

# St Nicholas Church Shepperton Parish Profile



February 2021

# PARISH PROFILE FOR ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SHEPPERTON

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## ST NICHOLAS CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

May God meet us where we are  
and bring us where God would have us be

Faith is often described as a journey. Members of our congregation are at different stages and so our Mission Statement encompasses all of us, asking God to come alongside us, with all our strengths and weaknesses to nurture and develop each one of us, to allow us to grow spiritually and to develop the gifts we have been given.



## **BISHOP'S WELCOME**

St Nicholas', Shepperton is a well-established parish church in an attractive village that is located just beyond the metropolitan borders of south-west Greater London, but which is very much a part of the Kensington Area of the Diocese of London. The parish provides an excellent opportunity for a priest who can offer a prayerful vision for mission, as the church builds on its good existing connections with local schools and wider community and seeks to deepen its place at the heart of Shepperton in order to make the love and life of Christ known here.



*The woman or man appointed as vicar here will need to be able to respond sensitively and prayerfully to the church members' stated willingness to be challenged and taken out of their comfort zone, as they help to take the parish into this next season, as well as responding creatively and flexibly to the changing circumstances of a post-pandemic world.*

*This post is potentially suitable for someone seeking their first incumbency, or similarly well-suited to an experienced priest looking for a fresh challenge in their mission and ministry.*

*The Diocese of London, and within it the Kensington Area, is a supportive place in which to live and to minister. The Diocesan Strategy, 'Capital Vision 2030', emphasises the need for clergy well-being, alongside the broad ambitions of Confident Disciples, Compassionate Communities, and Creative Growth, all within a church that is seeking to become younger, safer, and more culturally diverse. There are good colleagues close by in neighbouring parishes, and Spelthorne Deanery and Chapter both operate well within a part of an Episcopal Area that has a sense of unity and missional direction, rooted in the church's core purposes of Worship and Witness together.*

**The Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin**  
Bishop of Kensington

## THE WIDER COMMUNITY



Until the 1965 local government reorganisation, Shepperton was part of Sunbury Urban District Council, within the Middlesex County boundary; however, after reorganisation the new borough was called Spelthorne and became part of Surrey, although retaining the Middlesex postal address. Spelthorne Deanery is thus the only deanery in the London Diocese not to be also a London Borough. For many who live and work here, this can be seen as having the best of both worlds. Shepperton is on the edge of the Surrey countryside and simultaneously enjoys excellent transport links to neighbouring London boroughs and to central London with shops, theatres, galleries and other attractions.

Nearby Kingston is seen as our closest large town for major department stores and is currently the administrative centre for Surrey County Council. More local towns of Walton and Staines face stiff competition and contraction and now have fewer large stores, but still do offer local amenities.

Lying 15 miles SW of central London there are good road and rail links:

- the start of the M3 and junction 11 of the M25 are just 3 miles away
- Shepperton station is reached from Waterloo via Kingston
- bus services connect Shepperton to Staines (the administrative centre of Spelthorne Borough), Walton-on-Thames, Kingston and Heathrow Airport (Hatton Cross station)

Despite its accessibility, there is no need to travel to the West End for culture - the Rose Theatre in Kingston, The Theatre Royal, Windsor, Richmond Theatre

and The Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond, are popular venues and there are cinemas in Walton, Staines and Kingston. Shepperton Studios also provide weekend screenings. A year-round arts programme runs at Riverhouse Barn in Walton and at the Riverside Arts Centre in Sunbury. There are several flourishing local choirs including Walton Voices and Spelthorne Choral Society.

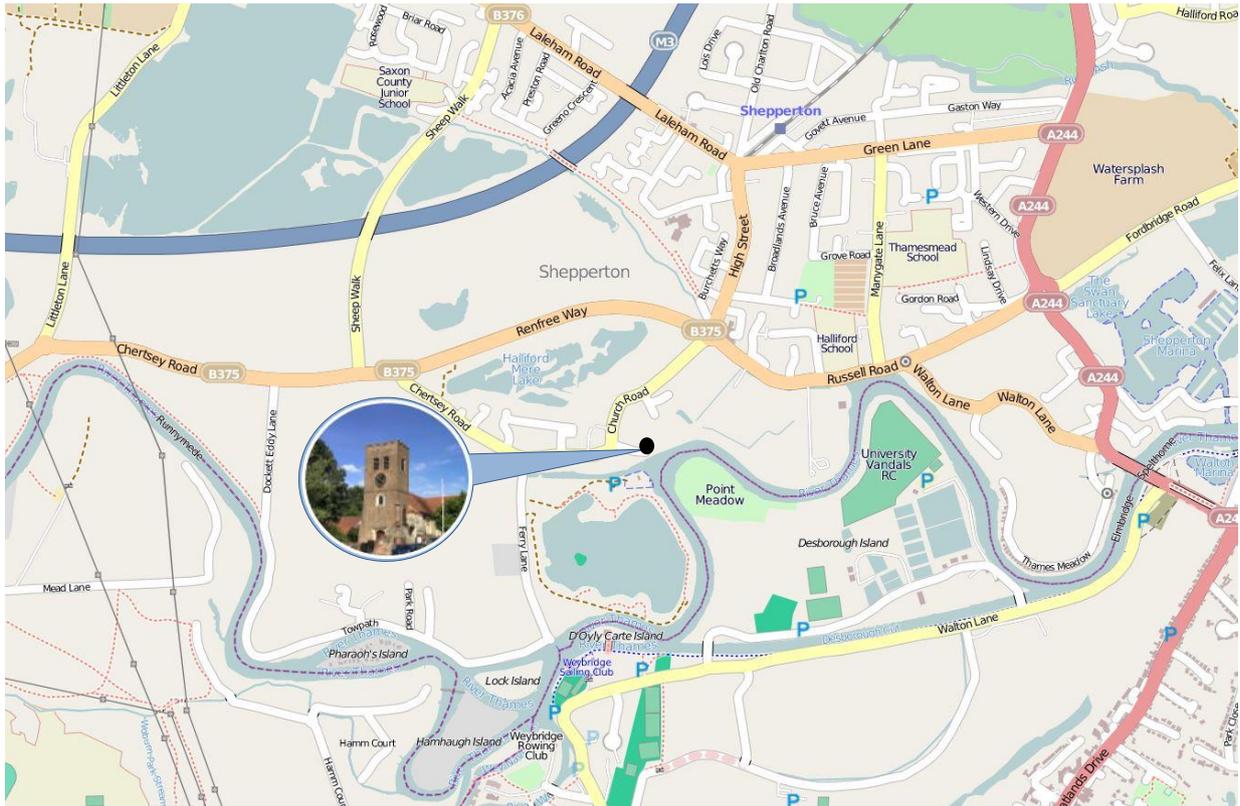
During summer months outdoor events include Shepperton Village Fair; open air concerts and plays at Claremont and Polesden Lacey (both NT properties) and RHS Flower Show at Hampton Court Palace. Racing at Kempton Park and Sandown Park is just 15 mins away and the world-famous Brooklands circuit & Museum is within the same radius. There are also local history museums in Staines and in Chertsey (which houses a renowned costume collection).

