

# **ST NICHOLAS CHURCH SHEPPERTON**

**VESTRY MEETING FOR ELECTION OF  
CHURCHWARDENS**

and

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

*SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026*



## **St. Nicholas Church, Shepperton**

Sunday 10th May 2026 at 11.30am in the Church

### **AGENDA**

#### **VESTRY MEETING**

1. Election of Churchwardens
  
2. A.O.B.

#### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Approval of Minutes of the APCM of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025
4. Reports on the year
  - i) PCC Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts
  - ii) Report on the activities of the PCC 2025/26
  - iii) Churchwardens' Fabric report - \*Verbal report to be read out at the meeting
  - iv) Spelthorne Deanery Synod report
  - v) Safeguarding Officer's report
  - vi) Friends of St Nicholas Church report
  - vii) Bereavement Café report
  - viii) Little Fishes Report
  - ix) Board Games
  - x) Shepperton Parish Charities Report
  - xi) Rector's Report
  - xii) Diocese Report
5. Electoral Roll Officer's Report
6. Elections to the Parochial Church Council (6 members)
7. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives (3)
8. Appointment of Auditors to the Council
9. Open microphone
10. Any Other Business (previously notified)

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St. Nicholas Church, Shepperton**

held on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### **Vestry Meeting**

The Rector welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a prayer

Election of Churchwardens

John Child was stepping down after five years. The Rector thanked him very warmly for his outstanding contribution which had covered the covid pandemic, the interregnum and the selection process for the new Rector. A presentation was made. Two nominations for Churchwarden had been received. Gary Davies was elected as the new Warden and Doris Neville Davies had agreed to serve another year. Tori Waterhouse had agreed to serve in the informal post of Deputy Warden and would shadow the Wardens closely.

There being no other business, the Vestry Meeting was closed.

### **Annual Parish Church Meeting**

Apologies for Absence were received from Angie Enock Shore, Colin and Barbara Barnard, Nicola Addy, Jane Davies, Bobby Goodman, Peter Davies and Maggie Hammond.

Approval of the Minutes of the APCM of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 These were contained in the booklet distributed prior to the meeting. There being no amendments they were approved nem con, proposed by Carole Walsh and seconded by John Child.

Reports for the year It was not considered necessary for these to be read out as they were contained in the booklet.

The PCC Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts The accounts were received, having been approved by the PCC prior to the APCM. The Rector thanked Kathy for the steady year-round work she put into the financial affairs of the church, which included reports to the Diocese and many other unseen tasks.

#### Report on the activities of the PCC 2024/25

The Rector wished to record her thanks to Mark Steptoe for his work as PCC Secretary and her good wishes for his ongoing medical treatment. Hilary Dyer commented that the summary of PCC meetings published in the weekly newsletter was very useful and informative, both for PCC members and the wider congregation.

The Fabric Report was received and the Rector wished to record her thanks to the Wardens for their work on this.

Safeguarding Officer's Report No questions arose in connection with the Report but Susan Smith, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, wished to underscore very firmly two points from her report. First that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility; no matter how many policies were formulated they would achieve nothing unless they were supported and applied by all.

Second, that anyone contemplating raising a safeguarding issue need not be apprehensive that third parties would immediately be involved.

The Friends of St Nicholas Church The report had indicated that their activities were to be curtailed in the future, owing to the increasing age of the working committee. Hilary Dyer asked if new members were being recruited. The answer on behalf of the Friends was that, with the Rector's permission, they planned to make an informal presentation at after-church coffee one Sunday to encourage new members.

Bereavement Café There were no questions but, in the absence of Angie Enock Shore, Margaret Bennet spoke briefly of the support from the Princess Alice Hospice team, who also train the volunteers.

Little Fishes The group for Babies, Toddlers and Carers had been running with increasing success for three years and from June would be held weekly. More volunteers had joined to help run the group and more would be welcomed to allow a flexible duty rota.

Shepperton Parish Charities Annual Report 2024 The Rector explained that this covered a number of historic bequests which left money to be used for the relief of the poor in the parish. It was a little known aspect of the church's activities and in order to become more visible the report of the Trustees was appearing on the Agenda of the APCM.

The Rector's Report From her very wide-ranging report the Rector picked out her priorities. Last year's Mission Action Plan had concentrated on young children and families. Following this she hoped in the coming year to focus on older children, from Year 6 and moving on to Secondary School. Plans for this work were being made. She also hoped to increase Pastoral Care both in the church family and the wider community. The Quinquennial Inspection had revealed that, in addition to the anticipated internal redecoration, work would also be needed on some cracks in the masonry, as set out in the Wardens' Fabric report. Tenders had gone out to several companies and were due back the day after the APCM. Once the contract was agreed, fundraising to meet the costs would begin. It was hoped that the work could be finished by March 2026.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report The complete revision of the Roll resulted in a total of 116 names, lower than last year. The Electoral Roll Officer was able to add two further members whose forms had been returned between the submission of her report and the actual closing hour, thus bringing the total Electoral Roll figure to 118. The Rector commented that she was disappointed at this decrease but not despondent, as this figure did not reflect the increase in the numbers attending services. After the APCM the list would be open again, and would rise to 125 shortly (being those people who hadn't been able to submit their form in time to be included in this year's figure). It was hoped that the Roll would reach 150 by next year, thus increasing our representation in the Deanery Synod.

