

St Nicholas' Church Lockington
in the Benefice of
Castle Donington with Lockington-cum-Hemington

Statutory Reports and Accounts

for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
for the year ended 31st December 2022

Incumbent

Reverend Andrew Race
Vicar of the Benefice from 5th February 2019

Churchwardens

Mr Andrew Thompson, until 22nd May 2022
Mr Andrew Nudd, from 22nd May 2022
Mr Dewald Swanepoel, elected 22nd May 2022 for a second term

Independent Examiner

Mrs Collins

Honorary Treasurer

Miss Vicki Thumpston

Bank

Barclays Bank, Nottingham

Honorary Secretary

Mrs Shirley Swanepoel

Aims and Purposes of the PCC Trustees

When planning our activities over the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. This planning, along with the pastoral implications, has been constantly reviewed through the year as lockdowns were lifted and re-imposed, and as Government and Church of England guidance changed in response to the global pandemic.

St Nicholas' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent (Vicar) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the care and maintenance of the church building.

Churchwardens' Fabric Report 1st January 2022 - 31st December 2022

Details of work undertaken to the Church is listed in the Church Log Book, which has now been found, and includes a file of invoices of works done in recent years. The Fabric of St Nicholas' Church has been considered at meetings of the Parochial Church Council throughout the year.

This Report is set in the context of another year when we have all had to adjust to life beyond the restrictions of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Services and activities in the Church have continued to be affected by changing patterns of attendance.

The fabric of the Church

St Nicholas' offered regular monthly services throughout the year albeit attendance was very low.

The maintenance, inspections and servicing of the heating boiler, lightning conductor, fire extinguishers, and the electrical testing were kept up to meet regulation requirements. Elaine Hall has carried out regular cleaning throughout the church.

The Church organ was serviced and tuned by Graham Cantrill.

Frequent visits have been made by PCC members to keep St Nicholas' in a tidy and maintained condition.

An application for faculty was started to regularize the existing interment of ashes in the open churchyard and in the Garden of Remembrance in the closed churchyard. This will enable the use of the Garden of Remembrance for future interments with the ability to extend in the future if and when required. The Book of Condolences is now on display inside the church.

Several items on the quinquennial report still needs to be addressed.

Category 1 - immediate action required

- ❖ We had to reattach the gutter to the fascia. It looks like it was damage during the time they climbed onto the roof to steal the lead roofing. This was repaired by the church.
- ❖ Cleaning out of the roof gutters and spouts.

Category 2 - within 12 months

- ❖ Repointing work.

Category 3 - within two years

- ❖ Repainting inside.

With the new roof on the church, the building remains water tight again and continues to dry out.

Grant Funding - the churchwardens have spent much time researching Grants that the church might be eligible to apply for.

Some of the eligibility criteria are:

- Will need additional funding from public, typically upto 50%
- Will need to submit Faculty Applications first
- Requires church to be open to public for at least 100 days a year

Grant applications that could qualify include the following work in the church:

- Repair/Painting of the walls
- Upgrade the audio/visual system in the church
- Improve/upgrade lighting in the church
- Improve access into the church for older people

Most grant applications would require us to demonstrate benefit to the community, namely the people of Lockington and Hemington:

- To promote community well-being and/ or cohesion
- Support to elderly people
- Art development for young and older people

Grants could also be applied for to help reach the Church of England's pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030:

- Solar panels?
- Insulations within the church areas?
- Can we upgrade our heating in the church?

We had been advised previously to replace all light bulbs with energy saving LED bulbs. This has been done with most of the lights inside the church.

St Nicholas' has been closed for most of 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. However, when we re-opened, we reviewed our Risk Assessments and adopted a sign in procedure for NHS track & trace for anyone entering the church.

The Churchyard

As the main Churchyard is closed by Statute, the responsibility for its care and maintenance rests with Hemington & Lockington Parish Council (HLPC) with whom we have a good and close working relationship.

