

**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 2021.**

**RECTOR:
THE REVD. MATTHEW HUGHES**

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



Sunday 29th May 2022

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

Vestry Meeting

1. Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens:
- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Churchwardens | Andrew Bailey | (St. Giles) |
| | Claire Couldridge | (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. |
| | Philip Lovelock |) St. Giles - 6.30 p.m. |
| | Sheila Munns |) St. Giles - Thursdays 10.00 a.m. |
| | Nick Jolliffe |) 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 29th MAY 2022 - 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 12: 1-10*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.

PRAYERS

Leader: Almighty God, we come together once more rejoicing in your love and celebrating your goodness. Richly you have blessed us:

All: **with grateful hearts we praise you.**

Leader: We praise you for the constancy of your love, new every morning, for your handiwork in creation, the miracle of life in its infinite variety, and the beauty and wonder of the world around us. Richly you have blessed us:

All: **with grateful hearts we praise you.**

Leader: We praise you for all you have done for us in Christ, opening, through him, a way for us to know you better, revealing something of your greatness and goodness, filling our lives to overflowing with your unfailing love. Richly you have blessed us:

All: **with grateful hearts we praise you.**

Leader: We praise you for the way you have guided us across the years, and for the assurance that you will continue to lead us every step of the way; for the strength you have offered us in times of need, comfort in times of distress, encouragement in times of uncertainty, and joy in times of sorrow. Richly you have blessed us:

All: **with grateful hearts we praise you.**

Leader: Accept now our worship, poor though it is and inadequate though our words may be. Open our hearts to your sovereign presence, so that we may be filled with an ever-deeper sense of wonder, a greater feeling of awe, and a richer understanding of your purpose for us and all the world. Richly you have blessed us:

All: **with grateful hearts we praise you.**

Leader: In the name of 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 23rd May 2021, *(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 8-10)*
 - (c) Churchwardens' Reports including St. Giles Churchyard Report, *(pages 10-12)*
 - (d) Deputy Churchwardens' Report on the goods and ornaments of the churches in the Parish, *(pages 12-13)*
 - (e) The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2021 including Financial Statements for St. Giles the Abbot and St. Nicholas *(pages 13-15)*
5. **Safeguarding** *(page 15)*
6. **St. Giles Centre**
7. **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,
8. **Appointments**
 - (a) Sidespeople
 - (b) Independent Financial Examiner.
9. Goodbyes and Thank-you's.
10. **Any other business and date of next A.G.M. 2023.**

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Rector, *(pages 16-18)*
Associate Rector, *(pages 18-19)*
St. Giles Music, *(page 19)*
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker, *(pages 20-21)*
St. Giles Safeguarding Report, *(pages 21-22)*
St. Giles Flower Arrangers Report, *(pages 22-23)*
St. Giles Bell Ringers, *(pages 23)*
St. Nicholas Family & Children's Worker, *(page 24)*
Mothers' Union, *(pages 24-26)*
House Groups, *(page 26)*
St. Giles Website, *(page 27)*
Friends of St. Giles, *(page 27-28)*
Parish Magazine, *(page 28)*

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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 23rd MAY 2021

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

Vestry Meeting

Election of the Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens

Churchwardens: Philip Lovelock (St. Giles)
Claire Couldridge (St. Nicholas)

Both Philip and Claire agreed to stand for another year and a vote of thanks was raised for their continued hard work.

Approved.

Proposed: Chris Hallett

Seconded: Julia Hoadley

Agreed: All

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.)
Nick Jolliffe (St. Nicholas)

Approved.

Proposed: Lindsay Barnes

Seconded: Mary Compton

Agreed: All

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 23rd MAY 2021 at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT: The Revd. Matthew Hughes, The Revd. Stephen Broadie, Philip Lovelock, Claire Couldridge, Mary Compton, Julia Hoadley, Chris Hallett, Carol Fryer, Lindsay Barnes and Irene Dancer.

1. Opening prayers.

2. Apologies for absence: These were received from Linda Montgomery, Susan Midha, Helen and Eddie Roberts, Jenny and Nick Wilkins, Jayne Calvert and Diane Stiff.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St. Nicholas on Sunday 18th October 2020.

Approved.

Proposed: Lindsay Barnes

Seconded: Mary Compton

Agreed: All.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. **REPORTS**

(a) **Electoral Roll Report:**

It was reported that there were 388 on the Electoral Roll as at 31.12.20 - 336 at St. Giles and 52 at St. Nicholas.

The Rector commented: This was a healthy number given the current situation with Covid.

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

No comments.

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

No comments.

(d) **Deputy Churchwarden's Report on the Goods and Ornaments of the churches in the Parish:**

No comments.

(e) **The Parochial Church Council Consolidated Accounts for the year 2020 including financial statements for St. Giles and St. Nicholas: and the Report of the Independent Examiner:**

Rector: At St. Giles it has just been possible to maintain funds at current levels; the reduction in the cost of outgoings has been balanced by the income from giving. The Rector thanked everyone for their generosity.

Associate Rector: The lack of lettings has had a huge effect on income, but this is now improving. St. Nicholas has been blessed with a legacy and insurance pay-out. A Standing Committee will now look at future predictions. Thanks to the forward planning of Roger Allard, there have been reserves in place.

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

Vote of thanks to the Treasury Teams at both St. Giles and St. Nicholas.

Approved.

Proposed: Mary Compton

Seconded: Julia Hoadley

Agreed: All.

5. **SAFEGUARDING**

Irene Dancer reported that, now Covid restrictions are easing, it is important to ensure that all training is up-to-date.

6. **ELECTIONS**

(a) **Members of the P.C.C:**

St. Giles **FOUR** vacancies - only two filled.

Nomination: Carol Stokes (Jenny Wilkins)

Proposed: Julia Hoadley

Seconded: Chris Hallett

Agreed: All.

Nomination: Richard Healey (John Tinham)

Proposed: Julia Hoadley

Seconded: Chris Hallett

Agreed: All.
St. Nicholas **ONE** vacancy:
Nomination: Sue Simpson (Lynne Henniker)
Proposed: Lindsay Barnes
Seconded: Chris Hallett
Agreed: All.

- (b) Deanery Synod Members, **ONE** vacancy at St. Giles, **ONE** vacancy at St. Nicholas.

Linda Montgomery agreed to stand for another year and the other vacancy was not filled.

7. **APPOINTMENTS**

- (a) Sidespeople.
All agreed to stand for another term. Vote of thanks for all the people who carry out this role for both St. Giles and St. Nicholas.
The Rector commented: Such important work.

Proposed: Irene Dancer
Seconded: Chris Hallett
Agreed: All.

