



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the Year ended 31 December 2018

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

The trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas', Marston (the members of the PCC) present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Incumbent

The Revd Elizabeth (Skye) Denno

Charitable Status

All Parochial Church Councils in the Church of England are recognized as charities by the Charity Commission; PCCs such as ours, with a gross income over £100,000, are required to register with the Commission. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity.

Registered Charity Number 1138507

Legal Name of the Charity

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas Marston

Working Names of the Charity St Nicholas' PCC
PCC (of) St Nicholas, Marston

Address of the Charity

The Vicarage, Elsfeld Road, Marston Oxford OX3 0PR

Independent Examiner

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straws Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 0DL

Bankers

Barclays Bank, 105 London Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 9AH

Officers

Incumbent (Vicar)	Revd Skye Denno
Curate	Revd Andy Gosler (from 30 Jun 2018)
Assistant Priest	Revd Stephanie Bullock
Licensed Lay Ministers	David Blair David Cranston Joel Denno Ben Knighton
Churchwardens	Eileen Palayiwa James Lawrie
Chair of the PCC	Skye Denno
PCC Secretary	Amanda Jeffries (to 29 Apr 2018) Alison Edwards (from 10 May 2018)
PCC Treasurer	Geoff Hale

Representatives on Cowley Deanery Synod

Revd Skye Denno
Terry Cudbird (to 29 Apr 2018)
Jane Campbell (from 29 Apr 2018)
Maureen Davis
Millius Palayiwa

The clergy are members of Deanery Synod *ex officio*; the other three members are elected to serve until May 2020.

Members of the PCC

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, members of the PCC are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ('the annual meeting'), are co-opted by the PCC, or are members of the PCC *ex officio*.

The following served as members of the PCC during the calendar year 2018:

David Black	Skye Denno	James Lawrie
David Bullock	Andy Gosler (from 9 Jul)	Eileen Palayiwa
Jane Burd	Geoff Hale	Millius Palayiwa
Terry Cudbird (to 29 Apr)	Colin Harris	Judith Piggott (from 29 Apr)
Jane Campbell (from 29 Apr)	Amanda Jeffries (to 29 Apr)	Meriel Pipkin (to 29 Apr)
Maureen Davis		Sally Richards

Elected PCC members serve for three-year terms. The current terms of office of the elected PCC members are as follows:

Serving until 2019	Serving until 2020	Serving until 2021
David Black	Jane Burd Geoff Hale Sally Richards	David Bullock Jane Campbell Colin Harris Judith Piggott

Objectives and Governance

The parish of St Nicholas, Marston, is one of the parishes in the Deanery of Cowley, within the Diocese of Oxford. It shares a joint benefice with the separate parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield.

The Parochial Church Council ('the PCC') is governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure (1956) as amended, and by the current version (2011) of the Church Representation Rules. Its responsibilities include that of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Nicholas'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and specifically the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge of and trust in Jesus Christ.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

Missionary activity and outreach work.

Facilitating this work depends on the voluntary work of many people, and the PCC very much appreciates their service to the church and to the local community.

The incumbent receives a stipend paid by the Diocese. The curate is unpaid.

No other trustees are paid for their services.

A connected charity is Marston Church Properties Ltd ('MCP'), which is both a registered charity, no. 1085739, and a company limited by guarantee. Four of the five directors of MCP are members of the PCC, and the Vicar is the chair of the company by virtue of her incumbency.

Vicar's Report

As I reflect back on 2018, I realise what a fantastic and exciting year we have had together. This year has gone fast but if there was one word that I could use to sum it up, that word would be 'courageous'. I think, as I started my second year in ministry here, I was aware that we would have to be courageous in starting and developing new services and events. There has been a demonstration of courage in getting to know each other and in you learning to trust me as your vicar. It certainly was courageous to hold a parish weekend away only 11 months after starting! A questionnaire went out in the summer and it highlighted a yearning for more social action, community involvement and confidence to share our faith with others. The results of the questionnaire will lead to a series of talks - 'Courageous Conversations' -in the new year.

As is the case every year there are many people who I must thank for the very substantial contribution they make to the continuing life of this church. In some ways it is unfair to single some out at the expense of others, but I want to thank all those who sustain our week by week worship, our organist Neil and our choirs. Thanks too to our flower team who make the church look so amazing at various times through the year.

My thanks to the Lay Readers, for the contributions they make preaching and leading services, and to those who help with welcoming every Sunday. Special thanks to Jan who somehow manages to fit in everyone's requests on the pew sheet and is so gracious when we moan. To those in our community who clean the church and make it sparkle, especially Brian, who I often bump into, still clutching a Hoover or duster, when I lock up at night. And to those who cut the grass, clear the weeds, and provide delicious cakes after coffee - we thank you.

I am always amazed at our gift as a church for hospitality - you really do make people feel welcomed, we are inclusive and caring. So, a thank you to all those who help with the pastoral care, whether through the prayer support groups, as a helper at Coffee Pot, or more informally, through caring for your next-door neighbour.

As a church we are committed to realising potential and encouraging spiritual gifts. The work with children and young people is a vital part of us being church together. God calls all into service and our age should never be a barrier. As we hope to train new servers, acolyte carriers, sound engineers and group leaders, we look to our young people who already fulfil some of these roles to encourage others. Young people could this be you?

Under Gill's care Junior Church continues to provide great bible activities and crafts, although the number of children attending each week is diminishing. As a church we need to look together at why the numbers of young families attending is so few.

Pulse continues to be a highlight most months for me, and for the rest of the team, as our young people have great wisdom to share. I know a highlight in 2018 was the parish weekend away where a few of us adults braved camping out with the young people in Murcott.

