

**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 2019.**

**RECTOR:  
THE REVD. MATTHEW HUGHES**

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

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



**Sunday 18th October 2020**

# 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.           |
|                | Janet Palmer and  | )                                  |
|                | Sally Attwood     | ) St. Giles - 11.15 a.m.           |
|                | Andrew Bailey     | ) St. Giles - 6.30 p.m.            |
|                | Sheila Munns      | ) St. Giles - Thursdays 10.00 a.m. |
|                | Claire Couldridge | ) 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 18th OCTOBER 2020 - 4.00 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: *Romans 15: 1-11***

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbour for the good purpose of building up the neighbour. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.' For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'.

## 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:** Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that you always have room in your heart for us; help us to make room in our lives for one another. Save us from ever being so occupied with our own affairs, so wrapped up in our own small world, that we have no time for the fellowship to which you have called us. Though we are many,

**All:** **make us one.**

**Priest:** Teach us to open our hearts to one another, sharing joys and sorrows, offering support and encouragement to any in need among us, remembering each other in prayer and, through word and deed, expressing the love that binds us together in Christ. Though we are many,

**All:** **make us one.**

**Priest:** Teach us to live in harmony, recognising that we are part of your Body, called to represent you here on earth, and so save us from selfish attitudes, unforgiving hearts, and closed minds. Though we are many,

**All:** **make us one.**

**Priest:** Teach us to use our gifts, whatever they may be, for the good of all, to look for opportunities to offer service, to be open to ways in which we can use our gifts, and so to contribute fully to our life together. Though we are many,

**All:** **make us one.**

**Priest:** Teach us to work together, not pursuing our own ends but striving, as a team towards a common goal, united in the service of others and the cause of your kingdom. Though we are many,

**All:** **make us one.**

**Priest:** Lord, you have called us to be one people, bound together in genuine love and concern for one another, so that others might see something of you in the fellowship we share, and through that catch a glimpse of your purpose for all. Help us to recognise today what it means to be members of your Church, and, by your grace, help us to live up to that high calling, to the glory of your name. Though we are many,

**All:** **make us one.**

**Priest:** Almighty God, we thank and praise you for your continuing love and grace to our churches of St. Giles and St. Nicholas during this time of coronavirus. Help us to remain resolute in our faith and commitment to you and to one another. Through Jesus Christ,

**All:** **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

# **A G E N D A**

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 28th April 2019, *(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 14)*
  - (e) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2018 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas *(pages 14-17)*
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 2021.**

## **ADDITIONAL REPORTS**

Rector, *(pages 18-19)*  
Provision of toilet facilities, development of meeting room and hall as part of the Rector's Report, *(pages 20-22)*  
Associate Rector, *(pages 22-23)*  
St. Giles Music, *(pages 23-24)*  
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 24-25)*  
St. Giles Sacristan, *(pages 25-26)*  
St. Giles Bell Ringers, *(pages 26-27)*  
St. Giles Flower Arrangers, *(pages 27-28)*  
St. Nicholas Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 28-29)*  
Mothers' Union, *(pages 29-30)*  
House Groups, *(page 31)*  
St. Giles Website, *(pages 31-32)*  
Friends of St. Giles, *(page 32)*  
Parish Magazine, *(page 32-33)*

**The Accounts are on the Notice Boards of both Churches.**

## 2. MINUTES

### MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 22nd APRIL 2019

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

##### Vestry Meeting

##### **Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens**

The Rector explained that this is the time when we elect our legal Churchwardens and recognise the support that Deputy Wardens give to the life of the Parish. Last year it was good to have two new Churchwardens, Philip Lovelock for St. Giles and Sue Simpson for St. Nicholas. The Rector, on behalf of all at St. Giles and St. Nicholas, thanked them very much. Both Churchwardens are very happy to serve a second term of office.

The Rector put forward a proposal that Philip Lovelock should remain the Churchwarden at St. Giles.

Proposed by Paul Barnes.

Seconded by Adèle Cooke and agreed by all.

The Rector put forward a proposal that Sue Simpson should remain the Churchwarden of St. Nicholas.

Proposed by Roger Allard.

Seconded by Clare Allen and agreed by all.

The Rector expressed his thanks to the Deputy Wardens for the work they had carried out. He announced that all were happy to remain in role. The Rector expressed his thanks to Ian Fordyce and his contribution to Church life and led a moments silence to remember Ian and thank for God for his life. With Ian's passing there has been a change to the deputies at St. Giles. They will now be:

Peter Russell (8.00 a.m.)

Sue Rennie (10.00 a.m.)

Heather Vogt (11.15 a.m.)

Andrew Bailey (6.30 p.m.)

Sheila Munns (Thursday).

Sue Simpson will continue to be assisted at St. Nicholas by Claire Couldridge.

Proposed by Chris Hallett.

Seconded by Linda Crisp and agreed by all.

The Rector raised a vote of thanks to the Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens.

Proposed by Paul Beamiss.

Seconded by Roger Allard and agreed by all.

#### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** **SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2019 at 4.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** 60 members

1. **Opening prayers.**

2. **Apologies for absence:** These were received from Jenny and Nick Wilkins, Mary Compton, Helen Roberts and Michelle Felstead.

3. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 28th April 2019 were read out. With a change of name the Minutes were approved and signed by the Rector.

Proposed by Lindsay Barnes.

Seconded by Pauline Allard and agreed by all.

The Rector raised a vote of thanks to Linda Montgomery for her work in taking the Minutes for the APCM and PCC Meetings.

Proposed by Heather Argent.

Seconded by Paul Beamiss and agreed by all.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

5. **REPORTS**

(a) **Electoral Roll Report:**

It was reported that there were 388 on the Electoral Roll as of 31.12.18; 286 at St. Giles and 52 at St. Nicholas.

(b) **The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2018 including financial statements for St. Giles and St. Nicholas: and the Report of the Independent Examiner:**

Heather Argent raised a question asking if St. Nicholas were suffering financial difficulties, do the two churches work together and is the St. Giles PCC aware? As one Parish do the two churches work together?

A discussion was held around how we support St. Nicholas. Roger Allard explained that all events such as the Barn Dance are paid for and reflected in the ticket pricing. For Church events such as the APCM no charges are made. He went on to explain that exploratory work relating to the St. Nicholas building has taken place and shows that there will be the need for some significant expenditure over the next couple of years.

The Rector raised a vote of thanks to the finance teams for both churches for all their hard work.

Proposed by Richard Wood.

Seconded by Julia Hoadley and agreed by all.

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

Proposed by Adèle Cooke.

Seconded by Richard Wood and agreed by all.

(c) **Safeguarding:**

The Rector reported that all safeguarding measures are in place at St. Giles and that Irene Dancer, our Safeguarding Officer, and Linda Montgomery, our Lead Recruiter, have been very diligent that these continue. There is currently an audit taking place to make sure that we are compliant with all diocesan requirements. There is now a requirement that all PCC members undertake safeguarding training.

6. **ELECTIONS**

(a) **Members for the PCC:**

**St. Giles two vacancies:** There has been one nomination - Adèle Cooke.

Nominated by Philip Lovelock.

Seconded by Paul Barnes and agreed by all.

**St. Nicholas two vacancies:** The Associate Rector reported that there have been two nominations:

Nicolas Jolliffe

Nominated by Sue Simpson.

Seconded by Lynn Henniker and agreed by all.

Diane Stiff

Nominated by Sue Simpson.

Seconded by Lynn Henniker and agreed by all.

(b) **Deanery Synod Representatives:** It was reported that Judy Turner Crowson was currently the only representative on the Deanery Synod for St. Giles, and Sue Simpson and Michelle Felstead from St. Nicholas. There is currently a vacancy for another member from St. Giles but there were no volunteers.