For those who want to get out into fresh air and green fields, two Royal Parks are close by with both Richmond and Bushy Parks proving popular for all ages. Windsor with its castle and Great Park along with the Savill Gardens are just 30 minutes away by car or train whilst Runnymede is even closer. A look at OS map for the area will indicate the amount of water around Shepperton. As well as the river (for rowing, canoeing & slalom canoe clubs as well as fishing and boating) there are numerous reservoirs and gravel pits available for sailing, fishing and open water swimming. Shepperton offers a cricket club; bowls; running group; tennis.



The Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society has a large membership meeting regularly in Halliford School, though the Residents' Association is the largest membership organisation in the village. There is an abundance of clubs, classes and groups both within Shepperton and in the surrounding area.

## THE PARISH



SHEPPERTON is a large Thames-side, suburban village with a predominantly residential population of just under 10,000, which lies at the south of the Borough of Spelthorne and has the Thames as a natural boundary to the south and the M3 to the north.

Its development can be easily traced from the river, alongside which a church has stood since the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The village was centred on Church Square and the Manor House, in the conservation area, until the advent of the railway in the 19<sup>th</sup> century moved the population northwards, with the High Street linking Old Shepperton to the station.

The community retains a village atmosphere and Shepperton was voted the sixth happiest places to live in the UK in a 2017 survey. Highlights include the Shepperton Village Fair and the accompanying Raft Race in June, at which St Nicholas Church always has a popular stand serving refreshments. The river continues to play an important part in the village and Shepperton Lock provides an attractive and extremely popular venue, with cafes and restaurant.

Shepperton is fortunate to have so many open spaces, with the riverside and lakes popular for fishing and boating and with walkers, and the possibility of the new Manor Farm County Park as part of the River Thames Scheme to alleviate flooding. The Lord of the Manor gave land for allotments and Manor Park that, together with Bishop Duppas Park and the recreation ground,

provide plenty of space for recreation. For sporting enthusiasts Shepperton offers thriving cricket, bowls and tennis clubs and a running group.

Data from the 2011 census shows:

- the majority of housing is owner occupied;
- the majority of residents identify as professional middle class;
- 90% were born in UK;
- 97% have English as their main language.

The High Street contains a range of independent shops, including butchers, hairdressers, a greengrocer and a hardware shop. There are also estate agents, charity shops, cafés and two supermarkets, as well as a Post Office and library. The village hall at the centre of the village is still owned by the Church, but is leased to Spelthorne Borough Council on a 99 year self-maintaining lease. In common with many other villages and small towns, Shepperton has lost its main banking facilities and the sites are currently under redevelopment. However, the High Street is very much alive and supported by local residents, many of whom work at Heathrow Airport or at Shepperton Studios that lie just outside the parish boundary in the neighbouring parish of St Mary Magdalene, Littleton.



We are fortunate in having a well-equipped Medical Centre, which houses consulting rooms for seven doctors as well as facilities for practice nurses. Dentists, opticians and physiotherapists also have practices in Shepperton. There is a newly built care home in Shepperton as well as both private and council-maintained sheltered accommodation. Shepperton is well served by St Peter's/Ashford Hospital Trust which is within easy distance.



We have an active Residents' Association; part of whose work involves taking up concerns expressed by local people. In recent years these have included: the building of the Eco Park in nearby Charlton Village; increased heavy traffic and pollution from both roads and airport; and the building of new homes, with the associated pressures on green belt, local infrastructure and parking.

## FAMILY LIFE IN SHEPPERTON

Over the past 10 years the population of Shepperton has seen a significant increase and this has been reflected in the expansion of local schools as well as an increase in property prices. We are very fortunate in having high quality schools, all of which have been rated as Good or Outstanding by recent Ofsted Inspection:



- **St Nicholas C of E Primary**, originally founded in 1833 has been rebuilt in Manor Farm Avenue and enjoys excellent facilities. There are two forms of entry to reception, with an additional form in year 3 to accommodate the pupils from Littleton C of E Infant school. It has a roll of 557 & its recent SIAMS inspection judgement was **OUTSTANDING**. This is a reflection of the close co-operation between school and Church. The rector, together with 3 others chosen by PCC are Foundation Governors. There are also two Foundation Governors appointed by Littleton Parish and two from LDBS. Children attending St Nicholas Primary usually apply to either:
- **Thamesmead Secondary School** – a 11-16 Comprehensive school situated in Manygate Lane or
- **Bishop Wand C of E Secondary School, Sunbury** (a 11 – 18 comprehensive school), just one station up the railway line in Upper Halliford.

There are two other schools within the Parish:

**Halliford School** - an independent boys' school with girls admitted into 6th form - the church has a close association with the school.

**Manor Mead Special School** - is outstanding too - a primary school for children with severe learning difficulties.

State Sixth form provision is available at Strodes 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, in Egham, Esher College and Brooklands College in Weybridge.

There are numerous playgroups and nurseries in Shepperton including Roseacre which uses our Parish Centre.

### **Youth Organisations:**

**Scouts:** St Nicholas Church is the sponsoring authority for 1<sup>st</sup> Shepperton (St Nicholas) Scout Group - a popular and oversubscribed troop made up of beavers, cubs and scouts, the rector is a member of the executive committee. The Group Scout Leader contributes a page each month to the Shepperton News outlining the activities of each section.

**Girlguiding:** Shepperton District is made up of five different units (of which three meet within the parish,) comprising between them all four sections; Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. Girlguiding Shepperton also contributes a page to Shepperton News each month.

**Sunbury & Walton Sea Cadets** - based at Penny Lane, Walton Bridge, have 2 groups Juniors (10 -12) & Sea Cadets (12 -18) with a training ship Black Swan.

**Shepperton Youth & Community Centre** - based in Shepperton Court Drive (adjacent to the Medical centre)

**Sports:** There are thriving football, cricket, tennis, athletics & bowls clubs as well as opportunities on the river for rowing, sailing and canoeing, Thamesmead School has its own Sports Centre.

**Arts Groups:** There are theatre groups and a performing arts group in the village.

## ST NICHOLAS CHURCH – A BRIEF HISTORY

It is believed that there has been a Church in Shepperton since the 7<sup>th</sup> century, on or near the present site of St Nicholas and certainly by the time of Domesday, a priest is recorded as resident in the village. Being so close to the river, the church was liable to flooding and it is said that in 1605-6 particularly high floods inundated the church and swept it away. Tradition asserts that St Nicholas Church was rebuilt in 1614, though recent surveys suggest that parts of the present building may be earlier than this. An external staircase to the north leads to the Manor House gallery over the North Transept, built to enable the Lord of the manor to enter the church without having to mix with the ordinary residents. In 1714 the rector was Rev Lewis Atterbury who had been chaplain to Queen Anne - apparently he was told by the Queen that a tower would improve the look of the church - he obeyed and paid for it himself- the cost £20 !



