



St Nicholas Church
SEVENOAKS

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 23 April 2019 at 8pm

The Vision Statement of St Nicholas

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD
EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE
EXPLAIN GOD'S GOSPEL

as Christ's ambassadors in order to build a Christ-like,
loving, prayerful, gospel-minded community

Verse for 2019:

2 Peter 1:5

'Make every effort to add to your faith.'

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Insert: PCC report and Financial Statements for the year ended
31 December 2018

Agenda

Welcome	Angus MacLeay
Song	<i>Let us love and sing and wonder</i>
Bible Reading	1 Peter 1:13-2:3 - Tom Nash
Prayer	Andrea Trevenna
Song	<i>See what a morning</i>

AGENDA A - Joint meeting of Parishioners

1. *Nomination of Minute Clerk*
2. *Apologies for absence*
3. *Approval of minutes of Joint meeting of Parishioners 17 April 2018*
4. *Appointment of Churchwardens*

AGENDA B - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. *Approval of minutes of APCM 17 April 2018*
2. *Electoral Roll*
3. *Election of new PCC Members*
4. *Election of new Deanery Synod Members*

Prayers for the new PCC will be included at the Services on Sunday 28 April 2019

5. *Treasurer's Report*
6. *Receive and adopt the Audited Financial Statements for 2018*
7. *Appoint auditors for 2019*
8. *Annual safeguarding update (report on Page 5)*
9. *Approval of Leadership teams and Congregational Pastoral teams (see Page 3)*

A snapshot of church life

Question Time

Chairman's Address	Angus MacLeay
Song	O Church arise
Final prayer & the Grace	Church Wardens

Agenda Item 9: Names for Approval

Congregational Pastoral Teams for approval

9:15am St Nicholas

Heather Brown
Ian & Christine Ervine
Gavin & Janet McGrath
Nic & Janet Pocknall

11am St Nicholas

Manoj & Katie David
Dick & Renata Moerdijk
Alison Perry
Matt Taylor
Andrea Trevenna

6:30pm St Nicholas

Roger Clarke
Dan & Pippa Halpin
Simon Heather
Tony Isaac
Steve & Emma Osei-Mensah

Congregational Leadership Teams for approval

Grace Church

Hannah Blake
John & Ros Collett
John & Sue Goodban
John Khnana
Sophie Matthews
Tom & Clare Nash
Giles & Emily Witchell

4 O'Clock Church

Hannah Blake
Andrew & Jane Coates
Keiko Honda
John Khnana
Tom & Clare Nash
Tony & Rachel Waghorn

Churchwardens' Report 2018/19

We are preparing this report during Lent when, as we look towards Easter, we are reminded of the words from Isaiah 53:5

'But He was pierced for our transgressions,

He was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was on Him,

and by His wounds we are healed.' (Isaiah 53:5)

these are wonderful words as we come to the Lord Jesus with a deep sense of gratitude for all that has been done at the cross for those who follow Jesus and put their hope and trust in Him.

In their last Report (a copy is on the St Nicholas website) the Wardens reflected on the very many activities of the previous year. Thanks were expressed for the ministry staff, support staff, the many helpers and volunteers as we were reminded we are all different but complementary parts of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12) as we seek to grow new disciples and mature existing believers.

We continue to have a huge appreciation for God's provision throughout the last year. We are particularly grateful for the arrival of John Khnana, who joins us with his wife, Ailsa and young daughters from Sydney and is a very welcome addition to the ministry team at Grace Church and 4'O'Clock Church.

This year we would like to mention two developments at St Nicholas:

Firstly with reference to the end of the last Report, we recognised that while we had a huge amount to be thankful to God for, at the same time we needed to reflect on the new opportunities for the gospel all around. The PCC was beginning to examine the strategic position of St Nicholas in the future and how we can, under God's guidance, become more effective in building one another up and in the proclamation of the gospel in and around Sevenoaks

In his initial thoughts on developing our Strategy in May 2018, the Rector raised several questions, based around Explore, Equip, Explain and Evangelise, and invited comments from the PCC; a small working party was subsequently convened to consider these questions.