(c) **Readers:** The Rector put forward a proposal that all readers, as the Diocese stipulates, be members of the PCC. This are Chris Hallett and Susan Midha at St. Giles and Ian Gillies at St. Nicholas. The Rector asked for a show of hands and all agreed this.

The Rector also informed the meeting that Jean Bannister has been diagnosed with dementia and will no longer officiate at St. Giles. He will be writing to her to thank her for all her hard work.

## 7. **APPOINTMENTS**

(a) **Sidespeople:**

A huge thanks was given to all those who are currently a sidesperson at St. Giles and St. Nicholas. The Rector proposed that all shown in the Report continue in their role for another year.

Proposed by Andrew Bailey.

Seconded by Heather Argent and agreed by all.

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

Proposed by Bridget Wood.

Seconded by Sylvia Addison and agreed by all.

(b) **Independent Financial Examiner 2019:**

The Rector put forward a proposal that Christopher 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 Roger Allard.

Seconded by Molly Richardson and agreed by all.

(c) The Rector thanked all who have served on the PCC at both churches.

(d) The APCM will be held annually on the last Sunday of April if there are no special events.

## 8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## 9. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT APCM**

Sunday 26th April 2020 at 4.30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church.

## 10. **ADDITIONAL REPORTS**

The Rector encouraged all to read these and explained that the six-yearly Review of the Electoral Roll had taken place in February/March and there have been many changes.

A Confirmation service is held annually and attendance at services is healthy, however there is some concern over the 11.15 a.m. service at St. Giles.

It has been a busy year with refurbishment, including the organ, and this should be complete soon given a slight delay with the keyboard. Bishop Edmund Holland will lead a service of Dedication in July. All work on the Memorial Gardens and War Memorial is now complete. We have completed building of a parapet wall, planted the area, and re-tarmacked the pathway.

Challenges going forward: finances are tight, somewhat due to the decrease in weddings and funerals. Without the rent from the Wentworth property we would be in a deficit. There is a Stewardship Campaign planned for the Autumn.

Family and Children's work continues but this is a difficult time - with many different calls on children's time.

With regards to the toilet, a meeting was held to go through the options. There will be information sent out to all Electoral Roll members of the Church and an indicative vote made. Following the advice of the Archdeacon there needs to be consensus of opinion and we need to avoid division relating to this matter.

The Rector would like to thank all who help and support the running of St. Giles, in particular the Wardens, the finance team especially Paul Beamiss, leaders of other teams, the musicians and the ministry teams. The Rector asked if there were any questions.

The Associate Rector encouraged all to read the Report for St. Nicholas but pointed out some of the changes that have taken place; the replacement of the floor following some flooding, and the new chairs bought with some legacies. Later in the year the building will be decorated and the website rebuilt with money raised during the Gift Day. The Associate Rector thanked all who volunteer at St. Nicholas and pointed out that virtually everyone who comes to the Church is a volunteer. He also read the very poignant last sentence from his Report.

#### 11. **CLOSING PRAYERS**

The meeting closed with prayer at 5.26 p.m.

### 3. **MATTERS ARISING**

### 4. **REPORTS**

#### **ELECTORAL ROLL Report (a)**

As at 31st March 2020 the figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 388 (St. Giles - 337, St. Nicholas - 51). 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 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019 - 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 2019 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		
<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. Andrew Bailey Mrs. Janet Palmer Miss Sally Attwood Mrs. Susan Rennie Mrs. Sheila Munns Miss Claire Couldridge	Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC until APCM 2022	St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Giles St. Nicholas
<u>Deanery Synod Rep.</u>	Mrs. Michelle Felstead Mrs. Sue Simpson	until APCM 2021 until ACPM 2021	St. Nicholas St. Nicholas
<b>Elected:</b>			
<u>Hon. Secretary</u>	Mrs. Linda Montgomery		
<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mr. Roger Allard		St. Nicholas
<u>Gift Aid Secretary</u>	Mrs. Carol Fryer		

## Members

Mrs. 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. Adèle Cooke	until ACPM 2022	St Giles
Mr. Richard Butterworth	until ACPM 2020	St Nicholas
Mr. Nicolas Jolliffe	until ACPM 2022	St Nicholas
Mrs. Diane Stiff	until ACPM 2022	St Nicholas

The full PCC met twice during the year with an average attendance of 66 per cent. In addition, the members representing St. Giles met five times (with an average attendance of 67 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 388 names on the Church Electoral Roll for the Parish as at 31st December 2019.

The usual Sunday attendance at services in 2019 was 148 adults and 15 children at St. Giles, and at St. Nicholas 39 adults and 10 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 2019, the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

30	Baptisms
6	Weddings
23	Funeral services held in church followed by burial in the churchyard or Cremation
12	Funeral services held at a crematorium
32	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 year has been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic and it has been very challenging for all of us at St. Giles. During this difficult time I have been even more mindful of all the support I, and the Parish, have received from so many, who have given themselves unstintingly in the maintenance of St. Giles during the lockdown. To start naming people might lead to omission but a huge thank you to Philip Lovelock and Sue Simpson, our Churchwardens, and our Deputy Wardens, Claire

Couldridge, Peter Russell, Sheila Munns, Heather Vogt, Sue Rennie and Andrew Bailey. Also to our Churchyard Team for keep the Church grounds so beautifully.

I would like to thank those 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.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to Heather Vogt who has stepped down as deputy warden for the 11.15 a.m. service. I am very grateful to Janet Palmer and Sally Attwood who have kindly stepped in to help support this service.

***Matthew Hughes, Rector***

## **FINANCIAL RESULTS**

Aggregated parish income for the year was £393,688 (2018-£931,280) and aggregated resources used were £438,572 (2018-£360,422). Net incoming resources amounted to £44,884 (2018-£570,858). St Giles recorded net incoming resources of £57,156 (2018-£568,458) and St. Nicholas recorded net incoming resources of £12,272 (2018-£2,400).

## **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 2019.

## **THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS Report (c)**

### **ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD REPORT**

Unfortunately, this year we have all lost something and some more than others, I regretfully say. This is a stark reality of 2020 and from my own experiences, my family and I have found it very difficult at times. We shall all remember this period of Covid19.

Freedoms that most of us took for granted and those normal day-to-day events, meetings with family, friends, shopping, worship at church and the list goes on of areas in our lives affected by the pandemic.

I have considered over this period that once a year we pay homage to those earned freedoms and the normality of society. A day in November we remember those who sacrificed, suffered and those who suffered the greatest loss, the loss of life. Through our covid19 experiences we may draw an insight with events from the World Wars. Separation from families, the loss of life, the loss of freedoms, Government control over day-to-day activities. Perhaps on Remembrance Sunday we may gain a greater depth of understanding for the sense of loss and sacrifice.

Whilst we may be united in loss and sacrifice from past and present, we will reflect upon this time, as with any suffering we may take stock of our lives and acknowledge our many blessings.

Positively, Church life continues, for example, happily we have secured additional bells to complement those already in the tower. Special thanks to Nick Wilkins for achieving this for St. Giles and the community.

Covid 19 presented a new challenge to worship and the challenge was met, with Matthew and his team embracing YouTube!

The award-winning Parish magazine continues its traditional outreach with a tactile appeal for many and now has adapted to reach many parishioners online as many have embraced the virtual and technological world.

We can truly elevate the value of friendship, unity, community, health and all those liberties previously perhaps taken for granted, through loss as we are united. Events such as clapping on those Thursday evenings for the NHS heroes also brought neighbours together in unity we acknowledge.