There are many moments when I catch myself sitting in silence feeling incredibly grateful to God for calling us here. But there are moments when it seems overwhelming and in those times I am grateful to the church wardens and deputies who see me through and help me to delegate. Thank you Eileen, James, Judith and Jane for the gifts you bring by being you. James will be stepping down as church warden this coming year, although he will remain on the PCC, and I know we are all grateful for his commitment to the church and the time he has given us as CW. Thank you PCC members for being active members that care about the church and want to give input. I love the fact you keep me on my toes and encourage me (often) to pull out my 'Practical Church management' book. Thank you to Geoff for keeping a careful and wise eye on our finances and for Alison who joined the team in March as Parish administrator - you are part of the family.

Perhaps one of my biggest 'thank you's goes to my fantastic clergy colleague Stephanie Bullock, whose support and ongoing ministry here has been vital in helping me to finish my studies and to provide me with an occasional rest. Last summer we welcomed Andy Gosler as our Curate, and I'd like to thank Andy for the time he has given to getting to know all of you. It is a huge blessing to have Andy serving here in Marston and Elsfield, bringing ideas and approaches from other contexts in which he has worked.

As we look forward to this coming year we ask God for guidance and wisdom.

As we have started to embrace what a Courageous church looks like I pray we will carry on this journey by looking at our response to homelessness and loneliness within the community, and how we can work together with other agencies on tackling environmental concerns. Our project to install new wiring and heating in the church will certainly be courageous as we look to fund raise. This coming year we hope to begin to embrace what a 'contemplative' church looks like through prayer and reading our Bibles more. I will be encouraging all the congregation to belong to midweek home group.

Jesus once said that the Kingdom of God is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in joy goes and sells everything to buy that field. If we have similarly discovered that treasure in Jesus Christ, the implication is that we too will go away to joyfully and radically realign our lives in order that we may possess a treasure which no one can take from us. Let us pray that Jesus becomes our King both now and for ever, and that our church will, now and in the future, speak powerfully of His Kingdom.

Curate's Report

Having been ordained Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral on 30 June 2018, Revd. Dr Andrew (Andy) Gosler was installed as Assistant Curate in Training in the Benefice of Marston and Elsfield the next day. Using a large seven-lamp menorah, which now resides in the vestry at St Nicholas Church, Marston, he gave a short talk in the all-age service on 1 July, on the symbolism of the seven days of creation, represented in the tree of life and the seven branches of the menorah.

He has preached regularly since then, and been involved in numerous services either as Deacon or leading worship, including weekly Morning Prayer, and has been involved in many aspects of church life from PCC to leading a bird walk. As an Associate Minister, Andy combines his ministry in the Benefice with a ministry within Oxford University where he is also Associate Professor in Applied Ethnobiology and Conservation.

When asked to explain how he combines ministry in the parishes and in secular employment he said “the turning point came for me when I realised that if I wanted people to love birds as much as they love people, I had to learn to love people as much as I love birds - that’s not difficult when people are as lovely as at St Nick’s and St Thomas’s”.

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates with the aid of a number of committees and working groups, which meet between meetings of the full PCC and report to it as appropriate. Participation in the working groups is open to all church members. During 2018 the following groups met:

Standing Committee: Chaired by the Vicar. This committee is elected annually, as required by law, and comprises the Vicar, churchwardens, treasurer and such other members as the PCC agrees. It exists to conduct essential business between full meetings of the PCC, reporting to it as appropriate.

Worship Planning: Convened by the Vicar. This group meets monthly to plan All Age Worship services.

Various subcommittees discussed and made recommendations to the PCC on the following subjects.

Welcome and Pastoral Care: Convened by Sally Richards
The committee has kept the Support Network and the Welcome team under review and made adjustments as needed. Coffee Pot and the Monday Get Together continue to provide a useful function. Maureen Davis has taken over from Sally Richards as Committee Chair.

Worship and Faith: Convened by David Bullock
The committee met every two months. It has been a full year with the Love Marston Love Life event, a Prayer Walk, Taizé service on the fifth Sunday of the month, commencement of the regular Thursday Quiet Hour and a Quiet Day on 24 November lead by the Rev Dr Margaret Whipp at Elsfeld Church. The Committee is planning various workshops for the coming year including a study session on the Seder Meal and a training session for intercession writers and readers.

Mission and Hospitality: Convened by Geoff Hale
The committee met irregularly to help organise a few events, most notably a parish weekend away at Murcott house (by kind invitation of Brian and Sue

North). We had a lot of fun with varied worship, workshops and exploration of the diocesan theme "Courageous church". A post-Christmas dinner was arranged at the Victoria Arms and plans were made for a number of new events in 2019.

Social Justice: Convened by Joel Denno

The committee carried out a survey of the congregation with the aim of identifying areas of social justice in which the church is already working and areas which we can begin to explore. The data from this survey has yet to be analysed, but this analysis is something that we aim to work on in the immediate future. We have also been involved in some of the conversations regarding forthcoming building work on the church, particularly with regard to how we decide to heat and illuminate the church building for the best price but also in line with diocesan advice on the environment. As well as this, we organised for a speaker to come for fairtrade fortnight and this is an area that we will perhaps seek to focus more attention next year.

Communications: Convened by Colin Harris

The Marston Times has continued to be edited by Jan Lawrie. The editorial team now comprises JL, Jennie Burrow, Judith Piggott, Colin Harris and Anna North, with the Vicar attending whenever possible, meeting every month the week before it is finalised and sent for printing.

Colin Harris remains the co-ordinator for the MT subscriptions and for the team of local hand-deliverers.

