
Liverpool Parish Church
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
30 April 2023

REPORT PACK

Agenda	p2
Minutes of APCM 2022	p3
Electoral Roll Report	p6
Annual Report and Accounts 2022	p8
(note that the Report & Accounts follow their own page numbering)	
Buildings/Fabric	p24
Churchwarden Report	p28
Deanery Synod Report	p30
Sunday School Report	p30
Flower Team Report	p31
Safeguarding Report	p32
World Action Report	p32

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

30 April 2023

AGENDA

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Minutes of last Meeting of Parishioners on Sunday 1 May 2022
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of last APCM on Sunday 1 May 2022
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. To receive:
 - a) Annual Report on the Electoral Roll
 - b) Annual Report on the PCC and activities of the parish generally
 - c) Accounts and Statements of Funds and Property for the year ending 31st December 2022
 - d) Further Reports in the Reports' Pack
4. Elections:
 - a) Election of Parochial Church Councillors
 - b) Election of Deanery Synod representatives
5. Appointments:
 - a) Sidespersons
 - b) Independent Examiner
6. Any other business (as notified in advance)

The Rector's Report will be given during the sermon at the Parish Eucharist

OUR LADY & ST NICHOLAS, LIVERPOOL

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

MINUTES of the APCM held on Sunday 1st May 2022 during the course of the 10am Parish Eucharist

PRESENT: 68 Adults and 12 children.

APOLOGIES were received from Elaine Price, Kelly Montana-Williams, Jim Wrightson, Eva Coockey, Martyn and Sarah Cull, Martin and Daphne Amlôt, David and Marian Clayton.

The Rector opened the meeting and stated the report pack had been previously circulated electronically and also as a hard copy.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS

- 1 Minutes of the last APCM:** The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 25th April 2021 were received by the members present and contents agreed for the Rector to sign.
- 2 Matters Arising from the Minutes:** There were no matters arising not otherwise covered by the Agenda.
- 3 Election of Church Wardens:** The Rector reported that Pauline Lewis had completed the limit of six years as a Churchwarden and had carried out a brilliant role. The members showed their appreciation to Pauline. There were two nominations for the posts of Churchwarden, Eva Coockey and Sarah Wrightson being duly elected.

Signed _____ **Dated** _____

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1 Minutes of the last APCM:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2021 had been made available in electronic and hard copy. They were agreed by the members present and would be signed by the Rector.
- 2 Matters Arising from the Minutes:** There were no matters arising not otherwise covered by the Agenda.
- 3 Matters to be received:**

Items 3(a) to 3(d) had been made available in electronic and hard copy consolidated into a Report Pack (Appendix A attached to these minutes). The Rector invited those present to raise any issues on the contents of any of these reports. In the absence of any issues the Report Pack was accepted unanimously.

Fr Crispin provided the following verbal report:

Over the last couple of years we have learned a lot about our priorities. We have seen people look for ways to change their lives because they knew that, post-pandemic, they didn't want to live as they lived before. This has been a more profound change than the usual increase in gym membership every January: it has been about people assessing how they want to enjoy the rest of their lives. New jobs, new hobbies, new friends. This is what we are seeing around us. I would also argue that this has not been an entirely new phenomenon, but rather an acceleration of what was already underway. There have been winners and losers in this progression: a loser has definitely been the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, where it is demonstrable that the appetite which people once had for staying behind after church for a further hour to participate in a meeting has melted away. Before the pandemic, we tried to make this more attractive by providing food as well, but there was hardly a queue around the block even then. So, we have shrunk the annual meeting to meet the statutory requirements, but it is not imposing on your time. Having said that, scrutiny is important, so please speak to clergy or Church Officers afterwards if there are any issues you would like to raise or explore more fully.

There have been other priorities which have been evident in our church life. The generosity of congregation and visitors towards the Foodbank; the energy which has gone into the Lauda Project with the Gypsy-Roma-Traveller community; the support and commitment to the arts. These are areas which are thriving. Before Christmas we ran a successful study group, and there will be another one starting in the next few months. And we have also seen many people volunteering for new roles within our church life. In addition, the reach of the church into the City continues as it has always done, with active roles in a number of communities and on a range of projects, from homelessness through to education and to LGBTQ justice. This all feels so active at the moment that it feels like the wrong moment to pause and talk about it all at an annual meeting.

In our Gospel today there is a glimpse of the disciples after the resurrection. In the light of what we know about behaviours following the pandemic, it is a slightly surprising reading because the disciples appear to have resumed their old lives. They had already, we heard, seen the resurrected Jesus, but they did not recognize him when he appeared by the Sea of Tiberias. However, the fishing career resumed. Perhaps this is not surprising, in the hand-to-mouth existence of first century Palestine, but the implication is that they were not preaching and teaching to continue the ministry of Jesus. After the trauma of the crucifixion and even the resurrection, our own experience tells us that the disciples would have needed to stop and reassess. Where were they going? What were they doing?

At the moment the Parochial Church Council is doing just that. Back in 2014 and 2015 we produced a Vision and Strategy document which you can download from the website, and we successfully used that document at every PCC meeting to measure our outputs and plan for the future. The pandemic was a moment to stop and assess, and we are doing that work afresh. When we are a bit further along in our work we shall bring this out to all of you for consultation so that we can shape the future together, but I want to share with you now the values which the PCC associates with our Church. At the centre of what we do is Jesus Christ, but there are four further values, which are 'Inclusive Welcoming', 'Serving', 'Ethical Compassion', and 'Joyful Hope'. In future we shall measure our activities and outputs not against a list of what we want to *do*, but rather against what we want to *be*.

At the end of today's Gospel, Jesus asks Simon Peter the same question three times: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" And this question is a challenge to ask what Simon wants to be, rather than what he wants to do. It is a relational question, but also an existential one which Jesus asks all of us. An Annual Meeting is, in its procedural way, a rather dull affair. The Reports are the interesting bit, and they will tell you everything you need to know about the life of Liverpool Parish Church at the moment, but the opportunity of an annual 'pause' in our Church life is to look at ourselves and ask 'who are we?'. When we align our values with membership of our church community and the outward functions of our Church, then I hope that the core will be Jesus Christ. We have much to do in the year ahead, but even greater than that is all the things which we have to be.