The tower houses six bells, five of them dating from 1877 when they replaced a single bell. The smallest bell named “Little Nicholas” was installed in 1980 when the tower underwent structural strengthening. The church clock dates from 1769. The Bishop organ was installed in 1908.

It was during the 19<sup>th</sup> century that Shepperton grew significantly and a result of this can be seen with the creation of the gallery, (reached by an external staircase) with the Hanoverian coat of arms displayed dating from the reign of William IV. The box pews with their poppy-head finials are also a 19<sup>th</sup> century addition. John Mason Neale (the hymn writer) & Thomas Love Peacock were 19<sup>th</sup> century Shepperton residents as was Rev William Russell one of the longest serving rectors of the parish (1817-1870) who was responsible for founding St Nicholas Church School. The Chancel screen, reredos, choir and clergy stalls, together with a number of stained-glass windows were given in memory of past parishioners. The choir and clergy vestries on the south side were added in 1934. Throughout this period the rector lived adjacent to the church in a fine 18<sup>th</sup> century styled house which conceals a timber framed house dating from 1450 in which Erasmus is supposed to have stayed - it is now called Erasmus House.

By the 1980s it was becoming clear that the church was too small to be able to meet the needs and expectations of an expanding congregation and particularly children's worship. We were fortunate in having a well-respected architect worshipping with us to design a multi-functional building. In 1998 the Parish Centre was built on the north side, connected to the church by a new doorway. The Centre provides meeting rooms and offices as well as toilets and a well-equipped kitchen. The Centre is used on Sundays for coffee after the 9.30am service and for parish breakfasts once a month, in addition to church meetings and other social events. Currently it is let during mornings (Mon-Fri) to a playgroup, with parish use in the afternoons and evenings. The main hall, which can seat 40, is used for parties and celebratory meals, thus meeting the need expressed in the design brief for a community resource.

St Nicholas churchyard is small and has not been used for burials since the 19th century. Instead, there are two specific gardens of rest, with a memorial board for plaques commemorating those whose ashes are interred throughout the churchyard. An extension to our burial ground was opened in 1845 in Cemetery Lane, a short distance away, which is now closed for burials. It contains a number of war graves and is maintained by the local authority.

## OUR WORSHIP



Our churchmanship is central/liberal catholic and so our worship is centred on the Eucharist, celebrated twice on Sundays and also on major midweek festivals. We try to meet the varying needs/wishes of as many as possible by providing a range of services. A lay-led Alternative Worship Service on Sundays at 11.15am attracts families with young children as well as people of all ages. The Community Eucharist is supported by members of the congregation who read lessons, prepare intercessions and act as chalice assistants. A Licensed Lay Reader preaches regularly at this service. In addition, there are servers and a robed choir, which also sings Evensong regularly.

There is a full observance of Lent and Holy Week including Maundy Thursday, a 3-hour service on Good Friday and The Easter Vigil service. Other annual services include Harvest Festival (usually celebrated in school with produce going to The Upper Room and local food banks); A well-attended Service of Light at All Saints tide; a Remembrance Service at the Village War Memorial; Advent and Christmas Carols; two crib services and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.



The rector, previously assisted by Rev Pamela Barrie (SSM now retired), plays a major role in school worship, taking weekly assemblies and Year Group Eucharists. The parish has supported the principle of the ordination of women to the ministry since the 1980's.

Our regular services prior to the vacancy were:

#### Sunday

- 8am **Quiet Eucharist** (said, with sermon)
- 9.30am **Sung Community Eucharist** (with some families choosing to sit in the Children's Area)
- 11.15am **Alternative Worship** (the third Sunday of the month this is a Eucharist)
- 6.30pm **Evening Prayer** (once a month Choral Evensong)

#### Weekdays

- 9am **Morning Prayer**
- 5.30pm **Evening Prayer**

During the vacancy, the Community Eucharist and Alternative Worship have continued subject to Covid restrictions. The Community Eucharist is celebrated in Church with a congregation of up to 25 when permitted, but is also accessible to the wider community on Zoom. Sermons are also recorded and posted on the Church website ([stnicholaschurch-shepperton.org](http://stnicholaschurch-shepperton.org)). The Alternative Worship Service has been on Zoom since the start of the pandemic restrictions and is available each week in video format for those who cannot access it live. In addition, the church has been open on Wednesday afternoons for private prayer.



Groups led and co-ordinated both by members of the congregation and assistant clergy have been a feature of Lent over many years, taking place both during the day and evenings. The first and concluding sessions have involved all group members.

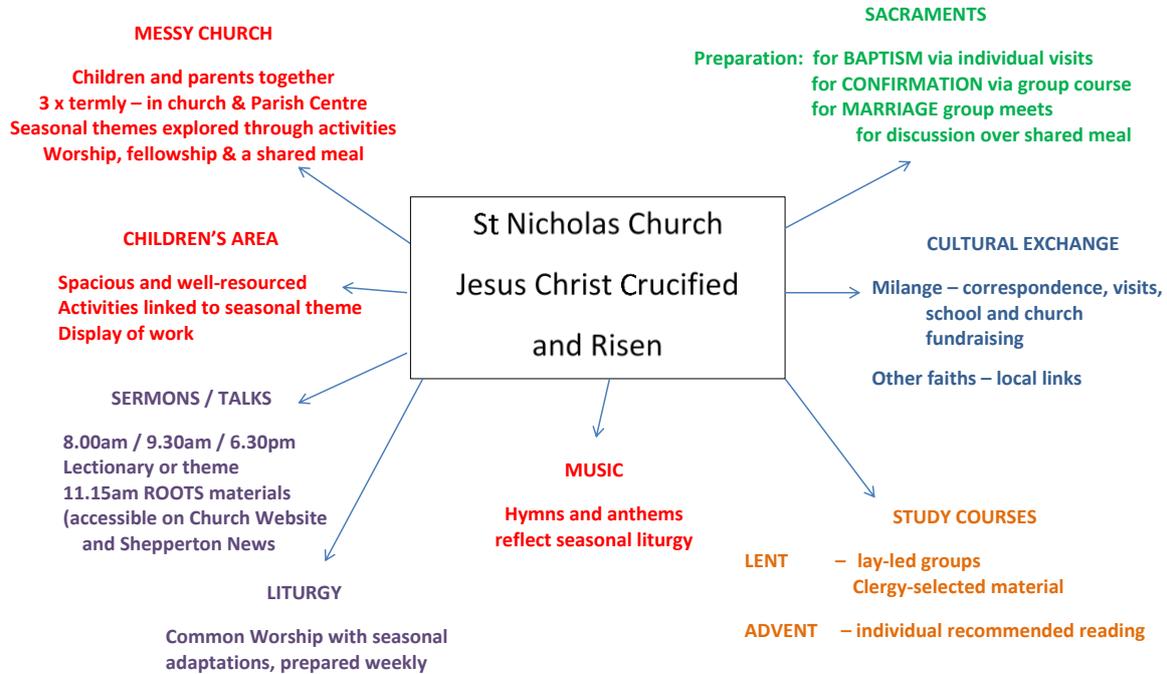
The North Transept of the Church is set up as a Children's Area, for the use of families with young children who can use art and craft resources provided that link to the lectionary or read and play with the toys and books available. The presence of children throughout the whole of the service is a reminder of their importance within the wider church family to all members attending.