- (b) Independent Financial Examiner:
Christopher Jones from Baxters is to continue as the Parish Independent Financial Examiner. Vote of thanks for work done and continued support.

Proposed: Chris Hallett
Seconded: Mary Compton
Agreed: All.

8. **GOODBYES AND THANK YOUS**

Leaving:
Linda Crisp, Jenny Wilkins, Martin Parsons, Andy Fruin - PCC Members, St. Giles
Michelle Felstead - PCC Member, St. Nicholas
Vote of thanks for their hard work and support.

Proposed: Chris Hallett
Seconded: Mary Compton
Agreed: All.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT A.G.M. APRIL 2021**

A vote of thanks was raised for the magazine team for keeping things going in a very difficult situation.

Proposed: Mary Compton
Seconded: Julia Hoadley
Agreed: All.

A vote of thanks was raised for Matthew and Stephen for keeping going during this difficult year.

Proposed: Mary Compton
Seconded: Julia Hoadley
Agreed: All.

Return after Covid: A brief discussion was held about building confidence to return to Church, this is achievable but will take time. Stephen explained that

to allow for re-calking of the cement, St. Nicholas will have to return online temporarily.

It was acknowledged that Bishop James will be retiring and a thank you was expressed for all his hard work over the years.

Stephen and Claire were thanked for hosting today's meeting at St. Nicholas.

10. **CLOSING PRAYERS**

The meeting closed with prayers at 4.50 p.m.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

4. **REPORTS**

ELECTORAL ROLL Report (a)

The figure for the Electoral Roll stands at 385 (St. Giles - 336, St. Nicholas - 49). Our Electoral Roll membership continues to offer a solid base for the ongoing life of the Parish.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021 - 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 23 May 2021 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>Readers</u>	Mrs. Chris Hallett Mrs. Susan Midha		
<u>Wardens</u>	Mr. Philip Lovelock Miss Claire Couldridge	until APCM 2022 until ACPM 2024	St Giles St Nicholas
<u>Deputy Wardens</u>	Mr Peter Russell Mr Andrew Bailey Mrs Janet Palmer Mrs Susan Rennie Mrs Sheila Munns	Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC Not on PCC	St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles St Giles

	Mrs Sally Attwood Nicholas Jolliffe	Not on PCC until APCM 2024	St Giles St Nicholas
<u>Deanery Synod Rep.</u>	Mrs Linda Montgomery	until APCM 2024	St Giles

Elected:

Hon. Secretary Mrs Linda Montgomery

Hon. Treasurer Mr. Roger Allard St. Nicholas

Gift Aid Secretary Ms. Carol Fryer

Members

Mrs Adele Cooke	until ACPM 2022	St Giles
Mrs Jo Cook	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mrs Helen Roberts	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mrs Irene Dancer	until APCM 2024	St Giles
Mr Richard Healey	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mrs Carol Stokes	until ACPM 2024	St Giles
Mr Richard Butterworth	until ACPM 2023	St Nicholas
Mrs Diane Stiff	until ACPM 2022	St Nicholas
Mrs Sue Simpson	until APCM 2024	St Nicholas

The United PCC met twice during the year with an attendance of ninety per cent. In addition, the members representing St. Giles met seven times (with an average attendance of ninety per cent) and those representing St. Nicholas met 7 times (average attendance eighty five 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 391 names on the Church Electoral Roll for the parish as at 31st December 2021.

As a Parish, we are available at times of birth, marriage and death. In 2021, the Parish and its ministry were involved in the following occasional offices: -

	18 Baptisms
	7 Weddings
	30 Funeral services held in church followed by burial in the churchyard
or	7 Cremations
	5 Graveside Funeral services
	16 Funeral services held at a crematorium
	35 Burials of ashes.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Aggregated parish income for the year was £347,638 (2020-£276,671) and aggregated resources used were £277,308 (2020-£256,981). Net incoming resources amounted to £70,330 (2020-£19,690). St Giles recorded net incoming resources of £64,896 (2020-£42,615) and St. Nicholas recorded net incoming resources of 5,434 (2020-~~£22,925~~).

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 as at 31st December 2021.

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS Report (c)

ST. GILES CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT INCLUDING CHURCHYARD REPORT

As I reflect on the last year, one observation that stands out is how lovely it is to see the Church returning to its full glory. For me, to hear the Church full of voice and song is most invigorating and I realise how much I had missed the sense of community.

As my father would say, 'you don't know what you have until you lose it' and that is so true even after losing him just over 3 years ago. Loss knows no boundary and at times brings many together to share, even just to listen or to share our homes.

Having been the Churchwarden for nearly 4 years I have found the role interesting, challenging and most rewarding. The challenge has come from trying to maintain a balance between family, work, health, and the responsibility of being Churchwarden.

I have gained many new experiences, and this has offered me added richness to life. A few key events that stand out for me over the 4 years must be of course Covid and how we all managed the crisis. St Giles using YouTube and other elements world of technology to reach us during that difficult time.

Also, participating with ongoing legacy of the Church with reference to the bells, the organ, and the War Memorial. The effects of which we shall all enjoy for many, many years.

We have enjoyed the return of our barn dances and look forward at last to the return of our fabulous fete.

I will always carry gratitude for my fellow Churchwardens/Verger and their total commitment to support us all. I thank them for their time and for the kind support they have shown me.

One further acknowledgement should be to Matthew and for his friendship, advice, faith, and trust.

I come away with experience of pride in serving and most of all being part of a community based on friendship, trust, and love.

I leave a better person and I thank you all, God bless.

Philip Lovelock
St. Giles Churchwarden

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

We have been fortunate in being able to hold our meetings again in St. Giles Centre during the past year. We have welcomed two new members to the Committee. I would like to thank our team of volunteers who turn out every Tuesday, whatever the weather. We are also now able to have our Coffee Break again, and we had a Christmas Party in December, after missing the previous two years.

There is always something that needs our attention, either in the Church, the Centre, or the Churchyard. The Council have cut down a large beech tree in the wood behind the Garden of Remembrance which was leaning on another one near the Memorial Wall holding the plaques. However, they have still not repaired the flint wall by the lychgate. When I reminded them, what did they do, paint yellow lines on the road! Come June it will be two years since it was first brought to their attention. They have again been reminded, and we await their response.

Unfortunately, at a cost of £1,630 we had to have two trees cut down in the Churchyard which had died. One of these was a cherry tree believed to be over 100 years old, the other tree was a fir. We are also in the process of reducing the height of some of the evergreen firs in the orchard which block out light to the other trees.