4 Election:

- a) **Election of Parochial Church Councillors:** Nominations had been received for Pauline Addy, Martyn Cull, Sarah Cull, Sarah Doyle, Nicholas Ledingham, Pauline Lewis, Kelly Montana-Williams, Elaine Price, Rebecca Selman, Dean Sullivan, Peter Summerfield and Peter Woods. There being no nominations from the floor, it was agreed unanimously that all the above were elected to the Council for the period ending 30th April 2023. The Rector thanked the PCC members who had served during the last year.
- b) **Election of a Deanery Synod representative:** Emily Ridgway and Victoria Inyang-Talbot were already elected and there are two vacancies.

A nomination had been received for Stephen Derringer and was duly elected. All three will serve for a final year of a three-year term.

5 Appointments

a) Sidespersons:

The “panel” of sidespersons were thanked for their work and it was agreed unanimously that those on the present list would continue in the role. The Rector invited others to put themselves forward to become a sidesperson.

b) Independent Examiner:

Susan Buckley, SBA Accounting Limited, was reappointed, proposed by Fr Crispin and Seconded by Peter Summerfield and all agreed.

6 Any Other Business

There being no further business the Rector declared the Annual Parochial Church Meeting closed and the Eucharist concluded with God’s blessing from Rev Michelle.

Signed _____

The Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, Rector of Liverpool

Date _____

Electoral Roll Report 2023

At APCM 2022 number on Roll 136.

During the year 3 members of the Roll have died, 6 have moved away, and 7 no longer worship regularly. 15 names have been added to the roll.

Number on Roll 2023 = 135

Roger Merchant
Electoral Roll Officer

Charity number 1132856

DIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

Liverpool Parish Church
(Our Lady and St Nicholas)

Annual Report

of the Parochial Church Council

Year ending 31st December 2022

Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

Administrative information

Our Lady & St Nicholas, Old Churchyard, Chapel Street, Liverpool. L2 8TZ
Official correspondence to the Parish Administrator, Church Office at the above address.

PCC Members

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

Rector:	The Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing (Chair)
Associate Priest:	The Revd Tabitha Rao
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Michelle Montrose
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Canon Bill Addy
Assistant Curate:	The Revd Jennifer Brady
Wardens:	Mrs Sarah Wrightson Mrs Eva Cookey
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Ms Victoria Inyang-Talbot Mrs Emily Ridgway Mr Stephen Derringer (from April 2022)
Secretary:	Mrs Pauline Addy
Treasurer:	Dr James Wrightson <i>in attendance</i>
Other Elected Members:	Dr Rebecca Selman Mrs Pauline Addy Mr Nick Ledingham Mrs Pauline Lewis Mr Martyn Cull Dr Sarah-Jane Cull Mrs Elaine Price Mr David Large (until April 2022) Mrs Sarah Doyle Mr Dean Sullivan Ms Kelly Montana-Williams (from April 2022) Mr Peter Summerfield Captain Peter Woods
In attendance:	Mr Derby Guerrier (Parish Assistant)

Parish Advisors

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC, Liverpool City Business Centre, 48b-50 Lord Street, Liverpool L2 1TD

Investments: Oliver Hall, Investec Wealth & Investment Limited, The Plaza, 100 Old Hall Street, Liverpool L3 9AB

Architect: Maggie Mullan, Maggie Mullan Architects Ltd., 6 Percy St Liverpool L8 7LU

Independent Examiner: Susan Buckley, SBA Accounting Limited, Gladstone House, 2 Church Road, Liverpool L15 9EG

Day to day management control of the Church is exercised by the Rector and Churchwardens, contactable via the church office on 0151 236 5287

Structure, Management and Governance

Our Lady & St Nicholas PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. The PCC has been a Registered Charity since 2009: No. 1132856.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and are welcome stand for election to the PCC. The APCM in 2016 resolved that members should be elected to the PCC for annual terms.

Other related trusts:

Liverpool Blitz Memorial Fund – registered charity 1081035. There are four trustees, including the incumbent.

OLSN Educational Fund - registered charity 1068147, all members of the PCC are trustees, and applications are managed by the Church and World Action Group.

Sub-committees

The Standing Committee - the only committee required by law. It meets at least once in the interval between scheduled PCC meetings to implement PCC resolutions, to transact other business on behalf of the PCC and to set future agendas. Membership comprises the Rector, Churchwardens, Assistant Clergy, the Treasurer, Secretary and one other member of PCC.

The Investment Committee - meets bi-annually to advise the Treasurer and Council on Parish investments. Membership comprises the Investment Advisor, the Rector, at least one other member of PCC and/or the congregation (currently Nick Ledingham, John Mason, and Kelly Montana-Williams), Mr Andrew Lovelady (Chartered Accountant) and Mr Adrian Maxwell (Rathbones).

World Action Group – coordinates charitable giving through the Church and other activities such as Food Bank collections.

The Safeguarding Committee – conducts an annual review of our Safeguarding policies. The committee supports the incumbent and the Safeguarding coordinators in their work.

Financial Position at Year End

With the effects of the pandemic behind us, 2022 has brought new challenges with the Cost of Living Crisis and high energy bills. We have been diligent at identifying unnecessary energy usage (our gas consumption in church in December 2022 was 37% less than in December 2021), but we still experienced considerable increases in costs. Expenditure therefore rose by 9% against the previous year. Despite this, a modest surplus was still achieved illustrating a good level of financial resilience. Although the value of investments fluctuated considerably during the year following global and national turbulence at various points, the year end valuations showed only a modest decrease.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC (Powers) measure 1956 states the PCC “is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical”

Safeguarding

The PCC considers safeguarding at every meeting and reviews and re-adopts the Safeguarding Policy (for children and vulnerable adults) in September of each year. Members of the PCC are subject to a check from the Disclosure and Barring Service and a policy of Safer Recruiting is followed for all church appointments (paid and voluntary). The PCC has complied with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ guidance in relation to safeguarding and all PCC members have undertaken safeguarding training.

Our objectives for 2022 were:

Mission & worship

- The recovery from the pandemic will include:
 - ❖ The reintroduction of refreshments after acts of worship, and the development of new forms of congregational fellowship.
 - ❖ A return to some of the liturgical norms from before the pandemic (but not all of them)
 - ❖ Re-establishing a presence in the City during Lent.
- A number of art installations or similar projects are planned.
- Further embedding study and spirituality within our congregational life, including courses and quiet days.

Enhancement and development of church buildings

- The long-awaited floodlighting scheme should finally be delivered.
- Fundraising needs to begin for redevelopment of the lavatories.