The number of subscribers has decreased slightly, but including those who receive the MT by post we ended the year with about 600 subscriptions. A free copy of the December issue was given to every household in the parish, providing details of the Christmas services as well as an invitation/reminder to subscribe for the coming year.

Early in 2018 we moved from printing the MT ourselves to using the online publisher, Solopress, which not only freed us from the onus of printing, but reduced costs and yet with better-quality paper facilitating the inclusion of apposite colour images. The cost per issue has thus remained at 30p.

Churches Together

St Nicholas is a member of Churches Together in Marston and Northway (CTMN) which also includes St Anthony of Padua (Roman Catholic), St Michael and All Angels, New Marston (Church of England), Marston United Reformed Church, Northway Evangelical Church, Rivers of Life, and St Nicholas the Wonderworker Russian Orthodox Church. Our representatives are Skye Denno and Geoff Hale. During 2018 we participated in various joint events, including a joint New Year service, a week of prayer for Christian Unity, Women's world day of prayer, a joint Good Friday service, monthly ecumenical quiet days, Lent and Advent study groups and trips to Prom Praise and Christmas Praise. A highlight of the year was "Love Marston, Love Life", an ecumenical community event with music, spoken word, fun, and stalls which took place at the Mortimer recreation ground.

Review of the Year

Church attendance

The revised roll presented at the annual meeting contained 129 names (2017: 129), of whom 49 were non-resident (2017: 51).

Attendance at Sunday services, based on attendance during October (a representative month chosen by the Church of England for monitoring purposes) was as follows:

Attendance at Sunday Services in October 2018

	8 am		10 am		6 pm		Total
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	
October 7	9	0	80	20	20	0	129
October 14	8	0	120	22	23	0	173
October 21	6	0	65	[10]	[20]	[6]	[112]
October 28	11	0	71	10	80	0	172
Average	9	0	84	17	36	2	147

[] estimated

Comparison with Sunday Services in October 2017

	8 am		10 am		6 pm		Total
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	
October 1	4	0	82	12	19	0	117
October 8	8	0	43	10	35	2	98
October 15	9	0	75	16	40	11	151
October 22	11	0	63	10	20	0	104
October 29	9	0	75	15	60	2	161
Average	8	0	68	13	35	3	126

The attendance at 10 am on 7 October was affected by the Oxford Half Marathon, whose route was through the village as in 2017. The road was closed for four hours, and in consequence members of the congregation dependent on a car to get to church were unable to attend. While the event was exciting to watch or to take part in, the PCC took the view that there may be scope for further representation to the authorities when it comes to planning the route for 2019.

The harvest festival service at 10 am on 14 October and Remembrance service at 6 pm on 29 October were well attended.

Statistics for occasional offices: baptisms, weddings, and funerals

<i>Baptisms.</i>	There were 3 baptisms of infants (2017: 3)
<i>Confirmations.</i>	There were 4 confirmations (2017:0)
<i>Weddings.</i>	There were 4 weddings. (2017:8)
<i>Funerals.</i>	The clergy conducted 13 funeral services. (2017:18)

Worship

As a worshipping community, corporate worship is important to us growing closer to God and to one another. We aim to be an inclusive church and provide a safe and friendly space for people of all ages and with differing tastes in worship, music and churchmanship. Because of this we offer a variety of styles of worship with the aim of providing a diversity that matches the diversity of our community.

We do not prioritize one service over another, recognizing that different people may attend each of our three services on a Sunday: 8 am traditional communion said according to the Book of Common Prayer, 10 am sung Parish Communion according to Common Worship and 6 pm Evensong.

On the first Sunday of the month there is an All-Age service in place of Parish Communion, where we encourage people of all ages to help lead and participate; this is often followed by a bring-and-share lunch in the parish hall.

The first evening service of the month is a Healing Service with anointing and the laying of hands, this service typically includes Communion.

At 6 pm on the third Sunday of the month in the Parish Hall we have Eat, Pray, Love which offers a more contemporary style of worship which involves sharing a meal and hearing a testimony.

At all our services an effort is made to welcome those who are new. Enjoying a cup of tea and homemade cake after the service in the Parish hall, or in the vestry, can be part of our worship together.

When there are five Sundays in a month, the last evening service is in the Taizé style. From time to time we enjoy a Quiet Days of contemplation and some attend the monthly ecumenical quiet days.

During the week there is Morning Prayer at 9 am on Monday, Tuesday and Friday at Marston and on Thursday at Elsfeld. On Thursday afternoon is a shared time of quiet. At 9:30 am on Wednesday there is a short Eucharist service which attracts 12 to 14 people. The service is followed with coffee and cake in the vestry.

Ministry team

The team is led by Revd Skye Denno, assisted by Revd Stephanie Bullock (assistant priest), and since 1 July, by Revd Andy Gosler (curate).

Preaching is shared with licensed lay ministers David Blair, David Cranston, Ben Knighton and Joel Denno and authorized preacher Geoff Hale. Neil Barker continued to serve as Director of Music, Organist and Choir Master and to lead our informal evening services, as well as going forward for training as an LLM.

Gill Hale continues to coordinate the Junior Church and other children's activities.

In March 2018, Alison Edwards was appointed as Parish Administrator.

Placement Students

Over the summer of 2018 we were delighted to welcome Ali Angus from Ripon College. Ali took part in the daily and weekly liturgical life of the church, including preaching, reading, and praying intercessions. She was a great help at the annual Holiday Club. Since September, Sarah du Boulay and Sophie Troczynska from Ripon College have been worshipping and taking part in our Sunday services.