Nick Reynolds, one of our team, and a Committee member, is in charge of the burial of ashes and digs the holes when he can. The volunteers doing this save the Church a lot of money. There were 64 burials in 2021, similar to last year, and slightly below the long term average. Two thirds of these were burial of ashes in the Garden of Remembrance. Thirteen new graves were dug, which was fewer than last year. The graveyard has an estimated 25 years of further available space.

Eddie Bellamy, another volunteer and Committee member, is in charge of ordering the plaques for the Garden of Remembrance Memorial Wall. During the past year 26 new inscribed plaques have been ordered, and 18 blank ones. We have space for 562 more plaques on the existing walls, with a yearly average of 46 this is enough for 12+ years. Eddie has cleaned the plaques which are our responsibility. However, the first four sections, from the right looking at the Memorial Walls, are owned by Francis Chappell, and these need cleaning.

I would also like to thank Phil Enticknap, who have helped us with the refurbishing of the War Memorial, and other brickwork.

As I write this we are about to install two new benches in the Garden of Remembrance which have been kindly donated, the existing two will be reinstated in another part of the Churchyard. I think this will make a total of about 25 seats.

We have renewed the fence above the undercroft, and are in the process of obtaining quotes for the renewal of the fence along the top of the wall on the north/east boundary of the Churchyard. We have repaired the present one a number of times, but it is now no longer safe.

We are still getting quotes to refurbish St. Giles Centre. One of the main items is to have a toilet accessible from the outside. Also we are awaiting a faculty to sell the clock bell, and fit a new mechanism for the clock to chime on the Gillett & Johnson Bell.

PRO Landscapes have had their contract renewed for this year, which had only increased by £100 - the first rise for two years. It is now £7,000 for 20 visits, March to November. They mow the grass, remove the rubbish and wood chip the paths, plus cut some of the hedges.

Richard Healey
Chairman Churchyard and Fabric Group

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Now that most of the restrictions have been lifted for Covid, it is time to step back and take stock of the last two years.

St. Nicholas on the whole adapted well to the new restrictions placed on it, taking services online with Facebook and Zoom, and in some cases such as the Wednesday Prayer Meeting increasing in number. As soon as we were allowed however, we were delighted to come together, albeit with restricted numbers and strict guidelines. We lost a few people along the way, but on the whole our numbers have remained steady, even attracting a few new families into the bargain. We are now back to our past Covid pattern of services, although the 10.00 a.m. service has now become 10.30 a.m.

Our Community Larder, I am sad to say, has grown reflecting the needs of our community.

We have just completed another Zoom Alpha Course online and also just had two successful Men's and Women's Breakfasts which were enjoyed by all that attended them, as well as our first Spring Fair which was also very successful.

As I write we are looking forward to all our Easter activities, including a Prayer Trail, Passover Meal, Children's Activity Morning, and of course Easter Sunday itself.

St. Nicholas is not all about one person and would not function without everyone playing their part. My thanks to everyone for playing their part and for their support and to Nick and Stephen for all their advice.

Claire Couldridge
St. Nicholas Churchwarden

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

This has been another busy year at St. Giles with much of it 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 goods and ornaments we have purchased a new set of pew cushions for the gallery at St. Giles. We also repaired the large brass Baptism jug (which was leaking), and replaced the hinge on the folding section of the Altar Rail (which had completely broken) - through the generous donation of a parishioner we were able to both repair the damaged baptismal jug and the hinge on the altar rail.

In addition, in order to provide music during the services over the last year, we have had an additional number of CDs of church music purchased by individuals and donated to St. Giles.

During 2021 we continued to undertake a refurbishment of the Clergy Vestry, repainting the walls and undertaking a 'deep clean'. During the course of this work we replaced the desk in the vestry, with an Antique English Oak desk which was given in memory of Laraine Langley-Davies by her family.

We also conducted a deep clean of the Porch area, and the monuments inside the main body of the Church. Some of the latter work was carried out by the 'Monuments Men' team. It is planned to undertake a deep clean of the Choir Vestry from May 2022 onwards.

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
St. Giles Deputy Warden

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2020, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ST. GILES THE ABBOT AND ST. NICHOLAS

ST. GILES THE ABBOT

In 2021, we finished with a surplus of £64,896. Our total income was £246,893 which exceeded our total expenditure of £181,997. As you know, 2021 continued to be a difficult year as was 2020, however general activity increased and there were corresponding small increases across most income channels. More activity, of course, also meant an increase of £22,768 in expenditure.

The reason behind the increase in our surplus for 2021 was that three legacies totalling £25,000 were received for that year.

However, although the legacies account for the increase in our surplus they do not explain the bedrock of our finances. This is seen in the way the congregation and church community has rallied behind St Giles especially with extra donations to replace the lost income from the summer fair.

Our Gift Aid income is holding up well, based on the stewardship campaign held in 2019. Although it is normal to rerun the stewardship campaign every three years, we have decided not to hold one this year, recognising the other increasing household financial costs this year.

Following the restructure of the parish magazine it is good to see this on a firmer footing including retaining our award-winning glossy magazine. Our rental income from Wentworth Close continued unabated and provides St. Giles with a solid income stream.

We were unable to hire out the centre last year because of the lockdowns and the general Covid climate. I expect it to remain difficult this year.

The Parish Share or Diocesan Contribution for 2021 was £64,733.

As previously stated the St Giles's 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.

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. These funds also provide security against unforeseen events similar to those we have recently experienced. Therefore, these funds are not utilised for the running costs of the church and 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 with the Parish magazine and office administration.

In addition, I would again like to thank Carol Fryer for her work as Gift Aid Secretary and Pam Stacey our Planned Giving Envelope Scheme Secretary.

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.

Paul Beamiss
Hon. Treasurer, St. Giles

ST. NICHOLAS

The St Nicholas 2021 accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure of £5434.

The 2021 budget was prepared very much on a worst case scenario with only Little Angels, the Nursery, in the hall for the full year and other hirers and the church congregation not returning until September. Income was estimated at £84900 and expenditure £103250, a deficit of £18350, £14700 excluding the Repair Fund contributions which are not expenditure but a transfer between funds. I do though show these contributions as expenditure as a means to try and ensure that the contributions are actually made and the balances increase at least by that amount.

The worst case scenario did not materialise with services resuming in March and the other major hall hirers returning in April. In the light of the resultant increase in income I revised the projected deficit down to around £5000 at 31 December and an appeal was made to the congregation for donations/increased giving to cover this shortfall. This was very successful in that almost £6000 was raised including Gift Aid but unfortunately almost all the giving was by way of one off donation rather than any increase in regular giving.

Income for the year totaled £100745 compared with the original budget figure of £84900. An additional legacy of £2000, an insurance payment of £2115 in respect of the Church House boiler replaced in 2020 and the Christmas Raffle of £908 (a total of £5023) also helped to increase the income. None of this £5023 was included in the budget.