#### Parish Centre - Chairman's Report and overview of accounts for 2024

These accounts appear separately in the APCM booklet for the last time as they are now incorporated into the Church accounts, following a ruling from the Diocese. Some items such as insurance and gas were already combined. No Chairman's report was submitted, but the Chairman responded to Hilary Dyer's question regarding maintenance of the Centre. In due course a list of individual jobs would be prepared and would be circulated.

#### Elections to the Parochial Church Council

The Rector explained that elected PCC members serve for three years, and stand down for a year, after which they are eligible for re-election.

Following the retirement of Angie Enock Shore, Fiona Stevens and Elizabeth Harrow, there would be three vacancies, and the election of Gary Davies as Churchwarden had created a fourth vacancy for a single year. Prior to the meeting, nominations had been received for Alan Green and Peter Davies: Margaret Bennett expressed a willingness to stand for election and was proposed by Mike Wood and seconded by Caroline Button. The Rector thanked the candidates for their willingness to stand and noted that the remaining vacancy of one year duration could be filled during the year.

- Elections to Deanery Synod Our Deanery Synod representatives attend three meetings year, serving a repeating three year term. Jo Child was standing down after serving for ten years in this role. No nominations for a replacement had been received but elections could take place throughout the year.
- Appointment of Independent Examiner Having carried out this task for the church for many years, Heather Powell had agreed to continue. She was re-appointed nem con.

- Open Mic

Liz Davies asked if any progress had been made with the formation of the proposed catering and fund-raising groups. The Rector replied that so far this had not been realised. Some ideas had been floated for fund-raising events, but people had been reluctant to come forward with them, not wishing to become responsible for carrying them out. The Rector's hope had been for a committee to generate ideas and invite various people to implement them. She also mentioned that she planned to meet the Friends' Committee, to look at ways they could work with church-based groups in the future.

Caroline Button raised several points about accessibility in the Church and Centre, not only physically but visually and aurally. As somebody using a power chair she had been experiencing difficulties over where to sit and had encountered locked gates and doors on occasions. As well as the larger print copies of the service sheet regularly provided, people with visual impairment would benefit from a printed sheet at the All Age service when just the screen is used. She also mentioned the consideration required for people with neuro diverse needs. Regarding audibility she spoke about the necessity for speakers to use microphones so that those with hearing impairment can pick up sound through the loop. Finally Caroline quoted the church's mission statement claiming we are an inclusive Church yet, as she said, for those of us with disabilities we need to do better. She asked if in the coming year the PCC could look at accessibility in Church.

Corroborating Caroline's point about the sound system in church the Rev Elizabeth Greenwood said she had not been able to hear Caroline's contribution at all, nor the major part of the rest of the meeting. In response the Rector acknowledged the unreliability of the aging sound system. This issue is already in hand. A sound engineer had recently carried out an audio survey and his review proposed, amongst other items, new microphones. An estimate of costs is awaited. When they are fitted, the hearing loop will also be tested to ensure it's compatibility.

#### Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.30pm with the Grace.

## St Nicholas Church – Annual Report for 2025-2026

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has overall responsibility for the Parish Centre but has delegated the day-to-day running of the centre to a Management Committee.

### Membership

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent	The Reverend Carole George	from September 2021
Churchwardens	Doris Neville Davies	from May 2023 – 2026
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Mark Steptoe	from 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2025 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
	Guy Blythman	from 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Elected Members	Alan Green	from May 2025 – 2028
	Peter Davies	from May 2025 - 2028
	Margaret Bennet	from May 2025 – 2028
	Gary Davies	from May 2023 – 2026
	Colin Barnard	from May 2023 – 2026
	Hilary Dyer	from May 2023 – 2026
	Hilary Grimes	from May 2024 – 2027
	Mark Steptoe	from May 2024 – 2027
	Tori Waterhouse	from May 2024 – 2027
Ex Officio	Nik Cook (St Nicholas School)	from Sept 2021
Treasurer	Kathy Hodge	from Sept 2015
Secretary	Mark Steptoe	from May 2022

## **Report of PCC Meetings for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

The PCC is the formal governing body for the Parish. Important matters affecting the running of the Parish have to be formally agreed by the PCC. In addition, other matters are openly discussed, and a policy decision or steer is made. Meetings are alternately chaired by the Rector and the Churchwarden. All meetings start with an act of worship and conclude with the Grace. The members of the PCC include its activities in their regular prayer life and we would ask parishioners to do likewise.

The PCC meets every other month and met 6 times in 2025/26. By the time of the APCM we will also have had an extraordinary (additional) meeting to discuss our Eco Church progress. John Child having stood down as Churchwarden after five years of faithful service, we continued with Doris Neville -Davis as sole warden for a term of one year and Tori Waterhouse as Assistant Warden. Most of the matters dealt with at PCC are dealt with in other reports to this annual meeting so they need not be discussed here.