Elsfield

We continue to enjoy a growing and flourishing relationship with the Elsfield Parish and St Thomas of Canterbury. Highlights this past year have been Candlemas, Christingle, the Remembrance Day service, Maundy Thursday, Compline during Lent and the popular Songs of Praise in the summer. Along with the services we have enjoyed the movement between congregations, attending Christmas Markets, concerts and suppers at Elsfield. Supporting the Stonework project for Elsfield continues to be vital for next year and is supported by those who can help.

Music

It has been another wonderful year of music and worship at St Nicholas' Church. The choirs have continued to provide musical support at different services and, enjoyed singing evensong in April at St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield.

In January we joined with other choirs for the annual RSCM Epiphany service at Christ Church Cathedral. In May some of us enjoyed singing different sections of choral evensong in a number of Oxford chapel colleges organised by RSCM Oxford and then we joined with other churches in Marston to provide music for the Love Marston, Love Life event in Mortimer Hall Park. We hosted the RSCM Bronze and Silver Award examinations in June because we had such a large number of choristers taking them. In October a good contingent of us sang at the RSCM Oxfordshire Choir Festival in Banbury. We supported a November confirmation service at St Nicholas and later in the same month we, also, led a

special celebration evening service for the work of the Royal Schools of Church Music. During the year we have provided music for a number of weddings.

The Youth and Junior Choirs continue to attend different training events and many of the choristers have progressed to the next level of the RSCM Voice for Life scheme. They sang at a wedding in July and this year for the first time, two of our choristers attained the RSCM Gold Award. Once again, we appreciated the support of Old Marston Parish Council with a grant of £300 towards training for our young choristers.

Our monthly Eat, Pray, Love evening service continues to develop. This is supported by a small group of musicians and singers. A larger group of musicians and singers support the monthly Sunday morning All-age Service. The year ended again with the big choir event of the Nine Lessons and Carols service, when the beautifully decorated church had a large congregation appreciating this special opportunity to reflect on the Christmas message.

Neil Barker, director of music, is always grateful for the commitment that choristers and musicians show throughout the year and the joyful atmosphere in our times together. He continues to be very grateful for all the work, support and encouragement of Helen Meredith with the Youth and Junior Choir, the RSCM Voice for life scheme, and the organization of the RSCM singing and training events. We are also grateful to the support of Judith Piggott who continues to assist regularly with Junior and Youth choirs.

May we as a church continue to unite together to worship our Lord in Spirit and in truth.

Mission in the Parish

Baby and Toddler Club

Our Baby and Toddler Club meets every Wednesday morning in term time and offers play, craft and refreshments to the carers and children, who range from small babies to three-year olds. We have enjoyed a regular 'singing time' this year, introduced by Rev Jo Fielding while she was with us and ably continued by our regular helpers. Gill, Geoff and Sheila have been glad to have Joel and Margaret join the team this year. The mums, dads, grannies and other carers who come are a lovely, friendly mix of people, very supportive of each other and the group. We have enjoyed meeting some of them at services and other church events, especially the fun days.

Junior Church

Junior Church has continued to meet on Sunday mornings throughout the past year, led by our excellent team of Brian, Joel, Harvey, John, Gill, Geoff and Duncan. We're also looking forward to some of Pulse joining us as leaders when their studies permit it. Junior Church usually starts with craft activities and then, all together, we hear the Bible story, sing, and pray. The resources we use are called 'Roots' and are based on the lectionary readings. We welcome children

aged from around three to 13 years. Junior Church continues to support one of the Divya Shanthy students with a weekly collection.

Holiday Clubs

At this summer's holiday club, we celebrated twenty years of Holiday Club. Our regular team benefitted from the contributions of Ali Angus, our placement student, Ian Johnson and some of our young people from Pulse. As well as our bible stories, crafts, songs and games, we had a daily drama about 'Sonny', who spent all his inheritance in the big city and had to hitchhike home to his father's house. We also enjoyed a small group time each day in the memorial garden, where everyone had the chance to talk and share. Holiday Club this year will be in the August bank holiday week, from Tuesday to Friday.

Road to Easter

For the fourth year, we staged a presentation of the Passion Story during Holy Week through displays and interactive story telling in the church. Once again, this year it was just for the Year 5 classes from St Nicholas primary school, about 60 children in total. We were really impressed by the response from the children, who listened very attentively and took part thoughtfully in the activities.

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot has met each month during 2018 and generally is attended by around 40 people. We all enjoy excellent refreshments, good conversation and laughter. In April and November, we met at lunch time and had some delicious home-made soups and our August meeting was extended to include a simple sandwich lunch.

At each meeting there is a short reflection on a bible verse, usually given by a member of the team and at Christmas we enjoyed singing some well-known carols. We would like to thank the many church members who support Coffee Pot by baking, giving lifts and providing table decorations, as well as setting up the room, serving, tidying away and washing up.

Monday Get-Together

The Monday Get Together has continued throughout 2018 but with fairly low attendance. It is an opportunity for anyone to come along to the church hall and chat over coffee and biscuits. Some members also play board games or bring along their own craft work. Those who attend enjoy the time and we will continue to meet during 2019. Please do come along and join us!

Community Fun Days

Our Community Fun Days went well last year, starting with our Epiphany Tea Party where we all ate far too much cake. It was great to see Coffee Pot members mixing with children from our Toddler group. The Easter Fun Day was popular, with a guest appearance from the magician Tom Foolery. In the summer

we joined forces with the local parish council and Victoria Arms for a joint Summer Fun Day, and in the Autumn we led an Autumn Leaves Community Fun Day, which again proved successful. In December we decided to use a Messy Church approach to our Christingle service, but few people turned up, and we are thinking of returning to an Advent or Christmas Community Fun Day in 2019. For this coming year we are developing links with local community groups. For our Easter Fun Day we are working with the Marston Community Gardens and Mortimer Hall play group.

