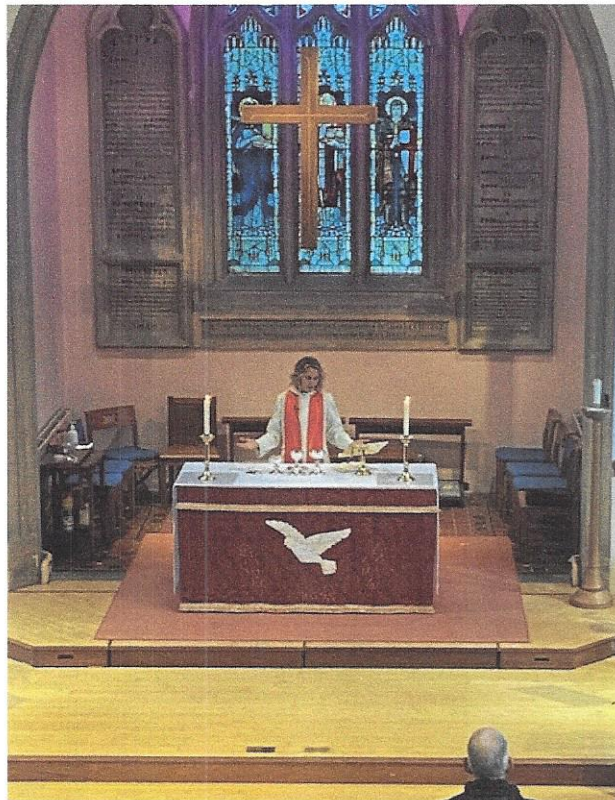




Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Reports for the APCM for St Nicholas Church, Winsley



2023-24

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, WINSLEY.
MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND APCM,
SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2024
TO FOLLOW MORNING SERVICE**

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1) Opening Prayer
- 2) Apologies for Absence
- 3) Minutes of 2023 APCM *Pages 4-6*
 - for approval
 - matters arising
- 4) Election of Lay Persons to PCC
- 5) Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 6) To receive reports on *Pages 7-13*
 - changes to the Electoral Roll
 - the activities of the PCC and the Parish generally, including the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
 - the Financial Statements for year ending 31/12/23 *Pages 14-20*
 - the proceedings of the Deanery Synod *Pages 22-26*
- 7) Other Business
- 8) Closing Prayer

Note. The Clergy have produced an Annual Report to the Benefice and there is a Churchwarden's Outreach Report included in this pack as an Annexe at the end of the reports starting at Page 27. These may be discussed at the end of the meeting, however they do not form part of the formal APCM agenda.

Due to a pagination error there is no page 21 in this document

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT 2024 APCM

**ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, WINSLEY
MINUTES OF MEETINGS on TUESDAY 18th April 2023**

Present:

Revd Ann Keating (Chair), Cedric Pierce (Secretary), John Allison, Linds Batson, Paul Batson, Alan Bryant, Val Bryant, Judith Cable, James Colquhoun, Terri Colquhoun, Kathy van Griethuysen, Pat Harrison, Heather Hawkings, Mary Hewetson, Patricia Legge, Tracy Legge (non-voting), Roy Ludlow, Revd Tessa Mann, Geoff Parker, Penny Pierce, Angela Symonds, John Symonds, Bob Williams, Sue Wright, Barbara Young,

Apologies

Keith Bennett, Daphne Cox, Revd Tim Hawkings, Eric Legg-Bagg, Jean Legg-Bagg.

PARISHIONERS' MEETING TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS

Roy Ludlow was nominated by Cedric Pierce and seconded by Penny Pierce. Elected unanimously by a show of hands.

Linds Batson was nominated by Penny Pierce and seconded by Cedric Pierce. Elected unanimously by a show of hands.

It was noted that this would be the fifth year in office for both Churchwardens.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Revd Ann Keating opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the 2022 APCM

There were no comments on the draft Minutes of the 2022 APCM, which were duly signed as a true record. There were no Matters Arising.

Election to the Deanery Synod

It was noted that elections to the Deanery Synod take place every 3 years, and fell due at this meeting. The existing Deanery Synod Members Cedric & Penny Pierce agreed to stand for a further term of office and were duly nominated by Patricia Legge and seconded Sue Wright. Elected unanimously by a show of hands. This will be their second term of office.

Election to Parochial Church Council

None of the existing members of the PCC were due to retire at the current meeting, however Dreen Rees had resigned on health grounds towards the end of 2022. The meeting recorded its thanks to her for her service over the years.

It was noted that Kathy van Griethuyson, Heather Hawkings and Sue Wright had all been co-opted onto the PCC since June 2022, and that they were now standing for election in their own right. They were duly nominated by Linds Batson and seconded by Mary Hewetson. Elected unanimously by a show of hands. This will be their first term of office.

Mary Hewetson offered to stand for election as a PCC Member. She was nominated by Penny Pierce and seconded by Sue Wright. Elected unanimously by a show of hands. This will be her first term of office.

It was noted that there may be up to 9 Lay Members of the PCC and that following the current appointments there remain 3 vacancies on the committee.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Patricia Legge proposed that Diane Aderyn be re-appointed as Independent Examiner, and this was seconded by Val Bryant.

