than a clean-up, repairs and a re-wire left me personally with something of a heavy heart. In the event, when the organ was dismantled it became obvious that almost everything was in a bad state and it was surprising that the organ had remained playable. The work originally proposed would have meant dismantling the instrument anyway and further work, with scaffold and dismantling again, would have had to be carried out in a few year' time so I feel that going for a more comprehensive was a good decision. Since Victorian times, every time this kind work has been done at St. Giles there has been a concerted effort to make the instrument more suitable for its purpose in a building that could not be more difficult and each time this has resulted in something better. However, those involved would have admitted that mistakes were also made. The intention this time is that, making the instrument more comprehensive by the use of technology but using the space in the organ chamber in a better way, we shall make it more suitable for accompanying the choir in anthems and choral services while, just as importantly, ensuring that it will cope with congregations that sometimes number less than 20 but, around 12 times a year, are squashed into every available space.

When the console has been refurbished it will appear that the organ is considerably larger than before but in fact the number of pipes will only have increased by about 48, from 1152 to 1200. The space taken up by the new pipes will be much smaller than those occupied by the largest pipes in the organ – 47 of them, which were not good quality and have been scrapped, allowing space to revise the internal layout. The organ should be back in use for the re-dedication service on 19th May.

Clive Brearley
Organist and JuniorChoirmaster

ST. GILES ADULT CHOIR

So often life turns on split-second decisions. Liz came home: "They might need someone to play the organ at church next week". A 10-second voicemail: "If there is anything I can do to help ..." and fifteen months later we've been welcomed into the warm-hearted, good humoured and dedicated community of St. Giles and its choir. It has been a privilege to join some delightful music-making, to watch the choir develop and grow and to see choristers from the ages of 8 to 80 enjoy their singing and gain in confidence. Singers are renowned for being generous with their advice and glacial in adopting change so it has been wonderful to find musicians here who are only ever supportive, willing to try new things and keen to learn.

We ask a lot of our choirs; many of the seniors regularly sing both a morning and evening service each Sunday - a commitment rarely matched outside professional groups, and one which sustains St. Giles in holding so many services each week. We do undoubtedly rely heavily on a core few, but also value everyone for what they are able to do, however irregular. The numbers regularly singing in rehearsals and services have grown significantly over the last year and along with them we have become more ambitious in tackling new repertoire. Illness, injury and the odd trip to Australia have all had their impact, but choristers keep in touch and come back to the fold when they are able!

I am hugely grateful to all the musicians: juniors, seniors and visitors and there are important people 'behind the scenes' to thank too. Clive Brearley, of course, for his work with the Juniors, for playing the organ - and for overseeing its refurbishment. John Reynolds does fabulous work in checking through the music lists and schedules (over 500 rehearsals and services, 1000 hymns and 300 anthems so far), gently suggesting corrections to my errors. Andy Chapman has spent many hours sorting, counting and filing the music library. Julia Hoadley and Alison Renolds 'seamlessly' organise the vestments and marshal (herd?) the youngest choristers. Andrew Bailey, despite relinquishing the Churchwarden role, always seems to be available to sort out practical matters, and many other choristers, parents and 'friends' have been wonderful in supporting and organising the life of the choirs, including some very enjoyable 'socials'. Crucially, we are blessed with the most supportive, engaged and generous-hearted Rector we could hope for. Matthew is rightly ambitious to develop the role of music in supporting liturgy and growing the church community, is a very committed chorister himself and his care for individuals is the glue that holds us together.

For me, the highlight has been the steady growth in the musical confidence of the choir. Particular moments are hard to choose and would certainly include the "Grand Summer Evensong" rendition of the "The Heavens are Telling" and the Advent Carols and Nine Lessons and Carols, where the full choir sang some challenging repertoire to a high standard. Some of the more difficult repertoire through the year has included new (to us) works by Loosemore, Purcell, Haydn, Fauré, Ireland, Howells, Joubert, Jackson and Lauridsen and the younger choristers have enjoyed particularly singing in the full choir new carols by Chilcott and Ellis. There have also been plenty of 'old favourites' familiar to the choir and congregation going back many years.

There are undoubtedly challenges ahead; we need to strengthen the 'one choir' ethos while recognising the needs of the different sections, we need to grow our numbers further and plan for chorister succession, we need to establish a reputation beyond the immediate church community in order to draw in both choristers and congregations. We are bucking the trend of decline seen in some local churches. There is work to do and a good foundation on which to build.

Ralph Barlow
Organist and Adult Choirmaster

ST. GILES FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

Families with children continue to attend our various services and groups at St. Giles on a regular or 'come when you can' basis. We are extremely fortunate that families choose to attend our Church when so many other activities are available to them. We value their involvement and support.