Finance, Giving and Fundraising

- The Voluntary Rate can be re-established after a break during the pandemic.
- Clergy house to be purchased.
- A retrospective analysis of financial performance during the pandemic is required, and a re-evaluation of risk and reserves.

We responded to these objectives in the following ways:

Mission & worship

- This was a year of recovery from the pandemic and all objectives were met. Congregational life returned to pre-pandemic patterns both in fellowship after worship and also in additional events. This will continue in 2023, noting that at the end of the year we had a number of new regular worshippers. Most former practices were restored to the liturgy, but weekday Eucharists remain just on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- A number of art installations and public performances took place, including a lengthy installation in the spring in the Gardens on sustainable housing, and also the latest Liverpool Plinth sculpture. Further exhibitions included collaboration with the City Council over foster care. A number of concerts took place in the building.
- We had two Quiet Days during the year at St Beuno’s and other courses took place.

Enhancement and development of church buildings

- The floodlighting scheme was finally commissioned at the end of 2022.
- Grant funding was received through the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Trust to enable the development of a Garden of Reflection. By the end of the year planning permission had been received and work will take place in the spring.
- Fundraising is underway for the refurbishment of the lavatories.

Finance, Giving and Fundraising

- The war in Ukraine and the impact on markets meant that it was not prudent to re-start the Voluntary Rate this year.
- The purchase of a clergy house has been paused whilst the lease is terminated on one of the Walton Park Cemetery properties, which will then be sold. Funds remain designated for this purpose.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aspires to maintain reserves of a sum equivalent to approximately 3 months normal income and a cash flow reserve of £10,000. This amounts to a total of approximately £40,000. The cash flow reserve is currently in place and we hope to establish a larger unrestricted reserve over the course of the next few years to fund clergy housing.

Investment Policy

The main investments are managed by Investec Wealth & Investment Limited and overseen by the Investment Committee. The current *Investment Policy Statement* was adopted by the Parochial Church Council on 31st March 2016.

Plans for the future

In 2023 we have planned the following in addition to existing activities and projects:

Mission & worship

- Further development of congregational life will take place with a particular focus on getting to know the skills and gifts within the congregation.
- Outreach through the Lauda Project and the relationship with key partners needs developing. Work on homelessness projects is ongoing.
- We need to develop a corporate understanding of what we can offer to the LGBTQIA+ community in a context where the Church of England is not a trusted and safe space.

Enhancement and development of church buildings

- The Battle of the Atlantic Garden will be built.
- Further work is required to make our heating and lighting more efficient.
- The refurbishment of the lavatories will take place.

Finance, Giving and Fundraising

- The Voluntary Rate can be re-established as the economy stabilizes.
- The project to buy a Clergy house can resume when the Walton Park Cemetery property has been sold.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Activities of the Liverpool Blitz Memorial Trust (Charity 1081035)

The Liverpool Blitz Memorial Trust functions in relation (a) to the monument in the Church Garden which commemorates those from Liverpool and Bootle who lost their lives in the Blitz, and, (b) to advance the education of the public in the history of the (local) Blitz. The Trust's Report and Accounts are presented alongside those of the Parish Church, to which it closely relates, although it has maintained a separate identity to the PCC because of its specific original objective and its broader public education role.

The Trust had a busy year in 2022, including funding the re-gilding of the wording on the drum of the memorial through the maintenance agreement with the PCC, and the completion of the project in co-operation with the Museum of Liverpool to promote public education for residents and visitors. The Trustees worked with the MOL to commission and publish a printed "Remembering the Liverpool Blitz – walking trail" (8000 copies) of ten bomb-damaged sites in the city centre. Copies of the Trail have been made available at the Museum, the Parish Church, the Western Approaches visitor centre and other public information locations in the city centre. The Trail was complemented by seven MOL facilitated workshops, held at the Parish Church and the MOL, on personal experiences of the Blitz and its memories and effects on families and survivors.

In terms of finance, the Trust realised its investment fund holding during 2022 to make its contribution to the Museum's expenses and to extend its agreement with the PCC for the continuing maintenance of the memorial. It is proposed that the small amount still held in the Virgin Money account will be transferred to the PCC during 2023 as part of the maintenance agreement. This step will exhaust the Trust's funds. Being thus without assets or liabilities, the Trustees regard the Trust as having completed its charitable objectives. They thus propose to close the charity and apply to the Charity Commission to delete it from the Charity Register.

David Massey (Chairman)

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

The Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, Rector

Date 16 March 2023

Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Our Lady and St Nicholas, Liverpool on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022, as set out on pages 8 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
 - accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - the accounts do not accord with accounting records
- 2) I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Date: 27 April 2023

Susan Buckley FCA

SBA Accounting Limited
Gladstone House
2 Church Road
Liverpool
L15 9EG

Parochial Church Council of Our Lady and St Nicholas

Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Endowment Funds	2022 Total	2021 Unrestricted Funds	2021 Restricted Funds	2021 Endowment Funds	2021 Total
Incoming Resources									
Voluntary Income	2(a)	121,251	-	-	121,251	133,274	20,000	12,000	165,274
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	17,437	-	-	17,437	11,822	-	-	11,822
Investments	2(c)	9,219	-	-	9,219	10,840	-	-	10,480
Church Activities	2(d)	4,901	-	-	4,901	7,354	-	-	7,354
Other	2(e)	4,905	-	-	4,905	-	-	-	-
Sub Total		157,713	-	-	157,713	162,930	20,000	12,000	194,930
Resources Expended									
Church activities	3(a)	124,350	600	-	124,950	113,129	-	-	113,129
Costs of generating voluntary income	3(b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising trading costs	3(c)	245	-	-	245	356	-	-	356
Other costs	3(d)	24,174	7,000	-	31,174	29,953	-	-	29,953
Sub Total		148,769	7,600	-	156,369	143,438	-	-	143,438
Net Incoming Resources Before Other Recognised Gains & Losses									
Net Incoming Resources		8,944	(7,600)	-	1,344	19,492	20,000	12,000	51,492
Gains on investment assets									
On disposal	5(b)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	5(b)	9,717	-	-	9,717	10,911	-	-	10,911
On revaluation	5(b)	-	150	(61,710)	(61,560)	-	1,919	53,388	55,307
Gross transfer between funds		1,820	(1,820)	-	-				
Net Movement in Funds									
Movement		20,481	(9,270)	(61,710)	(50,499)	30,403	21,919	65,388	117,710
Balances at 1/1		190,434	35,794	603,496	829,724	160,031	13,875	538,108	712,014
Balances at 31/12		210,915	26,524	541,786	779,225	190,434	35,794	603,496	829,724

Parochial Church Council of Our Lady and St Nicholas
Balance Sheet
For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible	5(a)	38,024	35,484
Investment	5(b)	589,716	650,850
Sub Total		627,740	686,334
Current Assets			
Stock		-	-
Debtors	6	12,249	12,038
Cash at bank and in hand		144,177	149,121
Sub Total		156,426	161,159
Liabilities			
Creditors - amounts falling due < 1 year	7	4,941	17,769
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)			
Total assets less current liabilities		151,485	143,390
TOTAL NET ASSETS		779,225	829,724
Unrestricted*	8	210,915	190,434
Restricted		26,524	35,794
Endowment		541,786	603,496
TOTAL PARISH FUNDS		779,225	829,724

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16th March 2023.

The Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing
Chair of Parochial Church Council

Dr Jim Wrightson
Treasurer

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts

* Note – contained within this unrestricted balance is a sum of £80,000 which has been designated by the PCC as provision for payment towards the acquisition of a house for a stipendiary curate.

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2022

1 Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and with the Charities Act 2011.

2. Income

Recognition of income:	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The charity becomes entitled to the resources;- It is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and- The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Offsetting:	There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.
Grants and Donations:	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10-5.12 FRS 102 SORP). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP)
Legacies:	Legacies are included in the SoFA when receipt is probable, that is, when there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.
Tax reclaims:	Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.
Support costs:	The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.
Volunteer help:	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Interest, dividends etc.	Income from interest, royalties and dividends is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.
Investment gains/losses	This includes any realised or unrealised gains or losses on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

3. Expenditure and liabilities

Liability recognition:	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.
Creditors:	The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.
Financial instruments:	The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 10.7 FRS 102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS 102 SORP.

4. Assets

- Investments: Fixed asset investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued initially at cost and subsequently at fair value (their market value) at the year end. The same treatment is applied to unlisted investments unless fair value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment.
- Investments held for resale or pending their sale and cash and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than 1 year are treated as current asset investments.
- Debtors: Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.
- Funds: *Endowment funds* are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established.
- Restricted funds* represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific purpose or object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.
- Unrestricted funds* are general funds, which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.
- Fixed Assets: Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993.
- Moveable church furnishings* held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 15 years) on a straight-line basis.
- Equipment* used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years. All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £500 or on the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES								
	2022 Unrestricted Funds (£)	2022 Restricted Funds (£)	2022 Endowment Funds (£)	2022 Total £	2021 Unrestricted Funds (£)	2021 Restricted Funds (£)	2021 Endowment Funds (£)	2021 Total £
2(a) Voluntary Income								
Planned Giving	39,646	-	-	39,646	36,221	-	-	36,221
Tax recoverable	11,865	-	-	11,865	11,526	-	-	11,526
Other Gift Aid Donations	1,065	-	-	1,065	1,957	-	-	1,957
Collections	6,878	-	-	6,878	4,950	-	-	4,950
Grants	26,411	-	-	26,411	24,463	20,000	12,000	56,463
Donations, appeals	23,736	-	-	23,736	34,407	-	-	34,407
Legacies	11,650	-	-	11,650	19,750	-	-	19,750
Total	121,251	-	-	121,251	133,274	20,000	12,000	165,274
2(b) Activities for generating funds								
Fundraising non-church purposes	16,113	-	-	16,113	11,272	-	-	11,272
Fundraising – Misc	95	-	-	95	467	-	-	467
Catering	1,229	-	-	1,229	83	-	-	83
Total	17,437	-	-	17,437	11,822	-	-	11,822
2(c) Income from investments								
Dividends, interest & tax recoverable	439	-	-	439	1,780	-	-	1,780
Rent	8,780	-	-	8,780	8,700	-	-	8,700
Total	9,219	-	-	9,219	10,480	-	-	10,480
2(d) Income from Church Activities								
Parochial Fees retained by PCC	4,796	-	-	4,796	6,949	-	-	6,949
Sundry Income	105	-	-	105	405	-	-	405
Total	4,901	-	-	4,901	7,354	-	-	7,354
2(e) Other incoming resources								
Insurance claims/sale of fixed assets	4,905	-	-	4,905	-	-	-	-
Total	4,905	-	-	4,905	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	157,713	-	-	157,713	162,930	20,000	12,000	194,930

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	2022 Unrestricted Funds (£)	2022 Restricted Funds (£)	2022 Endowment Funds (£)	2022 Total £	2021 Unrestricted Funds (£)	2021 Restricted Funds (£)	2021 Endowment Funds (£)	2021 Total £
3(a) Church activities								
Mission & charitable giving								
Overseas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relief & development agencies	2,672	-	-	2,672	500	-	-	500
Home missions	803	-	-	803	-	-	-	-
Secular charities	1,520	-	-	1,520	955	-	-	955
Ministry								
Diocesan parish share	27,282	-	-	27,282	24,042	-	-	24,042
Clergy expenses	1,469	-	-	1,469	338	-	-	338
Parsonage	3,234	-	-	3,234	3,221	-	-	3,221
Assistant staff	11,182	-	-	11,182	6,854	-	-	6,854
Church running & maintenance								
Church running expenses	32,967	-	-	32,967	24,192	-	-	24,192
Church maintenance	4,465	600	-	5,065	19,077	-	-	19,077
Upkeep of services	13,188	-	-	13,188	10,940	-	-	10,940
Depreciation	7,351	-	-	7,351	7,811	-	-	7,811
Walton Park Cemetery	450	-	-	450	-	-	-	-
Parish centre								
Running costs	4,957	-	-	4,957	4,914	-	-	4,914
Other property upkeep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Major repairs / works	12,810	-	-	12,810	10,285	-	-	10,285
Total	124,350	600	-	124,950	113,129	-	-	113,129
3(b) Generation of voluntary income								
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3(c) Fundraising costs trading								
Fundraising costs	245	-	-	245	356	-	-	356
Investment management	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	245	-	-	245	356	-	-	356
3(d) Other resources expended								
Other	3,519	7,000	-	10,519	9,112	-	-	9,112
Support	20,655	-	-	20,655	20,841	-	-	20,841
Total	24,174	7,000	-	31,174	29,953	-	-	29,953
TOTAL EXPENDED	148,769	7,600	-	156,369	143,438	-	-	143,438

4. Staff Costs (Wages & Salaries)

Office Support, Cleaning, Security and Organist	£22,467
Tax & National insurance	432
Pensions	266

Total **£23,165**

The head count of employees during the year was 5 (all part-time) for office support, cleaning, security and organist.