The Quinquennial (5 yearly) Inspection took place in the 2024/25 year and there were some internal works needed which the PCC decided could start along with the badly needed redecoration of the Church. A further project of fundraising was therefore started under the PCC's supervision.

The PCC agreed the financial statements and that our contribution to the Common Fund (our contribution to the diocese) should be £58,000 rather than the £62,000 which the diocese had suggested. The PCC would continue to encourage members of the congregation to join the Parish Giving Scheme. This saved the parish administration and gave an option of automatically increasing the monthly contribution by a measure of the cost of living.

A few years ago, St Nicholas obtained the bronze award in the Eco church scheme. This was part of the Church of England's pathway to net zero. Following a presentation at Deanery Synod the PCC decided to work towards the silver award. A group was set up to spearhead this work and they have given a presentation to the PCC. As there was insufficient time to consider this fully an extraordinary meeting will have taken place by the time of the APCM.

We oversaw the transfer of Erasmus House to the new owners. Parishioners are respectfully reminded that parking is no longer available adjacent to Erasmus House as this is now private property. and that the Church spaces should be prioritised for members of the congregation with mobility issues.

We have also obtained a grant from Spelthorne Council to replace our audiovisual system. Thanks are due to Tori Waterhouse and Richard Walsh for their work on this. A Fabric Committee was set up to oversee both the Church and the Parish Centre buildings.

The boiler had ceased working. The PCC had to investigate green alternatives to this method of heating and how its replacement would be funded.

Unusually we will have 6 vacancies on the PCC this year and one vacancy for a Deanery Synod member who will be automatically also have a place on the PCC. We will need to elect two Churchwardens for the 2026/27 year. We would ask all members of the congregation to prayerfully consider if they have the skills and experience to further God's kingdom in any of these roles and if so to approach a member of the PCC or clergy.

Mark Steptoe  
PCC Secretary  
11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## **Electoral Roll Officer's Report 2026**

At the last APCM there were 116 names on the electoral roll. Since then there has been complete revision of the roll which now stands at ....TBC

**Doris Neville-Davies**

**Electoral Roll Officer**

## **Spelthorne Deanery Report 2025**

Spelthorne Deanery Synod met three times to consider current matters within the Anglican Church. Meetings also provide opportunities for sharing news and enjoying fellowship with clergy and lay representatives from the eleven churches in the Spelthorne Deanery. The current three year term began on 1st July 2023. We have been reminded that there is a lot of advice and support available from the Diocese of London. Clergy moves within the Deanery – Rev James Bunyan has been appointed as vicar of Christ Church Staines, Rev Clay Amira was appointed to serve a curacy at St Saviour’s Sunbury and Fr John Hillman has left St Matthew Ashford to take up an appointment as vicar within the Diocese of Winchester. Annual Finance meetings were hosted by Archdeacon Richard Frank & Dawn Baker (Diocesan Finance Officer) During the year reports were given by Nick Wood-Dow and Hannah Lawes on issues discussed at the London Diocesan Synod. The speakers and themes of the three meetings during 2025 were: In February, Rev Kate Hartley, Managing Chaplain at HMP Bronzefield spoke on the subject “Journeying with those doing time – a Prison Chaplain perspective” then hosted a discussion on issues faced by prisoners and prison officers and on possible support from local churches. In June, Mrs Sue Willsher, leader of Net zero carbon for the Diocese of Kensington, and Paul Cook of the ARISE charity, spoke on “Bringing social and environmental justice alive in our churches: support from ARISE and the London Diocese”; and discussed a range of issues including modern slavery, poverty, social justice and protection of the environment; together with advice on our role in campaigning, lobbying and prayer. At the October meeting Rev Derek Winterburn (Kensington Area Environment Lead) and Jack Edwards (Diocesan Environment Officer) gave a presentation on Creation Care and EcoChurch and made constructive suggestions on how we can all be involved in supporting progress on EcoChurch and in adjusting our life-styles towards a more responsible use of resources.

**Area Dean – Rev Carole George**

**Lay Chair – Mr Norman Head**

## **Safeguarding Report – 2025-2026**

I am happy to report that during the last year there have been no safeguarding situations that have required advice from either the Diocese or local social services – although we should never become complacent on this topic. As a general reminder, there is a very specific flowchart that the Diocese asks us to follow for any concerns raised. It should also be noted that any issues raised do not necessarily trigger an immediate third-party involvement – our new Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (Sarah Dale) will always advise on what is an appropriate course of action in the first instance.

In December 2025, I attended the Safeguarding Leadership Course at Diocesan House and that proved to be a highly informative and useful day – not only because of the course content but also the ability to hear direct from people in other safeguarding roles and parishes.

In March 2026, I joined a new online event explaining the necessity and requirements of the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) process. Again, a very user-friendly presentation.

The monthly online PSO ‘Safeguarding Drop In Sessions’ also continue to be well attended and a good discussion forum.

We continue to work our way through the rather challenging Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. This is an online tool for tracking all our training and safeguarding procedures from which there is no hiding! We currently stand at c66% compliance overall.

The Diocese offers many excellent online safeguarding courses. Churchwardens and PCC members need to undertake specific training but the Diocese recommends anyone who holds a role within the church are encouraged to complete at least the Basic course. The courses can be found at <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>.