Expenditure for the year totaled £98951 compared with the budget of £103250 or £95311/£99600 excluding the Repair Fund contributions.

The St Nicholas Calculated Indicative Offer to the Diocese for 2021 was £52751 but in view of the deficit in 2020 and the uncertain future at the time we only felt able to pledge the sum of £41994 covering the Ministry Costs and the Benefice Cost but nothing towards the Wider Diocesan Mission. At the end of the year we did feel able to make an additional contribution of £500 to the Diocese.

During 2020 we had only given the three charities we support £1000 each rather than the usual £1250 but in view of the successful appeal we made good that shortfall in 2021. The expenditure outturn was helped by savings of £1171 on cleaning costs – we terminated the cleaning contract and engaged a self-employed cleaner at lower costs and there was also a period of no cleaning in the changeover when the hall was not really being used – and £2626 on hall repairs and maintenance compared with budget.

During the summer builders recaulked the exterior joints between the concrete panels at a cost of £10242, including the consultant's fees, in line with the budget estimate.

As regards 2022 we had a reasonable expectation that we would more or less break even unless there was some significant reduction in income or increase in expenditure and we included some element of the Wider Diocesan Mission in our 2022 Pledged Offer - £48600 compared with the Calculated Indicative Offer of £53258. That expectation has recently changed in that one of the St Nicholas major givers has ceased giving from December 2021 and we now face a significant shortfall. The St Nicholas PCC has already decided to approach the Diocese to reduce our Pledged Offer by £4635 to £43965 to cover just the Ministry Cost and the Benefice Cost. We have also been in touch with Liz Mullins, the Generous Giving Adviser at the Diocese, to seek her help with a Stewardship Campaign before the school summer holidays. Appealing again so soon after the 2021 appeal and at a time when all household budgets are under pressure is not ideal and it remains to be seen what will be given/pledged. The St Nicholas net current assets amounted to £78435 at 31 December 2021 – General Reserves of £44544 and Designated Repair Funds of £33891. Clearly there are funds available to meet any short term deficits but of course reserves can only be spent once. Going forward into 2023 the St Nicholas budget has to balance, continuing deficits will mean that in due course St Nicholas will not be able financially to continue.

Roger Allard
Hon Treasurer, St Nicholas

5. SAFEGUARDING

We appoint Irene Dancer as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Linda Montgomery as Lead Recruiter; Jenny Wilkins as St. Giles Disclosure & Barring Service Officer; Val Richardson as St. Nicholas Disclosure & Barring Service Officer.

We acknowledge that all PCC members will need to have a DBS check and complete all necessary Diocesan Safeguarding training. This training extends to Churchwardens and any others in positions of responsibility involving children and vulnerable adults.

The AGM and PCC formally adopt the House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy statement available to view at

<https://d3hgriq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/603eb0893e402/content/pages/documents/1603726336.pdf>

6. **ST. GILES CENTRE**
Redevelopment drawings.
7. **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. NICHOLAS
8. **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. J. Palmer, Reeves Family, Russell Family, Scarlett Family, Mrs. M. Sullivan, Mr. J. White.
St. Nicholas:
Mrs. C. Allen, Mrs. V. Blinks, Miss I. Broadie, Mrs. P. Butcher, Miss C. Couldridge, Mrs. S. Dixey, Mrs. M. Felstead, Mrs. R. Fordyce, Mrs. C. Gibbons, Mrs. M. Gillies, Mrs. A. Howlett, Mrs. D. Stiff, Mrs. L. Matthews, Mrs. J. Mason, 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 2021 accounts.
The PCC recommends Mr. Jones's appointment for the year 2022 accounts and the A.G.M. is requested to approve this proposal.
9. **GOODBYES AND THANK YOU'S.**
10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
To be notified at the beginning of the meeting.
Date and time of next A.G.M. 2023

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

As I write this we have just completed what felt like a 'normal' Holy Week and Easter, something that we have all really missed over these past two Covid dominated years. It feels like things are slowly returning to 'normal' at St. Giles, albeit with continuing challenges and opportunities.

Every year it feels like the Church of England has been edged just that little bit further out to the peripherals of our national and local life. At St. Giles we are not immune from the secular trends that are bearing down on all churches, to a greater or lesser extent, up and down the country. For many people the Church and the Christian message remain a complete irrelevance and the cultural affinity with things Christians grows increasingly distant for those under 40. Indeed it appears at times that Western society in general is hell bent on disowning and attacking its Christian heritage, which is a pity as the values that we all appreciate and live by stem from this very legacy. In a culture dominated by narcissism and the assent of the individual, anything that speaks of community, ultimate truth and self-sacrifice does not fare well. So this is something of the background in which we are trying to do church! In times past the life of a parish church was well supported by those who had either fought in the war or were children in the war, sadly the impact of that

generation weakens every year even though many churches are still sustained by their contribution! The challenge for the Church of England going forward will be for relevance, for presence and for financial sustainability in a world of cynical indifference. Sadly where the Church of England cuts back on parish clergy and combines parishes into joint benefices, they save money with one hand, but usher in decline with the other.

Here at St. Giles we too face these problems, yet we continue to do all we can to preach the Gospel and to promote the Christian faith and the life of our Church. The paradox of St. Giles is that our Church is actually held in high affection by many people. Each month we send out a bulletin to over 400 people who are hugely appreciative of St. Giles and all it stands for, yet despite all this we sometimes lack for numerical support. The problem is not hostility, or indifference or even irrelevance. Perhaps more about engagement. Modern life is busy and there is much to distract us from carving our time for church and faith. However, St. Giles is always stronger when it is refreshed with the loving commitment, reliability and engagement of those who care for it. St. Giles is the church it is today precisely because of the huge commitment that many people give to its common life and here I want to pay tribute to every single person who volunteers at St. Giles in any way, particularly over these past two years. Church attendance has indeed changed with many people attending fortnightly or monthly. My encouragement is always the same, engage with your faith and worship, for in it you will find love, peace and meaning. Through you St. Giles is and can continue to be a light in our dark world, a place of true love and friendship. So, follow Christ and make your commitment to him your priority and the rest will follow. Jesus said, *'Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and everything else will be added unto you.'* Matthew 6:33. Life is made up of a myriad of choices, when you come to a fork in the road concerning how you use your time make sure that St. Giles is on one of the sign posts.

Going forward these are the aims and objectives that will guide our vision and priorities in 2022/2023:

- The PCC has now agreed to refurbish the St. Giles Centre and if possible build a modest extension on the front of the building that will include toilets that can be accessed by the congregation.
- To rebuild and consolidate our congregations post Covid.
- To continue to support and resource our work with children and young people.
- To build up the choir with the possible addition of choral scholars where necessary.
- To fully resource the volunteer requirements for the Church, especially in regard to our care for the housebound and elderly.
- To hold a stewardship campaign in the summer of 2023.