Diane Aderyn was appointed by unanimous show of hands.

Changes to Electoral Roll

Mary-Anne Baxter was unable to attend today's meeting but reported through The Secretary that there were currently 96 people on the Church Electoral Roll, the same as last year. It was noted that sadly there had been four deaths, matched by four new people being added to the roll.

Mary-Anne Baxter was thanked for her continuing work as the Electoral Roll Officer.

The Activities of the PCC and Parish Generally

The various written reports including the paragraph regarding Safeguarding were noted, and Ann Keating thanked all contributors to the report both for their input and for their help and hard work through the year.

The Financial Statements for 2022

Patricia Legge presented her final report as Honorary Treasurer and said that it had been a pleasure to be the treasurer of such a generous congregation. It was noted that she was in the process of handing over her role to Mrs Bridge Duncombe (who is also the Benefice Administrator) and she was warmly thanked for her significant contribution to the work of the PCC and Parish over the years.

It was clarified that in future Cedric Pierce will be undertaking banking on behalf of the church (i.e. taking cash & cheques etc to the bank) but all other financial matters including payment of invoices or reimbursement of expenses will be dealt with by the treasurer.

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church

It was noted that there were no changes to report to the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church, details of which are held

by Roy Ludlow as Churchwarden.

The Proceedings of the Bradford on Avon Deanery

The written report was noted. The current conflict in Sudan was discussed in the context that the Bradford Deanery (of which this parish is part) currently supports a small area in the Kadugli area both financially and in prayer. It was agreed that the situation in Sudan was very serious and required ongoing prayer.

Other Business

Following a short discussion it was agreed by a show of hands that where apologies for absence have been given for an APCM, they should be recorded in the minutes.

Cedric Pierce noted that a number of churches have adopted a policy of holding their APCM after a Sunday morning service and asked for the views of the meeting. In general, the suggestion was supported and it was noted that a Sunday meeting would result in a bigger turnout and would be more convenient for people with jobs and other weekday responsibilities. A show of hands indicated strong support for the suggestion, with one person voting against and two people expressing no opinion.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

END

St Nicholas Church, Winsley
Annual Report and Accounts of The Parochial Church Council
2023/24

Administrative Information

St. Nicholas Church is situated in the village of Winsley, Bradford on Avon, part of the Benefice of North Bradford on Avon and Villages, which is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England.

Within the parish is a Church of England VC Primary School.

The correspondence address is:

The Rectory, 6 Millbourn Close, Winsley, BA15 2NN

The Benefice Office is:

Office 2, 1a Mount Pleasant Centre, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1SJ

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission. However, as the charity's income is likely to exceed £100,000 for the first time in 2024, registration is being considered.

PCC members who have served from the 2022 APCM until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent

Revd Ann Keating, Chair
retired 28 May 2023
Revd Katie Jackson
from 26 February 2024

Clerks in Holy Orders

Revd Tessa Mann

Churchwardens:

Roy Ludlow (from April 2019)
Linds Batson (from June 2019)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Cedric Pierce, Retiring in 2026 (6 years)
also PCC Secretary

Penny Pierce Retiring in 2026 (6 years)

Lay Members of the PCC

Eric Legg-Bagg Retiring in 2024 (3 years)

Jean Legg-Bagg Retiring in 2024 (3 years)

Heather Hawkings Retiring in 2026 (3 years)

Mary Hewetson Retiring in 2026 (3 years)

Kathy van Griethuysen Retiring in 2026 (3 years)

Sue Wright Retiring in 2026 (3 years)

Note. During the year under review John Baxter, Caroline Billingham and Dr Bridge Duncombe were not members of the PCC but took the roles of Health & Safety Officer, Safeguarding Officer and Treasurer respectively.

Election of Parochial Church Council members

The maximum number of lay PCC Members is 9. Currently there are 6 Lay Members of the PCC of whom two are due to retire this year. Both retirees are eligible for re-election.

Nominations for election to the PCC may be made up to the APCM.

Election of Deanery Synod Members

Deanery Synod elections are held every three years and there is no election due this year. Deanery Synod Representatives are automatically *ex officio* members of the PCC.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll was updated shortly before the 2023 APCM. At that time the number of parishioners on the Roll was 96.

The Roll was undergoing its annual revision whilst this report was being prepared, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The number of Parishioners on the updated Electoral Roll will be advised at the APCM.

Aims and Objectives, Performance and Achievements

1. The objectives of the PCC are defined by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956. St Nicholas PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent (or, in the absence of an incumbent, with the Churchwardens and clergy) in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also maintains The Church Hall situated opposite the Church.
2. The PCC of St Nicholas, Winsley is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to serving our local school and community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship in the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve all groups within the community.
3. When planning activities, the PCC has considered guidance from the Charity Commissioners on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.
4. The main activities of the PCC seek to enable people to live out their faith in the parish and community through:

- The provision of regular public worship that is open and accessible to all. This includes services using different formats for Holy Communion, Prayer and Praise, Café-style Refresh (which takes place in the church hall), meditation services, and periodic services held in different churches across the benefice designed for families, e.g. Forest Church and Lego Church.
- The provision of pastoral work by clergy and Lay Pastoral Assistants, including home administration of Holy Communion, hospital visiting, leading worship in our local residential care homes, visiting the sick, the elderly, the bereaved and others with a particular need.
- The teaching of the Christian faith through sermons, home groups, baptisms, weddings and funerals, activities for children, and collective worship and Open the Book in our local Primary School.