We commenced the process in September 2018 looking at our ambitions for the gospel - what we envisage we should develop or do better (guided by questions in the Rector's paper), and how this may be attempted – reflecting on the practicalities of implementation: ownership, resources and timeline to ensure progress on this important issue. The consensus of the Group was to focus attention initially on Equip and Evangelise.

This led to two key questions being addressed: Where St Nicholas is at the current time? and where do we want to be in eight years' time?

Underpinning all our discussions was the desire to assist senior staff in determining a clear strategy with specific steps to reach "Where We Want to Be".

Our focus was to develop a plan/strategy with concrete initiatives, which would be underpinned by specific prayer. These are currently being discussed and developed with senior ministry staff. As we seek to move forward all our activities will be underpinned by God's word and prayer.

Please pray that we will have much wisdom as we seek to support staff and further God's work here in Sevenoaks.

Secondly, the formation of the Sevenoaks Gospel Trust (SGT): this initiative is certainly not unique to St Nicholas; it is following many churches up and down the country who already have connections with separate Trusts through which the ongoing work of the gospel is supported. Indeed for many years St. Nicholas benefitted through the Parish Hall Trust which had been set up at the time amidst concerns about the direction of the denomination in the 1920s! Trusts are often used to build up and protect strategic assets. Through the Trust it is possible for an individual to make donations to support the gospel within Sevenoaks confident in the knowledge that their donation will remain fully committed to serving the purposes for which the Trust has been established for many years to come.

The SGT is a registered charity and its Trustees are Mark Harding (Chair), Paul Batchelor, Debs Drury, Jeremy Marshall and Gavin Watson. The Church family were invited to hear more and ask questions of the Trustees at on 16th September 2018 and to question the Rector and wardens about the PCC's response to the trust on 31 March 2019.

Clearly it is vitally important that as a church family we continue to fund the work of the gospel through the St. Nicholas PCC, but this additional resource is very welcome at a time when overall giving to the PCC is declining, and we look forward to collaborating with the Trustees of the SGT as together we seek to provide all the resources required for the continuance of the work of the gospel in Sevenoaks.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the work at St Nicholas.

Justin Greig and Ian Nash

Churchwardens April 2019

THE ELECTORAL ROLL 2019* - Lis Lidbetter, Electoral Roll Secretary
New electoral roll compiled April 2019

	Men	Women	Total
Resident	44	64	108
Non-Resident	172	212	384
Total	216	276	492
	(44%)	(56%)	

*** Figures correct at 9 April 2019**

Annual Safeguarding Update

St Nicholas Church continues to take Child Protection and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults with the utmost seriousness. The PCC last year endorsed the Safeguarding Guidelines of the Diocese of Rochester (see <http://www.rochester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1517914927.pdf>) as policy.

The policy is summarised this way:

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused. We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others, and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

In practice here at St Nicholas Church, this policy means:

- Appointing the Rev Dr Gavin McGrath as the **Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)**. This role is accountable, in the first instance, to the Rector and, then, to the Archdeacon of Tonbridge and

the Diocese of Rochester Safeguarding Team.

- Conducting all appropriate and necessary **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)** checks. All DBS management and storage (in line with current GDPR regulations) is supervised by Sue Stimson. This includes Clergy and Senior Staff, Wardens, PCC members, and those working with Children and Young People as well as those engaged in what is called regulated activities with vulnerable adults. The definition of regulated activities is complicated but available here: <https://www.ddc.uk.net/help-advice/what-is-regulated-activity/>
- Practicing **safe recruiting** as specified by the Diocese of Rochester and St Nicholas PCC for all involved in work/ministry with Children and Youth and those engaged in regulated activities with vulnerable adults.
- Promoting regular and required **Safeguarding Awareness and Practice Training** either available from the Diocese of Rochester or Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS).