It is always unwise to start naming individuals for their contribution as someone always gets left out. I am just so grateful to everyone who helps at St. Giles and in particular my ministerial colleagues, PCC members, Churchwardens and Treasurers. They all carry a particular burden of responsibility and office and for that I am most grateful.

Before I close I would like to pay tribute to both Bill Mullenger and Graham Shaw. Bill was not only a priestly colleague but, along with his wife Sue, dear friends. He married Joanna and I and baptised Vincent and William. His support, advice, sense of humour and love were a constant source of strength for me and I miss him very much, as I know many of you do as well. Likewise Graham, who was one of only two

people who knew the pressures of parish ministry at St. Giles from the inside, his wise counsel and constant concern for me and the people of St. Giles was much appreciated, we have all been diminished by his passing. Bill will be remembered at St. Giles at a Choral Matins on Trinity Sunday, June 12th at 11.15 a.m. and Graham at a Choral Evensong on Sunday 26th June at 6.30 p.m. I do hope that you will be able to attend these important occasions when we can give heartfelt thanks to God for their love and ministry amongst us.

With love in Christ,

Matthew Hughes
Rector of Farnborough Benefice

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

Although the life of the church over the past year has continued to be affected in various ways by the COVID-19 situation, with its associated restrictions, there has nevertheless also been a sense of returning to some kind of 'normality' over the past 12 months. As a church we have been open for Sunday worship since March last year, and Diane Stiff and her team were once again able to run a successful holiday club over the summer, for the first time in 2 years. We were also able to carry out some long-awaited repairs to the concrete over the summer months, re-caulking between the concrete panels. We then had a busy Autumn at St Nicholas, celebrating Harvest Festival and marking Remembrance Sunday in person, in the church, rather than on Zoom. We were delighted that 2 of our young people were able to get confirmed at the United Confirmation Service on the 28th November. For the first time in two years we were once again able to celebrate Christmas in church, including holding a 'socially distanced' Christingle service. As we lit our Christingles and sang carols together, it felt even more significant to be able to gather together with members of the community once again. After so many months of restrictions and lockdowns, I am sure none of us took for granted the privilege of celebrating Christmas in this way.

As we have moved into 2022, we have celebrated the one year anniversary of the opening of our 'Community Larder' in February. In that month we gave out our 1000th food parcel at the Larder, and we have been incredibly grateful for the faithful group of volunteers who have made it possible to run this project week after week. As for so many congregations around the country, the two years since the first COVID lockdown have been a time of continual change. In particular, over the past couple of years we have had a number of different service patterns. For a long time we ran a weekly 9:00 Communion, followed by a 10.30 'Children and Family Worship Service', where all ages were gathered together in the hall. Having moved towards a 9am Communion and a 10.30 'Morning Worship' service last Autumn, with separate provision for children and young people at the 2nd service, we have now decided to move back to having one main service every Sunday. So from the beginning of March 2022 we have had a main 10.30am service every Sunday, with a 9.15am Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. This is roughly the same pattern of services we had pre-COVID, with slightly different timings. So far, this arrangement seems to be working well. At the same time, many of our usual activities are now up and running again, including the Toddler group, Just Babies, Mothers' Union meetings in the hall, and Messy Church. For the first time in my 6 years here, we were able in March to hold an 'Alpha away day' at St Nicholas Church on a Saturday morning. The members of the current Alpha course were able to come to this day in the church building, as we received teaching on the Holy Spirit, and enjoyed worship, prayer and a meal together. There have also been other activities such as a men's breakfast, a Passover meal, a women's breakfast, and of course our first Spring Fair - which was a resounding success. Despite all the challenges of the past two years, it continues to be a great encouragement for me as Associate Rector

to see the incredible team spirit of the St Nicholas congregation, which has helped pull us through a global pandemic, financial challenges, and innumerable changes over the past 24 months. In that time, we have been delighted to welcome new families and individuals along to our Sunday worship services, and to connect with the local community in new ways. As restrictions begin to ease and we return to some sort of 'normality', my prayer is that God will continue to guide us into the next season, and reveal to us as a church what He is calling us to.

As I think about those who have served our church over the past year, I would like to express my thanks to the PCC, and in particular to Claire Couldridge, our tireless Churchwarden, and to Nick Jolliffe, our Deputy Warden. I am also very grateful to Roger Allard, our Treasurer, and Richard Butterworth our Deputy Treasurer. I must also thank the different Lay Ministers at St. Nicholas: Diane Stiff, our Children's and Families' worker and Pastoral Assistant, and Rosemary Fordyce, our Pastoral Assistant with PTO. It has also been encouraging to see Ian Gillies, Reader with PTO, begin now to exercise a wider ministry across the Deanery. Thanks must also go to Jayne Calvert, for all her work with the music, MU and the Community Larder. Thank you also to Catherine Roffey for all she does as Church Administrator and Lettings Manager. Thank you also to all who help with the teas and coffees and the flowers on a Sunday morning, to all who have helped put on and run different events this year, including the Spring Fair and the men's and women's breakfasts. Thank you to the whole congregation of St Nicholas for their continued words of encouragement, and for the great spirit they have shown in these challenging times. As a congregation, I think we can take encouragement from God's words to Joshua in Joshua 1:9. 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'

Stephen Broadie
Associate Rector

ST. GILES MUSIC

Before the Pandemic lockdowns and restrictions began we had 21 members in the Junior Choir. We now have 17 on the books. This is rather better than we had feared it would be: younger choir members come and go - some move away, some go on to university or further education, occasionally they just leave. One therefore expects that there will always be a need to look for recruits but for the best part of two years recruitment has not really been possible.

The contribution that younger members of a choir make to the singing becomes larger as they grow older so continuity of membership is important. Several members have been in the Juniors for the 61/2 years that I have been at St. Giles. The proportion that have a good standard of music reading is higher than in the past which means that learning new music is much easier than previously.

Five members have reached the light blue stage of Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life training scheme and on Mothering Sunday they were presented with medallions, badges and ribbons. How difficult the last two years have been seemed to be summed up in one comment when I was given a workbook by one of the members who said 'I'm sorry the writing on the first few pages is not very good. I was two years younger then'.

The Summer programme has some challenging music which I know the Juniors will enjoy. Finding new Sopranos for the Senior Choir has not been easy over the last couple of years and the contribution that the Juniors make and the need for younger singers at St. Giles has never been greater.