As always, a reminder that the issue of safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. So do please raise any concerns privately with either Rev. Carole or myself – my details are available via the Parish Office/website.

**Susan Smith**

**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

**May 2026**

## **Report on The Friends of St Nicholas 2025**

The Friends have continued with their established programme of social events: garden teas, suppers and also a concert by the Weybridge Male Voice Choir. We were very grateful for the support of the Rector who drew the Friends' activities into a service round the theme of hospitality and welcome. She outlined the support the Friends have been able to give to St Nicholas over recent years and our current need for some practical help from active members of the congregation. This has been forthcoming and we are most grateful.

Our Chairman, Maggie Hammond, retired during the year and her replacement will be elected at our AGM, after the APCM. Two Committee members will be added: Ann McDonough is welcomed back and Anne Spencer Edwards will be welcomed as a new member.

Our activities over the year will enable the Friends to make a substantial donation to any future projects, as well as funding smaller items as the need arises.

**Julia Jelley**

**Secretary to the Friends of St Nicholas Church**

## **Bereavement Café Report 2025**

As we approach the end of our fifth year, we feel heartened by the positive responses of bereaved Visitors and from PAH Bereavement co-ordinator, Donna Pariser, who paid us a visit last November. We can also celebrate that one of our Visitors who has, concerningly, clung on since the Café's inception, has recently found her niche in a supportive family role and reports that she feels able to move on.

Since May 2025 we have had 24 different Visitors of which 5 were men. Eleven of these have been very regular attendees, three of them men. We look upon this as very positive as we know that men find the idea of attending a Café quite challenging.

We feel the need to regularly adapt our practices as new situations arise and have recently altered the format of sessions to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to speak and be heard by the whole group (yes, even those experiencing hearing loss!) This is proving very successful and productive.

Walks between Café sessions have been popular with several of the group who want more opportunity to socialise. These have taken place regardless of weather conditions and in localities on both sides of the river.

The Service of Light in November was well attended by the Café group who much appreciated the service and the contact with Rev Carole. Two of the men also introduced their families to this comforting experience .

Donna, when visiting, commented upon our pleasant and welcoming venue which we very much appreciate and thank those who have made possible its continued use for the Café.

She was also impressed by our good teamwork and sharing of ideas and pleased to note the presence of a male Listener (thank you, Terry) I should like to express my personal thanks to all the team -Bev, Julia, Maggie, Margaret and Sue- for their invaluable contributions to the success of the Café and for keeping me on track as I become increasingly forgetful!

Angela Enock-Shore

## **Little Fishes Report 2026**

Our group of children and their carers continues to flourish and is very much appreciated by the people who come. Some of these have been coming since we started this venture, but it is great that we also have new faces joining us all the time. These include grandparents and nannies as well as the Dads and Mums.

Our big adventure this year was when we relocated to Shepperton Cricket Club for three months while the inside of the church was being refurbished. It all worked very well thanks to our wonderful team of helpers. My thanks especially go to Kate Gleeson. She accessed the cricket club every Wednesday having to navigate an alarm and generally managing whatever situation she found on arrival.

From the beginning of April we returned to the church. Although it is cold, several people say they prefer the cosiness of the church, especially with the new carpet!

Our team is amazing in that we all contribute in various different ways to make it happen every week. Real teamwork!

We would really appreciate some more helpers, younger people (ie under 70!) If you know of anyone please put them in touch with me.

**Hilary Dyer  
and The Team**

**Jean Harding, Sue Wood, Lindsay Gordon,  
Eve Nunn, Sandra Roberts, Primrose White, Rosie Wallace, Kate Gleeson**

## **Board Games Report 2026**

This is run by three of our church ladies at The Greeno Centre every first and third Tuesday afternoon of the month.

It's a very jovial, social event which is very much appreciated and enjoyed by the variety of people who come along.

Many of our regulars have been with us for a long time but it's surprising how many new people come in as well. Sometimes they have just seen us in the cafe, or heard from friends who have enjoyed the group. There is always lots of chatter and laughter as well as playing the games of Scrabble and Rummikub!

The staff at the Greeno Centre supply hot drinks and delicious cakes for us halfway through. Generally they love to host us and do all they can for us.

My thanks to Jean Harding and Joan Lizars for helping to make it happen. It's a great way for us to be out in the community making a positive difference.

**Hilary Dyer**

## **Faith & Fellowship Annual Report 2025**

A fellowship group began in 2025, instigated by Rev. Elizabeth Greenwood, who is greatly missed.

Regular members continue to meet in the church on the evening of the second Thursday of each month, for a discussion on a set piece of reading. We spent the three months during the renovation works this year meeting at participants' homes. We also facilitated a weekly reading group in the Parish Centre during Lent.

The group generally provides a broad, topical and lively discussion, with varied opinions and experiences.

The books that we have read and discussed since we started are as follows :

We Believe. Exploring the Nicene Creed - Malcolm Guite

Philippians for Everyone - Tom Wright

Let Me Go There. The Spirit of Lent - Paula Gooder

Spare copies of some of the books may be found in the porch of the church and may be purchased by donation to the church.