Let me pay gratitude to Peter, the Deputy Wardens, all those teams and individuals who assist Matthew to continue his work supporting us all, be it in our hearts, minds, body and in everyday conversation.

Together !

Take care.

***Philip Lovelock***  
***St. Giles Churchwarden***

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

The Group consists of 8 members, who are also members of the Tuesday working group, plus a Secretary, the Rector and Churchwardens ex-officio. We meet every other month to discuss on-going maintenance in the Church, St. Giles Centre and the Churchyard.

Current discussions are still on-going for the provision of toilets. This is now going out for consultation to members of the congregation.

We are pleased to say the restoration of the Organ has now been completed, albeit over estimate and time.

The memorial trees in the Churchyard behind the Yew tree have been pruned. These are all fruit trees, so make an Orchard.

We have plans for re pointing the War Memorial, when the weather is suitable.

Three main improvements have been carried out since the last Report, two of which were by Contractors. Firstly, the main pathway from the Church car park through to the War Memorial has been re-levelled and resurfaced. Secondly, the low wall in front of the War Memorial has been rebuilt and capped with Portland stone in keeping with the design of the War Memorial. And thirdly, the design for and the replanting of the area in front of the War Memorial, also the raised bed between the two Gardens of Remembrance, was carried out by members of the Tuesday Team.

The Tuesday Team working group meet come rain or shine, but it must be said we get mostly fine days. We have a workforce of up to 16 or so men and women, some more able than others, but we could always do with more, especially younger people. We have dealt with tree branches, one fallen tree and barrow loads of twigs and debris from this year's storms. Also due to the amount of rain, many graves have sunk as much as 8 inches, these we have topped up with soil. Plus another big job is

leaf clearing. Weekly jobs include removing dead flowers and keeping tidy the Gardens of Remembrance, plus path edging, fencing, hedge cutting. You name it, we do it !

We are also responsible for the provision of holes for cremated remains, either in the Gardens of Remembrance or into graves; the on-going management of the Memorial Plaques, and provision for new ones; recording locations of cremated remains and graves. We are now placing new Memorial Plaques on the rebuilt walls around the original Garden of Remembrance.

We keep a check on loose headstones, and secure if possible, also Memorial benches, despite both of these being the responsibility of the donors.

The St. Giles Centre has had leaks to the roof repaired, light bulbs fitted, and outside hedges trimmed. The re-development of this Centre is still on the agenda.

The Churchyard Maintenance Contract has again gone to P.R.O. Landscapes, at a cost of £6.900, an increase of £200 on last year. They come 20 times between March and November and cut the grass and remove waste, and wood chip all the paths. Additional waste collections if needed, cost £63, and 2 optional visits during the busiest growing season of £350 each.

The Tuesday team have taken on the task of cutting the boundary hedge between the Churchyard and Church Field to save further expense.

This year we are due for our Quinquennial Inspection, this is carried out by an Architect from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, to make sure the Church is kept in good repair. We do not think there will be any major work required.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Tinham retiring Chairman of the Committee, for the last 20 years or so leading us in this worthwhile maintenance of our Church and Churchyard.

***Richard Healey***  
***Chairman Churchyard and Fabric Group***

### ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

This is my final report as Churchwarden.

St. Nicholas Church has had a very busy year, we have had the Church decorated and now are awaiting new curtains/blinds which again we will be able complete due to the generosity of the congregation.

Our website is now up and running and two of our mums are also working on putting us on social media to promote our Church.

We have again held Messy Church , Mothers & Toddlers, Mothers & Babies, Lunch Club, Alpha adults and junior Alpha and once a month evening services where we have been looking at the Every Day Supernatural.

Also we have had a great Holiday Club, Light & Bright party, a very successful Magic Evening, another successful Christmas Fair of which half the proceeds was given to the Latch Key Project.

Our building issues continue, but we are working to at least keeping the water out for several more years, while the discussions continue to the way forward for the building. Tenders have been requested and we are working towards the work being done to at least repair the joints.

Unfortunately we have lost two special people who have served St Nicholas Church faithfully, Derek Couldridge and Eileen Bourton.

I want to thank all those who have supported me as Churchwarden, and especially Claire Couldridge as my deputy, I could not have done my role without her support.

**Sue Simpson**  
**St. Nicholas Churchwarden**

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

This has been another busy year at St. Giles with the latter part being dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. It has been good to be part of the Churchwarden's team and I am grateful to my fellow deputies for their continuing support of St. Giles in these difficult times.

In terms of good and ornaments, it has been good to see some brand new hymn boards displaying which Sunday in the church's year we are on, along with hymn numbers and canticle signs. Two lovely oak storage boxes have been made by Jon McDonald to store them. These are in memory of his parents, John and Barbara McDonald.

Nick Reynolds has relinquished his role in looking after the Church's Inventory, Terrier and Log. We are all very grateful to Nick for keeping these important records in good order.

Given the current emphasis on cleaning I can report that St. Giles is being cleaned with due regard to its historic materials following guidance from Historic Churches.

I can report that all the Church's goods and ornaments are in a good state of repair.

**Andrew Bailey**  
**Deputy Warden**

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

**ST. GILES**

In 2019 we ended up with an expected deficit which was £57,156. Our total income was £270,648 which fell below our total expenditure of £327,804. You will remember that 2018's record surplus was achieved only after entering 10 Wentworth Close into our accounts, last year's deficit follows another extraordinary event, the restoration and refurbishment of the church organ.

The church organ refurbishment cost a total of £113251.59. The Finance Team managed to secure a VAT refund of £19844.93 making the net cost £93406.66. This was funded as follows:

Donations Congregation (Gift Aided & non GA)	£29540.65
Donation Friends	£5000
Donation Other	£3100
Church Reserves	£55766.01

However, some of the income was included within the 2018 accounts as was some of the expenditure so it is not easy to compare 2019 with 2018 figures or even those for 2017. Remember, the 2018 accounts were likewise distorted and we had the Wentworth Close legacy to further confuse matters.

A stewardship campaign was held in 2019 and the pledged response should see an increase in annual income of £4590 than it otherwise would be. Although that is very good news and together with one-off donations means we have seen an increase in our planned giving, we should not forget that the trend is downwards which together with the reduction in funeral and wedding income, means it becomes increasingly difficult to balance our budget. We do not, of course, wish to use our reserves for day to day expenditure, as that is unsustainable in the long term. Because of this, I give thanks to the PCC for making the foresighted and wise decision to keep 10 Wentworth Close. The rental income is now most welcome and it looks like it will be indispensable in the future.

We are also seeing a decline in hall lettings, mainly because the centre is too small for those few which do enquire, and we also have the problem with those just starting out that they soon outgrow the hall and move elsewhere. However, it is not all doom and gloom as we continue to raise income from fundraising events, mainly the summer fair.

The only other major item of expenditure in 2019 was the resurfacing and other work to the churchyard path costing £11066.

As always, the PCC continues to explore new income streams and maintain strict control over expenditure.

A sole legacy of £1000 was received last year.

This year's name for the Parish Offer (previously Parish Share or Diocesan quota/contribution/offer) is Indicative Offer which is paid to the Diocese and consists of an offer from the parish (based on a Diocesan indication) including a sum to cover clergy stipends, benefits and costs. In 2019, our Parish Offer was £73,860. Our Indicative Offer for 2020 was provisionally £74,968. However, the Diocese has altered the rules again. Previously, the parishes have kept the DBF (Diocesan Board of Finance) fees which was a direction of the Diocese when they made the PCC responsible for the Incumbent's salary and benefits. This was to aid in offsetting these extra costs. Now the Diocese demand that the DBF fees are paid over, no doubt to assist in balancing their perpetual (unbalanced) budget. In response to this, the PCC unanimously decided that the amount of last year's DBF fees (£10645) should be deducted from our Indicative Offer. Therefore, this year's Indicative Offer is £64323

As previously stated 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. Donations from funerals and wall plaques fees 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.