The Community Fun Days are fun but they are also a lot of work, so to all those that help in the teams and who come on the day and 'pitch in', a big thank you. These events are an important part of building the church and showing God's love to those around us. These events are of vital importance in having a living presence in our community and building His Kingdom. The Fun Days are enjoyable and a true blessing to host – when those who attend comment on the warmth of the welcome, it is a gift, as is the opportunity to develop friendships with them.

I am very grateful for all our helpers over the past year, especially to those who help in the kitchen (it can be manic and under-appreciated), our welcomers, our craft makers and our raffle prize givers! Thank you – it's been good working with you all and I can't wait for the next one!

Open the Book

We really enjoyed visiting St Nicholas School each month to share a bible story from "Open the Book". The children and staff gave us a lovely welcome on each occasion and they all helped to bring the stories to life by playing extra parts or providing sound effects. This is a wonderful project which we hope to continue.

Meal Deal

In 2018 we ran the Meal Deal (where hosts and guests are matched up for Sunday lunch) four times. 22 lunches were shared in all, with 57 different people taking part (most of us more than once). It has been a lovely way to get to know other members of the congregation a bit better, which will continue in 2019.

Mission in the World

Divya Shanthi Mission Support

This charity exists to provide financial and prayer support for the work of the Divya Shanthi Mission in Bangalore, India in their holistic work providing education, homes, medical care and family support for some of the most impoverished children. Members and supporters of DSMS are almost all member or former members of St Nicholas Church. We support this work through regular prayer, child sponsorship, donations and fundraising events (eg, Christmas Bazaar). The total raised in the year ending 31 Aug 2018 was £97,417.

Church Mission Society

Our new link missionaries Andy and Kati Walsh who were preparing to go to Brazil to work among prisoners and socially excluded people continued to face setbacks, not least because of uncertainties caused by Brexit. We still hope to be able to support them when possible.

Baptist Mission Society and International Nepal Fellowship

After a long wait for full work permits, Pippa and Toby Vokuhl started work in Nepal with BMS and INF. They are members of Headington Baptist Church and their children attended our Baby and Toddler and Holiday clubs. Toby is a construction engineer and will be guiding and training local people to rebuild homes and community buildings destroyed by the earthquakes.

Christian Aid

Thanks to over 30 members of the congregation collecting, cooking and counting, we raised over £2,600 for Christian Aid this year. We held our annual soup lunch - delicious. We also collected Christian Aid envelopes throughout the parish, where our neighbours were, as usual, very generous in their giving.

Church Fabric

2018 was a year of discussion and preparation before we undertake rewiring, improvements to lighting and heating and a possible removal of pews near the font in 2019. Having initially considered a gas-fired wet central heating system, we retained CBG, a firm of Mechanical & Electrical consultants, to explore more sustainable sources of heat.

Otherwise, there were a number of running repairs such as to the hinges of the altar rail gate and the processional cross. We are also in the process of obtaining a faculty to allow us to replace the Victorian lectern, which is no longer suitable for use in the church, with a new lectern to be made by David Bullock, who also replaced the catch on the aforementioned altar rail gate.

Cliveden Conservation demonstrated the appropriate method for conservation cleaning of our historic but fragile windows. A programme of cleaning will commence in Spring 2019. We will also give further consideration to the remodelling of the path to the Garden of Remembrance to improve its accessibility. We have applied for a faculty to prepare a further area for use for interment of ashes. A seat was installed in the north side of the churchyard in memory of Professor Max Blythe FRSB.

Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues or incidents have been reported.

To date there are 29 people with DBS certificates. A number of certificates were due for renewal during 2018, as per our 5-year rule. Of those, 7 have been

renewed or applications for renewal are with the APCS. Certificates have been processed by St Nicholas Church or transported from other agencies or the Diocese (clergy and LLMs). We are now using the Access Personal Checking Services Ltd (APCS) as the Umbrella Body. APCS provides both an online and a hard form service to suit individual convenience.

A major development during 2018 was the introduction of a number of Safeguarding Training Modules: C0, C1, C2; S1, and S3. C0 is an online module and is recommended for almost all the church roles! Information of how to access that and complete it has been given to all concerned and/or to the various "group leaders". Almost all the members of the PCC and two members of the congregation have completed the C0 "online" module. S1 is a face-to-face training module which will run on 4 May 2019.

Our record keeping and Safeguarding "watch" continues to be commended by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer as the best he has seen!

Financial Report

Consolidation of funds and accounts

The PCC agreed to wind up two small charities (AS Rippington for Church School Charity, Marston Ecclesiastical Charity) and trust funds (Haynes £300 Trust, Chancel Repair Deposit Fund). The capital was transferred to PCC funds with equivalent purposes (Youth Work and Fabric) and a grant of £5,000 was made to St Nicholas School from the proceeds of the Rippington charity.

In addition, redundant bank and savings accounts were closed. As a result, all of the receipts and expenditure and funds of the PCC have been consolidated and some of the 2017 figures, which were formerly presented separately, have been amalgamated. This will result in a simplification of the PCC accounts and an improvement in transparency, as it will be easier to see the complete picture.