If you would like to join us please email [tori464@gmail.com](mailto:tori464@gmail.com)

**by Tori Waterhouse**

## Shepperton Parish Charities Annual Report 2025

The following distributions have been made since the last APCM :

- Jubilee Church - Bags of Food - general donation for foodbank
- Saxon School - shelters for the playground
- Families Thriving Together - parenting courses
- Cameo - Adapted chairs for dementia group
- Homestart - general donation for local families in need
- St Nicholas Church - donation towards the internal renovation work

If anyone wishes to apply for a grant we can be reached at

sheppertonparishcharities@gmail.com

### Contacts

Administrator - Tori Waterhouse

Trustees : Carole George

Fiona Stevens

Allan Hodge

**by Tori Waterhouse**

## **Rector's Report to the APCM January – December 2025**

As every year seems to be, once again, 2025 has been a busy one in the life of the parish of St Nicholas. It is when I sit down to review the year, I realise how much we do as a parish.

From a building perspective, 2025 involved a lot of preparation and planning for the internal masonry repairs and complete redecoration of the interior of the church. As I write, this project is now complete and I hope you agree the church building now looks much more inviting for both worshippers and visitors. The final cost of the project was close to £100,000 – not an unsubstantial amount of money for our congregation to have to raise and I want to publicly put in writing my thanks for the generosity of many. To the Benefact Trust and the Congregational Charitable Trust for grants awarded; to the Friends of St Nicholas Church Shepperton and to Shepperton Parish Charities for generous donations, to the many individuals both within the church and within the community of Shepperton who have given generously to our many appeals; to all those who have organised – and continue to organise in 2026 – varied fundraising events. This project would not have been possible without the generosity of both time and money shown by many. To you all, I say a heartfelt thank you.

Looking into 2026, the main project regarding the buildings will be a replacement heating system. After 45 years of valiant service, in February of this year, our boiler irreparably broke down and we have been without heating in the church ever since. It has been cold in the building and I thank you all for persevering with trying ways to keep warm, including a box of blankets at the back of church. We have started the process of investigating a more sustainable heating system going forward, taking into account the Church of England aim to achieve Net Carbon Zero by 2030. It will take some time to research, cost and fundraise for a more sustainable solution to our heating but in the long term we will benefit by reducing our carbon footprint and lower our emissions. Our need to fundraise will continue but I am hopeful that there will also be grants available as we seek to install a more sustainable system.

### Services

The 8am congregation have been very patient whilst the frequency of the 8am service was reduced to once a month during the refurbishment works. It is hoped to revert to the former 8am schedule, being on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month from May 2026. Our midweek Eucharist (generally on the third Tuesday of each month at 10.30am) continues to attract a committed, faithful and growing following. We join together after this service for coffee and fellowship – do come along and join us once a month.

Following an initial 12 month trial of a new time of 10am for our Sunday Parish Eucharist, we have continued with a start time of 10am. This has enabled some of the older and less mobile members of our congregation to join us more regularly and our number of regular worshippers has continued to increase. . SNAP - a dedicated teaching slot based on Godly Play for our younger members - where the children spend some time in the parish centre during the 10.00am service, continues to thrive under the leadership of Rev Sue Wood. My thanks go to all of the SNAP the team for leading this. During this year, Rev Mary Hawes, led a training session for those leading Godly Play

which was well attended and generated some new ideas which have been put into practice. The sessions have proven to be very popular with both the children and families and it has been lovely to welcome some new families to church this year.

We had introduced a more informal Eucharist the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month when the whole church family worship together. Feedback was that the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday element was proving difficult for some to remember when this service was taking place, so the informal Eucharist moved to the last Sunday of every month – including those with 5 Sundays in the month. Hopefully this change will make it easier to know when it is being held. As I said last year, change can be difficult for some but with much prayer, St Nicholas continues to be a vibrant, growing, worshipping community. Over the last year, many have commented that the Holy Spirit certainly seems to be working within our church community!

Confirmation service – sadly it was not possible to book a Confirmation service date at St Nicholas in 2025. However, there will be a Confirmation service at St Nicholas on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2026 when Bishop Emma will come to confirm those making their public declaration of faith. I will be running Confirmation classes for both adults and young people from the summer months. Look out for further details but if you wish to find out more about being Confirmed later this year, I would be delighted to explain more about what it entails.

#### Our young people

The success of Little Fishes, our baby and toddler group continues and I am delighted to say that during 2025, they started to meet every Wednesday in church. This increase in frequency to weekly has only been possible thanks to the dedication and commitment of a small team of volunteers who enthusiastically coordinate and run the group. My heartfelt thanks go out to them. It is an important piece of church outreach to the young families within the community of Shepperton. We do need more people to help out and particularly those who could help to move chairs/tables around at the set up and packing away of the group. . If you think you could offer help, do talk to Rev Carole. It's a small, very friendly group, meeting in the church, for a time of play, singing and fellowship and an opportunity to meet other little ones in our neighbourhood. If you have, or look after, pre-school children do come along and join us one Wednesday – no need to book. Tell your neighbours about it too!

