



**St Nicholas Church, Stevenage
Parochial Church Council**



**The Report of the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council
of St Nicholas Church Stevenage**

Registered Charity Number – 1161229

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31 December 2021

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St Nicholas Church, Stevenage Parochial Church Council



Report of the Trustees For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Parochial Church Council as trustees of St Nicholas Church, Stevenage presents its annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

Definitions

PCC	The Parochial Church Council comprising clergy and elected representatives, the trustees under the PCC powers measure 1956.
Hawkes Trustees	The Rector and Churchwardens appointed trustees under the will of the late Robert Hawkes who died in 2008.
Friends of St Nicholas	An independent charitable trust established to raise funds for the maintenance and improvement of St Nicholas Church Stevenage
Burymead Trustees	The Rector and Churchwardens are the trustees of the Burymead leisure area. The land is rented by the SBC for a peppercorn rent, and they are fully responsible for managing it.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Aims and Purposes.

In co-operation with the incumbent, the PCC has the responsibility of promoting the pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission of the Church, in the ecclesiastical parish of St Nicholas, Stevenage. This includes the management of the Church building of Rectory Lane, Stevenage.

Resources

The parish is served by a full-time clergy employed by the Diocese of St. Albans. The current Rector is the Rev. Dave Brown, who has been in post since 2011.

Mrs Alison Hare is the Secretary to the PCC and provides administrative support to the clergy. She receives an honorarium.

The mission of the church would not be fulfilled without the many volunteers who willingly serve in many areas of church life.



St Nicholas Church, Stevenage Parochial Church Council



Report of the Trustees For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE IN DELIVERING PUBLIC BENEFIT (Cont'd)

and there is no longer a booking in system, but we still do have to limit the number in church. There have been no cases of Covid transmission between people at our services.

We now encourage people to meet in church for meetings such as, PCC, corporate prayer, discipleship course, homegroups and other meetings but we still use zoom for those who are uncomfortable with meeting in person. We also ran an online course for those wanting to explore the Christian faith and later in the year we met in person.

For our lent course we studied in our homegroups 'Gentle and Lowly' by Dane Ortlund.

Sadly, other events such as a planned Church Weekend @home with Wallace Benn, weekly Snack and Chat lunches, our involvement in the Franklin Graham mission are still on hold. We were able to resume our Easter events on Easter Sunday we sang outside church first then processed into church as we were unable at that time to sing in church. We did our Easter treasure hunt in the grounds where families could pick up a treasure pack at the Lych gate and go around on their own. Some of the community groups that normally use our premisses, such as the Brownies and Happy Hedgehogs have not yet returned. We do have Foster Bugs and AA which are using our church building to meet weekly. Little Lambs did start to meet but with the emergence of the omicron Covid strain this stopped people meeting up again.

Due to the newly mutated faster spreading Omicron Covid virus the numbers attending our advent and Christmas services were massively reduced again. We were able to hold three Christingle services 1pm 3pm and 5pm where all the components for the orange were placed in a bag for the families to make up themselves during the service.

We held the 'Christmas Journey' during December and unfortunately some schools did cancel due to the new Omicron covid virus. On 4th December we hosted a brass band concert in aid of 'Bridge Builders', this went very well.

Confirmation

We have had several members of our congregation confirmed during the year, Lauren Kaahwa and Isaac Amuzu were confirmed on 7th June. Ronnie Badero and Abi Connell were confirmed on 6th October.

Worship and Prayer

Throughout the year we have tried hard to maintain our weekly schedule of services, keeping to similar times and styles wherever possible.

Sundays at 9:30am—a service up to 90 minutes in length with hymns and songs and a longer talk. Children go to their own groups* after the first 10 minutes and re-join the service later. On at least two Sundays per month the service includes Holy Communion. *Children have not always been allowed to go into their groups due to COVID restrictions.

Tuesdays from 7-8am—an hour of corporate prayer for God's blessing on the church, the people and the wider world. People are invited to come for all or part of the time. This is currently held online.



St Nicholas Church, Stevenage Parochial Church Council



Report of the Trustees For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Objectives

Following a week of prayer and an away day in the autumn of 2016, the PCC confirmed that the following five statements would govern and direct the work of the church in the wider community:

Grounded in the Bible: *The Bible is our foundation.* We need to make sure we are reading it ourselves, in small groups, and reflecting on what is taught on Sundays. The Bible teaching, we receive should be honest to the text, passionate in delivery and relevant to our lives.

Growing in number: *Evangelism is our mission.* As individuals and as a church we have a God-given mission to pass on the gospel message. We need to train and encourage each other to tell others about Jesus to make that witness more effective.

Glorifying God: *This is our watchword.* From our welcome to our music to our coffee, printed materials and online materials, everything we do needs to be done as well as we can because we are doing it for God and his glory.

Greater in likeness to Jesus: *This is our aim.* As individuals and as a church we want to grow more like Jesus in our character. We want to become mature disciple-making disciples whose lives reflect Jesus.

Glued together in a loving community: *This is our family.* We are not called to follow Jesus on our own but as a community. We want to love and serve each other and share our lives. We want to be a church where people eat, drink, celebrate, laugh, cry and mourn together, doing all in the presence of Jesus who is with us by his Spirit.

The PCC confirms that it has referred to the Charity's Commission's guidance on public benefit and believes that its objectives are in accordance with the guidance.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE IN DELIVERING PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Mission Action Plan (MAP) approved by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in April 2018 sets targets relating to each of the PCC objectives. Some of the achievements over the last 12 months have been as follows:

We came out of lock down during January but this time we were able to keep the church opened if we adhered to the government's guidance and rules. We had a booking in system which contains the information of those coming to church and we closed the bookings when we had received the maximum number of people which was deemed to be safe to be able to distance one another. Face masks had to be always worn along with the use of hand gel. The seating was arranged so that each family group or individual could be distanced by the 2-metre rule. This year we have been able to use the building more due to the easing of covid rules and it has been wonderful to welcome and serve a 21st century congregation and community with up-to-date worship facilities and function rooms and spaces that are accessible, warm, bright and meet current standards.

With the restrictions of the COVID-19 virus continuing in one form or another we are still using YouTube and Facebook to share pre-recorded services and live-streamed services. These were supplemented by emailed weekly briefings. We still work hard to implement Covid-19 government guidance provide a safe place for people to gather in worship. These protocols included limiting the number of people in church, the wearing of face coverings as people enter church and making hand gel available on entry. During July the rules changed and If people did not want to wear a mask, they did not have to, but they had to sit at the front of the church we now have congregational singing