The Council arranged for the grass to be mowed by an external contractor four times a year between March and October. In the interim, churchyard grass has been maintained by local resident, Keith Hudson, including the "new" open section of the churchyard. We have some headstones that will need attention as they are leaning, and some have been knocked over.

Dewald Swanepoel
Churchwarden

Andrew Nudd
Churchwarden

Treasurer's Financial Report 1st January 2022 - 31st December 2022

As we still struggle to recover from the impact of the pandemic, a huge thank you to all who have contributed so generously to our Church's maintenance and upkeep. Although we have ended the year in a reasonable financial position, the financial challenges remain, with huge increases in costs along with very varied attendance. Despite the income received from several successful events, sadly, our finances remain unsustainable, and the PCC has spent time discussing how best to engage the wider community in the care of the church.

Income

Income through collections and direct giving through the bank has increased slightly this year. Income from events has also been significant, along with a one-off grant from the diocese to help with the cost of energy. Fees were received for a wedding and two funerals in church this year. The Gift Aid for the year is yet to be claimed.

Expenditure

The running expenses were lower than 2021, despite the final retainer payment for work to replace the roof. Insurance was slightly higher. Energy costs proved not to be as high as feared. However, the payment pledged to the Diocese towards the Parish Share is yet to be paid.

Observations/Concerns

On paper, this year we had £1933.57 more coming in than going out, although it is anticipated that once Gift Aid has come in and the Parish Share has been paid, we will probably have not quite broken even. The year ended with a balance of £9968.52 in the bank.

Taking into account a fair and reasonable contribution to the Parish Share, we are not meeting our annual running costs. The PCC has struggled to find ways to put the church onto a more sustainable financial footing. That said, we must continue to budget wisely. As we seek to find new ways to serve our community, respond to those in need, and reach out with the saving love of Jesus, the financial cost of mission and ministry will continue to increase (along with the cost of essential repairs).

In the meantime, please accept our thanks to all those who continue to give to the church monthly via the gift aid scheme, thank you. This is very much appreciated.

Vicki Thumpston, Treasurer

St Nicholas Church

Summary of year end Accounts ending 31/12/22

2021		2022
	<u>Income</u>	
0.00	Donation	16.00
3,411.00	Gift Aid	4,701.00
1,050.00	Wed/Funeral	1,634.00
805.37	Gift Aid Rebate	0.00
138.00	Collections	243.91
213.80	Events	1,865.50
1.90	CCLA Interest	47.81
0.00	Heating and Electricity	1,087.00
73.52	Bainbrigges Mrs Simpkins and Hull C	75.43
5,693.59	Total	9,670.65
	<u>Expenditure</u>	
0.00	New Roof	1,813.49
3,437.93	Insurance	3,567.90
1,130.13	Heat/Light	764.22
353.80	Wedding/Funeral	375.00
436.20	Running Expenses	557.00
170.00	Events	65.00
0.00	Photocopying	16.00
70.03	Christmas Tree	0.00
1,500.00	Parish Contribution	0.00
0.00	Candels and Wine	28.61
407.38	Mailout costs for Newsletter	18.48
428.65	Vicar Expenses	287.38
0.00	Donation	244.00
7,934.12	Total	7,737.08
	<u>Bank Balances</u>	
8,082.76	Barclays Bank Balance	9,968.52
3,634.34	CCLA	3,682.15

Independent Examiner's Report

Awaiting

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is an “Excepted Charity” as it is a Church with a usual annual income of less than £100,000. Although properly constituted, it is ‘excepted’ from charity registration. Nonetheless, the Charity Commission regulates Excepted Charities just like registered Charities. St Nicholas’ charitable purposes must demonstrate public benefit.

PCC Members are Charity Trustees. They must be able to evidence good governance by having robust systems and processes in place to ensure the overall direction, effectiveness, supervision and accountability of the Charity. The PCC also has to follow the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2020. All PCC members are required to complete a Trustee Eligibility Declaration and an HMRC Fit and Proper Persons Declaration, and complete Safeguarding training.