Receipts

There was a small fall of 1.5% in planned giving, and a fall of 24% in loose cash collections for general funds and for charity. One-off donations were also reduced. But we received legacies from Alan Hughes, Dorothy Evans and Don Hogg amounting to £7,300 in total. We received grants from Old Marston Parish Council of £300 for the Junior Choir and £300 for the Marston Times; £500 from Brett's Trust for youth work and £7,000 from Marston Church Properties for the appointment of a Parish Administrator. Fewer weddings and funerals meant that net parochial fees were lower, but investment income increased as a result of moving our reserves into higher-yielding funds. The rent on 1B Mill Lane was increased by 2% in line with inflation indices. Overall there was a 5.6% increase in general receipts.

Payments

Our Parish Share decreased by 19%. Due to changes and uncertainties in the deanery, we did not make the full voluntary contribution to deanery funds which had been planned. Charitable donations included a one-off gift of £5,000 to St Nicholas School when the Rippington Charity was wound up. Church running expenses increased by 28% mainly due to increases in heating and maintenance costs. (However, we expect an electricity rebate of about £1,000 due to an overcharge of VAT.) There was a reduction in clergy expenses since we no longer provided housing for a curate.

We continued to make a loss on production of the Marston Times, but costs were reduced during the year by using an on-line print house – this was also saved a lot of work and improved the quality. Prices have been held for 2019 when we expect to balance the receipts and expenditure.

A significant development was the appointment of Alison Edwards as Parish Administrator on 19 Mar. Her salary was funded by a grant from Marston Church Properties and we expect will be partly funded by smaller grants in coming years. Alison has been a huge help with the increasing administrative load, freeing up clergy and lay leaders to focus on other areas of ministry.

Overall, we had a surplus of £9,317 compared with a deficit of £11,392 in 2017.

At the Year End

At the end of 2018 we had a balance of £35,859 in the General fund (unrestricted), equivalent to about three months expenditure, in line with PCC policy. There was a balance of £26,964 in the Bell fund and £64,022 in other restricted and designated funds. In addition, there was a balance of £13,549 in the Chancel Repair Fund which is held by the Diocese on our behalf.

Looking Ahead

In November 2018, Barclays started to impose substantial bank charges on our account and so the PCC agreed to switch to the Cooperative bank. This requires a change in standing orders for most of the planned giving. It is hard to predict the impact on the total level of giving. We are budgeting for a 2% increase. We expect that grant income will be reduced and we cannot expect any legacies. Overall, we expect a fall in receipts of about 9%.

Our Parish Share in 2019 will be £56,320, which is less than 2018. We expect that the majority of other expenditure will be similar to 2018, but we plan for some savings so that receipts and expenditure will be balanced.

Renewal of electric wiring, upgrade to heating and repairs to plasterwork are becoming urgent and we expect to embark on this project in 2019. The total cost may be of the order of £100,000 which would require significant fundraising as well as use of reserves in our fabric funds.

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended December 31, 2018, which are set out in the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 you as trustees 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 next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

(Signed)

Professor David Nowell C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.
16 Jack Straws Lane
Headington
Oxford
OX3 0DL

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2018

Receipts & Payments

2017	RECEIPTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Voluntary Receipts					
62,723	Planned giving		54,465	7,299		61,764
15,983	Reclaimed from HMRC	3	14,105	1,057		15,162
6,561	Loose cash collections		5,376			5,376
2,400	Collections & donations for charity			1,404		1,404
3,708	Donations		600	1,722		2,322
2,500	Legacy		7,300			7,300
340	Sunday morning coffee			428		428
605	Wall safe		555	20		575
122	Junior Church			31		31
204	Sundries		300	610		910
800	Grants	4		8,100		8,100
95,946			82,702	20,670	0	103,372
	Other Receipts					
7,226	Fees (net)	5	5,573			5,573
1,722	Interest & investment income		2,568	492		3,059
8,400	Rent				8,568	8,568
3,124	Marston Times	6		2,396		2,396
20,472			8,141	2,888	8,568	19,596
116,417	Total receipts before transfers		90,843	23,558	8,568	122,968
0	Transfers		0	0	0	0
116,417	Total receipts after transfers		90,843	23,558	8,568	122,968

The Notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2018

Receipts & Payments (continued)

2017	PAYMENTS	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
£			£	£	£	£
	Payments outside the Parish					
73,825	Parish share		59,563			59,563
8,425	Other charitable donations	7	6,793	8,655		15,448
82,250			66,356	8,655	0	75,011
	Church running expenses					
4,619	Heating & lighting		7,001			7,001
3,288	Insurance		3,238			3,238
3,170	Maintenance		3,752	2,470		6,222
1,042	Cleaning		1,200			1,200
840	Cost of services		2,066	367		2,433
3,824	Organists		3,989			3,989
1,153	Choir (including Junior Choir)		875	300		1,175
2,159	Gardening			550		550
20,095			22,121	3,687	0	25,808
	Ministry in the Parish					
1,436	Clergy expenses	8	521			521
96	Junior Church		12			12
0	Youth Work		71	1,568		1,639
1,294	Mission within the Parish	9	1,218			1,218
2,826			1,822	1,568	0	3,390
	Fabric					
0	Projection Equipment			478		478
5,212	Photocopier (depreciation)			-1,737		-1,737
4,828	Other					0
10,040			0	-1,259	0	-1,259
	Other Expenditure					
1,307	Administration		1,453	5,060		6,513
3,501	Marston Times	5		3,294		3,294
8,317	Maintenance of 1B Mill Lane				848	848
313	Flowers		28	20		48
13,437			1,480	8,374	848	10,702
128,648	Total payments before transfers		91,779	21,024	848	113,651
-869	Transfers		3	-3		0
127,779	Total payments after transfers		91,782	21,022	848	113,651
	Surplus / Deficit					
-11,362			-940	2,536	7,720	9,317
136,354	Balance b/f at January 1		35,791	74,903	19,831	130,525
5,532	Change in value of investments		1,002	-449		553
130,524	Balance c/f at December 31		35,854	76,990	27,551	140,395