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. Craft and playtime are enjoyed by all.

Junior 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 how the Early Church was established by Peter and Paul; how our own Church functions and thrives; making a time line of Jesus' life; and continuing with the annual themes built around the church year.

During the year, Jessie Tinham decided that it was time for her to retire from leading Crossbearers, our Sunday school for older children. After 40+ years she certainly deserved a well-earned rest. Our heartfelt thanks and gifts were offered and we were pleased that she was able to attend our Celebration Service.

In September our Sunday school was rebranded as Junior Sunday school for children aged 3+ and Senior Sunday school for those aged 8+. Children wishing to continue in the younger group are able to do so and 'move on' when they feel ready. Our senior group engages in discussions based on the church readings for each week and, in addition, we look at those regular themes which occur annually. Time is made for the children to represent their learning through simple drawings or craft. Currently, we meet on the second and third Sundays of the month at 10am, returning to church with the younger children in order to join the congregation before the end of the service. The senior group shares the motto 'Friendship and Faith' with the juniors. Our aim is to develop children's knowledge of the Christian faith in a caring and welcoming environment, where new friendships can be nurtured.

Both Sunday schools have regular attendances and we aim to build upon our success. If only we had more space!

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. Junior 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 was a week of craft, song and Christian learning.

Christmas Eve services for children continue to be very well attended, attracting families from the local area. Our Sunday School Nativity, 'Good News, Good News, Good News!' was enjoyed by all. The junior children took on the acting and singing roles while the seniors helped to narrate the story with poems and repeated rhymes.

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 addition, Senior Sunday school enjoyed an outing to the Bowling Alley in Bromley, followed by tea at McDonalds.

At the time of writing, a Spiritual Retreat Day at Bursswood is being planned for our Senior Sunday school. This will offer families time to learn about meditation and to prepare for Easter by making pictures relating to The Stations of the Cross, which will be used during the Good Friday Family Service.

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

Irene Dancer

ST. GILES BELLRINGERS

During the last 12 months, St. Giles bells have again been rung almost every Sunday morning prior to the Family Service and, encouragingly, with attendances on the upturn. After discussion at last year's AGM local practices have generally been held on the first Sunday afternoon of each month. Additionally, there's a teaching/training practice on Wednesday afternoons. This is proving very successful and is vibrant and well attended, albeit not all attendees are local. For this I'm extremely grateful to other teachers who spread the teaching load.

The bells have also been rung for special occasions such as the Centenary of the end of WW1 on Remembrance Sunday, for which a full peal was rung, as well as weddings and funerals. A full sponsored peal was rung in August for the Charity in Focus and raised over £500.

Forty-three quarter peals were rung in 2018 (45 in 2017), (the vast majority being on Tuesdays from about 11.00 a.m. mainly with visiting ringers) and six peals (7 peals in 2017).

I'm delighted to say that we've managed to recruit two new ringers who are now up to Service Ringing standard and teaching/training sessions are generally held on Wednesday afternoons at 3.30 p.m. Another two young ringers recently started learning and are doing very well. The bells are easy and rewarding to ring and our youngest ringer is eight years old and oldest 88!

Until 2017 we managed a mini ringing outing last year. We enjoyed visiting Cudham (10 bells), Limpsfield (6) and Godstone (8) on Wednesday morning, 4th April, during the Easter holidays, concluding with lunch.

In November 2018 St. Giles hosted the District Striking Competition which we won, taking advantage of the slight benefit of it being our home tower. This was an improvement on the third place we achieved in 2017 at Sidcup.

At the very end of 2018 we took delivery of a ringing Simulator. This will allow practices to take place with an electronic sound in the ringing chamber simulating the sound of the bells in the belfry while, for learning purposes, no noise will emanate externally from the tower. It also allows ringers to improve their own ringing of complex 'methods' with the Simulator ringing/sounding the other accompanying bells for them. This permits more flexibility with training such as being able to teach ringing when there's a choir practice in the Church. Installation only partly carried out so far.

It is worth reporting that in warm weather, of which we had a lot last summer, we could do with an opening window in the tower. Also, we have recently taken delivery of a dehumidifier to reduce the moisture levels in the ringing chamber. This moisture also affects the ropes and makes them still and harder to hold.

We are pleased that the clock now seems to be working reliably again, the hour chime striking on a separate bell from the six ringing bells. As previously mentioned, 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. I've recently arranged for an inspection by a bell hanger to give a price for doing this. Whilst at St. Giles he was also asked to provide a price for augmenting the bells to eight so that, particularly on Sunday mornings, we don't have too many people sitting out awaiting their turn to ring, while just six people are ringing. (Price still awaiting at the time of producing this report).

