

**St Nicholas Church, Linton**  
**Annual Report and Financial Statement**  
**of the Parochial Church Council**  
**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

INCUMBENT - The Rev Lorna Faulkner  
The Rectory, Heath Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent. ME17 4PL

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the annual Report and Financial statement of the Parochial Church council of St Nicholas, Linton for the year ended 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was placed before a meeting of the said council on the 8th February 2024 when it was adopted and approved for presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Nicholas, Linton on the 18th April 2024. Rev L Faulkner, Rector

I certify that this Annual Report and Financial Statement was presented and approved at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Nicholas, Linton on 18th April 2024. Rev L Faulkner, Rector

**Annual Report**

**Background**

St Nicholas Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral and social. It has the responsibility for the maintenance of the Church and Churchyard. St Nicholas is part of the benefice of Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton and West Farleigh.

**The Purpose of St Nicholas Church**

The purpose of St Nicholas Church, Linton is Christians, worshipping, developing their awareness of God and seeking to demonstrate God's love in the village and beyond.

**Parochial Church Council**

Incumbent	Rev L Faulkner – Chairman
Churchwarden	Mr R Bettle – Vice Chairman Mrs K Cooper - Treasurer & Secretary
Elected Members	Mrs K Cooper, Mr P Cooper, Mrs C Merrifield, Mr J Walder

**Sub-Committees**

Standing Sub-Committee: To deal with any matters that arise and need to be dealt with between council meetings, subject to the direction given by the council.

**Electoral Roll**

There were 29 people on the electoral roll, 7 resident in the ecclesiastical parish and 22 non-resident.

**Review of the year**

The Parochial Church Council met 4 times during the year. There were 3 baptisms. There were no marriages. There were 4 funeral services at St Nicholas and 2 at the Crematorium. There were 2 burials of ashes. There was an average attendance of 15 people at the 2 main services per month.

**Financial Statement**

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023 shows a deficit of £6,099.11. Planned giving, at just over £10,000, largely from standing orders and a special appeal, increased from 2022 which is much appreciated. Cash collections at services were £770. Tax was reclaimed on Gift Aid and small donations at 25p in the £, with a total of £1,850 being received from HMRC. Fees retained by the PCC amounted to £2,358. The value of shares has increased slightly as has investment income. Fund raising

receipts were from 8 coffee mornings and a harvest lunch totalling £1,435.

£49,076 was paid out for repairs to the church, using all the funds held in the Diocesan Church Repair Fund. Grants were received from the Friends of Linton Church, the Friends of Kent Churches, the Ann Daubeny Trust and Linton Park plc for various works amounting to £46,690. We were able to pay 11 of 12 payments to Rochester Diocese for the Parish Share amounting to £10,831.34. £8000 VAT was reclaimed from the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme.

The Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) requires the PCC to declare the total amount of donations received, without conditions, from trustees (the PCC). In 2023 this was £3,840 in regular giving, plus £962 Gift Aid recovered. There were no gifts in kind.

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to approximately 6 months' unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. In 2023 unrestricted payments were £21,237, at year end reserves were £20,000 in the Diocesan Loans Fund.

### **Safeguarding**

The parish of St Nicholas is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. We follow the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have a Benefice Safeguarding Officer (PSO). The Diocese of Rochester's safeguarding pages contain vital links and information including contacts for the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) who advises our PSO.

### **Churchwarden's Report**

2023 has been a busy year for your Churchwardens, Roger Bettle and Kath Cooper, with the completion of major works to repair ceilings in the north and south aisles. Several actions from the 2022 Quinquennial Report were completed; an Asbestos Survey confirming we do not have any asbestos in the church, and a detailed report on the condition of the electrical fittings following which some remedial works were required. A new bunded oil tank was purchased to meet current regulations. Routine maintenance of the oil fired heater and the turret clock was carried out, with Friends of Linton Church meeting the cost of the clock maintenance. Kent PA Hire made some adjustments to the sound system which still struggles against the noise of the heating! We are grateful to the Firmin family for continuing to mow the churchyard and cut back shrubs around the perimeter as well as providing a Christmas tree and lights at the front of the church. This is of great benefit to the church as it would be physically and financially impossible for us to keep the grounds in as good order without their help. Finance is a concern as we are eating into reserves each year now. The church bells are rung occasionally by local and visitor groups. Kent Family History Group completed a survey of the churchyard, documenting all the graves, taking photos and providing us with a comprehensive record and index.