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2018

Summary of Funds

Fund	Fund type	31 Dec 2017	Receipts	Payments	Change in investments	31 Dec 2018
General	Unrestricted	35,791	95,450	96,384	1,002	35,859
Flowers	Restricted	-	20	20		-
Choir	Restricted	-	300	300		-
Parish Admin	Restricted	-	7,000	5,060		1,940
Fabric	Designated	16,148	7,500	-		23,648
Fabric	Restricted	6,526	27,554	533		33,548
Bells	Restricted	27,242	165	199	- 243	26,964
Memorial Garden	Restricted	444	600	550		494
Marston Times	Restricted	376	2,696	3,294		973
Projection system	Restricted	847		478		369
Charity	Restricted	0	3,415	3,415		0
1B Mill Lane	Designated	3,683	1,068	848		3,904
Youth Work	Restricted	-	7,663	6,568		1,095
Parish Weekend	Designated	-	610	610		-
Rippingon Trust	Restricted	7,118	-	7,118		-
Marston Ecclesiastica	Restricted	7,393	-	7,393		-
Haynes	Restricted	912	-	912		-
Chancel Repair	Restricted	24,797	-	11,042	- 206	13,549
Total		130,525	154,041	144,724	553	140,395

Summary of Accounts

Account	31 Dec 2017	Receipts	Payments	Uncleared payments	Change in Investments	31 Dec 2018
CBF deposit a/c General	31,539	75	20,000			11,615
Barclays current a/c General	11,001	142,762	143,526	27		10,210
CBF investment a/c Bells	16,215				- 243	15,972
CBF investment a/c Fabric	21,601	66,447			1,002	89,050
CBF deposit a/c Fabric	2,494	0	2,494			-
Barclays current a/c Fabric	7,456	13,991	21,447			-
COIF Rippington	7,118		7,118			-
COIF Marston Ecclesiastica	7,393		7,393			-
CBF deposit Chancel Repair	11,042		11,042			-
CBF investment Chancel Repair	13,755				- 206	13,549
CBF deposit Haynes	912	0	912			-
Total	130,526	223,276	213,932	27	553	140,395

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2018

Endowment Funds: Receipts & Payments

2017 £		2018 £
	A S Rippington for Church School Charity	
	Receipts	
218	Dividends	55
218		55
	Payments	
218	PCC General Fund	0
	Fee for sale of shares	11
	Donation to St Nicholas School	5000
	PCC Youth Work Fund	2173
218		7184
0	Surplus / Deficit (-)	-7129
	Marston Ecclesiastical Charity	
	Receipts	
216	Dividends	57
216		57
	Payments	
216	PCC General Fund	0
	Fee for sale of shares	11
	PCC Fabric Fund	7451
216		7462
0	Surplus / Deficit (-)	-7404
	Chancel Repair Fund	
	Receipts	
446	Dividends	456
30	Deposit A/c Interest	6
477		462
	Payments	
0	PCC Fabric Fund	11153
0	PCC General Fund	351
477	Surplus / Deficit (-)	-10691
	Haynes £300 Trust	
	Receipts	
3	Deposit A/c interest	0
	Payments	
0	PCC Fabric Fund	912
4	Surplus / Deficit (-)	-912

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2018

Endowment Funds: Statement of Assets & Liabilities

31 Dec 2017 £		Change in year	31 Dec 2018 £
	A S Rippington for Church School Charity		
7,118	COIF Charities Investment Fund Shares sold and charity wound up	-7,118	0
	Marston Ecclesiastical Charity		
7,393	COIF Charities Investment Fund Shares sold and charity wound up	-7,393	0
	Chancel Repair Fund		
11,042	CBF Deposit Fund (Closed)	-11,042	0
13,755	CBF Investment Fund	-206	13,549
24,797	839 shares @ 1614.85p (2017: 1639.44p)	-11,248	13,549
	Haynes £300 Trust		
912	CBF Deposit Fund (Closed)	-912	0
40,220	Total of all Endowment Funds	-26,672	13,549
	Allocated as follows:		
11,954	CBF & COIF Deposit A/cc	-11,954	0
28,266	CBF & COIF Investment A/cc	-14,717	13,549
40,220		-26,672	13,549

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2018

Statement of Overall Assets & Liabilities

31 Dec 2017 £		General Account	Fabric Account	Endowment Funds	31 Dec 2018 £
	Monetary Assets				
21,938	Bank Current A/cc	10,210	0		10,210
38,086	CBF & COIF Deposit A/cc	11,615	0	0	11,615
66,083	CBF & COIF Investment A/cc		105,022	13,549	118,571
0	Shares				0
126,107	Total	21,824	105,022	13,549	140,395
	Other Assets				
4,343	Photocopier (after depreciation at 33.33% per annum)				2,606
167,422	Freehold house at 1B Mill Lane (insured value)				167,422
171,765	Total				170,028

Signed:

Elizabeth Denno (Chair)

Geoff Hale (Treasurer)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2018

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of Preparation

(a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011, together with applicable accounting standards.

(b) The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as permitted when the annual income is less than £250,000.

(c) The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor of those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2. Accounting Policies

(a) The funds of a charity, under charity law, have to be categorized in one of three ways.

Unrestricted funds: these contain money that can be spent in any way the PCC chooses (within general charity law)

Designated funds: these contain money that the PCC has allocated to a specific purpose. They include funds designated for maintenance of church property. Money in a designated fund can be undesignated by a subsequent decision of the PCC.