School's – Once again, Rev Sue and I have continued our involvement with all of the school's in the parish. Both Rev Sue and myself regularly visit St Nicholas School taking assemblies, leading Year group Eucharist's and teaching through Godly Play. The church has welcomed each year group and their parents into church for Christmas and Easter celebrations and individual year groups visit for curriculum based learning. I welcome Halliford School into church for their Christmas and Easter celebrations and have enjoyed visits to both Manor Mead and Thamesmead schools to join them in their Harvest and Christmas celebrations. This is an invaluable piece of Christian outreach into the community as we tell the good news of the gospel to young people who may never have had the opportunity of hearing this message before. My prayer for the coming year is that we can continue to develop and build up the relationships between St Nicholas church and our local schools.

Last year I wrote that I hoped that we could focus on resourcing our young people who are approaching or already attending secondary school. Some initial conversations have taken place with other churches within the Kensington area as to how we can learn from their work with young people. This won't happen overnight but in the coming year, I hope to be able to build on the foundations that have been laid. Please hold this age group in your prayers as we seek how best we can help them to deepen their own faith.

Prayer is an integral part of any Christian community and the Prayer Group continues to meet in church, usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8pm to pray together for those causes locally, nationally and internationally that are on our hearts. If you are unsure of what being a member of this group may involve, you are most welcome to come and join us either to pray openly or to immerse yourselves in the prayers of others.

During 2025, the Faith and Fellowship group was established following preparations and planning by Tori and Rev Elizabeth. Please see their report elsewhere in this booklet which explains in greater detail what they have been studying over the past year. If you are interested in joining them, do please talk to Tori.

The church continues to be open, generally from Monday-Thursday 10am – 4pm for those who want to seek a quiet space to sit, pray or light a candle, or to spend some time immersing themselves in the architectural features of the church building. I am always surprised by just how many people pop into the church each day when it is open, including those who visit - many from far flung countries - as they have connections with St Nicholas going back many generations. I hear some fascinating stories!

The occasional offices of baptism, weddings and funerals, as well as pastoral visiting continues to be a large part of my ministry within the parish. It is a privilege to be able to welcome many families into the community of faith here following baptism and it is encouraging that some of our baptism families have continued to be a part of our worshipping community. The number of funerals at which we have been asked to officiate increased last year and is , continuing to increase in 2026. Sadly we have had to say goodbye to several long-standing members of our own congregation in 2025 Rita Baldwin, Audrey Collier, Olive Hall and Roger Lizars , They will all be greatly missed. May they Rest in Peace and rise in glory.

As I have said in previous years, this is generally the point at which I would say my thank you's to various people. I have learnt that if I try to list all the people I need to thank, I will, inevitably, leave out a vital person. So, I just want to say a very big thank you to everybody who has taken on any role within the parish during the past year. The parish could not function as effectively as it does without all those who volunteer in any way. We will be saying some slightly more personal thank you's at the APCM meeting.

My report is meant to be a review of the past year, 2025, but I cannot write this report without acknowledging the death of Rev Elizabeth Greenwood in February 2026. Elizabeth has made a huge contribution to the life of St Nicholas Church over many decades. Her ministry impacted the lives of not only those within the church but many in the community of Shepperton and beyond and

particularly in her later years, on a pastoral level. She had so many conversations and visited so many people day by day. We were truly blessed by her ministry and I am still trying to re define what ministry will look like at St Nicholas without Elizabeth as part of the ministry team. May she Rest in Peace and rise in glory.

I want to finish with a personal note to let you know that I have stepped down from my role as Area Dean of Spelthorne. I have enjoyed the role immensely for the past 3 years and will miss many aspects of it. However it was becoming very apparent to me that I need to be able to focus all of my time and energy in the parish as we seek to grow the kingdom of God here on earth and deepen our own discipleship over the coming years.

With my love and prayers

**Rev Carole**

## London Diocesan Annual Report 2025

The Diocese of London is the largest in the Church of England, with over 400 churches serving a diverse population of 4.2m north of the Thames and west of the Lea, with a vision for every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ.

In 2025, the Church continued to grow according to indicative statistics, contributing to attendance increases of around 20% since 2022.

The London Diocesan Fund (LDF) serves, supports and resources all parts of the Diocese by funding around 540 paid clergy and providing essential services so every parish benefits from strong pastoral and missional leadership.

The Ministry Team supported the formation and development of 540 paid clergy, 204 self supporting clergy, 114 Licensed Lay Ministers, as well as over 100 exploring ordained or lay ministry.

Most stipendiary clergy are housed by the LDF. The Housing team completed over 3,000 repairs and planned maintenance tasks, alongside major retrofitting to improve housing quality and energy efficiency, contributing to net zero goals.

Parishes received wide-ranging practical support for ministry. The Property and Fundraising team helped secure nearly £16m of external investment towards building renovations, community engagement and mission.

Safeguarding practice was strengthened further, with 95% of parishes now using safeguarding dashboards. INEQE carried out an independent audit of diocesan safeguarding, which will provide recommendations for how to build on progress made to create a safer church.

This work was funded through parish contributions via the Common Fund (£24.3m) and LDF generated income (£12.8m) from grants and investments.