The PCC consists of the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and members elected by the Parishioners who are on the Church Electoral Roll. All those who attend Public Worship regularly are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

As the PCC is relatively small in number, there is no Standing Committee, however a small sub-committee meets to plan and organise social events.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

We would like to place on record our thanks to our Safeguarding Co-ordinators, Jacky Oaten and Jill Fox, for their dedication to ensuring that the processes in place for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in our Benefice are in place and comply with National Safeguarding standards, requirements and best practise, and for updating the Safeguarding Dashboard.

Reporting of all "Safeguarding Serious Incidents" must by law be reported by PCCs to the Charity Commission in addition to the Diocese. Safeguarding Serious Incidents have been delegated to a small sub-group of Trustees - Incumbent, Safeguarding Co-ordinator and Churchwardens. "Non-Safeguarding Serious Incidents" have been delegated to a separate sub-group of Trustees - Incumbent, Churchwardens, PCC Treasurer and PCC Secretary. These resolutions were reviewed and unanimously accepted by the PCC.

The church website contains a Safeguarding statement, as required by the House of Bishops.

Benefice Safeguarding Report

The Church of England is called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The good news speaks of a welcome to all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable. Being faithful to the gospel therefore compels every one of us to take up the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.

The PCC has adopted the Church of England 'Promoting a Safer Church' Safeguarding Policy of 2018. The Benefice Policy has been reviewed and rewritten, incorporating all of the model Diocesan Policy. The revised policy was presented to and adopted by the PCC on December 8th 2020, reviewed in 2021, and was updated in December 2022 in preparation for presentation to and adoption by the PCC in January 2023.

Safeguarding Coordinators

From October 2020 these roles were designated to:

Jacky Oaten: Parish Safeguarding Coordinator A and is the safeguarding Lead on the PCC

Jill Fox: Safeguarding Coordinator B, Lead Recruiter and Parish DBS Administrator

Safeguarding Telephone number: 07783 089262 and 01332 812708

Telephone number for DBS checks: 01332 812708

The Independent Person and Children's Advocate, appointed by the PCC, to whom children or adults can contact about worries or concerns is Julie Logan on 01332 810756.

Safeguarding Notice Boards

Posters with updated contact details and updated copies of the Church of England policy document 'Promoting a Safer Church' and a Safe Spaces poster are displayed in the Church Hall and in both churches. Updated copies of our parish Safeguarding policy are available for perusal on request in both churches.

Church Groups

The following activities with children and young people under the age of eighteen are run under the auspices of the PCC. This includes groups such as The Little Sunbeam Club (previously the Toddler Group) and Craft Workshops, where children attend with their parent or carer.

Group	Location	Leader
Little Sunbeam Club	Church Hall	April Sly, Bev Chamberlain & Heather Harris
Breakfast Church	Church Hall	Angela Parkes
Craft Workshops	Church Hall	Angela Parkes
Young Faith (YFCD)	Church Hall	Angela Parkes
Bell Ringers	Church Tower	Joyce Moore
St Nicholas' Sunday School*	St Nicholas' Church	Katy Thompson

* St Nicholas' Sunday School has not taken place during 2022.

Training

All Safeguarding Training has taken place online during 2022 and will continue to be online for the foreseeable future. Safeguarding Training and DBS checks continue to be ongoing.

In January 2022 the new Safeguarding and Development Framework explaining the new mandatory safeguarding requirements was distributed across the Diocese and has been implemented in our Benefice. This has necessitated additional Safeguarding training: our Lead Recruiter completed Basic Awareness (CO) and Foundation (C1) and has, with the Safeguarding coordinator, completed the Raising of Awareness of Domestic Abuse pathway.

All members of the PCC, Churchwardens and volunteer group leaders are now required to undertake the CO and C1 training if they have not already done so, or to renew those modules if three years have elapsed since their training was completed. Completion of the new Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse module is now also required. Everyone needing training has been informed. Training is still ongoing, but most of it has been completed.