Clive Brearley
Organist and Junior Choirmaster

ST. GILES FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

As I write this report, my memory is playing tricks on me and the past two years seem to be a blur. The Covid pandemic placed restrictions on all our lives and that included our church life. We missed our church family, the familiarity of the church building and the routines of weekly services. Thankfully we are now back, able to meet, study, play and pray together.

My last report ended with activities sent out to families in spring 2021. On Good Friday 2021 we were able to hold our outdoor family Stations of the Cross service. This was well attended and we were all delighted to see one another again.

Our programme for the summer term continued to be emailed out and delivered at home, as church gradually opened up, initially with restricted numbers and protocols in place. Our main topic was 'Nurture.' We thought about how plants are nurtured into strong healthy growth. The children were given sunflower seeds to grow at home and some provided photos of them which were published in the church magazine. We went on to think about how we are nurtured to grow strong and healthy bodies, with nourishing food and drink, care and love. Our spiritual lives also grow in response to nurture and we summed this up as follows...

G - going regularly to church

R - reading the bible

O - obeying God

W - witnessing and sharing our faith.

During the summer months, walks were arranged for all ages of children and we concluded with a picnic and games in the Rectory Garden in July.

In September 2021 Sunday school reopened!

Our theme for the Juniors for autumn was 'God Loves Us'. The Seniors studied Mark's Gospel. It was good to be back learning together, meeting new children and welcoming old ones back. The Sunday school Christmas Eve service was a well-attended Christingle. Families had helped to make the Christingles a day or two beforehand and the children took part during the service by reading poems, prayers and passages from the bible.

In December we held our first Chocolate Box Sunday, Children were invited to donate a box of chocolates and make a Christmas card to give to an elderly, housebound member of the congregation. These were distributed in time for Christmas and were well received.

Our spring theme for Juniors was 'Jesus the Healer'. We talked about doctors and nurses who care for us when we are sick and how we can look after and show care for those around us who might be unwell. We made Get Well cards. We looked at how Jesus healed various people in the bible, including those on the margins of society. We talked about healing words and actions such as love, patience and forgiveness. The Seniors studied Luke's Gospel.

Easter again included a well-attended Friday service, with pictures for the Stations of the Cross painted by the children and young people at our Easter Workshop. A glorious Easter Day was celebrated at our Family Communion and was followed by refreshments and an Easter Egg Hunt.

This year Matthew and I set up a new Youth Group. We have met for bible study and cake in the centre and, more recently, for dinner at the Rectory. We will continue to develop our work with this age group, responding to their needs and developing their faith as they grow into young adults.

Matthew has recently reopened Lollipop Club for our youngest children.

In general, our numbers in each of the groups, are stable. Children and young people attend when they can. We have lost some families during the pandemic, but gained others since returning. These remain challenging times for children's work with so many activities available to families on Sunday mornings. We are, however, committed to developing our work and supporting families in helping their children to get to know Christ and to live in the love of God.

Thank you to all parents and carers who continue to bring their children to church. Thank you to all in the various teams who help Matthew and I in this important work.

Irene Dancer
St. Giles Family & Children's Worker

ST. GILES SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Throughout the Covid pandemic and the various lockdowns, safeguarding work has continued within the parish and has been kept up to date.

I can confirm that our churches have adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. We have our own Parish Safeguarding Policy, which supports and illustrates this guidance and which is updated regularly, the last update being approved by the PCC in March 2022. Copies are located in both churches, in St Giles Centre and on the parish website.

As PSO I have updated my own Leadership Pathway training and, in order to support others, have also completed the basic and foundation modules. I also hold certificates in Responding well to Domestic Abuse and for Safer Recruitment and People Management. At the joint PCC meeting in March policies for Safer Recruitment were presented and adopted. These were in line with national recommendations and included scaled down forms for use with volunteers. Our two latest members of the St Giles Sunday school team were recruited in line with this, with application forms completed and references taken up.

Reminders to clergy, officers and volunteers within the church to update their training have recently been sent out. There is a requirement to update training every three years. I have asked that this be monitored at St Nicholas Church and Diane Stiff has agreed to do this.

Our Lead Recruiter and DBS administrators ensure that all relevant police checks, for volunteers and workers, are carried out in a timely fashion. These are all up to date.

I am currently completing an online system of monitoring and reporting of safeguarding procedures adopted by our church through a 'dashboard' system offered by the Diocese. As a result of this an action plan will be produced.

At Diocesan level, I have been invited to join the SEC (safeguarding executive committee) as a PSO representative. At the time of writing, I have yet to attend my first scheduled meeting.

A positive safeguarding culture is integral to the smooth and safe running of all institutions, including the Church. At St Giles and St Nicholas churches we aim to create an environment where all feel valued and are listened to. Our policies and guidelines support this aim, but it is our actions and the positive relationships we build with one another that build confidence and so reinforce those ideals and promote and reflect that culture.

Irene Dancer
Parish Safeguarding Officer

ST. GILES FLOWER ARRANGERS REPORT

2020 - 2021

This is our first report since the pandemic March 2020. During this time all flower arranging was suspended. We returned with Mothering Sunday posies in March 2021 and a modest Harvest Flower Festival in October 2021, plus Christmas displays in December 2021. We are grateful to all those who helped in difficult circumstances.

Organisation

There is now no overall leader for the Flower Arrangers, therefore the team leaders with Matthew meet quarterly to discuss challenges, plan future events, and share any actions.

There are usually 4 flower teams (each covering one Friday per month), however due to reduced numbers there are only 3 teams operational at present. There are a total of approximately 15 regular arrangers plus 10 potential additional helpers for festivals.

In addition we have dedicated resource for all flower bookings for the Book of Remembrance etc. and wedding liaison.

Recruitment

We are keen to add new flower arrangers to our teams, especially if we are to continue with a four-team rotation in 2023. In the past we have run workshops, however this has not brought in many new recruits. We have decided that word of mouth would be the best way forward, with an invitation to observe what happens on a Friday, before committing to join a group. Please encourage people, who you think would be interested, to contact a team leader. No experience is required.

Donations

We have been very lucky and continue to receive regular donations from our congregation to support the main flower festivals and in payment for the Book of Remembrance etc. Please note that any bookings that were taken and paid for during the two lockdowns were carried forward to 2021 and 2022.

Costs

The costs of supplies, and in particular fresh flowers, has really increased. The wholesaler is due to move in 2022 to new premises in Erith and many arrangers no longer drive. Supermarkets remain our main source of flowers on a weekly basis with orders via the florist for special requests including weddings. We remain very grateful to all members who every week bring fresh foliage from their gardens.

Pricing for 2023

The budget for weekly flowers and festivals will need to be reviewed for 2023, along with pricing for all special bookings and wedding flowers.