The LDF has also generated additional funds for mission-focused projects, now totalling £40m across their collective lifespan. Great progress was made in 2025, including:

- Hackney & Islington Programme: 24 parishes supported, four new worshipping communities launched, lay leaders trained, and significant attendance growth.
- Southall & Hounslow Project: strengthening intercultural ministry across 13 parishes with new multilingual congregations adding over 100 new disciples.
- Tower Hamlets Mission Project: 89 young people came to faith and nearly 9,000 residents were engaged through new worshipping communities and outreach.

The Diocese also celebrated Bishop Sarah's appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury, giving thanks for her eight years as Bishop of London, marked by committed support for parish ministry, mission, safeguarding, and the diocesan priorities of becoming younger, safer and more racially just.

**St. Nicholas Church, Shepperton**

**Annual Report**

**&**

**Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council**

**for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

**Incumbent**

The Revd. Carole George

The Rectory

Church Square

Shepperton

Middlesex

TW17 9JY

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank Plc

8-12 Bridge Street

Walton-on-Thames

Surrey

KT12 2YW

**Independent Examiner**

Heather Powell

Avon Lodge

Station Approach,

Shepperton

TW17 8AL

## Treasurer's Report

2025

The need to maintain our historic church building as a thriving place of worship continues to take up time and resources. The 2024 Quinquennial Report identified the deteriorating condition of cracks in the north transept and chancel walls. The church was last decorated 45 years ago and plaster repairs and redecoration were long overdue. There were some reservations about funding the £98,000 project cost so soon after the successful appeal for the tower repairs. However, the PCC agreed to the work commencing in January 2026 to avoid further deterioration and to take advantage of the Listed Places of Worship Scheme before its anticipated closure at the end of March 2026. This would enable us to claim back approximately £16,000 of VAT.

We had set aside a large legacy to put towards the work and fundraising was going well thanks to successful fundraising events and very generous donations from the congregation. We were also grateful for grants from Benefact Trust, Congregational & General Charitable Trust and Shepperton Parish Charities. It came as an unwelcome shock when the first invoice was paid and we tried to claim back the VAT, only to find that the capped funding had been used up and the scheme had closed early. There was an amazing response from the congregation to the news of the £16,000 shortfall and at the time of writing, we have very nearly reached our target for the project. A truly great achievement.

It has not been possible to individually thank all the people who have contributed to the Restoration Appeal but this is an opportunity to express our gratitude to each and everyone who has helped with fundraising events or made a donation. Thank you so much for your support.

The PCC has also looked in to the possibility of upgrading our audio-visual equipment to improve accessibility but at a cost of £19,000 it seemed out of reach. We were very fortunate that an application for a grant from the Surrey County Council Community Projects Fund was successful, so we can now go ahead with the work as it will be fully funded by the grant.

There was an encouraging increase in planned giving of 11%. The PCC is mindful of protecting reserves for future unexpected expenditure and so only agreed a small increase of £1,000 to our contribution to the Diocesan Common Fund for 2026. The wisdom of this cautious approach was borne out by the recent demise of the church boiler. The London Ministry Cost benchmark for a parish in 2026 is £99,880 so we will regretfully only be covering 58%. The PCC are committed to increasing our contribution when our financial position allows.

This was the first year in which Parish Centre income and expenditure has been fully incorporated in to the church accounts. This is a requirement of the Diocese and provides a more accurate reflection of the overall finances of St Nicholas. The rates charged for use of the Centre have been reviewed and increases implemented in January 2026.

We thank everyone who makes a contribution to the life of our church, whether in time or money. If your circumstances allow, please do consider setting up regular giving as it really helps with financial planning.

My personal thanks as always for the support from Fiona, Hilary, Joan and Nicky who count and bank the cash and to Hilary and Jeremy for keeping the necessary records and submitting the Gift Aid claim.

**Kathy Hodge**

**PCC Treasurer**

**March 2026**

**St. Nicholas Church Shepperton**  
**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**  
(Registered Charity No. 1138021)

**Receipts and Payments Account**

2024 General	2024 Restricted	2024 Designated		2025 General	2025 Restricted	2025 Designated
£	£	£			£	£
46,841	-	-	<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	52,022	-	-
7,030	-	-	Stewardship	7,141	-	-
4,035	10,712	28	Collections	4,386	12,076	400
18,320	11,912	272	Donations	14,721	250	-
-	47,260	-	Tax Recovered	-	-	-
-	-	16,985	Grants received	-	-	-
15,549	92	675	Legacies	-	-	17,515
4,875	-	-	Interest and Income from property	25,646	202	760
1,685	-	-	Fees	6,262	-	-
4,384	2,103	-	Income from memorial plaques*	500	-	-
-	-	-	Fundraising	2,014	2,678	-
2,236	-	500	Flowers	-	70	-
<b>104,955</b>	<b>72,079</b>	<b>18,460</b>	Other incoming resources	-	-	500
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112,692</b>	<b>15,276</b>	<b>19,175</b>
			<b><u>Payments</u></b>			
52,000	-	-	Diocesan Fund	57,000	-	-
8,346	-	-	Salaries	8,190	-	-
3,470	-	-	Organists' Fees	3,290	-	-
853	-	-	Clergy and Rectory expenses	785	-	500
2,407	-	-	Ministry	2,652	-	-
-	-	-	Flowers	-	134	-
16,452	244	-	Running expenses	11,296	330	-
18,427	-	-	Utility bills	16,906	-	-
1,274	-	-	Cost of memorial plaques*	344	-	-
425	325	-	Cost of fundraising	200	158	-
932	-	1,200	Outward giving	145	-	1,200
500	-	-	Transfer to Rectory Maintenance fund	500	-	-
2,601	9,967	-	Repairs, Alterations and Maintenance	3,686	750	4,902
-	35,000	-	Loan Repayment	-	-	-
-	526	-	Loan Interest	-	-	-
<b>107,687</b>	<b>46,062</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104,994</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>6,602</b>
<b>-2,732</b>	<b>26,017</b>	<b>17,260</b>	<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>	<b>7,698</b>	<b>13,904</b>	<b>12,573</b>