All employees have had the opportunity to take annual leave to which they are entitled, so there is no financial provision needed for outstanding leave.

PCC members' expenses

During the year £1,028 was reimbursed to 4 PCC members for expenses they incurred on behalf of the Church

PCC members' donations

Trustees contributed a total of £6,260 to the charity during 2022.

5(a) FIXED ASSETS

Tangible (Unrestricted)		Freehold land & building £	Church equipment £	Total £
Actual / Deemed cost	As at 1/1	-	69,775	69,775
	Disposal	-	-	-
	Additions at cost	-	9,891	9,891
	As at 31/12	-	79,666	79,666
Depreciation	As at 1/1	-	34,291	34,291
	Withdrawn on disposals	-	-	-
	Charge for year	-	7,351	7,351
	As at 31/12	-	41,642	41,642
Net Book Value	As at 31/12	-	35,484	35,484

5(b) Investments

		2022 £	2021 £
GLADSTONE FUND	Historical cost	176,419	172,798
	Market value	188,954	209,894
HAMPSON AND SUNDRY BEQUESTS	Historical cost	255,561	255,920
	Market value	271,329	302,459
INVESTEC Income Account	Historical cost	41,026	31,309
	Market value	41,026	31,309
OLSN EDUCATIONAL FUND	Historical cost	19,902	19,902
	Market value	30,745	34,847
	Accrued Interest	6,528	6,033
L'POOL BLITZ MEM TRUST	Historical cost	-	6,250
	Market value	-	9,637
MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND (CBF)	Historical Cost	-	32,375
	Market Value	-	45,484
MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND (Investec)	Historical Cost	54,677	11,188
	Market Value	51,134	11,188
TOTALS	Historical cost	529,742	529,742
	Market value + Accrued Interest	589,716	650,851

The market value as at 31stDecember represents investments for:

	£
Unrestricted funds	41,026
Restricted funds	6,528
Endowment funds	542,162

The Gladstone Fund was established following the sale of 62 Rodney Street, Liverpool, the birthplace of W.E.Gladstone. The capital cannot be spent but up to 4/5 of the fund can be borrowed interest free towards the costs of a new Rectory. The income from the fund is available to the PCC without restriction and is currently accumulating in an Investec cash account.

The Hampson and Sundry Bequests is the new joint title for the fund which contains the legacy given under the will of John Henry Hampson as well as an earlier bequest (the James Cross Fund), to which has been added the formerly separate Sundry Endowments Fund. With the redesignation of the small unrestricted sums as endowment funds, the two funds were merged during 2020 and are now reported as a single entity.

The Our Lady & St Nicholas Educational Fund was established in 1998 with the proceeds of the sale of the former church school in Vauxhall. The income from this fund is to be used to assist the education of both the young people associated with the Church and/or live in the parish.

The Music Endowment Fund was formally established early in 2020, following a generous donation late in 2019 which was initially described as restricted. It is intended to support the provision of music in worship. Funds donated are invested as endowment but the income from this fund is available to the church as unrestricted to apply to musical purposes.

6. DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Tax recoverable	10,050	9,865
Other debtors	2,199	2,173
Total	12,249	12,038

7. LIABILITIES (Amounts falling due in one year)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Creditors	4,941	17,769
Total	4,941	17,769

8. FUNDS

	Balance at 1/1	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Fund Transfers	Investment gains/ (losses)	Balance at 31/12
Unrestricted fund movements						
Investec Dividends	31,309	-	-	-	9,717	41,026
Accumulated funds	159,125	157,713	148,769	1,820	-	169,889
Total	190,434	157,713	148,769	1,820	9,717	210,915
Restricted fund movements						
Blitz Memorial Fund	9,763	-	7,600	(1,320)	(843)	0
OLSN Educational Fund	6,033	-	-	(500)	995	6,528
Humby Trust (Gardens & Walton Park)	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000
Total	35,794	-	7,600	(1,820)	(152)	26,528

9. OTHER FEES

The following amounts have also been received and subsequently paid out but which are not included in the accounts for the year:

	£
Fees for weddings, funerals and special services (Verger, Organist, Choir, Bellringers, Soloists, Livestream)	12,590

Special Collections:	£
DEC Ukraine Appeal	1,242
Liverpool Seafarers' Centre (MN Day)	385
DEC Pakistan Appeal	180
KIND (HSBC Carols)	156
Community Foundation (Police Carols)	210
Community Foundation (Rathbones Carols)	365
Liverpool Seafarers' Centre (Maritime Carols)	274
Fire Service Charity (MFRS Carols)	93

Fabric Report

AA. QUINQUENNIAL SURVEY OF CHURCH.

Quinquennial Survey carried out in July 2019, next survey due July 2024.

BB. 5 YEARLY ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION REPORT.

Property Services Northwest in conducted a 5 yearly electrical installation and test report in December 2021. Next due date December 2026.

Ongoing repairs required by the report have been identified and two electrical firms asked for quotes based on a rolling repair project.

CC. GENERAL FABRIC OF THE CHURCH.

BOILER ROOM:

Defects in the old section of the central heating system to the Parish Centre. Pump is a single speed pump, valve actuator frozen in open position. Valve actuator disconnected leaving valve open. Surveys have been carried out to look at upgrading the central heating system, fitting of an optimiser, and replacing the Parish Centre defective valve and pump. Boiler Room dry and in good condition. Annual test of boilers and safety certification conducted by Halsall Heating in February 2023.

The cast iron access gate to the basement plantroom is corroding with the hinge in bad condition and gate difficult to open/close. Repairs, rustproofing and painting to be conducted when funds permit.

Suggest that wooden separation of boiler room entrance and old coal storage area be either removed/fitted with a door to allow for better storage area. Volunteers could conduct this work in summer 2023.

Boiler Safety Valves renewed in 2022. Next renewal due 2026.

Boiler Room Pressure vessels surveyed by Insurer's Surveyor, British Engineering Services, in 2022. Next survey due by August 2024.

CHURCHYARD:

Garden maintained in good order by City Council.

One tree planted in the churchyard in 2023 by the RNR Officer's Club, The Sea Urchins for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Two trees planted in 2022 by the Liverpool Society of Chartered Accountants as part of the Queen's Green Canopy Project.