Messy Church is a significant part of our ministry to children and their families at St Nicholas. Services, which are lay led are usually offered three times a term: two on Saturday mornings with one mid-week during the half term break, and another during the long summer holiday. Attendance is usually 30 children and 20 parents. The story or theme is presented in Church during the opening worship session, then developed through a free-flow carousel of related activities (crafts, games, physical challenges or puzzles) delivered within the Church, parish centre and outdoor area. All this is brought together in a closing worship session in Church, followed by a fellowship meal in the Parish Centre. A dozen or more church members are involved in delivering each service.

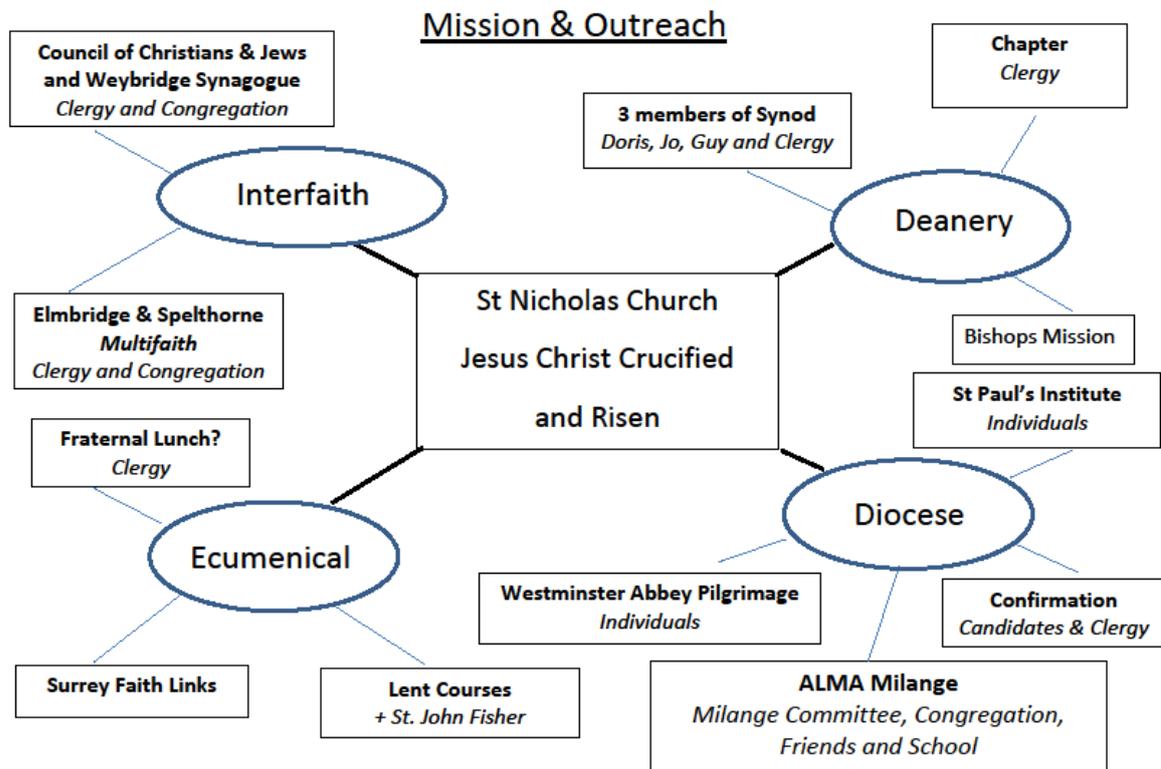


Access for all: The Church can be accessed by wheelchair, both through the west door and via the narthex in the Parish Centre; a hearing loop has been installed and large print versions of the service are available for those who need them.

## Teaching and Learning Ethos



## MISSION & OUTREACH



### OUTREACH IN THE PARISH

**1. THROUGH ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL:** There are close links between the church and our church primary school. The rector is a member of the school's governing body and our previous rector took weekly assemblies. In KS2 there are also Year Group Eucharists to which parents and members of the congregation are invited. In Reception and KS1 there are termly Bread Sharing assemblies which are also popular with children and their parents. All Year Groups come to the church at various times during the year for different reasons. The carol service for Years 3 & 4 and the Leavers service for Year 6 are two examples. In addition, the Community Eucharist is celebrated on a Sunday in the school hall at least once a term and frequently the worship is led by staff and pupils. In the recent past a First Communion course has been held in the school.

**2. THROUGH MESSY CHURCH:** Services are held three times a term, twice on Saturdays and once mid-week during half term, with another during the long summer holiday. This encourages new younger members and their families to explore aspects of the Christian faith.

**3. THROUGH THE WEBSITE & SHEPPERTON NEWS:** sermons are available to download each week and some services are currently streamed e.g., Service of Light. The Church's presence is also conveyed in our monthly magazine, which is delivered throughout the parish, with a meditative front-page article, usually contributed by the rector.

**4. THROUGH THE ROSEACRE PLAYGROUP:** The rector takes part in seasonal celebrations and introduces life events e.g., weddings, explaining their significance to the playgroup and leads a service at Christmas.

**5. THROUGH HALLIFORD SCHOOL:** The rector has taken assemblies and we have hosted their Christmas Carol service in the past few years, even in 2020, when the service was filmed and made available on the Church website.

### **MISSION WORLDWIDE**

**CHRISTIAN AID:** Over the last few years Christian Aid week has changed a lot in nature at St Nicholas. The annual door-to-door collection of red envelopes has been replaced by events during the week at the school and on the High Street such as the Big Brekkie in the village hall and street collections outside the supermarkets and railway station. All houses still receive the traditional red envelope with their copy of the Shepperton News, allowing people to return them to a variety of collection points around the village. Christian Aid remains the parish's largest annual outward giving event raising around £4,000.

### **OUR LINK PARISH**

#### **St SIMON OF CYRENE, MILANGE, MOZAMBIQUE**

The parish has a long history of supporting outward giving and since 2001 has taken part in the Diocesan ALMA (Angola, London Mozambique Association) project. In October 2001 two members of the parish travelled to Milange and so began a partnership which has lasted almost twenty years.

In 2004 the former rector, Chris Swift and his wife, Sandy spent six weeks in Mozambique on a teaching programme, witnessing the consecration of the new church in Milange, built with money raised by our congregation, whilst St Nicholas C of E Primary School raised money for the building of a school in Ngema. Four years later, after a further round of fund raising, three members of the congregation, accompanied by Chris and Sandy, attended the opening of a new block of classrooms for secondary school students.

Over the subsequent ten years, our parish has funded three visits from Milange to Shepperton: for clergy, members of the Mothers' Union in Milange, and a visit in 2017 by Archdeacon Diniz Mbenuca, in addition to planning for future needs.