Since the last Annual Church Meeting (April 2018):

- April 2018 – February 2019 Various Safeguarding Training for Clergy undertaken. Similar or suitable training undertaken by members of Senior Staff.
- October 2018 Child Safeguarding Training led by Cara Smith and Simon Heather. This was well attended by those working with Children and Young People at all St Nicholas congregations.
- January 2019 to present Safeguarding Inventory of all current Clergy and Senior Staff Safeguarding Training. A formal inventory is required to be submitted to the Diocese by July 2019
- January 2019 to present Recording the DBS compliance of all current PCC members (including Wardens) and the compliance for all Safeguarding Certificate Level(s). A formal record and inventory to be submitted to the Diocese by July 2019.
- Safeguarding continues to be a high level priority, for which prayer is asked.

GJ McGrath

March 2019

Fabric and Furnishing report 2018

In the Church, the final Quinquennial works were completed including repairs to two stained glass windows and work to deal with the damp on the west wall of the Church Office. Our existing sound desk was wearing out, but we have been able to replace it with a newer second hand one. A LOLER inspection on the main Church screen housing resulted in a clean bill of health, and a recommendation that further inspections should be made every three years rather than annually. All the remedial works recommended in the fixed wiring report has been carried out.

We face challenges as much of our plant is old and expensive to repair or replace. The Committee are currently reviewing a report into the viability of the Church's boiler system. We also continue to find there is growing pressure on our available facilities particularly downstairs on Sunday mornings. We have ongoing plans to refurbish the store room next to the disabled toilet in the Undercroft but this has been delayed due to the need to assess all our storage facilities.

Outside, the Garden of Remembrance refurbishment was completed, including the installation of some new benches which have proved very popular with visitors. New gates and fencing were installed at the entrance to the new Churchyard and we are awaiting delivery of some Commonwealth War Graves

Commission signage. Sevenoaks Town Council re-laid the path along the south side of the old Churchyard. Repair work to the surface of the main car park was completed and a new scheme has been successfully introduced to deter unauthorised parking. Thanks to Andrew Nicholls for treating the two benches in the north-east corner of the old Churchyard. There are mechanical problems with the Church clock which had affected its striking. The engineers have recommended fitting a new motor gear box assembly.

At the Rectory, the Diocese have carried out repairs to the front flat roof, removed some trees from the grounds and are moving forward on the next phase of repair work to the north boundary wall. Minor repairs and maintenance have been carried out at both 40 South Park and 26 Woodside Road., At 23 Beech Road, repair works to the roof, guttering and chimney stack are currently in progress. The Committee are currently reviewing plans to upgrade the kitchen and bathroom in the upstairs flat. The kitchen downstairs was upgraded a few years ago.

We remain very grateful for all the work put in by the members of the Fabric Committee, our Ministry Associates and a host of volunteers who look after the Church flowers, clean the brass and carry out many other tasks with love to care for our buildings, their surrounds and their contents. We welcomed this year, as new members of the Committee, Malcolm Elcock and Philip Day and we are already very appreciative of their input and insights.

AJ/MPL 26.2.2019

Deanery Synod Report 2018

Having completed another year in post, the Rev Martin Booth announced that he would be retiring as Vicar of St Mary's Riverhead and as Area Dean in March 2019. His successor as Area Dean will be the Rector of St Botolph's Chevening, the Rev Christopher Smith. The St Nicholas Clergy are all members of Deanery Synod, together with five lay members, including the Lay Chairman, Ian Dobbie.

The first meeting of the Synod focused on the Three Parish Review, which relates to St Mary's Riverhead with Dunton Green, St Luke's Sevenoaks and St Mary's Kippington, the second of which has been put "in suspension" for up to five years. Although this has created some unrest, the review will consider opportunities for Ministry, Mission and Growth in these parishes.

The second meeting included a return visit by the Rev Richard Williams, the Diocesan Director of Finance. All Deaneries in the Diocese except Sevenoaks had agreed with the proposal relating to the introduction of Indicative Offers as a replacement of the Parish Share. He illustrated a typical parish with one full time incumbent would cost £41K for Ministry plus £9.6K for Diocesan support plus 50% of net residual income. The last of these is now expected to be 10%.

The Diocesan Finance Team has been helping to explain to parish treasurers how particular Indicative Offers are calculated and has produced a list of frequently asked questions. The consultation period has now ended and will be presented to Diocesan Synod for approval in June 2019.

Brig. Ian Dobbie March 2019