Our local school, 'Acorns' (pre-school) and 'Sunbeams' (parents, carers and toddlers' group) normally visit the church for key church year festivals and the former two for their graduation services.

- 'Sunbeams' is held in the Church Hall every 2nd and 4th Wednesday morning of the month and continues to be very popular.
- 'Kettle's On', a fortnightly coffee morning, is held in the Church Hall and has proved very popular with people from the village.
- 'Soup's Up' was a 'warm spaces' initiative introduced in November 2022 to provide a fortnightly hot meal and friendship to anyone who wanted to come. It was received well in the community and the initiative has been continued over the 2023 winter. Numbers attending have grown significantly.
- Winsley School has up to two Foundation (Church) Governors, one of whom is Revd. Tessa Mann. Open the Book continues most weeks at the school, and periodically the school continues to hold services in our church building.
- The support of other charities involved in Christian outreach and development. Appropriate charities are supported at our Harvest Festival Service, Remembrance Sunday Service and Carol

Service. Regular donations are made to The Hub, which runs the local food bank.

- Various church home groups, which run throughout the year enabling congregation members to support one another in their Christian journey and discipleship,
- Various prayer groups and a Men's Group that meet regularly and underpin our outreach, fellowship and discipleship.
- Our work at St Nicholas' with representatives from the other three Benefice churches to support one another with mission opportunities, including using our churchyards for mission, and arranging displays etc to promote key times in the Christian calendar.
- The weekly Four Churches Forum has proved to be an effective vehicle for communication between the four churches and has continued throughout 2023. It has been helpful, too, in building relationships between the four communities.

5. The church is a vibrant and active community, keen to pray, grow in faith and to serve the community.

6. The PCC takes very seriously the need to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are kept safe whilst involved in the church's activities and services. The PCC has adopted the Church of England Policy 'Keeping Children Safe' in addition to our Benefice Policy on safeguarding. Copies of this are displayed in the church and church hall. The Rector and Safeguarding Officer meet with other Benefice Safeguarding Officers regularly throughout the year, monitoring requirements for DBS checks and safeguarding training. A report on safeguarding is made to each PCC meeting. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

7. Church Attendance: There were **96** parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll from April 2023.

9. The PCC has agreed each year to donate 10% of the proceeds from regular planned giving to charities at home and abroad. A sub-committee makes recommendations to the PCC on which charities to support each year. This figure was not achieved in 2023 partly for administrative reasons and for 2024 the % target has been replaced by a fixed sum (broadly equivalent to the previous 10%) making budgeting and payment scheduling simpler.

PCC Review of the year

Note. This section discusses the activities of the PCC only. There are other reports from the Clergy, and Churchwardens at the end of this document.

2023 was a key year in the life of the Parish as our Rector of 10 years, Revd Ann Keating, retired on Pentecost Sunday in May 2023. The PCC is very grateful to her for the manner in which she prepared the Parish for the vacancy, and also to our Voluntary Associate Priest Revd. Tessa Mann and the retired clergy for their leadership and oversight in the absence of an incumbent.

During the vacancy, the PCC was chaired by the Churchwardens in rotation.

In connection with the vacancy, two joint meetings were held in June and September 2023 with the PCCs from the other Benefice parishes. The first was attended by the Archdeacon who explained the vacancy process and mechanisms for appointing a Rector. The second meeting approved the Benefice Profile and appointed Parish Representatives to the interviewing panel. We were delighted when Revd. Katie Jackson was appointed as the new incumbent, taking up her duties at the end of February 2023 (outside the scope of this report).

In order to conduct its normal business, the PCC met a total of five times during the year. The first and last meetings were solely to allocate responsibilities and to approve the Annual Report; the three other meetings discussed routine business. It is normal for the PCC to hold an 'away day' in the early summer to discuss strategy, but this was

dispensed with in 2023 as it was clear that the priority was to fill the incumbent's vacancy.

Safeguarding and Health & Safety continue to be standing items on every PCC agenda, and we are fortunate to have Caroline Billingham as our Safeguarding Officer, and John Baxter as our Health & Safety Officer. Our thanks are due to them.

The four parishes continue to work well together, for example sharing ministerial resources, the Benefice office and the Children & Families Worker. There is a monthly Benefice Holy Communion service, and Forest Church also operates on a Benefice-wide basis.

The PCC is aware that church expenditure is now exceeding income, caused by a variety of factors including sharply rising costs. This and the need for urgent repairs to the church hall roof are going to be significant challenges for the PCC in 2024.

The Churchwardens report that there have been no notable changes to the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church.