## New School Classrooms



## Fund Raising

In October 2018 Rev Chris and Sandy Swift along with Elaine and Paul Cooper from the parish, visited Milange in Mozambique. The timing was perfect as it coincided with the induction week of the new priest in Milange, Father Eugino Rafael.



**The original school building**



**Father Rafael**

Paul writes:

“During the visit we were able to see a number of the outlying communities around Milange and spend time at the church and existing school classrooms, which were previously constructed with funding support from Shepperton. The purpose of the visit was to confirm local support and need for additional classrooms to expand the school, control for which was being handed back to the Church by the local government in Milange. It was clear that the existing classrooms had been heavily used since being constructed and there were many more children who would benefit from additional capacity at the school. We met the District Governor and local mayor who were both supportive, which was crucial to progressing with the project, adamant the local

community needed to be behind this as they were going to need to be ready to operate and maintain the new facility once complete.“

With support from the PCC, a significant fundraising campaign commenced with lots of energy from many in the congregation and wider community. This included stalls at the winter and summer fairs, donations from community events and local businesses and support from St. Nicholas Primary School. A fantastic £32,000 was raised to fund the building of a four-classroom block in the grounds of the existing school. Additional money was also donated to purchase a parish motorbike to enable Father Rafael to reach the many remote communities beyond Milange.

The fundraising target was reached at the end of 2019 and with the support of ALMA (the Angola London Mozambique Association - the Companion Link Partnership between the Anglican churches) and their project manager, the works commenced in February 2020 and were substantially completed in July.



**Foundations dug**



**Bricks delivered**



**New block taking shape**



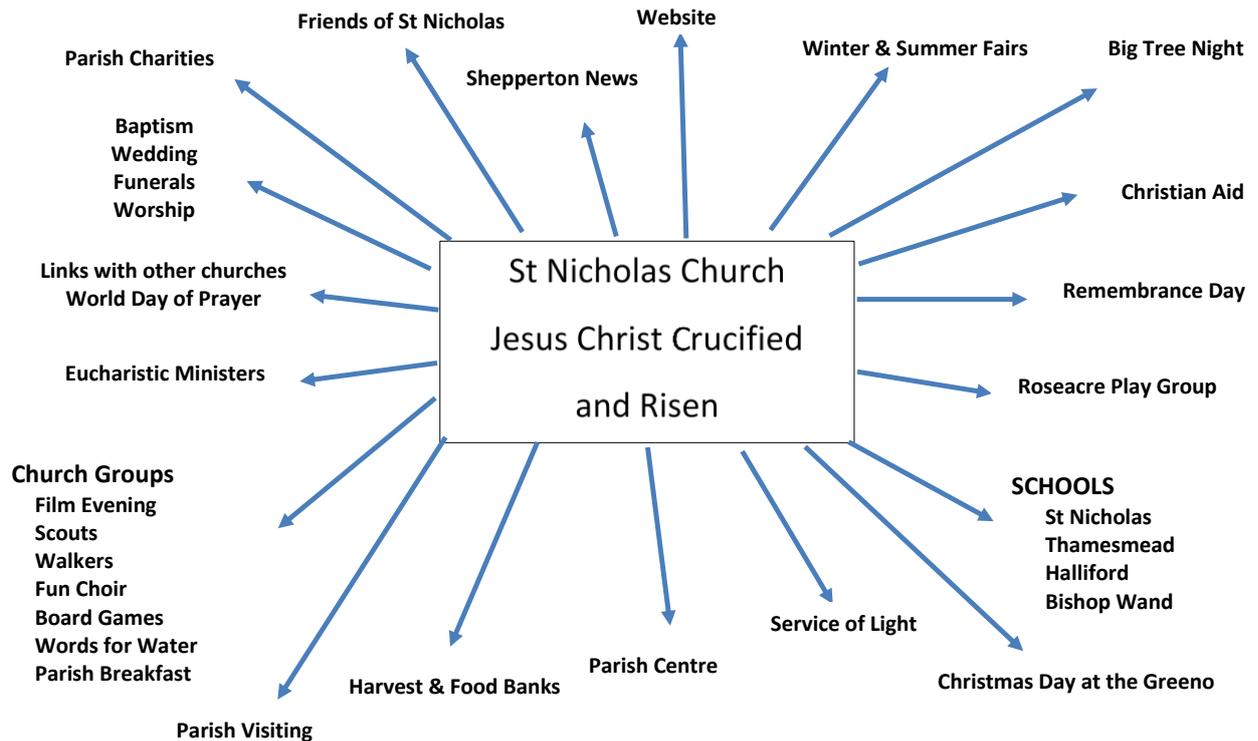
**Father Rafael (centre) in front of the new classrooms with the new Headteacher to his left and members of the church congregation.**

Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 prevented the new classrooms from being used in 2020 but they are planned to open in February 2021 at the start of the new school year.

## FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY

The mind map below emphasises the role the Church plays in the community both of St Nicholas & Shepperton. The groups below are open to everybody.

### Community and Parish



### Church Groups

**Parish Breakfast:** is held once a month in the Parish Centre at 8.30 allowing members of both 8am & 9.30am services to enjoy a cooked breakfast together. Money raised usually supports a charity e.g. Crisis or goes towards fund raising for ALMA projects in Mozambique.

**Board Games Afternoon:** Two groups now which meet monthly on Tuesdays & Wednesdays to play Scrabble, Rummikub and other board games. Tea and cake are enjoyed in a friendly atmosphere.

**Words for Water:** started many years ago as a result of a Lent Appeal. The group meets regularly to share poetry and prose on a chosen theme. Prepared programmes are presented in Church and sometimes elsewhere. Money raised goes to Water Aid.

**Our Winter Fair:** is held in the Village Hall in late November and 50% of the proceeds usually go to a local charity chosen by the PCC, the remainder to church funds or ALMA.



**Christmas Day at the Greeno:** A team of volunteers from St Nicholas joins with representatives from other Shepperton churches and the wider community to provide a lunch, presents and entertainment for those who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. In 2020 bags of festive goodies were prepared and distributed, as Covid restrictions meant the usual lunch could not go ahead.

**Shepperton News:** The parish magazine is published monthly and distributed to over 3,300 homes in the village. The publication contains reports from the church and sponsored groups and is our major outreach in the village, with a meditative front-page article being written by the rector.

**Big Tree Night:** This event is organised by the local business association at the beginning of December, with a procession, stalls and community singing led by local schools, including St Nicholas, and usually introduced by the rector. The High Street and surrounding roads are closed to traffic from 4pm until late.

**Shepperton Village Fair:** The Fair is held on the second Saturday in June in Manor Park where all voluntary organisations in the village are represented. The Church usually provides refreshments and bottle tombola with proceeds going to church funds.



**Parish Charities:** The rector is traditionally the Chair of the committee of three with a Treasurer who administer historic funds to support people or organisations in the parish in need of financial assistance.