The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator attended the 2022 Safeguarding Coordinator's Conference 2022 on 12th November via Zoom. The focus of the conference was: how creating environments in which everyone is safe and can flourish is fundamental to our purpose as a church and how we can help implement healthy church cultures.

This was followed by updates from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team about:

- Safeguarding Learning and Development
- Safeguarding Dashboards
- Practical guidance to responding well to victims and survivors of abuse

The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator also attended on 21st October, via Zoom, a course entitled 'Modern Slavery and Safeguarding Training for Parish Safeguarding Officers'.

In 2022 the Safeguarding Coordinator and Lead Recruiter have met regularly to update Safeguarding records and to implement the Parish Safeguarding Action Plan, which is now almost fully compliant at Level 3 and which covers both parishes. They have also updated the Safer Recruiting process: now, in addition to application documentation, certification of having completed the mandatory safeguarding courses is required before the DBS application process can be completed.

There continues to be a significant focus on Safeguarding within the Church of England. Safeguarding our children, our young people and vulnerable adults is part of the church's ministry and is ongoing in our parish. Jill and I would like to thank you all for the support and cooperation which you have shown to us this year, particularly in regard to completing Safeguarding Training, which has enabled us to carry out our Safeguarding duties efficiently, and I would particularly like to thank Jill for all her help and hard work.

Jacky Oaten
Benefice Safeguarding Coordinator

Deanery Synod Report for Akeley East Deanery

The first Deanery Synod Meeting of 2022 was held on Wednesday 9th February 2022 via Zoom and was attended by Jacky Oaten our Benefice Deanery Representative and Revd Andrew Race. The focus of the evening was a talk by Revd Andrew Hall from the parish of St Catherine at Burbage on the subject of Eco Churches. Andrew explained the initiatives taken by his parish to transform St Catherine's into an Eco Church; he illustrated his talk with slides, which demonstrated the variety of the impressive results of their initiative. His talk was followed by discussion in breakout rooms in which we formulated questions for the feedback session which followed. We were all very impressed with what St Catherine's had achieved; it was inspirational.

The second Deanery Synod Meeting of the year was held on Tuesday 21st June 2022 at All Saints with Holy Trinity Church in Loughborough, and was attended by Revd Andrew Race. The focus of this meeting was a talk by Vikki Offin from Upbeat Communities, a charity based at Trinity Baptist Church in Derby. Vikki explained how the charity welcomes and resettles refugees across Derby, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire, and suggested ways in which the Synod could help. Vikki's talk was followed by discussion in breakout groups. At this meeting, Revd Lauretta Wilson, who was leaving the Akeley East Deanery, was thanked for her work as Area Dean and congratulated on her new appointment.

The final Deanery Synod Meeting of the year was held on Thursday 13th October 2022 at St Bartholomew's Church at Quorn, and was attended by Jacky Oaten, Liz Mandeville (Churchwarden, St Edward's) and Revd Andrew Race, who has been appointed as Area Dean of Akeley East Deanery and who chaired the meeting. The focus of this evening's meeting was a talk by Adrian Trotter, the Lay Director of Leicester Anglican Cursillo. Andrew explained how and why the Cursillo movement was formed, the aims of the movement, and the content of the weekend-long courses, which take place several times each year at Launde Abbey. Andrew's very informative talk was followed by discussion and questions. Then followed a report from the Diocesan Synod Meeting held on 24th September 2022, copies of which had been circulated with the Deanery Synod agenda, and to which Andrew Race drew our attention. The main topic at the Diocesan Synod had been 'Living in Love and Faith' process. The report also mentioned the draft 2023 Diocesan budget, which shows a large deficit.

These meetings have been interesting and informative, and it is enjoyable to visit the different churches in which the meetings are held and to enjoy the friendship and hospitality of their church members. Any members of our congregations are permitted to attend Deanery Synod meetings (although they will not be allowed to vote), and I will be pleased to speak to any members of our congregations who would be interested in attending the synod.