Garden railings and gates.

One section of garden railing to the left of the Ma Boyles' Gate found vandalised 4th July. All sections and pieces of railing recovered by Contractors AE Farrell Contractors to carry out repairs. Repairs have not been carried out as of this date.

Gates and railings around churchyard will require scaling and painting in the future along with minor repairs. To be conducted as funds permit.

One car park bollard damaged during the year. Repairs carried out by AE Farrell Contractors in sum £538.80. £ 288.80 recovered from our Insurers with £250, our insurance excess, recovered from Third Party Insurers.

ELECTRICAL ROOM:

New Smart Meter fitted for electricity supply and new main fuses fitted to mains supply in

September 2020.

Decaying plaster removed back to bare brick where possible. Plaster previously very friable and dusty.

New circuit breakers fitted in Electrical Room for the new LED floodlights.

Spare LED and fluorescent tubes now stowed in the electrical room.

FLOODLIGHTS.

New floodlights fitted by Messrs AdLib, work completed September 2022. New floodlights are all LED units and controlled by a control panel in the rector's Office. Floodlights are computer controlled and any colours can be used to light up the church. As LED units a big cost saving on the old floodlights.

FLOWER ROOM.

In good order and condition. Flower room shelving updated with new shelving in November 2020.

GLADSTONE AND PEPYS FLATS:

Pepys flat redecorated completely in 2021. Both flats maintained in good order.

Annual testing and certification of central heating boilers in both flats conducted in February 2023 by Messrs. Halsall Heating.

GLAZING EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL:

In good order. When funds allow secondary double glazing to be considered for Parish / Rector's and Curate's Offices.

LIGHTING IN MAIN BODY OF THE CHURCH.

All fluorescent lights in main body of the church replaced with LED tubes in November 2023. Side aisle lights are now all LED lamps. The pendant lamps have not been replaced with LED units as little saving in costs. Pendant lamps reduced to 1 lamp in each unit to cut costs and provide in place spares as needed.

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS.

Blitz Memorial.

Blitz Memorial to be cleaned and re-waxed by volunteers in Summer 2023.

The blitz memorial trustees have given £500 to the church for maintenance of bronze statues in the churchyard. Maintenance will be programmed by building manager assisted by Ivan Woolfenden as sculpture maintenance coordinator/adviser.

Wording on blitz memorial repainted in gold Hammerite paint in 2023 as original gilding had completely faded.

Battle of the Atlantic Memorial.

Work should be completed on the new Battle of the Atlantic Memorial in late May 2023. All costs for the new memorial being covered by The Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Trust.

HMS Liverpool Memorial.

Now faded and needs either upgrading or replacing with replica, otherwise all memorials in good order.

Derbyshire / Atlantic Conveyor Memorials. In good order.

PARISH CENTRE:

First floor flooring, including Refectory Lobby and Curate's Lobby. Old, stained carpets

replaced with new washable flooring.

Refectory Kitchen and Refectory maintained in good order.

Alexandra Room and Alexandra Room Kitchen maintained in good order.

Gents and Ladies toilets displaying some minor salt migration through the plaster and paint surface, causing the paint to blister and peel off. This defect will be remedied when the toilet refurbishment is carried out.

Stairs to refectory above window looking out on to flat roof. Minor salt migration through the plaster and paint surface, causing the paint to blister and peel off. Repairs to be carried out concurrent with toilet refurbishment.

Toilets. Previous plans for the renewal of the toilets have been cancelled due to large increases in costs. Contractors AE Farrell Contractors have been tasked to provide a plan to refurbish all toilets with a budget limit of around £22,000.

Void space first floor. Void space cleared of all unwanted items during the year. Seven year's accounts stored in void space, each year in individual boxes.

PATHS AND BOUNDARY WALLS:

Paths within the immediate boundary of the listed church are stone flagstones, which are in moderately good condition. The boundary walls are showing some signs of vegetation growth in between bedding joints. These have been carefully removed to retain sound mortars. Walls will be monitored for any resurgence of vegetation in the pointing.

ROOF:

In good condition but we still have a small leak above the Sanctuary which the church has been trying to trace and repair for many years. Leak only occurs with specific wind direction and heavy rain. Leak being continuously monitored. A number of cracked and broken tile on the main roof have been observed. A roof survey is to be carried out in April/May.

Smartwater will be applied to copper sheathing on South and North Side rooves in 2023, next due 2026.

Solar panels. Building Manager researching the cost of fitting solar panels on the South Side roof to reduce electricity costs.

STONEMWORK:

External wall faces are all in good condition, with only a few areas showing some lamination and descaling due to the strong mortar in use in joints adjacent to the ashlar face. Wall fixings are being damaged by ferrous window grille fixings on the north side of the external wall, where it was also noted that the sandstone faces are eroding due to a strong mortar in use.

Loose stonework noted at entrance to church tower. Repair work in hand with our contractors AE Farrell Contractors.

TOWER:

Tower, with exception Lantern Tower, including Ringing Room and Clock Room in good condition.

Bell Chamber. Sections of bird proof netting in Bell Chamber noted broken and missing. No sign of any bird's nest or bird occupation. Bell Chamber will be monitored for any bird infestation.

Lantern Tower. Pointing noted failed in a number of places. Samples of old pointing taken to

investigate failure of pointing. Quotes to be obtained for repointing of the Lantern Tower in 2023.

Clock re-set mechanism replaced with a modern Auto-Restart Unit in October 2021. The new unit is completely automatic, in good order, and does not require any manual change for BST / GMT.

In the clock room three clock faces have been fitted with new, internal LED lighting illumination.

SACRISTY.

Sacristy Flooring. Dry and wet rot found in the underfloor timbers. Repairs carried out July 2022 by AE Farrell Contracting in sum £ 4,112.40. Repairs claimed under our insurance and £ 3,862.40 recovered plus VAT £ 685.40 recovered.

Outer wall above central heating radiator. Salt migration through the plaster and paint surface, causing the paint to blister and peel off. Repairs to be carried out as funds allow.

Room above Sacristy.

This has been checked and found to contain large numbers of books from both St Nicks and St Peter's, Church Street. Future plans are to clean up the room and books which are covered with soot at present. Possibility that an antiquarian book seller may want to purchase the books.

This room has not been used since the church was rebuilt. Should we consider bringing the room back in use as we are very short of storage space? The new vestment cupboards are a problem in accessing the space. We could have a spiral staircase in the corner and refurbish the room. Looking on Dolle Staircases website cost would be around £2,500 including fitting. Would also need lighting and electrical circuits fitting in room.