**Film Evening:** meets once a month to enjoy a recent release and share thoughts and fellowship

**St Nicholas Walkers:** offers monthly rambles of differing lengths and challenges (Friday walks 3-4 miles; Saturday walks around 6 miles) in the surrounding countryside and beyond. Picnics are a feature in all weathers as is the welcome sight of a pub/garden centre at the end of the walk. Shared lifts are offered.

**Fun Choir:** meets monthly for a relaxed evening singing popular songs. No audition needed. Laughter and fun a must.

**Food Banks:** There is a collection point at the back of the Church for distribution to Manna Food Bank in Spelthorne. Collections also made at harvest for the Upper Room project for homeless people in Hammersmith.

**Remembrance Sunday:** is observed each year in November at the village War Memorial. The procession, made up of uniformed youth organisations accompanied by the choir and rector, leave from Church Square for the wreath laying and service. Over 400 people usually attend.



## PEOPLE & RESOURCES

### **Our Team**

The Parish has a variety of dedicated volunteers who give generously of their time and talents who have made an extra special effort during our vacancy. The Parish Office, previously run by a part time administrator, has been staffed by a team of volunteers Mon- Fri from 10 until 1pm, with service sheets typed and printed, PowerPoint slides produced, together with the multitude of emails and telephone messages fielded to Churchwardens, Treasurer & PCC. Our monthly parish magazine has continued to share details of church life within the wider parish community with distribution to over 3,000 homes.

Perhaps the most important development during Covid 19 pandemic has been the development of our IT systems by skilled volunteers, allowing services to be live streamed via Zoom and put on our website, which also has been revamped. Covid 19 also saw over 24 members of the parish acting as telephone pastors, supporting those living alone or shielding by doing shopping, collecting prescriptions or by simply phoning at regular intervals to check everyone was surviving.

A Mission Audit undertaken recently identified almost half of those on the electoral roll working alongside the rector to support the work of the parish. Areas in which lay participation is most noticeable are as welcomers, sidespeople, lectors, intercessors, chalice assistants at all Eucharists, servers, singers, cleaners, servers of teas and coffees. Messy Church and the Alternative Worship Service, together with the Christmas Eve Crib services (which draw almost 300 people), are entirely led by members of the congregation.

### **Ministry team**

We are fortunate in having one Licensed Lay Minister who preaches on a regular basis and one member undertaking training. During the Interregnum the Churchwardens have been responsible for the liturgy and arranging for visiting members of clergy to celebrate the Eucharist. We have received exceptional support from within the deanery, particularly from St Mary's, Sunbury, our Area Dean and Archdeacon and retired clergy living in Spelthorne Borough.

The 11.15 Alternative Worship Service is led by members of the congregation who are fully involved in preparing the service, choosing the music and giving the talk.

We have a dedicated team of Eucharistic Ministers who take Communion to housebound parishioners on a monthly basis and who meet bi-monthly to discuss their work.

Previous Directors of Music have assisted with music for special services e.g., Advent, Service of Light.

To support the rector, we have had a band of Baptism visitors for over 40 years who support families both before baptisms and who attend the services.



A bereavement support group has been established and training provided by the Princess Alice Hospice, but unfortunately Covid 19 has delayed the start of their ministry.

### **Choir**

We have a well-balanced adult SATB choir who sing at all choral services as well as weddings and funerals when required. Under the past two Directors of Music, we have sung Evensong at six different Cathedrals from Wells to Norwich in the past ten years, accompanied on the organ by a talented member of our congregation. However, it is proving difficult at the moment to recruit a new Director of Music and we rely currently on visiting organists.

## **PCC**

Our PCC is an active and enthusiastic group, meeting monthly and is keen to meet and work with our new rector. Its composition reflects membership of all 4 Sunday services; however, the age profile reflects the availability of the over 50s!

## **Standing Committee**

The Churchwardens, an elected member of the PCC along with the Treasurer and PCC Secretary work with the rector to form a Standing Committee which supports both the rector and PCC.

## **Parish Centre Management Committee**

The PCC has delegated day to day running of the Parish Centre to a management committee of 6, comprising Chairman, Manager, Secretary, Treasurer, Health & Safety Officer, and a parish representative of groups using the centre. This committee reports back to the rector and PCC.

## **Deanery Synod**

We have a full quota (3) of Deanery Synod representatives who report back to the PCC after each meeting and provide a report for APCM. Our Synod representatives enjoy the benefits of meeting people from other churches in the deanery and learning from them how they operate in their communities/parishes.

## **Other Teams**

We have a Finance committee which is tasked with finding creative ways in which we might balance our budget and be able to pay our full share of the diocesan quota.

Our Building committee is tasked with undertaking work identified by the quinquennial report and ensuring that the building and grounds are in good order.

We have a dedicated Safeguarding Officer who advises the PCC of their duties and encourages all members to undertake diocesan training in this area to ensure both the needs of children and vulnerable adults are met. In addition, we have a Children's Champion who liaises with both rector & Churchwardens.

## **Friends of St Nicholas Church**

The Friends of St Nicholas Church was formed about ten years ago to channel the goodwill of people who, though not regular attenders, wished to give their support to the maintenance of the much-loved church building. Through a variety of social events, the Friends aim to provide long-term low-level funds.

They do not instigate projects but respond to requests from the PCC as they arise.

Over the past ten years sufficient funds have been raised to renovate the churchyard gates, the main church door and the door to the Squires Gallery. In addition, the Thomas Love Peacock grave in the nearby cemetery has also been refurbished. The Friends also made a contribution to the recent major works undertaken in the South Transept. Finally, the Friends provide an important social group for people from all over the village to meet and be entertained at their famous suppers.



## CHURCH BUILDINGS

The Church is listed Grade II\* and lies within the Shepperton Conservation Area. In the Quinquennial report of 2014, urgent repairs to the south transept were requested. Following local fundraising and a large donation from the Heritage Lottery Fund, these repairs were carried out and the stonework around the stained-glass window restored.

Other improvements include a sound system throughout the church, improved internet access and a data projector and electronic screen. These can be operated from the Squire's Gallery and have greatly facilitated Zoom services while we have had limited congregations in the church. We also have had a modern lighting system installed with different mood settings according to need.

In the latest Quinquennial report (September 2019) several urgent repairs were brought to our attention relating to the roof, gutters and gullies which have been actioned. The most significant area to be undertaken is repairs to the West Tower which will require major fundraising. The report comments "structurally the Tower parapets and dislodged brickwork remain high priority together with external masonry repairs".

### **Parish Centre:**

An ongoing programme of maintenance is overseen by the Parish Centre Management Committee. Over the past couple of years, the outside benches have been repaired and refurbished as have the toilets. The redecoration of the main hall, planned for the summer of 2020, was put on hold when lockdown measures were introduced which meant we had no income from the centre for almost six months.



## ST NICHOLAS RECTORY



The Rectory was built in 2005.