The 2024 comparatives have been adjusted to take account of Parish Centre income and expenditure being fully incorporated in the 2025 accounts rather than being shown as totals only

\* The 2024 comparatives include income & costs of Shepperton News before publishing ceased

**St. Nicholas Church Shepperton**

(Registered Charity Number 1138021)

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2025**

<b>Cash Funds</b>	<b>£</b>
Barclays Current Account	31,350
Barclays Saver Account (1)	19,261
Barclays Saver Account (2)	76,306
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>126,917</b>

<b>Represented by:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>General Fund</b>		
Opening balance	3,374	
Excess of receipts over payments	<u>7,698</u>	
Closing balance		11,072
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Opening Balance	11,073	
Excess of receipts over payments	<u>13,904</u>	
Closing balance		24,977
<b>Designated Funds</b>		
Opening balance	78,295	
Excess of receipts over payments	<u>12,573</u>	
Closing balance		90,868
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>126,917</b>

Rev. Carole George

Doris Neville-Davies

Kathy Hodge

Rector

Churchwarden

PCC Treasurer

**Summary of Restricted/Designated Funds for the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

	£		£
<b>ALMA</b>		<b>Designated-Fabric</b>	
Balance at 1st January 2025	1,669	Balance at 1st January 2025	20,181
Interest	<u>13</u>	Receipts	29,644
<b>Balance at 31 December 2025</b>	<b><u>1,682</u></b>	Payments	-4,902
		Interest	<u>371</u>
<b>Churchyard</b>		<b>Balance at 31/12/2025</b>	<b><u>45,294</u></b>
Balance at 1st January 2025	840	<b>Designated-Maintain Rectory</b>	
Payments	-540	Balance at 1st January 2025	2,721
Interest	<u>3</u>	Receipts	500
<b>Balance at 31 December 2025</b>	<b><u>303</u></b>	Interest	<u>27</u>
		<b>Balance at 31/12/2025</b>	<b><u>3,248</u></b>
<b>Organ and Music</b>		<b>Designated-Mission &amp; Ministry</b>	
Balance at 1st January 2025	6,915	Balance at 1st January 2025	43,678
Receipts	1,250	Payments	-1,700
Payments	-210	Interest	<u>348</u>
Interest	<u>64</u>	<b>Balance at 31/12/ 2025</b>	<b><u>42,326</u></b>
<b>Balance at 31 December 2025</b>	<b><u>8,019</u></b>	<b>Designated-Parish Centre</b>	
		Balance at 1st January 2025	11,715
<b>Restoration Fund</b>		Payments	-11,729
Balance at 1st January 2025	237	Interest	<u>14</u>
Receipts	13,488	<b>Balance at 31/12/2025</b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
Payments	-158		
Interest	<u>111</u>	<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	24,977
<b>Balance at 31 December 2025</b>	<b><u>13,678</u></b>	<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<u>90,868</u>
			<b><u>115,845</u></b>
<b>Bereavement Café</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2025	605		
Payments	-200		
Interest	<u>3</u>		
<b>Balance at 31 December 2025</b>	<b><u>408</u></b>		
<b>Little Fishes Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2025	645		
Receipts	916		
Payments	-780		
Interest	<u>6</u>		
<b>Balance at 31 December 2025</b>	<b><u>787</u></b>		
<b>Flowers</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2025	162		
Receipts	70		
Payments	-134		
Interest	<u>2</u>		
<b>Balance at 31 December 2025</b>	<b><u>100</u></b>		

**Outward Giving for the year ended 31 December 2025**

	£
<b>General Fund</b>	45
National Churches Trust	100
<b>Designated Funds</b>	
Faith Awareness in Children	1,200
<b>Special Collections</b>	
Bishop's Lent Appeal for ALMA	214
Carol Service:	
Foodbank	126
Christmas Day at the Greeno	125
<b>Donation from Breakfast Club:</b>	
Crisis	150

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Nicholas Church, Shepperton**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Nicholas Church, Shepperton for the year ended 31 December 2025

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the St Nicholas Church, Shepperton you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the St Nicholas Church, Shepperton accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the St Nicholas Church, Shepperton as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name: Heather Powell

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies : Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: Avon Lodge, Station Approach, Shepperton

Date: 19 April 2026

# MEETING NOTES