Wi-Fi AND INTERNET.

In good order and condition. Wi-Fi and Internet upgrade conducted in May 2021.

DD. SERVICE WORK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Church clock operating mechanism.

Maintained annually by Smiths of derby. Next annual inspection due September 2024.

Churchyard Gulleys and Pit.

Gulleys and pit outside Parish Centre. Contractors Steve Counce Ltd have a contract for three visits a year to keep gulleys and pit clear.

Lift:

Six Service Visits conducted by Messrs AI Lifts throughout the year. Elevator in good order. Elevator surveyed by Insurers Surveyors, British Engineering Group, during the year. Suggestion from contractor AI Lifts .Fit a "Memcom" auto dialler which is an elevator emergency phone system providing trapped passengers with an easy, high quality, reliable hands-free connection to call for help in the event of an emergency. A BT telephone would also be needed for the operation of the unit. AI lifts quote £825.00 + vat. Action – none present as not considered necessary. Left on list as a "nice to have item" but only when funds would allow

Electrical.

A number of small repairs conducted to lighting during the year. Where ever possible

renewal of lights to be with LED fittings.

Emergency lights tested monthly at church by church staff and quarterly by Messrs Atlas Fire and Security. A number of emergency lights were replaced following failure of the 1 hour emergency light test. All new replacement emergency lights are LED units.

Fire Alarm System:

Serviced regularly throughout the year by Atlas Fire and Security. Monthly checks carried out by church staff.

Fire Fighting Apparatus:

Serviced annually by Celtic Fire and Security. Monthly checks carried out by church staff.

Hygiene Services.

Sanitary Services carried out by Messrs PHS during the year.

Lightning Conductor System

Surveyed and passed by PTSG Electrical Services Limited in 2020. Insurers have now advised that Lightning Conductor Surveys are now only required every 4 years next survey due September 2024.

PAT Testing:

Carried out in November 2020 by Wirral PAT Ltd. Insurers have advised that PAT is now only required every 2 years. Next PAT testing to be carried out in November 2024.

Peter Woods
Buildings Manager

Churchwarden Reflection

The 2022/23 church year has seen St Nicks living up to her strategy of being a very active and visible Ministry at the centre of the City's life. The year has been quite representative of the average of 500 Acts of Worship in various forms which take place yearly in St Nicks for various groups and activities, including weddings, baptisms, funerals, Annual Merchant Navy Day, Civic/Military services etc. My top mark for this year goes to the service we held in June for the "Blessing of the Grapes" for the Liverpool Bordeaux Wine Festival, which was concluded with a very merry brunch at the historic Martins Bank.

At the other end of the spectrum however, in September when Her Majesty the Queen's death was announced, St Nicks provided a place of quiet reflection and prayer for many members of the city community who came to mourn and sign our Book of Condolence. Our bells rang fully muffled for the first time in 70 years and we had a congregation of 144 in attendance at the Requiem Eucharist. Also, the first proclamation in Merseyside, of the ascension of His Majesty King Charles the third, was made at St Nicks by the Lord Lieutenant in a service that was attended by the High Sheriff and numerous other civic dignitaries.

During Advent, we hosted 17 Carol services and our equally intensive Lent program this year culminated in 11 different services/gatherings during the Holy Week. The church

remains open daily to the public and serves as an oasis of quiet amid the busy city around us.

During this church year, we have fully embraced the gradual return to post-pandemic normalcy. We have made the Chalice available again at Eucharist and we held two House Eucharist evenings as part of our Lent program. All parishioners have welcomed our full return to having refreshments in the Narthex after Sunday service. In the Summer of 2022, we enjoyed a Parish Lunch in honour of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We also had a post-ordination Afternoon Tea for our new Assistant Curate, Jenny as well as a fundraising event for a cancer Charity. In response to the Warm Church initiative to help with increased fuel prices, we re-introduced coffee mornings which have been well attended.

The church has continued to be involved in various local and City-wide Art initiatives and exhibitions such as competition for the Chapel Street Plinth, Poetry evenings, birds in cages with birdsongs harmonising with church hymns, as well as the "World Re-Imagined" project featuring two giant globes installed in church as part of a City-wide trail. We hosted the very successful "Liverpool Loves You" event and plans are afoot for a Peace and Prayer vigil to be held during the forthcoming Eurovision Song Contests.

A children's corner has been established in the church to enable the children to participate in the service on non-Sunday school Sundays. This has proved to be popular and well appreciated by our rapidly increasing number of families with young children.

Our spiritual refreshment has not been neglected in this last year. In addition to Gospel Study Groups via zoom, we had a Retreat Day at the St Bueno's Jesuit monastery in Wales during Advent and a Spiritual Quiet Day in-house, for Lent. These were very well received and appreciated by all who attended.

We have continued to fulfil our obligation of being our brother's keeper locally and internationally, through the work of the Church and World Action/ Eco Church Group. This year, support was given to Holy Cross School in our Parish, Asylum Link, and the Ukrainian Families Appeal. The branded Eco-friendly cups are being used by quite a sizeable portion of the parishioners and more people are using the scan code to download the service sheet to their phones, helping us to reduce the number of paper printed copies. We continue to collect food donations in the church and at designated points in the surrounding City residences, for the Micah Food Bank.

In closing, I have now served as Churchwarden at St Nicks since 2019 - three years after I first walked into the church. It has been a great honour, privilege and a wonderful growth experience for me. I will be stepping down from this role at this year's APCM.

I would like to express my very sincere thanks to my co-Wardens, Deputy Wardens - including the Rector's boys; all the parishioners on the various rotas for refreshments, sides persons, reading/intersession (many of whom we have often pounced on, with little or no notice, for cover at various times of urgent need); the Sacristan and his team of altar servers; the Organist and Cantors; the Flower Team; the Buildings Manager; PCC members and the office staff. These constitute a vital pool of workers without whom it would be absolutely impossible to deliver the "Back-Office" support required for the very busy life at St Nicks Church.

Finally, I would like to thank the Rector and his efficient Ministry Team, for all their guidance and spiritual support, individually and collectively.

Thank you all. It has been a great pleasure to serve in your midst.

Mrs Eva Cookey

Deanery Synod Report

OLSN now has three Synod representatives, Emily Ridgway, Victoria Inyang-Talbot and Stephen Derringer. We have continued to meet throughout 2022/23 and have discussed various issues as well as keeping up to date with the goings-on of other parishes in the deanery.