The ground floor comprises a spacious living room, dining room, sizeable, fitted kitchen, utility room and cloakroom, plus a decent size study, accessed directly from the main entrance. The first floor offers four double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, and an en-suite shower room for the master bedroom. There is a further family bathroom and excellent storage in an extensive walk-in eaves space over the garage.

The property has the benefit of a solar water heater and a rainfall reclamation system.





**Kitchen**



**Master Bedroom**

Additional features include gated entrance, forecourt parking for several vehicles, double garage and well-maintained rear garden.

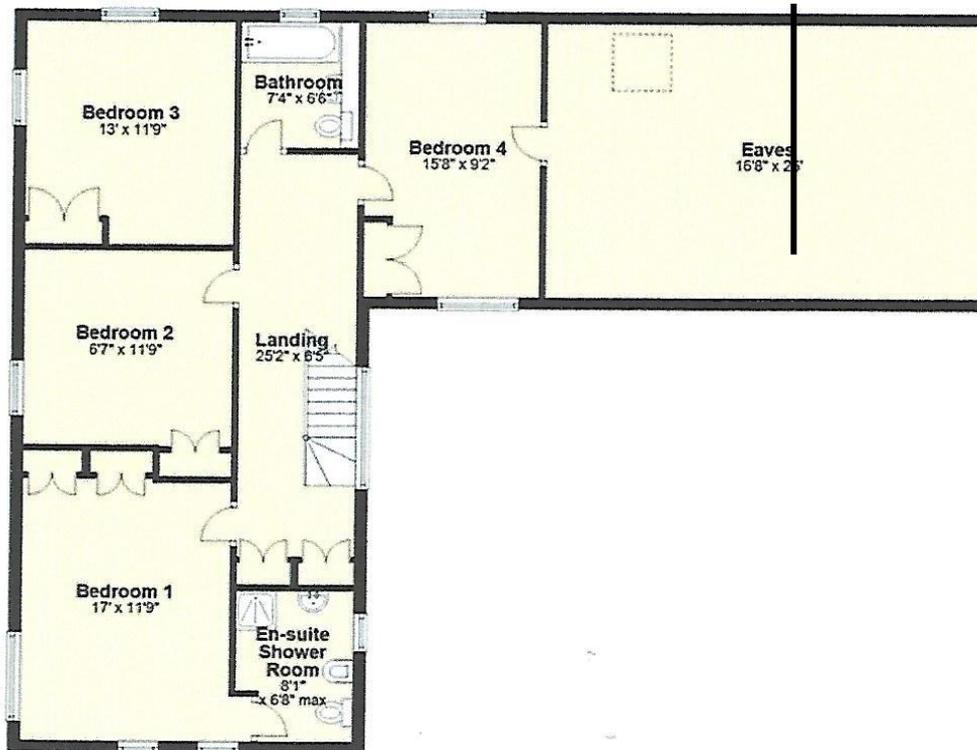


**Rear Garden**

Ground Floor



First Floor



## THE WAY AHEAD

The responses in these final pages reflect the views of the PCC & Church members who responded to a questionnaire in December 2020

### **What areas give us encouragement?**

- Involvement of over 50% of those on the Electoral roll in church activities- a real sense of community and fellowship.
- Development of the Children's Area coupled with the growth of the 11.15 Alternative Worship service and Messy Church.
- Our sustained close links with St Nicholas School and St Simon of Cyrene, Milange.

### **What have been areas where we have been less successful?**

- Not having a Mission Action Plan which has allowed us to drift and not be challenged out of our comfort zone.
- Effective communications at all levels and through all types of media.
- Increasing stewardship to balance the books.
- Recruiting new members of the church.

### **What are our top priorities for the next three years?**

- Create a Mission Action Plan which is owned, shared and acted upon by ALL.
- Develop effective communications and use of IT, our website and social media to raise the profile of the church in Shepperton especially amongst the 18-45 age group.
- Encourage more young families to attend and become involved, capitalising on our school links and family ministry.
- Develop House Groups to allow us to deepen our faith and understanding of the Gospel.
- Raise our profile in the village community and our links with other Churches.
- Repair the tower.

### **Hopes & Aspirations:**

- Participate fully in the Diocesan vision of 2030 to "create confident disciples" and make our church here at St Nicholas "younger, safer and more diverse."
- Develop our pastoral care, particularly after Covid 19 to ensure those members who have not attended church in person or via zoom do not feel abandoned.
- Develop use of the Parish Centre.

## ARE YOU OUR NEW RECTOR?

We are looking for someone who is rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ who can communicate their strong prayerful faith and so lead us in the next stage of our journey of faith and witness in this community.

We are looking for a new rector who can demonstrate the passion, skills and experience to:

- Inspire and help us to develop a clear vision for the mission and work of St Nicholas' Church that is owned, shared and acted upon by all.
- Be an enthusiastic leader and teacher who is able to recognise, motivate, support and release the talents of our congregation and energise our various teams.
- Help us to be serious about growing the church – helping us to develop confident disciples of Jesus Christ within the church and to draw new members into it.
- Build on our expanded children's facilities and good contacts with local schools to encourage children and young families into the life of the church.
- Be a good communicator who is aware of the importance of both online and physical presence, able to engage with all members of the community, and who can help raise the church's visibility within Shepperton.

It would also help to have the following attributes:

- a good listener who is approachable and has a sense of humour.
- a team player who is willing and able to delegate appropriately.
- the ability to challenge us to confront issues and to take us beyond our comfort zones.
- a willingness to be open to new ideas and bring your own creativity.
- a strong pastoral ministry, able to creatively respond to a post-pandemic world.

## APPENDIX 1 - OUR STATISTICS 2017 - 2020

### **POPULATION:**

Spelthorne Borough: 95,600

Shepperton: 9,753

90% born in UK (87% in England)

96.7% speak English

68.3% describe themselves as Christians

(Data based on 2011 census)

Electoral roll: 147

Average attendance at Sunday Services:

8am Quiet Eucharist: 15

9.30am Community Eucharist: 55 over 16; 10 under 16

11.15am Alternative Worship: 20 over 16; 10 under 16 (increases slightly when 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month is a Eucharist to 22)

6.30pm Evensong (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday): 12

Attendance at Messy Church: 20 adults 30 children

<b>SACRAMENT</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Baptism	16	18	32	6
Confirmation	2	2	0	0
Wedding	14	6	5	0
Funeral	26	34	22	3
Easter Communicants	162	107	122	0

Throughout Covid when restrictions were lifted for public worship the average Sunday attendance was 22 (Max allowed 25).

Alternative Worship has stayed on Zoom with average participation of 15. Church at Home services are being offered to over 60 members of the congregation via Zoom, for both 9.30 and 11.15 services, in addition to printed and posted services.

## APPENDIX 2 - PARISH FINANCES - APCM REPORT 2020

### **Treasurer's Report**

It is disappointing to report that the General Fund had a deficit for the year of £6,880. The welcome increase in collections was offset by a decrease in stewardship giving. Sadly, during the past year, several of our most generous donors have died and there are very few new regular givers.