Restricted funds: these contain money that has been given for a purpose specified by the donor. Such money can only be spent on the specified purpose (within the overall objectives of the PCC), or else returned to the donor.

(b) The PCC uses a number of bank accounts and investment funds

General Account: this holds current funds, including General (unrestricted), Designated and Restricted Funds

Fabric Account: Historically this represented money restricted or designated for repairs to the church fabric and for major expenditure on maintaining the church and churchyard. With an increasing number of funds, a separate bank account became redundant and the PCC closed it in 2018. All funds have been consolidated.

Deposit and Investment Accounts. These hold longer term reserves. Historically different accounts were used for General Funds (unrestricted) and Fabric Funds (Designated or Restricted). With an increasing number of restricted funds, multiple accounts were redundant and the PCC agreed to amalgamate them in 2018.

Endowment Fund Accounts. Various deposit and investment accounts held the capital of several small charities and other endowments. The PCC agreed to close some of these small funds in 2018. Their capital was re-allocated to an appropriate restricted fund.

Investments are valued at the basic value (between bid price and offer price) on 31 December.

(c) Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and benefice property are not included in the accounts.

Movable church furnishings which are held by the vicar and churchwardens on trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are listed in the church's inventory. Such assets are not included in the financial statements.

The freehold property at 1B Mill Lane belongs to the PCC, with the deeds held on its behalf by the Diocese. It is included in the statement of overall assets and liabilities at its insured value.

A new photocopier was purchased in 2018. Its value is depreciated in a straight line over 3 years

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2018

Note 3	Money reclaimed from HMRC		2018
2017			2018
£	RECEIPTS		£
14,001	Income tax reclaimed on Gift Aid donations		12,873
1,983	Money claimed under GASDS		2,288
<u>15,983</u>			<u>15,162</u>

Note 4	Parochial Fees: Receipts & Payments		2018
2017			2018
£	RECEIPTS		£
11,138	Statutory Fees		8,853
2,724	Additional Fees (organist, flowers, choir, bells, verger)		1,327
<u>13,862</u>			<u>10,180</u>
	PAYMENTS		
4,451	Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance		3,337
2,186	Others (clergy, organist, flowers, choir, bells, verger)		1,270
<u>6,637</u>			<u>4,607</u>
<u>7,226</u>	Surplus / Deficit (-)		<u>5,573</u>

Note 5	Grants		2018
2017			2018
£	RECEIPTS		£
300	Old Marston Parish Council (for Marston Times)		300
300	Old Marston Parish Council (for Choir)		300
0	Brett's Trust (for Youth Work)		500
0	Marston Church Properties (for Parish Administrator)		7,000
<u>600</u>			<u>8,100</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2018

Note 6	Marston Times: Receipts & Payments		
	2017		2018
	£		£
		RECEIPTS	
	1,977	Sales & donations	1,842
	782	Advertisements	554
	366	Old Marston Parish Council (restricted)	300
	<u>3,124</u>		<u>2,696</u>
		PAYMENTS	
	3,441	Printing	3,151
	59	Postage & stationery	143
	<u>3,501</u>		<u>3,294</u>
	<u><u>-376</u></u>	Surplus / Deficit (-)	<u><u>-597</u></u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2018

Note 7	2017	Other Charitable donations	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£		£	£	£
		<u>Overseas & worldwide</u>			
	0	Church Mission Society	193	607	800
	1,293	Divya Shanthy	500	875	1,375
	888	Christian Aid		516	516
	193	Unicef			0
	1,000	Toby & Pippa Vokuhl (with BMS)			0
	0	African Hospital Library	200		200
	0	Viva		436	436
	<u>3,373</u>		<u>893</u>	<u>2,434</u>	<u>3,327</u>
		<u>National</u>			
	1400	Church Urban Fund			0
	900	Torch Trust for the Blind			0
	200	Free Bible Images	200		200
	0	Christians Against Poverty	1,500		1,500
	0	A Rocha UK	500		500
	0	IntoUniversity	500		500
	0	Salvation Army		521	521
	<u>2,500</u>		<u>2,700</u>	<u>521</u>	<u>3,221</u>
		<u>Local</u>			
	552	Bishop's Outreach Fund			0
	400	Oxford Poverty Action			0
	400	Sanctuary Hosting			0
	400	Oxford Schools Chaplaincy	500		500
	400	Thrive Barton	500		500
	400	Oxford Winter Night Shelter			0
	0	Murcott Village Hall		40	40
	0	St Mary Charlton		200	200
	0	The Porch		460	460
	0	Oxtalk	200		200
	0	Viva Doorsteps	500		500
	0	Community Emergency Foodbank	500		500
	0	Daybreak Oxford	500		500
	0	Pennyhooks	500		500
	<u>2,552</u>		<u>3,200</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>3,900</u>
		<u>Grant from AS Rippington Charity</u>			
	0	St Nicholas Primary School		5,000	5,000
	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>8,425</u>	Total	<u>6,793</u>	<u>8,655</u>	<u>15,448</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS MARSTON

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 Dec 2017

Note 8	Clergy Expenses		
	2017		2018
	£	PAYMENTS	£
	683	Incumbent & deputizing clergy	521
	753	Curate: accommodation	0
	<u>1,436</u>		<u>521</u>

Note 9	Mission within the Parish		
	2017		2018
	£	PAYMENTS	£
	0	Love Marston	0
	485	Posters and leaflets	394
	325	Pulse Youth Club (now a separate fund)	0
	485	Holiday Club and Fun Days	824
	<u>1,294</u>		<u>1,218</u>