Treasurer's Report to APCM

Summary of the Annual Accounts year ended 31 December 2023

I am pleased to attach the Annual Accounts for 2023. These have been examined by our Independent Examiner Diane Aderyn and her report is included within the Accounts. We are very grateful for her time and input.

During 2023, church activities returned to a more normal pattern following the pandemic, and the PCC is grateful for the support it receives in terms of both time and money given by members of the congregation. We seek to be actively involved in the local community and we could not do this without you. Thank you!

In 2023, our expenditure exceeded income by approximately £2,000. We were able to cover this from our reserves however it is not a situation that is sustainable in the long-term. The church is not immune from the financial pressures that many organisations face, and 2024 will present us with several financial challenges, particularly as costs continue to rise, and we deal with necessary repairs to the hall structure and the fabric of the church.

Key points:

1. In 2023 the PCCs total income was £99,318 and expenditure was £101,924. Within this total £12,596 was given towards restricted funds, and expenditure from restricted funds was £18,750. Restricted funds are where money has been given for a specific purpose and cannot be used for other projects.
2. Planned giving (i.e. money given through the Parish Giving Scheme) has increased although within this there is a single, one-off, donation of £1,000. We encourage giving through the Parish Giving Scheme wherever possible as this automatically generates Gift Aid recovery (where applicable) and makes our accounting a lot simpler. In contrast, collections at services are down compared

to previous years.

3. Voluntary giving has increased by £2,152 but this is mainly one-off donations, in particular a single £2,000 donation.
4. The net fees for weddings and funerals have increased £5,640 as society reaches more normal conditions after the covid crisis. It should be noted that the church has very few weddings.
5. The church hall running expenses exceed the funds raised through hiring out the church hall. The PCC is seeking to increase the number of lets of the church hall.

Looking forward:

1. Our Parish Share, which is our contribution to the cost of clergy salaries and housing, has increased by 4% in 2024. This will total £45,766.31, up from £44,006 in 2023. The church meets and will continue to meet its Parish share requirements.
2. In 2024 the PCC is seeking to undertake significant repairs to the hall roof, followed in a later year by replacement of the hall windows and doors. Several applications are being submitted for grants to e.g., the Parish Council and National Lottery, and separately there will be fundraising activities for these projects. Additionally, there are some repairs necessary in the main church building, highlighted in a recent Quinquennial Inspection.
3. It is likely that in 2024 the PCC will need to apply to the Charity Commission for registration. Currently, we are an Excepted Charity (for which registration is not needed) but this is only available to certain organisations with a total income of less than £100,000 in any one year.

St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley
Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Receipts and payments account

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	2022
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts:					
Planned giving		45,631	-	45,631	41,381
Gift Aid recovered	4a	11,564	4,547	16,111	9,388
Collections at services	4b	3,552	-	3,552	4,637
Other voluntary giving	4c	3,976	7,742	11,718	8,911
Legacies received		100	-	100	2,500
Grants received		3,011	-	3,011	-
		<u>67,834</u>	<u>12,289</u>	<u>80,123</u>	<u>66,817</u>
Church activities:					
Hire of Church Hall		6,490	-	6,490	6,142
Fees for weddings and funerals (net)		8,096	-	8,096	2,456
Other income		618	-	618	484
		<u>15,204</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,204</u>	<u>9,082</u>
Activities for generating funds	4d	3,273	307	3,580	2,517
Investment income					
CCLA deposit interest		411	-	411	166
Total receipts		<u>86,722</u>	<u>12,596</u>	<u>99,318</u>	<u>78,582</u>
Payments					
Church activities					
Parish share		44,006	-	44,006	42,724
Clergy expenses		2,462	-	2,462	2,357
Salaries of Benefice staff		7,797	-	7,797	6,156
Winsley PCC honorary treasurer		1,014	-	1,014	-
Church running expenses	4e	18,209	5,624	23,833	16,035
Church Hall running expenses	4f	6,826	-	6,826	7,024
Tithed giving		2,860	-	2,860	4,704
Youth Worker		-	13,126	13,126	12,343
		<u>83,174</u>	<u>18,750</u>	<u>101,924</u>	<u>91,343</u>
Total payments		<u>83,174</u>	<u>18,750</u>	<u>101,924</u>	<u>91,343</u>
Excess of receipts over payments/ (payments over receipts)		3,548	(6,154)	(2,606)	(12,761)
Cash at bank and on deposit at 1 January 2023		34,861	26,337	61,198	73,959
Cash at bank and on deposit at 31 December 2023		<u>38,409</u>	<u>20,183</u>	<u>58,592</u>	<u>61,198</u>