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 reliable 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. Also it is important to acknowledge the work of our examiner, Chris Jones of Baxter's, Orpington.

After last year's parting shot that the Junior Choir only received £70 in donations for 2018, I am pleased to report that donations for 2019 were £835.80. However, that makes a daunting target for this year, so I look forward to your help in getting pass the stretch target of £1000.

***Paul Beamiss***  
***Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles***

## **ST. NICHOLAS**

The St. Nicholas accounts show that the net current assets increased by £12272 from £83654 at 31 December 2018 to £95926 at 31 December 2019. This is a much more favourable outcome than that envisaged at the time the 2019 budget was agreed by the St Nicholas PCC.

£8515 of this £12272 is Restricted Funds at 31 December and is planned to be spent in 2020 on the concrete repairs (£5522) and the curtains and stage refurbishment (£2993). Deducting these Restricted Funds of £8515 from the surplus of £12272 still leaves an increase of £3757 in the balances at the year end. This income of £8515 was not anticipated at the time the 2019 budget was agreed by the St Nicholas PCC and with hall lettings coming in at some £2600 more than budget and expenditure some £900 less than budget these were the main reasons for the increase in net assets of £12272. £5000 of the £5522 was a very welcome donation from the Archdeacon and the £2993 for the curtains and stage refurbishment came from donations in response to the Stewardship Campaign in November and other specific donations.

2019 has seen the large hall redecorated and the new website completed using money that was raised from the Gift Day in 2018 but unspent at 31 December 2018 and shown as Restricted Funds in the 2018 accounts. The further work to the large hall planned for 2020 should complete the refurbishment.

At the meeting on 28 January the St. Nicholas PCC agreed the budget for 2020 which was broadly in balance after taking into account the Restricted Funds of £8515 in the accounts at 31 December and which are planned to be spent during 2020. However since then it has become necessary to replace the boiler at Church House



which is many years old and beyond economic repair. This will cost in excess of £2000 but there are funds available in the Church House Repair Fund at the Diocese. £6300 is included in the 2020 budget for recaulking the joints between the concrete panels based on professional advice. At the time of writing this report discussions are continuing as early indications are that costs will be coming in well over budget.

In summary 2019 has been a good year financially for St Nicholas. 2020 is now looking like a deficit rather than the balanced position envisaged at the time of preparation and agreement of the budget. The only question is the scale of it. Looking further ahead there is no room for complacency – there is little or no spare income and expenditure pressures continue to be upwards not downwards.

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. 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**

## 6. APPOINTMENTS

### **SIDESPERSONS -**

#### **St. Giles:**

Mrs. R. Arney, Miss S. Attwood, Mr. P. Barnes, Mrs. L. Barnes, Mrs. V. Clark, Mrs. M. Compton, Mrs. C. Coyle, Mr. M. Dancer, Mrs. I. Dancer, Mrs. C. Fryer, Mrs. A. Goodall, Mrs. C. Hallet, Lovelock Family, Mrs. J. Palmer, Mrs. S. Pugh, Reeves Family, Russell Family, Scarlett Family, Mr. R. Stringer, 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, 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.

## 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 the life of St. Giles has been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. Our last full service was held back in March and from then on we operated under full lockdown, until we resumed public worship in the summer.

Up until then the life of our Church was varied, vibrant and growing. We had finally completed the refurbishment of the organ and it seemed that the efforts we had put into renewing the musical life of the Church were beginning to bear fruit with some wonderful sung services and growing choirs.

I appreciate how disappointing it has been that so much of our common life has had to be suspended, I am only pleased that by so doing we have played our part in protecting the vulnerable and preserving the NHS during these very difficult times.

I give thanks to God that during the lockdown, despite the suspension of services and the cessation of so much of our Church's life, our congregation has remained loyal and committed to St. Giles. This has been shown in the appreciative comments about our weekly bulletins and the maintenance of standing orders and regular giving, which has allowed St. Giles finances to remain healthy, even when a number of our key income streams have dried up.

Any reading of church history will reveal that the Church has gone through some very difficult and trying times in past times. Indeed, as St. Giles is over 900 years old worshippers of former times would have lived through plagues, the Civil War and many famines and tribulations. Now in our time, like them, we are called to be faithful and strong in the Lord in the face of adversity, holding before us the example of our suffering and faithful Messiah.

Eventually we will overcome this virus and life will return to some kind of normality, we will take with us the lessons that we have learnt from this experience and they will not all be negative ones. That will be the time for us to reconnect with our Church and to renew our commitment to its life and witness. My prayer is that no one will fall away from the life of our fellowship.

Being a Parish Priest at this time is certainly not easy and therefore I am hugely grateful to all those who have supported me and the life of St. Giles in these difficult times, particularly our core team and Church office holders. The many words and prayers of encouragement have made the loss of Church life more tolerable. I have been delighted that we have been able to keep in touch with over 350 people each week through our regular mail-outs offering to many a vital lifeline to St. Giles and their faith. I am also delighted that we have managed to keep the Parish Magazine going as well under the most trying of circumstances.

Our online services were well received and I think overall a credit to St. Giles. I am very grateful to all those who helped with this and will continue to help, as this type of service will remain part of what we do going forward.

### Bells

Even during the lockdown nothing has been able to dent the enthusiasm of Nick Wilkins for supporting and enhancing bell ringing at St. Giles and across the Diocese. Working with the PCC and the Diocese Nick has initiated a project that will see two extra bells added to our existing 6. The PCC voted to contribute £5,000 towards this work from two legacies given in memory of Richard and Diane Hanchett and Dorothy

Greenhalgh, their names will be inscribed on the new bells, and I am personally delighted that these lovely people, who did so much for St. Giles will be remembered in this way. Nick has worked tremendously hard to raise the remaining £21,000 some of which was given in memory of John Barnes, who did so much to support and develop bell ringing within the Church of England and in particular at St. Giles. We look forward to a time when we will be able to ring all 8 bells together and hold a Dedication Service to celebrate their installation.

### **Toilets, hall facilities and St Giles Centre**

Over the past 6 months the St. Giles Churchyard and Fabric Committee have investigated extensively and exhaustively the viability of various solutions that the PCC have identified for the locating of toilets at St. Giles, the provision of meeting facilities and the future of the Centre. They have now produced a report which follows my Report.

A key finding in terms of a toilet being located at the Church is that there is no mains sewage south of the centre in Church Road and very low water pressure available at St. Giles. Any provision of toilets in or near St. Giles would have to involve an emptiable 'septic tank' in the lower car park near the road and Garden of Remembrance.

Added to this the Covid pandemic has underlined the importance for spacious meeting rooms and the need for parish churches to develop ways of maximising their income streams to face what will be undoubtedly be a more unpredictable and difficult future.

Having carefully read and considered the Churchyard and Fabric Teams report, the PCC, at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September, voted unanimously to focus on the re-development or rebuilding of the St. Giles Centre as the best way forward. The Centre would then be the location for the Church's toilets, which would be accessible from the outside, even if the hall was in use.

As the Rector I am now of the firm conviction that this is the right way forward and I will focus my energies in advancing this.