It is now two years since we had a visit from Taylors Bell Foundry to carry out a Service and I plan to soon arrange another in conjunction with a visit they also make to Chelsfield which tends to keep the cost down.

In summary, the last year has been very successful and pleasing from the ringing point of view and we enjoy the part we play in Church life. 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.

Nick Wilkins
Tower Captain

ST. GILES FLOWER ARRANGERS

GENERAL

2018 has been a challenging and busy year for the St. Giles flower ladies but a very rewarding one. The highlight was our "Flower Festival" commemorating the end of the First World War. It was hard work for everyone, not just in the creation of the flower arrangements but also the immense amount of organisation that went on behind the scenes. All our efforts proved worthwhile as the festival was a great success with some very innovative flower arrangements portraying both the tragic and optimistic sides of WW1.

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 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 continues to work 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 The Revd. Matthew Hughes and discussions with Team Leaders, mainly focussing on our regular festival events.

Memberships – St. Giles Flower arrangers are always very keen to recruit new people and this year we were pleased to welcome several new members. Hopefully this trend will continue during 2019.

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 and demonstrations always prove very popular and more are being organised for 2019. Workshops are especially beneficial as they give excellent advice and guidance as well as practical experience and are particularly helpful for our new recruits.

CURRENT ISSUES

Funding

Traditionally the flower fund has been financed by the weddings and donations. Of recent years there have been far fewer weddings resulting in a considerable decline in our income. We thank all those who continue to support us by their kind comments and their donations. For the past two years the PCC has contributed to the fund to enable us to maintain the standard of the floral displays. On our part we are grateful for all the support and try to be good stewards of the money we receive.

FUTURE

After 5 years as Joint Co-ordinators Valerie Bailey and Doreen Wilson felt it was time to step down in favour of younger persons, who will bring fresh ideas and keep up with the trends of today. Valerie Bailey has also been Treasury for many years and will be stepping down from this position too. The new structure is split into three categories under our new Co-ordinators as follows:-

Fiona Milton	Organizing flowers, workshops, & festivals
Elizabeth Harriss-Orr	Administration
Alison Reynolds	Treasurer

Valerie and Doreen would like to say thank you for all the support and help they have had during their five years of joint leadership with St. Giles Flower Arrangers, which they have found both challenging and fulfilling.

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 50 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.

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 regularly have about 16 children.

In the past year we have done a series on Elijah and found out about some of the Old Testament kings.

We have thought about the themes of 'One faith', 'one church' and 'one message' by looking at some of the stories in Acts. We have explored what the fruit of the Spirit should look like in our lives, thought about the theme of Light and Darkness at Christmas and currently we are doing a series on Jeremiah.

In recent months some of the children have started to help lead the worship in the all-age services by playing their instruments. Members of Kids club also take part in the Christingle Service.

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 the Wedding at Cana, Jairus' daughter and the lost sheep. We have also looked at Psalm 139 and considered how we are wonderfully made.

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 'Team Builders' and we had great fun looking at Bible stories through drama, games, craft and watching a DVD. We looked at the lives of Joseph, Moses, Esther, Paul and the disciples. We had visitors from Bromley Football club who ran some games session and encouraged us to think about what it means to be team players. There was 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

HOUSE GROUPS

Did you know that there are at least 80 people from both St. Giles and St. Nicholas churches who meet regularly in small groups to study the Bible, pray and support each other? The group leaders, in addition to Brian and Noreen Roberts who have recently retired, are Ailsa Chapman, Alison Reynolds, Antony Harding, Dave Clark, Diane Stiff with Andy Chapman, Irene Hawkins, Jenny Hutson, Sue Simpson and The Revd. Matthew Hughes. Additionally, The Revd. Diana Coutts-Pauling, Heather Argent, Joan Bromley and Judy Crowson have led groups for shorter periods or less regularly.

During Lent this year, all the house groups studied a 5 week course written by Matthew on the life of St. Peter, entitled 'The Fire' - mistakes, doubt, faith and hope, which concluded with an open air service of Holy Communion around a fire in the Rectory garden, followed by refreshments. In addition to the regular house group members, another three dozen people signed up to follow this course, bringing the total to well over 100 participants across the Parish.

We thank God for the commitment of the group leaders (and the hosts) and pray that God will use these groups to help grow and deepen our faith in Him and our fellowship with each other.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Heather Argent, the house group co-ordinator - hargent@talktalk.net/ 01689 857785.

Heather Argent

House Group co-ordinator

ST. GILES WEBSITE

Farnborough Parish website: www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk

It is now about one year since the parish website was split in two, in early 2018, with village history topics now moved to a separate website, see below.