St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley
Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	2022
		£	£	£	£
Cash Funds at 31 December 2023					
Treasurer's current account (inc. Petty cash)		25,176	(3,144)	22,032	27,286
Youth Worker current account		-	23,327	23,327	21,089
Total bank current accounts		25,176	20,183	45,359	48,375
Treasurer's deposit account		13,233	-	13,233	12,823
Total Cash Funds at 31 December 2023		38,409	20,183	58,592	61,198
Other Monetary Assets at 31 December 2023					
Gift Aid recoverable		1,659	3,063	4,722	7,669
CCLA interest due for final quarter of 2023		177	-	177	-
Funeral fees outstanding		364	-	364	588
Amounts paid in advance for Benefice expenses	3	180	-	180	(590)
Owed by the Benefice Office for the cost of the Rectory phone		924	-	924	723
Payment in advance to British Gas		500	-	500	500
		3,804	3,063	6,867	8,890
Liabilities at 31 December 2023					
Parochial fees due to Salisbury Diocese		1,647	-	1,647	1,880
Other fee payments outstanding		669	-	669	369
Funeral fees incorrectly paid by funeral directors		1,183	-	1,183	-
Donations to charity outstanding		940	-	940	-
Other invoices outstanding		509	-	509	-
		4,948	-	4,948	2,249

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the PCC on 8 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by Rev. Katie Jackson.



Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley
Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Notes (continued)

2. The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Youth Worker £	Family Develop ment Fund	Held for Ladies Group £	Audio Fund £	Fund raising Fund £	Total £	2022 £
Receipts							
Donations (net)	7,585	57	-	100	-	7,742	7,087
Fundraising	-	-	-	307	-	307	812
Grants received	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	-	4,547	-	-	-	4,547	-
	<u>7,585</u>	<u>4,604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>407</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,596</u>	<u>7,899</u>
Payments							
Salary (inc. NI)	-	13,126	-	-	-	13,126	11,658
Other	-	-	988	4,492	144	5,624	1,750
	<u>-</u>	<u>13,126</u>	<u>988</u>	<u>4,492</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>18,750</u>	<u>13,408</u>
Excess of receipts over payments/ (payments over receipts)	7,585	(8,522)	(988)	(4,085)	(144)	(6,154)	(5,509)
Transfers between funds	(5,226)	5,226	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 1 January 2023	21,025	-	988	4,180	144	26,337	31,846
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>23,384</u>	<u>(3,296)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,183</u>	<u>26,337</u>

The Youth Worker Fund and Family Development Fund together hold donations received to fund the salary and incidental costs of the Children's and Families Worker.

The Ladies Group make donations to the PCC to be held until allocated by agreement with the Ladies Group to specific expenditure of the PCC. In 2023, the remaining funds were allocated to the purchase of audio visual equipment in the Church Hall.

The Audio Fund represents donations received to fund the purchase of a projector and associated audio visual equipment, and on-going recurrent expenditure.

The Fundraising Fund represents the proceeds of activities held to raise funds for specific needs in the Church and Church Hall. In 2023, the remaining funds were allocated to the purchase of audio visual equipment in the Church Hall.

3. Benefice Office expenditure

Expenditure by the Benefice of North Bradford on Avon and Villages is shared amongst the four parishes within the Benefice in proportion to their Parish Share. The Benefice Office expenditure attributable to St. Nicholas (including, in 2023, £180 paid in advance for Benefice Office expenditure in 2024 and £924 to be reimbursed by the Benefice for the cost of the Rectory phone) is:

	£	2022 £
Clergy expenses	2,462	2,357
Salaries of Benefice staff	7,797	6,156
Other church running expenses (inc. payments in advance or due to the Benefice)	1,671	142
Benefice Office rent & phones	1,752	1,493
Benefice Office printing and stationery	2,087	2,292
	<u>15,769</u>	<u>12,440</u>

St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley
Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Notes (continued)

4. Further analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total	2022
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
a. Gift Aid recovered				
Parish Giving Scheme	10,592	-	10,592	9,388
Collections and donations	972	-	972	-
Youth Worker donations	-	4,547	4,547	-
	<u>11,564</u>	<u>4,547</u>	<u>16,111</u>	<u>9,388</u>
b. Collections				
Collections at services	1,961	-	1,961	3,642
Special collections	1,591	-	1,591	995
	<u>3,552</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,552</u>	<u>4,637</u>
c. Other voluntary giving				
Alms boxes	161	-	161	256
Income from donors	3,815	7,742	11,557	8,655
	<u>3,976</u>	<u>7,742</u>	<u>11,718</u>	<u>8,911</u>
d. Activities for generating funds				
Kettles On	1,291	-	1,291	1,053
Fundraising - Hall repairs	1,982	-	1,982	-
Fundraising - other	-	307	307	1,464
	<u>3,273</u>	<u>307</u>	<u>3,580</u>	<u>2,517</u>
Payments				
e. Church running expenses				
Upkeep of church	2,044	-	2,044	1,875
Insurance				
Utilities	5,184	-	5,184	3,779
Cleaning and caretaking	1,626	-	1,626	1,410
Maintenance	1,573	-	1,573	1,134
	<u>10,427</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,427</u>	<u>8,198</u>
Upkeep of services	506	-	506	1,424
Organists' fees	375	-	375	675
Benefice Office rent and phones	1,752	-	1,752	1,493
Benefice Office printing and stationery	2,087	-	2,087	2,292
Other	3,062	-	3,062	888
Audio equipment and consumables	-	5,624	5,624	278
Purchase of piano	-	-	-	787
	<u>18,209</u>	<u>5,624</u>	<u>23,833</u>	<u>16,035</u>
f. Church Hall running expenses				
Insurance	1,022	-	1,022	938
Utilities	3,605	-	3,605	2,982
Cleaning and caretaking	1,410	-	1,410	1,410
Maintenance and other costs	789	-	789	1,694
	<u>6,826</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,826</u>	<u>7,024</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PCC OF ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, WINSLEY**