I appreciate that this will come as a great disappointment to many of you, but I believe that after almost a decade of debating, exploration and discussion the time has come for us to make a clear decision and take action. No one could ever accuse successive PCCs of not having thoroughly looked at every option or discounting the various shades of opinion and initiative. I am grateful to the Friends and many others who have helped me and a number of PCCs to think this matter through.

### **Remembrance Sunday Advent and Christmas.**

We hope that Remembrance Sunday will be observed this year with a service outside at 10.45 and the 2 minutes silence at 11.00 a.m. but are still awaiting guidance. People will be expected to social distance. More information will follow. I am currently working with others to explore how we might be able to observe and celebrate Advent and Christmas and again more information will follow.

My prayer is that we will all continue resolutely in our faith and be daily renewed in our commitment to following Christ and to serving him through the life of St. Giles and St. Nicholas.

***Matthew Hughes***  
***Rector of Farnborough Benefice***

## PROVISION OF TOILET FACILITIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEETING ROOM AND HALL

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) will be very conscious about the number of years taken up by discussions and deliberations over the possible provision of toilet facilities at St. Giles, and the refurbishment/development of the St. Giles Centre. This debate began in earnest when the London Borough of Bromley closed the public toilets at the top of Church Road. You will also be aware that at that time the PCC applied to purchase the disused site for possible extension of the St. Giles Centre but lost out to a higher bidder. Since then the PCC, along with the Churchyard Group, the Friends and a number of Architects have thoroughly explored the possible siting of a toilet in the grounds of St. Giles; as an extension to the Church; within the Church itself; and as part of a newly developed St. Giles Centre. We were advised by the Diocesan Advisory Committee to include in our discussion on toilet provision a wider examination of our overall resources and how they could best be developed to meet the needs of our Church and community both now and in the future. To this end, the provision of toilet facilities was to have been included in a wider review of the Centre and our needs for meeting facilities.

The length of time expended on this is indicative of its complexity and the lack of any clear consensus both within the PCC, the congregation, and wider community, as to the right and viable way forward. It has been difficult to identify any one obvious solution that does not have inherent disadvantages and accompanying controversies. Added to this is the high cost of some of the *suggested* schemes and solutions. Despite these difficulties it was thought important that the Church and wider community focus on various options with a view to building a consensus and reaching a decision as to whether there is a viable way forward. For some the issue was so irretrievably complex and difficult that there seemed no viable solution. For that reason there would have been an option to decline the provision of toilet facilities and to use the Centre toilets when available. This option also included a refurbishment of the existing Centre which will be necessary given its age.

The PCC are also Trustees of a Charity and as Trustees they are legally committed to making the best use of the charity's assets, whilst also executing the aims of the charity. To this end any development scheme involving a new meeting room or St. Giles Centre would have to be supported by a sound business plan. This would also be true to a lesser extent to a 'toilet only' development, as this would also need to convey value for money.

Options that had already been declined by the Diocese or the PCC and advised against by the London Borough of Bromley and Architects are as follows:

- Building anything on the South Side of the Church, including the use of the undercroft as a potential site for a toilet.
- Building anything by the front door of the Church as this will obscure important views out to the fields and pose a potential risk to the Yew tree, whilst also involving the moving of the Council-owned pathway.
- Installing a composting toilet as often used in allotments and rural churches.

Five options were eventually considered. Outline drawings together with estimated costs were prepared. Advantages and disadvantages for each were also included. One option was for a free standing toilet only and the others variously inside and/or outside as an extension to the church, some with additional accommodation.

Drainage for all of these options was always anticipated to be difficult and costly to achieve, especially as a composting toilet was not permissible. Nevertheless the

options were all considered to be worth pursuing to arrive at a possible consensus before proceeding further.

Most unfortunately after all these efforts, it has now been ascertained that there is no sewer in Church Road. Please see the attached Thames Water Authority map confirming this.

The absence of a sewer was brought to the attention of the Churchyard and Fabric Group at their last meeting in March this year. As can be seen, the nearest connection to a sewer is actually outside St. Giles Centre. So aside from the considerable distance from the Church, the Church is also situated much lower than the St. Giles Centre, therefore connection would not be possible. This situation now means that none of the proposed options for a toilet on the North side of the Church are possible.

There are however, two of the hitherto proposed options that would require drainage on the south Side, which would be possible if consideration was given to the establishment of a cesspit or tank - .see further comment on this form of drainage. Both of these options involve the conversion of the Clergy Vestry into a toilet. One of these options proposed the replacement of a clergy vestry on the North side of the Church with both an internal door, installed under the north window, and an external door and pathway leading in from where the yew hedge ends – this probably not actually achievable because of the disparity in levels and water supply to a sink. The other option takes advantage of the considerable roof space above the organ console, (the organ keyboard) sufficient to install a mezzanine floor, then placing the organ console on this floor with access via a staircase. This would free up space for the clergy vestry to be relocated where the current organ console now stands. A suggested requirement for a small sink would require a solution for its drainage and a water supply. Existing storage cupboards and the Altar Frontal Chest would need to be relocated.

Provision of a cesspit or tank requires that it be sited at least 2 meters from a road deemed acceptable by the Local Authority for access by a tanker vehicle for emptying. This requirement means that the only possible option for a cesspit or tank would be in the Church car park. It follows therefore that any option for a toilet could only be considered if drainage is from the south side of the church. This in itself presents problems because the car park being much lower than the Church, drainage would require the provision of a number of back-drop manholes before reaching a level for discharging into a cesspit or tank. Furthermore, cesspits and tanks require venting. The smallest (permissible) cesspit tank would need to be of 18000 litres capacity. A tank this size measures c 4.3 metres long by c 2.8 metres in diameter. This would require excavation in the order of 4 metres deep by 6 metres long.

A further serious problem is the supply of water. The only existing water supply emanates from TWA water main in Church Road at the entrance to the car park. The supply from there goes first to the dip tank by the Gardens of Remembrance, tees off to the other dip tank at the far end of the churchyard and then steeply up the South bank, supplying a stand pipe just outside the Vestry and finally inside to the sink. The water pressure at the sink in the Clergy Vestry is very low, sometimes hardly more than a trickle. It's a statement of the obvious, but water does not flow uphill except under pressure or by being pumped. The supply relies entirely on the water pressure in the TWA water main to reach that far. Unlike most establishments there is no water storage at the vestry and no possible means of achieving it. It therefore follows that the existing water supply to a proposed unisex toilet sited in the Clergy

Vestry would not be adequate, especially at Weddings, Funerals, possibly even at Baptisms and Special Services where concentrated use would not allow the cistern to refill in time, and then there is hand washing to consider.

An installation of a water pump would require it to be located close to the TWA water main and would require power to operate – the closest power supply is inside the church.

The only other possible solution would be a new water supply from the TWA water main at the top end of Church Road – an incredible long run; only achievable if cost is absolutely of no concern.

For this and other considerations the Churchyard and Fabric Group recommend that the best and probably the only viable way forward is to concentrate on the re-development of St. Giles Centre. Drawings for this have already been prepared by Brouard Architects and approved by the PCC which do incorporate a toilet accessible from outside.

In time therefore, the re-development of St. Giles Centre will bring back an accessible toilet very slightly closer to the Church than was the situation prior to the closure of the public toilets.

***John Tinham (Rtd. Chairman Churchyard & Fabric Group)***  
***Richard Healey, Chairman, Churchyard & Fabric Group.***

### ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

2019 was a year of great change for us as a country, when we saw another change in Prime Minister, and ended the year with another General Election. 2019 also saw some changes for us at St. Nicholas, on a somewhat smaller scale, although nevertheless significant for us as a church. Towards the beginning of the year we developed a new logo, incorporating our strapline 'Transforming Our Community Through the Presence of Christ'. Shortly after this, we were able to launch our new website. In line with this desire for 'renewal' we were able during the summer months to redecorate our church hall for the first time in ten years. This was no small undertaking, that involved the building of a scaffolding tower by some willing church volunteers, and then many hours of hard work by Dale Jeffery and his team.