After careful consideration of the current financial situation, the PCC reluctantly decided that our contribution to Common Fund would have to be reduced to £73,000 in 2020. This falls £12,200 short of the amount requested by the Diocese. This means that we will be covering our Parish clergy stipendiary and housing costs in full but only paying 58% of the Parish share of Diocesan training and support costs. This decision was not taken lightly but the PCC felt that it is unsustainable to commit such a high percentage of general income to Common Fund (83% in 2019). Whilst mindful of the Parish's responsibility to the wider church, this has to be balanced with the mission and ministry needs here at St. Nicholas.

During the coming year, the PCC will look at ways of increasing income to improve the Parish finances. On the expenditure side, costs are being well controlled. Shepperton News made a small loss this year due to an increase in printing costs, but this has been addressed and costs will be reduced in the coming year.

The Milange School Appeal reached its target and the first payment was sent so that work could start on the school building. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this a reality, especially the fundraising team. There was also a generous response to the Motorbike Appeal and we were able to fund the purchase of a much needed new bike for the priest to travel the long distances between church communities in Milange.

Thanks to the efforts of Nicky, Sally and their teams of helpers, the Village and Winter Fairs were very successful and raised funds not only for our church but also for the Milange School Appeal, CAMEO day centres and the ALMA Cyclone Appeal.

My personal thanks, as always, to Fiona, Hilary, Joan and Nicky for their support in counting and banking the weekly collections. The PCC is grateful to Heather Powell for agreeing to carry out the Independent Examination of the accounts. We thank everyone who makes a financial contribution to the life of St. Nicholas. We would encourage you to regularly review your support and to consider giving by Standing Order if you don't already do so. If you are a taxpayer, do please make sure that you have signed a Gift Aid declaration as the tax we can claim back increases your donation by 25%, at no extra cost to yourself.

Kathy Hodge -PCC Treasurer - March 2020

## Financial Report 2019

St. Nicholas Church Shepperton  
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

(Registered Charity No. 1138021)

### Receipts and Payments Account

2018	2018	2018		2019	2019	2019
General	Restricted	Designated		General	Restricted	Designated
£	£	£		£	£	£
59,277	-	-	Receipts			
6,266	118	-	Stewardship	57,896	-	-
3,897	7,228	-	Collections	7,338	136	-
16,164	1,352	-	Donations	3,459	14,292	-
500	-	10,000	Tax Recovered	15,194	1,455	-
-	7,490	-	Legacies received	-	-	-
-	98	-	Grants	-	-	-
1,881	3,491	-	Concerts	-	156	-
200	141	400	Fundraising	2,456	4,227	-
3,852	-	-	Interest, income from property	200	271	407
9,325	-	-	Fees	3,331	-	-
			Income from trading and advertising (Shepperton News and sale of engraved plaques)	8,690	-	-
-	-	500	Other incoming resources	-	-	500
<b>101,362</b>	<b>19,918</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98,564</b>	<b>20,537</b>	<b>907</b>
			Payments			
75,500	-	-	Diocesan Fund	75,500	-	-
680	612	18,893	Salaries	-	-	12,142
2,565	-	-	Organists' Fees	3,330	-	-
3,339	-	-	Clergy expenses	3,066	-	-
3,719	-	-	Ministry	4,357	174	283
220	-	-	Flowers	146	-	-
8,538	-	-	Church running expenses	8,777	-	-
783	-	-	Church utility bills	261	-	-
7,173	-	-	Cost of trading and advertising (Shepperton News and sale of engraved plaques)	8,220	-	-
340	-	-	Cost of fundraising	271	230	-
180	-	-	Outward giving	1,016	20,500	-
500	-	-	Transfer to Rectory Maintenance fund	500	-	-
-	3,262	1,737	Repairs, Alterations and Maintenance	-	1,486	2,548
<b>103,537</b>	<b>3,874</b>	<b>20,630</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105,444</b>	<b>22,390</b>	<b>14,973</b>
<b>2,175</b>	<b>(16,044)</b>	<b>9,730</b>	<b>Excess of Payments over Receipts</b>	<b>6,880</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>14,066</b>
1393			Net revenue from Shepperton News	-367		
759			Net revenue from sale of plaques	837		

St. Nicholas Church Shepperton

(Registered Charity Number 1138021)

Summary of Restricted/Designated Funds for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

	£		£
<b>ALMA</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2019	14,858	Restoration	
Receipts	19,919	Balance at 1st January 2019	9,478
Payments	<u>-18,730</u>	Receipts	41
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>16,047</u>	Payments	<u>0</u>
<b>ALMA MOTORBIKE APPEAL</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2019	1646	Designated-Maintain Rectory	
Receipts	800	Balance at 1st January 2019	2,011
Payments	<u>-2,446</u>	Receipts	507
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>0</u>	Payments	<u>0</u>
<b>Churchyard</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2019	3,447	Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>2,518</u>
Receipts	13	<b>Designated-Mission &amp; Ministry</b>	
Payments	<u>-946</u>	Balance at 1st January 2019	96,109
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>2,514</u>	Receipts	400
<b>Fabric</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2019	4,934	Payments	-14,973
Receipts	20	Transfer to General Fund	<u>-6,880</u>
Payments	<u>-540</u>	Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>74,656</u>
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>4,414</u>		
<b>Organ and Music</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2019	6,825		
Receipts	190		
Payments	<u>-174</u>		
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>6,841</u>		

<b>Total Restricted &amp; Designated Funds</b>	
at 31 December 2019	£116,509

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2019

Cash Funds		£
Barclays Current Account		6,056
Barclays Saver Account (1)		24,924
Barclays Saver Account (2)		8,339
Virgin Money Charity Deposit Account		77,139
Petty Cash		51
Total Funds		<u>116,509</u>

Represented by: £

General Fund		
Opening balance	0	
Excess of Payments over receipts	-6,880	
Transfer from Designated Fund	6,880	
Closing balance		0

Restricted Funds		
Opening Balance	41,188	
Excess of Payments over receipts	-1,853	
Closing balance		39,335

Designated Funds		
Opening balance	98,120	
Excess of Payments over receipts	-14,066	
	84,054	
Transfer to General Fund	-6,880	
Closing balance		77,174

Total Funds		<u>116,509</u>
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There were no significant liabilities at the year end.

Rev. Christopher Swift  
Chairman PCC

Peter Davis  
Churchwarden

Kathy Hodge  
PCC Treasurer

## Outward Giving for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

## General Fund

Plan International - advances children's rights around the world	180.00	
CAMEO day centres for people with dementia	418.00	share of Village Fair Proceeds
ALMA Cyclone Appeal	418.00	share of Village Fair Proceeds
	<u>1,016.00</u>	

## Restricted Funds

ALMA	motorbike for priest in Milange	2,000.00
ALMA	Initial payment for Milange school building	18,500.00
		20,500.00

## Special collections

LDF Lent Appeal - Modern slavery	192.32	Good Friday
ALMA Cyclone Appeal	80.00	Messy Church
Church Urban Fund	206.45	Carol Service
	<u>478.77</u>	