Contact Details

Our details remain available via the Church website and Church magazine. Photos of the main flower festivals are included in both publications

Social

Given the pandemic there have been no social events

Next Events

Following our Easter Festival in April 2022 our next planned event will be floral displays to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, when the Church will be open.

St. Giles Flower Team

ST. GILES BELLRINGERS

2021 was again an almost unprecedented year.

The start of the year featured strict Covid restrictions which initially prevented any bell ringing.

As mentioned in last year's Report the installation of the two new bells was completed on Maundy Thursday, 1st April, so for Easter there was an octave of eight ringable bells in the tower. Unfortunately, the distancing restrictions prevent us from ringing all eight bells and, with spacing, we were able to ring roughly every other bell: odds or evens

As Covid restrictions started to ease we were able to ring six bells (rule of six) and eventually all eight bells most Sunday mornings prior to the Family Service.

Just two quarter peals were rung in 2021 (five in 2020), and no peals. Both QPs were rung on Tuesdays in June, one in memory of former Rector (1987-1995), Revd Graham Shaw. On 10th April the heavy Gillett and Johnston bell was tolled upon the death of the Duke of Edinburgh and again on 17th April, on the day of his funeral.

Practices have been difficult to arrange with ongoing restrictions and Covid related nervousness from many but these are being attempted on Monday evenings.

Taylor's of Loughborough, who completed the augmentation, still need to return to carry out snagging works.

The former, redundant, clock bell is currently resting on the belfry floor. Following PCC approval, a Faculty is being sought for its sale and the placing of a radar controlled electromagnetic hammer on the big and sonorous G&J bell.

Sadly, one of our elderly band members, Audrey Allaway, previously a Sunday morning regular, died in December. Additionally, another ringer is currently indisposed so this makes it all the more important to address recruitment and training going forwards and thanks go to the members of the band that do turn up regularly to ring.

St. Giles Bellringers

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY & CHILDREN'S WORKER

It has been lovely over the past year, as COVID restrictions have been gradually lifted, to be able to start up children's activities again.

ST NICHOLAS TODDLER GROUP

In June 2021 we opened Toddlers again with limited numbers and over the past months we have increased these. Families have been very appreciative of having somewhere to go with young children after lockdown. We had a Christmas Party with families bringing their own packed lunches and Father Christmas came to visit. We have started doing craft activities, singing and story times again. We now have about 30 families coming along each week.

KIDS CLUB

In September we restarted KIDS CLUB during the morning service. We have a number of families with primary school children and it is lovely to get back to doing Bible stories and activities as a group again. Last term we looked at some of the miracles of Jesus, and this year we have just finished a series on Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

It was great to be able to do a Christingle service on Christmas eve last year, even though we restricted the numbers.

JUST BABIES

Just Babies is for parents with babies up to crawling age. This is now running again every Tuesday afternoon and we have a few mums with young babies who are coming along.

MESSY CHURCH

We held a couple of Messy Church sessions last year with people doing crafts in their family groups. These were well attended and after Easter we are planning to go back to monthly gatherings.

HOLIDAY CLUB

We were pleased to be able to run a three day holiday club in the summer based on the Scripture Union WONDERZONE. Even though small in number we had a great time doing various experiments and finding out more about our wonderful, creator God.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with these activities over the past year. Thank you.

Diane Stiff
Family and Children's worker St. Nicholas

MOTHERS' UNION

Once again, we have had a 'different from normal' year, although since last May, we have been able to meet up in person on the 3rd Thursday afternoon each month, which has been wonderful!

We decided to keep our monthly Monday evening meetings by Zoom, as with the darker winter evenings, no one has needed to venture into the cold to meet. It has also meant that members from other branches, both near & far, have been able to join in these Evening Prayers by Zoom. Sharing faith & fellowship through prayer is very important to us all.

Almost 2 years on from our 1st tentative introductions to Zoom, we have all now become experts!

Our Farnborough Mothers' Union group has again gone from strength to strength and has positively thrived during the COVID-19 pandemic. The group has increased by another 4 members who were enrolled last October, making our membership 28. Members who are not able to join us by Zoom get a paper copy of each service before the meeting so they can feel involved at home.

We follow the Church's year, and most of the prayers are taken from the Mothers' Union website, an excellent resource to share together. This present month of April we have shared Lent Reflections, 'Sacrifice and Resurrection'.

In December we again held our service supporting the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence entitled "No More 1 in 3", and lit candles to show solidarity with our friends who have sadly been affected, both in the UK and overseas. Many suffer in silence and are undetected in their wider community. Mothers' Union joins each year with other organisations from approximately 187 countries who participate in this campaign to raise awareness of and call for an end to gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies. Last December, several MU members from Rochester Diocese gathered in solidarity outside Rochester Cathedral with other organisations during the 16 days of Activism period.

Mothers' Union was founded in 1986 by Mar Sumner, a clergyman's wife, from a small home-group meeting she started to support young mothers who were living in her husband George's parish in Old Alresford near Winchester. In those days it was very unusual for a woman to start up any group, & even more unusual that Mary Sumner reached out to all the women in the parish, irrespective of their class. 146 years later, our beliefs and goals are still very relevant today. We have over 4 million Christian members in 84 countries in the world, and Mothers' Union continues to flourish.

On August 9th we celebrate Mary Sumner Day, and members of Rochester Diocese have always joined in a pilgrimage starting from their home Church, stopping off at various churches along the way for prayer, song and light refreshment, finally ending up at Rochester Cathedral to share in Choral Evensong. Unfortunately, last August it wasn't possible to join in the pilgrimage in a group, but some of us did go down to Rochester Cathedral to celebrate Evensong.

Like many other charities, Mothers' Union has suffered again this past year through lack of fund raising, however our group has just participated in this year's **Make a Mother's Day** campaign. This year our theme was entitled, "Gifts of Resilience", and I am delighted to report that we raised a massive £508 for this project! Some of this money came through the generous donation of St. Giles congregation at the 10.00 a.m. Mothering Sunday service, when one of our members, Jocelyn Wright, gave a short talk about Mothers' Union.

As our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, wrote, *"Two years ago, Mothering Sunday coincided with the UK's first national lockdown. The suddenness of being separated from our loved ones tested us all. Mothers' Union members everywhere, like you and me, discovered new strengths, resilience, and most of all we discovered the value of community and prayer"*.

Locally, several members of Farnborough Mothers' Union and other friends are still knitting colourful squares, which are then sewn up into blankets. This past year several baby cot-blankets have been given to SCBU at the PRUH, & it has also received many cardigans, hats, bootees, cannula mitts & mugs for the preterm and sickly babies needing care there. We were also asked to knot 'Anna Crosses' for the Anna Chaplains to give out to residents in Care Homes when they went to visit to give them Communion.