Over the past year we have continued to be aware of the many connections that St. Nicholas has with the community, and the many good things that continue to take place at St. Nicholas throughout the year. The weekly Lunch Club, Parent & Toddler group, 'Just Babies', House Groups, Kids Club, and Youth Group 'Ignite', 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. Messy Church in particular, under the able leadership of our Children and Families' worker, Diane Stiff, has continued to thrive and grow. A number of times at Messy Church during 2019 we welcomed over 70 children, young people and adults into our hall, and found ourselves asking for more help! In addition, there were a number of social events, including a Quiz Night and a Magic Night with Bexley Magic Circle.

Through all of these, our prayer is that we will continue to make connections with the community. As a church, we held a stewardship campaign towards the end of 2019, and are planning to use the funds raised to replace the stage curtains and the hall curtains in our ongoing project of refurbishment. Once again, I was overwhelmed by the incredible generosity of the congregation during 2019, in their giving of 'Time', 'Talents' and 'Treasure'. We have often said that St. Nicholas is a church where everyone plays their part.

One person who embodied this during many years of faithful service to the parish was Derek Couldridge (1934-2019). Derek served faithfully as a warden at both St. Giles and St. Nicholas, and used his talents and gifts in many ways to bless the ministry of this parish. So it felt a significant loss for us as a church when Derek passed away in October 2019. Five clergy, including two former Rectors of St. Giles, attended the Thanksgiving Service that was held in his honour. The church was packed, and the stories told on that day gave testament to the many lives he had touched in his lifetime.

As we think about those who have served our church, I would like to express thanks also to Sue Simpson, who has done an outstanding job over these past two years as Churchwarden, alongside Claire Couldridge, our Deputy Warden and Sacristan. I must also thank the different Lay Ministers at St. Nicholas: Diane Stiff, our Children and Families' worker and Pastoral Assistant, Ian Gillies, our Reader with PTO and Rosemary Fordyce, our Pastoral Assistant with PTO. I am also very grateful to Roger Allard, our treasurer, to Jayne Calvert, our Director of Music, and to David Clark, Chair of our Fabric Committee. Thank you also to Catherine Roffey for all she does as Church Administrator and Lettings Manager. I also want to thank everyone who helps in so many different ways, from running the Lunch Club, to helping with 'Just Babies', Toddlers, Messy Church, Activity Mornings, Holiday Club and other activities. Thank you to all who help with all the different aspects of the Sunday services, to those who minister pastorally through house groups and pastoral visits, and to all who help with our many different annual events. The life of this church would not be possible without you.

***Stephen Broadie  
Assoc. Rector***

### ST. GILES MUSIC

**The Junior Choir** now has 19 members, slightly up on last year. Membership is stable and there is more participation in church festivals etc. The Junior Choir continues to increase the contribution that it makes to the musical life of St. Giles. The Royal School of Church Music's 'Voice for Life' training scheme is proving to be of great benefit, with a number turning up half an hour early on practice nights. Several are near to being awarded their medals for the second stage.

**The 'Let's Sing Together Group'** is successful in that several members now join in with the church choirs at festivals etc. However, we could do with a few more members, particularly on the Soprano line. 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 - in fact it would be next to impossible. 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 but we also spend time on looking at the music that is coming up for festivals.

**The Organ Restoration Project:** As everyone knows, this took much longer than we envisaged for a variety of reasons, some of which were acceptable, others not. We also caused the contract period to extend somewhat by having the display pipes gilded and decorated, which, due to drying times etc. added more than a month. The organ builders took the financial hit for the bits that were down to them. However, it was all worth it. Organists and people in the trade have been impressed by the result and by the Parish's commitment to the project. We now have an instrument that is far more cohesive, a pleasure to play and it should last for many more years. A review of all the work will be undertaken before May when final regulation and fine tuning will take place but there are a couple of things that I am not

yet happy with and they will be addressed before this: the underaction on one 'department' is being replaced to improve responsiveness; and a re-voiced reed stop is not yet good enough and will be looked at again after the action improvements have taken place.

To mark the finish of the work and the settling in period there will be a **Celebrity Organ Recital** by Daniel Moulton on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. There will be more about this in the April and May editions of the Magazine but Daniel is one of the best players in the UK and the programme should include something for everyone. In addition, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April is World Heritage Day and the Royal College of Organists has asked every building in the land that houses an organ to open their doors and invite people to come in and listen. That's actually thousands of buildings and only a fraction will do it but I felt that St. Giles must participate to show off what has been done. So the church will be open on that day from 14.30-16.30 for people to come in, listen, ask questions, even 'have a go'. I shall be joined by my brother and we might even play an organ duet, if we can find where we put the music!

**Clive Brearley**  
**Organist and Junior 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 on the first Sunday of the month. The past year has seen us working on a range of topics, including Disciples and Friendship, Our Wonderful Earth and how to care for it, and The Parables and Stories that Jesus told. We also continue to learn about and celebrate the annual themes and events built around the church year.

Senior Sunday School for those aged 8+ engages in discussions based on the church readings for each week, most recently from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. We also look at those regular themes which occur annually. Time is made for the children to represent their learning through simple drawings or craft. 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.

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. The church was decorated with a selection of the children's work collected over the year.

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. It was great fun and we hope to attend again this year.



Christmas Eve services for children continue to be very well attended, attracting families from the local area. Our Sunday School Nativity 'On a dark, dark night' was presented with great enthusiasm. The junior children took on the acting and singing roles while the seniors 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.

Also in January, Senior Sunday school joined the Junior Choir on an outing to the Bowling Alley in Bromley. This was a very successful joint venture which we hope to build upon.

At the time of writing, a Spiritual Activity Day in St Giles Centre 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 Family & Children's Worker***

#### ST. GILES SACRISTAN

Once more my artistic and design skills, honed by a career as a graphic designer in a previous life, have been utilised for the beautification of St. Giles church. Early last year (2019) the Rector asked me to design some new signs, hymn and psalm numbers for the hymn board which were then printed by T&C printers – so a big 'thankyou' goes to T&C for their assistance with this project. The idea behind the design of the signs was to match them with the colours of the altar frontals - most of the signs seem to work well, and it is good to see them on display during services each week as a reminder of the church season.

Several months ago whilst my husband Andy and I were at the church carrying out some routine duties, we found a large supply of altar candles in one of the cupboards in the choir vestry. There are 8 boxes each containing 24 candles, all brand new and unopened. I had no idea they were there or even how long we have had them – several years I imagine. Anyway, suffice it to say that, according to my calculations based on average candle usage, I shouldn't need to buy any more altar candles for about 8 years! This will save us a small fortune as candles can be expensive.

During the past year there have been some comings and goings on the serving team here at St. Giles. I would like to thank both Mary Compton and Tristan Rendell who have 'retired' from the serving team – a well-earned rest for Mary, and 'good luck' to Tristan with his studies and gaining his qualifications. It is with sadness that I report the recent passing of Diane Hanchett, who had been a Server/Chalice Assistant some years ago and was on the team when I first joined (which I think was back in January 2004). On a more happy note I welcome the following people to our serving team: Annabie Dalmacio, Imani and Sasha Ward and Susan Midha.