This report is on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and,
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations.

have not been met with; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Diane Aderyn FCA
65 South Wraxall
Bradford on Avon
BA15 2SE



6 April 2024

Message from the Rural Dean Rev Jane Palmer

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for being such a huge encouragement as I stepped into this role just over a year ago. Our Deanery is wonderfully varied, from tiny rural sanctuaries to large town centre Churches and creative plants and activities. There is so much to give thanks for. It is easy to get into a mind-set of worry and anxiety about the future, but Jesus loves us and builds His Church. Thank you for the way you all serve Jesus in this place and for the way we have been coming together as a Deanery to ponder what we could do together and how we might best grow our Parishes and share the love God in Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge and Melksham. We have started an important journey on thinking through the new Diocesan vision Making Jesus Known and have been identified as an area which will hopefully have a Missional Pathway plan for the future building on our desire to grow and be released for mission. You have worked hard to pay Share and I know you understand the priority that has to take. As we move into another financial year I pray we will all reflect on our generosity and give what we can. For some that is going to be more scary than others, and so it is also my hope that we may grow in our generosity towards each other. Praying and resourcing each other as a Deanery in the long term could bear much fruit, we are all building the Kingdom together. We should not see our Parish boundaries as barriers to protect but as helpful scaffolding holding sacred spaces, so we can see and grow together releasing what we have and blessing what God is doing. I hope that vision may inspire the next few years ahead, whatever happens have hope. Jesus is Alive.

Synod meetings in 2023

15th February – St Katherine’s Church, Holt

14th June – Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon

18th October – St James’ Church, Trowbridge

Speakers in 2023

February – Judy Wright – Trowbridge Women’s Shed

June – Commissioning of Rev Jane Palmer

October – Ven. Sue Groom – Archdeacon of Wilts
and David Pain, Diocesan Secretary and CEO

Judy gave an excellent presentation about the Women’s Shed together with slides and a display of some of the crafts that the ladies have done.

In June the Ven. Sue Groom lead the Commissioning of Rev Jane Palmer as Rural Dean. Following refreshments the new Dean had prepared questions for those present to discuss in groups. The aim was for each group to be mixed and Task 1: Let’s get to know each other, Task 2: As we begin a new Synod term of election consider these questions together, there were a number of questions for consideration including What would you like to engage with as a Synod e.g. particular speakers or topics? and in 3 years’ time, at the end of this Synod’s time together, what do you want to see has changed or happened locally? This is only two of the questions.

October – During the comfort break David Pain ask us to look at various pictures of Jesus and we were to pick one that spoke to us, this was to highlight how we see Jesus differently and how could we make Jesus known to those around us. Ven. Sue Groom talk about the paper and card which was distributed at the beginning of the meeting – “Making Jesus Known”. Bringing the five priorities to life, locally. The five pillars were: courageous Christian leadership; working for Justice; creative partnerships in local mission; championing Climate Justice; financing the future sustainability. The focus was on Creative partnerships in local mission and what it meant for the Bradford Deanery and that we were to be part of a pilot scheme that would enable the deanery to work together to access national funding that would cover 9 years. Various questions were asked including funding, David advised that the Diocese will put forward 3-4 missional partnership bid. Making Jesus Known is going to be an ongoing topic to be discussed at future meetings.

Synod meetings

Synod meetings are open to all those who wish to attend with meeting dates and locations arranged well in advance. The intention is to share good practice around the Deanery, and for it to be a place where ideas can be shared. As part of the meetings there is always opportunity to share what had been taking place and to learn from each other, offer support and receive encouragement whether during the business part of the meeting or during the comfort break.

Officers

Information Officer	Anne Pinner
Lay Chair	John Joy
Lay Pastoral Officer	Marilyn Stubbs
Secretary	Anne Pinner
Treasurer	David Robinson

Clergy and Laity News

At the February Meeting special thanks was expressed to Canon Andrew Evans who after 15 years of tremendous service was retiring as Rural Dean and in June Rev Jane Palmer would be commissioned as the new Rural Dean.

Other News

During the year Dawn Farmer stepped down as Deanery Secretary in October,. Dawn was unable to attend the October Meeting due to illness but thanks was expressed to her for all her hard work over the past years, A card and flowers would be delivered to her. At the October Meeting Anne Pinner was proposed, seconded and duly elected as Deanery Secretary.

Also during 2023 Lay Worship Leader course took place as did a Lay Pastoral Assistant course St James' Church. Commissioning would take place in January 2024.

Deanery Share 2023 – David Robinson (Treasurer)

Share

AS a Deanery, at 31st January 2024, we had paid 83.7% of Share, or £625,448 a shortfall of £122,414 against what was requested. As a percentage, this was well lower than 2022, when we had paid 87.8%, and for the first time we are below the Diocesan figure of 87.6% paid, which itself represents a shortfall in the Share of some £1.52 million against their budget of £11.4 million.