### **Report on the PCC and parish activities in general**

The PCC met 4 times. Safeguarding is always on the Agenda. (See report on page 6). Although we have only 2 Sunday services each month the church is in use for Messy and Muddy church on the 3rd Saturday of each month and the monthly coffee mornings continue to bring people into the building. We are grateful to Marian Greensill for playing the organ at our Communion service once a month. A very successful free barbecue was held to mark the coronation of King Charles III, with assistance from Linton Parish Council and funding from the National Lottery. 170 people from the village attended. A harvest lunch was held in the church for 20 people. During the summer months the church was left open for visitors during the day which was appreciated by visitors. PCC members attended an 'Away Day' at West Malling Abbey with other Benefice PCC members. A midweek communion service is held each month on a Wednesday lunchtime, attended by 8 to 10 people, who enjoy fellowship over a light lunch. We are grateful to Margaret Waller who continues to clean the church regularly and mention should be made of the diminishing number of people who serve coffee after morning services, those who launder the linen, clean the toilet, give out books before services and welcome people, read lessons, and lead our services. Thank you all.

**Linton Parochial Church Council Accounts - Year Ending 31st December 2023**

<b>2022</b>	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>			
6,778.00	Tax Efficient planned giving	9,972.00	-	9,972.00
80.00	Other planned giving	90.00	-	90.00
498.67	Collections at Services	770.06		770.06
122.00	All other giving and voluntary receipts	-	-	-
1,921.22	Gift Aid recovered	1,850.98	-	1,850.98
91.70	Legacies received/donations	2,404.80		2,404.80
19,362.53	Grants (Listed Places of Worship)		8,188.77	8,188.77
	<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>			
3,222.45	Gross receipts for Fundraising activities	1,435.31	-	1,435.31
	<b>Investment Income</b>			
883.61	Dividends, interest	1,378.38		1,378.38
	<b>Church Activities</b>			
4,390.00	Fees Retained by the PCC (Weddings/ Funerals) - Not DBF	2,358.20		2,358.20
	<b>Any Other receipts not already listed</b>	-		-
1,429.00	Grants		35,766.38	35,766.38
70.00	Church Bells Fund	-	-	-
8,002.00	Insurance Claim	-		-
		20,259.73	43,955.15	
<b>£46,851.18</b>		<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>£64,214.88</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>			
11,058.00	Diocesan Parish Share contribution	10,831.34	-	10,831.34
600.00	Contribution to Benefice Children's Work	600.00	-	600.00
1,500.00	Benefice Clergy Expenses	1,500.00		1,500.00
	<b>CHURCH RUNNING EXPENSES</b>			
3,714.56	Insurance	3,996.65		3,996.65
359.48	Services & Cleaning	270.00		270.00
250.00	Organist expenses	350.00		350.00
1,074.60	Fire risk assessment and extinguishers	-	-	-
1,143.20	Minor Repairs to fabric and organ	733.79	2,385.55	3,119.34
20.00	Subscriptions and course expenses	20.00		20.00
45.00	Gifts	29.75		29.75
62.00	Other parish costs	-	-	-
	Sequestration of DBF Fees	-	-	-
1,073.50	<b>UTILITIES</b>	2,906.26		2,906.26
	<b>MAJOR WORKS/REPAIRS</b>			
29,337.02	Major Repairs	-	46,690.65	46,690.65
		21,237.79	49,076.20	
<b>£50,237.36</b>		<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£70,313.99</b>

**Linton Parochial Church Council Accounts - Year Ending 31st December 2023**

<b>SUMMARY</b>			
Receipts 2023			<b>64,214.88</b>
Payments 2023			<b>70,313.99</b>
Payments over Receipts for 2023			<b>-6,099.11</b>
Surplus balance for 2022 b/f			<b>34,117.32</b>
Surplus balance for 2023			<b>£28,018.21</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
Lloyds Bank current account		<b>5,904.22</b>	
Lloyds Bank Instant Access account		<b>2,040.44</b>	
Church Repair Fund		<b>0.00</b>	
Diocesan Loan Fund (Daisy Rotherham)		<b>20,073.55</b>	
		<b>£28,018.21</b>	
<b>Other Monetary Assets</b>			
Shares at Market Value as at 31.12.23		<b>£27,216.78</b>	
Linton School ( 979 units @ £22.6053 each)		£22,130.59	
Linton Haire (225 units @ £22.6053 each)		£5,086.19	
		<b>£27,216.78</b>	

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO  
THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
OF ST. NICHOLAS, LINTON**

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St. Nicholas, Linton for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on the following pages.

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner**

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You 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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

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 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full 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. with gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records as required by 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.

  
 S P Lowe ACA FCCA  
 Linton

12 March 2024