It has been very encouraging to hear all about the growth within our deanery and how congregations are coming out of the post covid world, managing the many changes that have come their way remarkably. OLSN continues to provide positive updates on what we are up to in church, from the many carol services held throughout Advent, the presence we continue to have within the civic community to the safe space we give to AA and GA on a weekly basis.

Finances are always a much-talked item on agendas, but as has been the case for a number of years now, Liverpool North are a fully paid up deanery. We have paid our parish share in full despite the set-backs parishes have seen over the last few years. Our deanery, geographically, is placed in areas of massive social deprivation so it is testament to all of our congregations that we are able to financially contribute to the best of our abilities.

Our last meeting before APCMs are held, was our last in the current format. It has been agreed, with much consultation over the past few months, that Liverpool North and Walton deaneries will merge to become one deanery. It has been received as a positive step for everyone and one that will see many opportunities arise. A proper leadership structure will be put in place as well as further support for the Area Dean (Fr Bill).

It will be an exciting year ahead as we begin to work with our new parishes and friends, doing our best to live out our gospel callings and serving Jesus as best we can.

Emily Ridgway, Victoria Inyang-Talbot and Stephen Derringer

Sunday School Report

Over the last 12 months our Sunday School community has continued to thrive and offered a safe space to children coming to church on a weekly basis. We have a core group of families who regularly attend with visitors dropping in every now and then. The age range is generally from 3 – 10 years old. We have seen an increase in baptism and wedding families staying which has been very encouraging and the space at the back of church for toddlers and younger children has really helped us seem more welcoming.

Once a month, the older children use the space as well so that they are used to being part of the service and the leaders can join in worship with the rest of the congregation. This has worked well and has allowed the children to take part in different aspects of church life on a Sunday, such as helping with collections and taking the elements to the altar during the offertory hymn.

Sunday School leaders have planned weekly sessions based on the readings and themes of the 10am service. We have done a wide range of activities from planting Spring bulbs in the gardens, creating Nativity scenes and taking part in an Eco class led by Becky Selman. We have done all this whilst still being Jesus centred. The children feel a sense of belonging to church and are comfortable in their surroundings, they ask many questions and are always fully engaged in what they are there to learn about. They have been involved in other projects around church as well, creating their own display of Ukrainian pyansky (still a work in progress!) and helping out on Holy Saturday with building the Easter garden and flowers. Going forward, we have asked for more volunteers and support to help with taking sessions to allow the Sunday School to continue weekly. There is a lot of commitment needed from our leaders and at times it can be difficult to navigate with life in general. Taking breaks in the school holidays works well and gives those leading a chance to re-engage with the main Sunday congregation.

Considering the increased numbers of babies and pre-school children who have joined the congregation more recently, it may well be worth thinking of how we can develop the Sunday School to run two sessions, a pre-school and primary age group to ensure the lesson is catered to the age of the child. This will only be able to develop with the support of other parents to help lead the group for the younger age. It's of great importance to continue what was set up a few years ago for the new families now attending. Over the past few years, it has been fantastic to see the older children develop and build on their faith through fun activities and learn, play and form great friendships together.

Three of the older children have now taken their first Communion, with some of them now serving during the 10am service. I will be working with the Rector to find other ways of our children being involved in services, be it reading the lessons or taking part in the intercessions.

Working with our children and developing their faith is a real privilege and joy. They are a really enthusiastic group of young people, and the church is very lucky to have a future with them.

Emily Ridgway

Flower Team Report

It's been a busy year for the flower team in regards to normal parish services, civic services such as the Queen's Jubilee, the Queen's death and the vast amount of weddings. We have another busy year of arranging for 2023 with the wedding season fast approaching as well as the church's high days and holy days and again a number of civic services which we are planning on making the church look fantastic.

We have managed to recruit another flower fairy to the team taking us to 8 volunteers who freely give up their time to which I am forever grateful, The team is as follows;

Myself
Sarah Wrightson
Pat Shaw
Mary Brady
Daphne Amlot
Anita Derringer
Evy McKay
Sheila Edge

This year we made a slight difference to the way in which we have done some of the floral displays for Christmas and Easter and have received some lovely feedback from members of the congregation which is always nice to hear.

The price of flowers continues to rise, meaning we will be limited to the floral displays of fresh flowers we will be able to produce, but we are, as always, grateful for all donations made to the flower fund.

Sarah Doyle

Safeguarding Report

We completed our yearly review of the Safeguarding policy in September, which was duly adopted by the PCC. This is available on our website and a hard copy is displayed on the Safeguarding noticeboard in the Narthex. All information and links about Safeguarding are also on the website and/or noticeboard.

All members of PCC and other Church Officers eg Sacristan, Sunday School leaders, Bell Tower representative who may come into contact with children or vulnerable adults have a DBS. The majority have already undertaken Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training , provided by the Diocese. This year training in issues raised by Domestic Abuse has also been carried out.

Sarah Wrightson
Safeguarding Officer

World Action Report

In May 2023 it was agreed that the Eco Church Working Party would combine with the Church World Action group to create a new World Action Group, comprising Guy Barker, Eva Cooney, Michelle Montrose, Becky Selman and Sarah Wrightson.

We continue to make good progress with regards to raising environmental awareness at OLSN and generally improving our eco credentials. Where eco matters are concerned we

have achieved the following in the 2022-23 year:

- A small minority of the congregation are now regularly accessing the service sheet via their devices, allowing us to reduce our paper usage.
- We have a rota of volunteers who take home the office recyclable office waste to add to their domestic recycling
- Two composters have been placed in the church gardens and the composting process is beginning with the church flowers and coffee grounds being placed in there
- Once again the congregation were invited to participate in a Carbon Challenge in Lent 2023; the Sunday School were also involved this year, and Becky led a Sunday School meeting on the Climate Emergency at the beginning of Lent.
- We have identified cleaning products in more eco-conscious packaging which are available from the church supplier, Wray Brothers.
- We are now well on our way to an Eco Church Silver Award.

Donations were made to Asylum Link Merseyside (£750), Shelterbox (£750) and YMCA (£500) in January. We have asked these organisations to keep in touch with us regarding any fundraising plans they have for this year, and have contacted YMCA , as a new charity for us this year, to discuss mutually convenient dates. Having taken responsibility for distribution of monies from the Educational Fund, financial help continues to be provided to Holy Cross School.

Guy Barker