However, all but five of our parishes fully paid their Share request in 2023. Of the five who have fallen shorty, three have made significant efforts to pay what they could. We must thank them, and indeed all PCCs, for the efforts and dedication to have paid Share, often using dwindling reserves. That 20 parishes have been able to pay their Share in full is to be celebrated!

Kadugli

In spite of the struggles to pay Share, we still received donations from our parishes for Kadugli – some £7,600 in 2023. With the war seemingly never ending, there was only a minimal amount, £1,000, transferred through the CASSS. As at the end of the year we had some £10,386 available for transfer.

Deanery Account

The account ended the year in credit in the amount of £837

Kadugli 2023/4 – John Joy Report to Bradford Deanery

Most of this report concerns the civil war and its impact, especially on Kadugli, but first a recent event which is independent of the war. The Episcopal Church of Sudan has divided Kadugli Diocese to create two dioceses, of Kadugli and of Heiban. We do not know the boundary between them, but the town of Heiban is to the east of Kadugli city, so we may assume the new diocese lies in that direction too. Bishop Hassan remains as Assistant Bishop of Kadugli, Bishop Andudu remaining as the diocesan bishop.

Civil war broke out across Sudan early last year. It has been marked by violence, sometimes amounting to genocide, by robbery, by destruction of property, and deprivation of food and basic necessities. Most aid agencies have had to leave for their own safety. Many people have fled to other parts of the country or even abroad.

The principal parties in the war were the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and they were joined by other terrorist groups. A larger force, the Sudan People's Liberation Army - North (SPLM-N) then intervened, so there are now three major forces. Of these, the RSF has the worst reputation for violence, though the SAF has also been accused of such crimes.

The church in Sudan has been attacked and buildings destroyed. Christians there, including in Kadugli, have bravely held on to their faith, and continue to worship under difficult conditions; they need our support both in prayer and materially.

Kadugli (the town rather than the diocese) is currently besieged by the SPLM-N. Bishop Hassan has had to move outside the town to the nearby Nuba Mountains and is currently focusing his ministry there and in other less restricted parts of the diocese.

There has been an influx of refugees to Kadugli, and these have to be accommodated and fed. Food and medicine were already in short supply, and the refugees have increased the demand. We have sent money to Bishop Hassan to help with the shortages, and will continue to do so while we have the means, but above all we must pray.

Diocesan Synod Meetings in 2023

The Diocesan Synod meets three times a year and full details of their meetings in 2023 are available at [Diocesan Synod - The Diocese of Salisbury \(anglican.org\)](https://www.diocesan-synod.org.uk/)

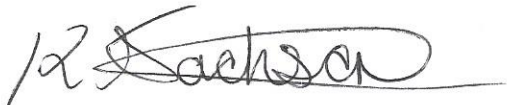
Alternatively, a four-page summary of their proceedings may be obtained from the St Nicholas PCC Secretary.

Bradford Deanery Synod Meetings for 2024 at 19.30 taking place as follows:

Monday 5th February 2024 – these minutes have already been circulated

Tuesday 4th June 2024 – Christ Church, Shaw SN12 8EH

Thursday 17th October 2024 – St John's Upper Studley, Trowbridge BA14 0EH



**ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS APPROVED BY THE PCC ON 08
APRIL 2024, AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF BY REVD KATIE
JACKSON, PCC CHAIR**



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Living God's love
Growing God's Kingdom

APCM Overview of the year 2023/24 from Clergy

General

In May 2023 our Rector, Rev Ann Keating retired after 10 years of faithful and fruitful service to our Benefice.

A strong clergy and lay team was in place to oversee the vacancy, ably supported by our excellent Administrator Mrs Bridge Duncombe.

Rev Tessa Mann (Associate Priest) headed up the team.

Weddings, funerals and baptisms were all covered by our clergy team.

A **Four Churches Forum** was purposefully initiated in October 2022, meeting weekly for Morning Prayer, breakfast and discussion of Benefice matters, including the vacancy process. The Forum has been a focal point for really creative and life giving communication and cooperation across our churches.

Our **PCC's** were ably chaired by **Wardens**. We are so thankful for their calm and wise leadership.

Our **Safeguarding Team** has met regularly during the vacancy, with invaluable admin back up from Denise Button. Our **finances** have been overseen by Diane Aderyn in the Benefice and three parishes, and by Bridge Duncombe at St Nicholas. We are grateful to them both for their

PRAYER FOR OUR BENEFICE DURING THE VACANCY

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the many people and places that make up this part of the body of Christ.

As we work together to make Jesus known in the communities we serve, we look to you for all that we need

Keep us faithful, expectant, generous and united in our love for you and each other, as we prepare for a new beginning.

Give us courage to follow you with hope and joy in our hearts.

May we be open to change and ready to graciously welcome a new Rector Katie on whom we pray your blessing. Amen.

dedication and goodwill. Impressively, all our churches paid their **Parish Share** in full.

We are very grateful to Margaret Thompson who has overseen **HR** aspects of our Benefice.