There are currently 15 Servers/Chalice Assistants at St. Giles, down on previous years, who between us do all the Sunday Holy Communion services and the 10.00am HC service on Thursday mornings, plus other occasional services during the week. We are always interested to hear from people who would like to be a Server and/or Chalice Assistant at St. Giles. This is an important part of the life of the

Church – it is both an honour and a privilege to minister to others during services and is also a very rewarding role.

Finally, I would like to thank the serving team for all their continued hard work and dedication to their roles, Liz Diamond for putting together the rotas each quarter, those who assist with the laundering of the linens, and also Matthew our Rector for his continued support.

*Ailsa Chapman  
Sacristan and Head Server*

### ST. GILES BELLRINGERS

During 2019 St Giles bells have again been rung almost every Sunday morning prior to the Family Service. There have been very few exceptions when we have had insufficient numbers mainly due to holidays or, occasionally, when the organ works have caused cancellation. We have attempted to hold local practices on the first Sunday afternoon of each month but have not always succeeded due to availability of ringers and, again, the impact of organ works. Additionally, there's a teaching/training practice on Wednesday afternoons. This is proving very successful and is vibrant and well attended with several youngsters, albeit not all attendees are local. For this I'm extremely grateful to other teachers for assisting.

Just 28 quarter peals were rung in 2019 (43 in 2018), (the vast majority being on Tuesdays from about 11am mainly with visiting ringers and NW) and 9 peals (6 peals in 2018). The QP reduction was again due to the organ works.

It is encouraging that 'second wave' recruits are now ringing on Sundays and stepping into the breach as some of our original ringers have lapsed. A 'home grown' nine year old youngster pleasingly rang his first quarter peal in December. It is worth reiterating what I've said previously in that everyone who visits St Giles likes the bells which are physically easy to ring and very popular with young and old and this is one of the main reasons that the Wednesday afternoon ringing sessions are so well attended.

A bell Service was arranged with Taylors in April 2019, in conjunction with a visit to Chelsfield that keeps the cost down.

In November 2019 St Giles again entered the District Striking Competition, held at Horton Kirby, and whilst we couldn't match the 2018 achievement of winning, we came a creditable second.

In recent times, and particularly with the wet weather, severe condensation has been evident on the ringing chamber walls. The dampness has also been causing the ropes to be damp and stiff and the sallies almost wet to the touch making the bell ropes harder to hold and uncomfortable to the hands. To cure this, a dehumidifier was purchased and is very successful when in operation, producing surprisingly large quantities of water. However, to be effective the dehumidifier needs to be left running and not turned off.

Last year we had some discussion about the hot and oppressive conditions in the ringing chamber during hot summer weather. Matthew and I did approach a contactor and also a leaded light window expert about how we could achieve some window ventilation but with the constraints imposed by the current window and it has been concluded that this can't be done. So in hot weather we have to use plug in electric fans.

During the early part of 2019 we had to largely clear the ringing chamber for decorating. We understand that, very sadly, the decorator has since died but it has to be said that we thought the end result was disappointing.

This decorating and the covering of the ringing chamber carpet with protective plastic for months as a consequence of the organ works has meant the ringing environment has been less than ideal for much of 2019. We moved a number of Wednesday afternoon ringing sessions to St Martins, Chelsfield.

During the latter part of 2019 I've started taking a register. This is not to check on attendance but is considered good practice, especially, with youngsters present on many occasions.

Last year I mentioned that 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 had quotes of between £2,00 and £2,500 for this.

Very recently I've received a report from a structural engineer confirming that the tower is capable of accommodating two more bells. This would enable us to have a full octave of eight ringing bells. Prices for this have been obtained from three bell founders. The most attractive is from Taylor's of Loughborough. Their headline price £27k but with reductions for self-help this can be reduced to about £21k. Without any attempt at fund raising I've nevertheless received a very generous offer of £6k towards this cost from a Bell Charity, the Keltek Trust. Their offer is due to the recent sad death of a prominent ringer who resided in Leamington Avenue in this Parish. This is, of course, subject to further reference to the PCC but I would like to pursue this.

Finally, I'd again like thank Matthew for his continued enthusiasm and support and the members of the band that turn up regularly to ring.

**Nick Wilkins**  
**Tower Captain**

## ST. GILES FLOWER ARRANGERS

### **GENERAL**

2019 has been a challenging and busy year for the St. Giles flower ladies.

**Organisation** – We operate under a 'group system', i.e. 4 individual groups of approximately 6 or 7 members, each headed up by a Team Leader. Each group works in rotation and schedules are distributed to all members at the beginning of the year. For the larger festivals, it is "all hands-on deck" and we approach a list of 'Occasional Helpers' to support the event. Additionally, some but not all teams have a helper who assist with the clearing up and general tasks and will often supply refreshments at festivals.

**Meetings** – Three regular annual meetings are held:

- (i) AGM at the beginning of the year 29/1/2019;
- (ii) A Wedding Preparation Course (Joint Co-ordinators only – cancelled in 2019)
- (iii) Dinner or buffet social event which is open to all members 6/7/19

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. A quarterly pew sheet article will appear offering 'taster' afternoons with a team in 2020.

**Publications** – We continue our practice to produce a Newsletter once a year for our membership. We also contribute items to the Parish magazine and weekly church pew sheets.

**Workshops, Demonstrations** – Two workshops were planned in 2019. The first on Saturday 22 May and was well attended and lead by Eve Johnson, a well-known professional flower arranger. The second workshop to demonstrate pew ends on 14 September was cancelled, due to lack of bookings. The focus for 2020 will be 'in team' training, sharing skills in particular pedestals arrangements. We continue to look for options that use fewer flowers and less oasis. Our moto is Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

## **CURRENT ISSUES**

### **Funding**

Traditionally the flower fund has been self-financed by the weddings and donations. With far fewer weddings income has declined. We thank all those who continue to support us by their kind comments and their donations. All flowers are now directly funded via the St Giles PCC with all donation and expenses logged by Alison Reynolds. In 2019 we received £2634 in donations (plus £640 from weddings and £345 from Gift Aid) Total £3619 and spent £3724 on flowers and sundry items. The Easter Flower Appeal was very well supported and will be repeated in 2020. A new St Giles Appeal will feature in November 2020 requesting donations to cover flowers for the Christmas period.

## **STRUCTURE**

The structure is split into three categories under our Co-ordinators as follows: -

Fiona Milton	Organising flowers, workshops, and festivals
Elizabeth Harriss-Orr	Administration
Alison Reynolds	Treasurer

## **FUTURE**

Please note that Wedding booking for 2020 stand at three. Fiona Milton has taken a sabbatical from her role for 2020. Elizabeth Harriss Orr will step down from her current role at the end of 2020. It remains challenging to maintain numbers and skill levels across all 4 teams and festival helper numbers and availability have declined.

## **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. The older group (school year 6+) is led by Isabel Broadie. In the past year we have learnt about the different gifts of the spirit and thought about our own spiritual gifts. We have looked at the life of Daniel and are currently doing the 7 signs about Jesus in St John's gospel to tie in with the series of sermons in the main service. The children were involved again in the Christingle service, the title of the play this year being 'With love from God to you'.

## **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. 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. Our numbers have grown over the past year with and we now have about 70 people at each session. Children and their parents come together to play games and do craft activities which are linked to a Bible story. Stories we have looked at this past year include: Pentecost, Peter and John healing a lame man, the armour of God and being a cheerful giver. Each month the chapel is turned into an interactive prayer room. In November we filled shoe boxes for the charity 'One Big Family' which helps homeless people in the Medway towns. 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.