The parish website has continued to showcase future and past events at St. Giles. A particular focus this year has of course been the centenary of the end of World War 1, and associated events including the Remembrance Day service and special flower festival. The website has also featured the Parish Fete, Harvest Festival, and the return of Farnborough Fayre.

The website has about 100 pages, and has between 200 and 250 unique visitors per day, generating over 2000 page downloads. The busiest months are March and December, linked to Easter and Christmas. A particular benefit is being able to display larger photo sets following parish events than is possible in other media. Typically photos taken at events are retained on the website for about nine months before removal. I am most grateful to those who send in articles and photos.

Running costs are about £50 per annum for the domain names 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.

Farnborough History website: www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk

The second website has grown significantly since it was launched in January 2018, and now has over 80 pages. Usage is typically between one quarter and one third that of the main St. Giles site per month.

One pleasing feature is that it is being accessed from all over the country, and beyond, by people who have a Farnborough connection. This has led to new contacts being made and several interesting new articles being published.

I would be very glad to hear from anyone who would like to send in further information about the history of our village for publication.

Nick Reynolds
nickr306@talk21.com

FRIENDS OF ST. GILES

The aim of the Friends has always been to support the Church. During the last year our major donation has been £5,000 to the organ fund. We have also paid £2,430 to the Church architect in our efforts to try to solve the toilet problem.

The Friends of St. Giles, with the full support of the United PCC, commissioned the Church architect Paul Sharrock, to provide an option appraisal study looking at the provision of toilets and other facilities in the Church and after much thought he came up with plans for an extension leading out from behind the organ. This was presented to the PCC. We look forward to this being discussed with the parish as a whole as one of the possible solutions and one with additional benefits.

Julia Hoadley
Chairman

PARISH MAGAZINE

I find it difficult to believe that I am approaching the 5th anniversary of my editorship of the Parish Magazine and I now have the expert help of my wife Helen who is the deputy editor and also our Charity in Focus co-ordinator.

The past year has seen some notable anniversaries which we have attempted to highlight in the magazine. In June we had the 60th anniversary of St. Nicholas and on 1st September the return of the Farnborough Fayre. In November we had the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. The past year has seen the conclusion of a series of articles entitled 'The Alley Kids' inspired by John Riches. We also published series of articles including 'How Well Do You Know Your Country' by Sheila Munns, the very interesting 'Archives' by Patsy John and some historical articles 'Farnborough and the Turnpike Age' written by Nick Reynolds. The 'Music Page' has become a regular feature and is currently guiding us through the complicated process and progress of the restoration of the organ at St Giles. Thank you Clive for keeping us updated. Thanks also to Patsy John for the entertaining film reviews.

There are many others who send poems and articles and I mention Bob Donovan for his often amusing observations of life in Farnborough. There are those who write reports for the WI's and Mothers' Union so thank you to Jennie, Lynne, Patsy and Lindsay. I would also like to thank Lesley, Irene, Nick and Roger for their ongoing photographic contributions and recently Hannah Fruin who is currently studying photography as an A level subject. I would like to thank Liz in the Parish Office and Matthew for their constant attention and submissions.

We are very fortunate to have two erudite leader writers and I would like to thank Matthew and Stephen for their inspiring contributions every month giving us food for thought in the opening pages of the magazine.

I would also like to thank Danny at T&C Printers for his expertise and patience. We often have 4 or 5 proofs before the final print proof is completed. My monthly meetings with Danny are a highlight of the month in the production process. Once the order to 'go to print' is given it takes a minimum of 10 days for printing, packing and delivery and a few more days for distribution by John Richardson. Hence the deadline of the 6th of the month prior to publication!

We have recently lost a page of advertising so Adèle is currently seeking new clients. We are going to spread the advertising content more evenly throughout the magazine in rotation for a few months in the hope it will attract small traders and businesses.

Please see below an email that I received from the National Parish Magazine awards 2018:

Dear Eddie,

The results of the 2018 National Parish Magazine Awards have at last been finalised, with the standard this year the highest ever, it has been hard work for the judges to decide the order. Out of over 400 entries your magazine achieved 6th place in the A4 Category.

Thank you for taking part in this year's competition and we hope you will enter again next year.

*Regards, Paul Orsborn
Awards Co-Ordinator*

As you can see we achieved a creditable 6th place which keeps us in the top 2% of all submitted entries for the 4th year running. It is very difficult to compete with other parishes that have a vast income from advertising and some who publish up to 40 pages with colour photos galore. I think this result is highly commendable and keeps us in the 'premier league' of national parish magazines.

***Eddie Roberts
Editor***

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.