Two of our MU members, Jocelyn & Kate, have become the Rochester Diocesan Representatives for AFIA, our 'Away from it all' project, a scheme funded by Mothers' Union members to help people who would not otherwise have a holiday or day trip. We held a fundraising afternoon tea in the house of one of our members in July & raised £290. This coming July/August, AFIA has been chosen to be the Charity in Focus at St. Giles, so watch this space for further information!

We continue to hold our Zoom meetings on the 1st Monday in the month at 7.30 p.m. and the 3rd Thursday afternoon at 1.30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church.

If you are interested in hearing more about the Mothers' Union, & how you can get involved contact Jayne Calver on 07780664340 or email jayne_calvert@hotmail.com.

Jayne Calvert

HOUSE GROUPS

This has been another difficult year for our House Groups, but those led by Alison Reynolds, Andy Chapman, Jenny Hutson and Sue Simpson have continued meeting, but mainly online. Although they miss face to face social contact and having a shared cup of tea/coffee, it does have some advantages, e.g. members can join from their own home without the need to travel - particularly helpful for less mobile individuals (a broken hip in one case); it also gives greater flexibility for those with dependents to look after.

The different groups have followed and discussed study guides and talks on Jonah, Christian character, Caring for Creation (very topical and highly recommended), a Passion for Christ and Lives of Great Christians. Some groups followed Matthew's 2022 Lent Course entitled, 'What makes for human flourishing?' which explored 'Coping with change', 'Anxiety & Worry', 'Forgiveness' and 'Nature and Human Creativity'. Ailsa Chapman's House Group reassembled for this (although they have been, and will continue, to keep in contact with each other). There was also another Lent Group, led by Matthew, and held at the back of the Church following the 4.00 p.m. Sunday evening service.

People have found it valuable to get together, either for read, or virtually. Sue's group has also set up a What's app group for encouraging each other and for support in between meetings which is proving successful.

I hope that the various groups manage to thrive during 2022. If you would like to join a group please contact me.

Heather Argent
House Group co-ordinator
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ST. GILES WEBSITE

Farnborough Parish website:

www.farnborough-kent-parish.org.uk

The parish website was launched ten years ago, in January 2012. Following a period of reduced activity last year, it is now returning to more regular updating and higher usage following the resumption of services and events.

Photos were added following the installation of two further bells in March, and the sad death of Revd. Graham Shaw in May. A quarter peal was rung in his memory on 1st June. There are photos from the new Community Larder being run at St. Nicholas, and the resumption of Sunday School events and the St. Nicholas holiday club. New photos were added from the Churchyard team, including the working day in October and from the confirmation service in November. Right at the end of the year the sad death of Revd. Bill Mullenger was noted.

There was of course no fete again in 2021, which normally provides good photo opportunities. A feature recalling the Fine Music in a Fine Old Church was incorporated into the history section, which sadly than needed to be added to following the death of Ray Jewkes.

Finally, I have created a dedicated page for photos from Biliam Sarder in Bangladesh and there are some from Kerala in South India following the recent devastating floods, for which St. Giles mounted an emergency appeal.

The continuing world problems have had an impact on the number of visits to the website, which at 14,900 is down on the previous two years, but the page count was 26% up on last year, suggesting that visitors are spending more time on the site at each visit. The busiest months were March, April and December.

Farnborough Village History website:

www.farnborough-kent-village.org.uk

The history website has been updated with further old maps and photos, plus articles about Bassetts, and the development of the Starts Hill estate; housing and other developments on the parliamentary roads in Farnborough village; and some further enhancements to the Railway history pages.

Perhaps not historical, but certainly noteworthy, the retirement of Kerry and Theo Kokkinos was celebrated, after running the village shop since 1980.

Once again, I have been given permission to use relevant articles from the magazine of the Bromley Borough Local History Society, which are always of high standard and well researched.

Several new pages on the website have been used with modifications to create articles for submission to the parish magazine.

The site now contains about 110 pages, which makes it larger than the St. Giles website, The number of visitors is growing steadily year on year, and is now also larger than for the St. Giles site, although they spend less time on the site at each visit.

Nick Reynolds
nickrstgiles@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST. GILES

The Friends of St. Giles continue to support the Church in any way that they can. During the last year we made a substantial donation to the new cushions in the gallery.

We were unable to hold our usual fundraising last year so when restrictions lifted we held a very successful sale of jigsaw puzzles in the Church which raised £235. Thanks go to those who donated the puzzles and to those who bought.

We celebrated the life of our first Chairman, Stan Eperon. A new bell was cast for the tower and we had a dedication to Stan engraved upon the bell with the blessing of his family. The bell is now in the tower. A service was held to celebrate Stan's life.

Our AGM this year was held in the Church.

The 250 Club continues to thrive, but it would definitely benefit from more members. It costs £12 per year; half the proceeds go to the monthly draws with 5 prizes, the other half to the Friends. As our secretary continues to tell us, "You have to be in it to win it". Membership forms are available from Sue (07715 860504).

***Julia Hoadley
Chairman***

PARISH MAGAZINE

Sometime in 2021, Rosemary noticed that Editors were wanted for the Parish magazine. The magazine had been produced for almost 100 years, and nobody wanted it to stop publication. We applied; however we were unsuccessful as someone else had stepped in at that point.

In December, with all our thoughts geared towards Christmas, we received a telephone call asking if we were still interested. After discussion with Daphne we agreed we were, and subsequently met with the outgoing Editor, (Eddie Roberts), of the Parish Magazine, with a view to 'having a chat' about us taking on the position of Editors! We agreed and that is now the role we are performing with, currently, 3 issues down, and the 4th being in the throes of pre-publication layouts.

However, it has been a very steep learning curve, with an exacting time schedule - as we had to attempt to get the February issue completed in early January if we were to hit the cut-off dates and print schedules. Fortunately, we both have some experience in this area, although from different skill bases, which is why we decided to both be Co-editors, each focusing on our respective areas of specialism.

Having produced whole magazines in a commercial environment, we thought this wouldn't be a problem. How wrong we were. Like any magazine, there are budget limitations, and this was no different. Specific topics, had to be included, minimal use of colour on only two internal pages, plus the front and back pages, and Advertising placements, etc, etc. It was in fact, in some ways harder than just producing a whole magazine from scratch.

Magazines always need a good front cover in order to attract readers. We hope we can refresh the magazine, make it attractive to a wide readership and hopefully, over time, bring it into a profit-making publication for the benefit of all parties involved.

***Rosie Andrews and Daphne Blyth
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.