The **vacancy process** was steered by a very able and unified team representing all our churches.

A **Benefice Profile** was produced by this group. Huge thanks to the team involved for their wonderful spirit of unity and wisdom. A **Benefice Prayer** was written by **The Thrive Team** and used both privately and in our regular services and groups. This helped us put prayer at the forefront of our vacancy.

Worship & discipleship

The pattern of worship across our Benefice remained very similar, with the added blessing of more lay led services. A number of Churchwardens stepped up to the challenge of leading **Sunday Morning Worship Services** across our churches. These were greatly appreciated. Our **Lay Worship Leaders** and others continued in leading Refresh Services which have grown in popularity during the year which is encouraging. We are so grateful to our **Organists and musicians** for their gifted contribution to our worship.

We also saw a number of innovative services developing, including further opportunity for outdoor services, Songs of Praise services and a Community *Singing in the Harvest Service*. Christ Church hosted a special service marking the restoration of its clock.

Our festival services were well attended and much appreciated. Team work was constantly in action. Bishop Andrew led our Benefice Harvest Thanksgiving and Archdeacon Sue Groom led our Advent Sunday Service. Worship Services have been held regularly at both **Avon Park and Wiltshire Heights**. Rev Paul Batson and Rev Tim Hawkings have headed up this ministry with strong parish teams.

Home groups continued during the vacancy, with one of our home groups planning and leading a service at St Nicholas.

A **Benefice weekend** at Lee Abbey (to take place in May 2024) was organised during the year. Thank you to Daphne Cox.

Schools, children and families

Our ministry amongst children and families has continued to grow under the creative and energetic leadership of Zoe Yeomans. We lead worship in our 3 schools on a regular basis + 3 active Open the Book Teams.

Winsley and Christ Church have active representation on the **governing bodies** of their schools.

Special Church festival services were held for our schools, with new opportunities to welcome additional pre school age children at Christmas. **Experience Church**, held at Christ Church in October, involved a vast team from across the Benefice, blessing 500 children and school staff. Opportunities for Forest Church, Lego Church and Activity Teas were very well supported.

Zoe has also connected with **The Discover Christ Church Project** activities, working closely with Becky Strike.

The **Ark and Sunbeams** Parent and Toddler Groups continue to flourish under dedicated and experienced leaders.

Pastoral and community

Our team of **Lay Pastoral Assistants** have been overseen by Rev Paul Batson. The team are involved in different aspects of pastoral care across the Benefice.

All our churches are focal points for our local communities, both running initiatives and supporting local events. **St Peter's** organised a very successful summer fete which involved the whole village.

Regular coffee mornings, lunches, teas and concerts bless our communities throughout the year.

Many of these have seen growth, especially Soup's Up at **St Nicholas**. **St James** teas and breakfasts are incredibly popular and an important source of fundraising.

The **Discover Christ Church Project** has engaged with a huge variety of local organisations in many life-giving ways during the year, which is creating wonderful opportunities for creative partnerships. We are indebted to Gillian Ellis King and Becky Strike for their leadership of this project.

New Rector and the way ahead

In February we welcomed **Rev Katie Jackson** as our new Rector. Adding in Katie's name to our Benefice Prayer was a very special moment in the life of our churches.

We rejoiced in her wonderful **Licensing Service**, involving members of all our congregations and local community representatives. A Benefice Choir formed especially for the occasion.

We look forward to working with Katie, building on the gracious and generous work of Rev Ann Keating. We pray that both Katie, Rob, Lottie and Matty will soon feel at home among us.

Looking again at our Benefice Prayer, we are deeply thankful to God for answered prayer and the many ways He is at work amongst us, especially in enabling us to grow together in a spirit of unity and joy.

2 Thessalonians 1: 3
We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

Our Diocesan vision of **Making Jesus Known** will guide us as we discern His will during the coming year. There are so many opportunities as we move forward.

Thank you to everyone who has served our worshipping communities during the year, in so many life giving ways.

Rev Tessa Mann, Associate Priest.

St Nicholas Church Outreach Activities
CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT to APCM – 2024

The following events take place on a weekly or fortnightly basis:

- *Collective worship in Winsley School*
- *Kettle's On - community café*
- *Open the Book in Winsley School*
- *Soup's Up - community lunches (in winter)*
- *Sunbeams - mother and toddler group*

The following take place on a monthly basis:

- *Forest Church*
- *Holy Communion at Avon Park*
- *Holy Communion at Wiltshire Heights*
- *Nature Chains = meetings to promote the conservation of God's Creation*
- *Refresh - informal service*
- *Men's Group – meal and talk/discussion on a topic of interest*

The following take place on an occasional basis:

- *Lego Church*
- *Compline Service*
- *Women's Group – meal and fellowship together*

The following take place termly or annually:

- *Christmas - Carol singing in and around the village*
- *Special services for Acorns and Winsley School at Christmas, Easter and end of summer term*
- *Remembrance Day service*

General

- *Support of food bank at The Hub in Bradford-on-Avon*

All activities are greatly appreciated by members of the wider community

RA Ludlow, Churchwarden.
March 2024