## **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 'Back Packers' and we had great fun 'travelling' around different countries as we looked at Bible stories through drama, games, craft and watching a DVD. We looked at the events of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, and the death and resurrection of Jesus. On the Saturday afternoon we invited families to join us for a barbeque and other activities such as face painting, circus skills and giant bubbles. This was a successful event and was made possible by a grant from the diocese. 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***

## **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 22 members at present, who all attend services at St Giles and/or St Nicholas, and are involved in the regular Sunday morning and week day parish activities. MU members are usually involved with toddler groups, messy church and other parish activities throughout the week.

MU supports 'Make a Mother's Day' campaign every year. This year is entitled, "Give a gift that Grows this Mothering Sunday" and for many years Make a Mother's Day ethical gifts have made a difference by supporting communities both here in the UK and around the world. We can help to empower women, children and communities worldwide to tackle the challenges they face and make positive changes that grow and last. Some of the projects highlighted in 2020 are training parenting coordinators, protecting young girls from early marriage and providing them with support to continue with their education, that can unlock a world of opportunities, also helping women to join a savings and credit group which helps start their own business, care for others in the community, and build secure futures for their families. Trauma healing workshops for victims of civil conflict are also provided by local Programme Officers. To date our local MU group & others have collected over £220 to put towards these projects this year.

Proceeds of over £450 from last year's June Charity Lunch were divided between Rochester Diocese General Fund (directed to areas of greatest need) & the "Summer of Hope" appeal.

This year's Charity Lunch is on Tuesday 23rd June 2020 at St. Nicholas, 12:30 – 2:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

MU also gets involved with the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence" every year (Nov 24<sup>th</sup>- Dec 9<sup>th</sup>), where we meet to offer prayers, support & light candles for all the people both here & abroad who are suffering, many in silence & undetected in their wider community.

Several members of Farnborough Mothers' Union & others are still knitting colourful squares, which are then sewn up into blankets. This past year over 20 blankets have been taken to Hampstead to the Charity, "Knit for Peace" & distributed worldwide. SCBU at the PRUH has also received many baby cot blankets, cardigans & other clothing for the preterm & sickly babies needing care there.

We meet monthly at St. Nicholas, on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 7:30 pm and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 1.30pm. We have Corporate Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday morning at St. Giles Church & Prayer Meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday morning 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, & meals out.

In August, around 9<sup>th</sup> August on Mary Sumner Day, there is an organised Pilgrimage to Rochester Cathedral to participate in Evensong, via stops for lunch & refreshments at several local Churches on the way. This year we are holding the Pilgrimage on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August. Non-MU members are welcome to come & join us.

If you are interested in coming to any of our meetings, or to the Pilgrimage, please contact:

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

## HOUSE GROUPS

During the past year across the parish there have been twelve small groups meeting regularly. Here is a snapshot of one of them, written by one of its members.

*'We have had an interesting year studying many different subjects, including 'Women of the Bible'. We have just finished doing a study in Proverbs and are now looking forward to doing the Lent course. There are seven of us from both St Giles and St Nicholas. Our newest member, who joined us for last year's Lent course, is a Methodist lay reader. We are a close group and we support each other. Apart from meeting fortnightly on a Tuesday evening we go out socially. During the summer we went out for a cream tea and at Christmas we had a social and attended a pantomime as our newest member does amateur dramatics and we all went to support her in Aladdin. Being part of a home group is an important part of my life especially when life is difficult.'*

Leading up to Easter there are four extra house groups. Here is Matthew's introduction to this year's Lent course, which we are all studying. *'Walking through a Christian bookshop I happened to notice a polished pebble with the words 'Trust in Him at all times.'* I now carry the stone in my coat pocket. Periodically I feel it's shape and this reminds me that I can, and should, trust God. This year's Lent course (**The Stone in my Pocket**) is based on this experience'. During our group meetings we are discussing some of the central themes of our Christian faith, peace, forgiveness, kindness etc. At the end of the course we are invited to paint and inscribe our own pebble at a workshop in St Giles Centre and then there will be a time during Holy week for all of us to learn how to pray and meditate using the stone in our pocket. Subsequently, Matthew says, *'At times you will probably discover that you have just the right pebble for the right time in your life.'*

**Heather Argent**  
**House Group co-ordinator**

## ST. GILES WEBSITE

**Farnborough Parish website:** [www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk](http://www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk)

The Parish website has continued to showcase future and past events at St. Giles. Notable events this year have been the Sunday School Retreat, the French Evening, Parish Fete, Parish Picnic, Farnborough Fayre, and the Crisis Quiz Night. The website has also followed the extended saga of the organ rebuilding, culminating in the Dedication Service in October. An in-depth history of the organ is currently being prepared and will be published when finished.

The website has about 100 pages, and has nearly 200 unique visitors per day. The busiest months in 2019 were April 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 £65 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.

I am pleased to say that Ralph Barlow has kindly offered to help out with the website should I be unavailable for any reason. This prompted me to produce and circulate a full set of documentation for how to maintain the website, and Ralph has used this to make changes to the website from time to time. I am most grateful for his support.

**Farnborough History website:** [www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk](http://www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk)

The second website has grown further during 2019, as the Bromley Borough Local History Society generously gave me permission to publish articles from their magazine back catalogue that are relevant to Farnborough Village. This has boosted the page count to around 100, the same size as the main Parish site. New content this year has included articles about Farnborough Aviation Works, Farnborough Lodge and the history of High Elms. Information has also been added about the gypsy association with the area, particularly with Locksbottom, and it is planned to add to this further during the coming year.

I was also offered the opportunity to reproduce online a Masters' thesis written about the Fox family and their contribution to the expansion of Green Street Green to become a village in its own right.

One pleasing feature is that the website is being accessed from all over the country, and beyond, by people who have a Farnborough connection. This has led to a number of new contacts being made.

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 and our last major donation was towards the organ fund. We also donated a substantial amount to the 'last minute' projects for the restoration of the original design on the organ pipes.

We have had our regular fundraising events - Christmas Quiz, Jumble Sale, a stall at the Farnborough Fayre and the 100 Club.

We look forward to the Parish consultation on a possible solution to the toilet problem!

**Julia Hoadley**  
**Chairman**

#### PARISH MAGAZINE

The editors would like to thank all those who have taken the time to submit articles, notices and photographs to our Parish Magazine.

Apart from our busy parish diary of events, there has been a great variety of interesting articles over the past year. Matthew and Stephen continue to write thought provoking and beautifully written leading articles which are a highlight of the monthly editions.

Irene Dancer and Diane Stiff keep us well up to date with the children's activities

Our regular contributions from Farnborough, Leamington and Ladycroft W.I.'s are interesting and show what a huge variety of things our ladies get up to! So thank you to Jennie Hanney and Eleanor Chapman, Lynne Henniker and Patsy John.

Lindsay Barnes is a stalwart in producing the Mothers' Union reports as well as compiling the monthly brass rota.



Thank you also to Sue Ellis, Julia Hoadley and Karen Homes for keeping us up to date with the Friends of St Giles and the Farnborough Village Society.

Nick Reynolds continues to produce excellently researched historical articles which are of great interest to our local community. Bob Donovan continues to amuse us with his witty observations and Patsy John has also kept us smiling with her succinct film reviews.

Thank you to Clive Brearley for keeping us up to date with the organ restoration and the upcoming recital which should demonstrate the instrument to its full potential.

I would also like to thank T & C printers for their continuing help in producing a quality product, especially Danny who is the lynchpin of our monthly editions.

The entry form for the National Parish Magazine Awards did not manifest itself in time for an entry last year – but maybe this year!

Liz at the Parish Office continues to provide support and help every month and made a big impact with her article about rescue dogs.

Thank you to everyone.

***Eddie and Helen Roberts***  
***Editors***

## **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.**