Jacky Oaten
Deanery Synod Representative, St Edward's

Parish administration

The Parish Office is located on the right-hand side of the St Anne's Room in St Edward's Church Hall and is equipped with a computer, printer, telephone and broadband. St Edward's PCC employs an Administrator, Mrs Jill Fox, for 12 hours per week. Jill provides a delightfully warm welcome and keeps an exceptionally busy parish spinning smoothly - thank you Jill!

Electoral Roll

This currently stands at 36. Two people have joined the roll during the year, and one person has passed away.

Policies

During 2022 the PCC reviewed the following Benefice Policies:

The Benefice Safeguarding Policy
Lone Working Policy
The Health & Safety Policy
Fire Evacuation procedure.

PCC Secretary's Report

There were 4 PCC meetings held in the year 2022 and 2 joint meetings of the social events sub-committee.

- 1 On 29th January 2022 we met at the Hilton Hotel to discuss the sustainability of St Nicholas' Church and how our giving can help.
- 2 On 12th April 2022 we met at St Nicholas' Church where we went through annual reports ahead of APCM. We also planned services and functions for the first half of the year, which included the Easter service, the cabaret concert, and the summer Sunday funday. General PCC matters such as Fabric, Finance and Safeguarding were also covered.
- 3 On 22nd May 2022 we held the APCM in St Nicholas' Church where the annual reports and accounts were adopted, and the electoral roll presented. Andrew Nudd and Dewald Swanepoel were elected church wardens. Shirley Swanepoel, Elaine Hall and

Treasurer Vicki Thumpston were re-elected to the PCC. Mrs Collins was appointed as independent examiner. Sides people re-elected were Ian Ward and Elaine Hall.

- 4 In June the sub-committee met with members of St Edward's Church where we planned the events and functions for the "Bishops Big Conversation Weekend". We also had a meeting following the weekend to debrief everyone regarding all the events that took place.
- 5 On 13th September 2022 we held a meeting at St Nicholas' Church where we discussed Her late Majesty The Queen and planned the services and events for the remainder of the year, which included Harvest and Christmas. General matters such as finance, fabric and safeguarding were also covered.

Shirley Swanepoel, PCC Secretary

Life Events

Funerals

There were two funerals at St Nicholas' during 2022.

The Church was opened for private prayer to mark the death of Her late Majesty The Queen.

In November our annual **Light and Hope Bereavement Service** was held at St Edward's Church, a special candle lit service where we remembered all who had died in the previous year. As this service takes place on Remembrance Sunday, we also remembered those who had laid down the lives in service to our nation in two World Wars by calling the British Legion Roll of Honour.



Weddings

One wedding took place in 2022:
Sojhan Ariyadasa and Sarah Cooper
on 22nd July.

CONGRATULATIONS!

PCC Trustees

The Church of St Nicholas' Lockington is within the Benefice of Castle Donington with Lockington-cum-Hemington, in the Diocese of Leicester in the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2020. Although an "Excepted Charity," St Nicholas' Church is duly constituted under the above measures.

The Church Representation Rules 2020 set out the method of appointment of PCC members. PCC members who have served at any time from the 1st January 2022 until 31st December 2022 are:

Ex Officio members:

Revd Andrew Race, Vicar
Andrew Thompson, Churchwarden (Vice-Chair), until 22nd May
Andrew Nudd, Churchwarden, from 22nd May
Dewald Swanepoel, Churchwarden
Terence Hope, Deanery Synod Representative

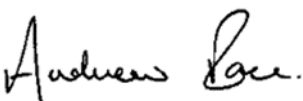
Elected Members:

Vicki Thumpston (Treasurer)
Elaine Hall
Shirley Swanepoel (Secretary)

Co-opted Members:

None

Approved by the PCC on 22nd April 2023 and signed on their behalf by Revd Andrew Race, Vicar of St Nicholas' Church, Lockington and Chair of the PCC.

Signed 

Date: 22/04/2023