

St. Nicholas' Church, Standish

*One of the 'Cotswold Edge' Parishes
(Eastington, Frocester, Haresfield, Moreton Valence,
Standish and Whitminster)*

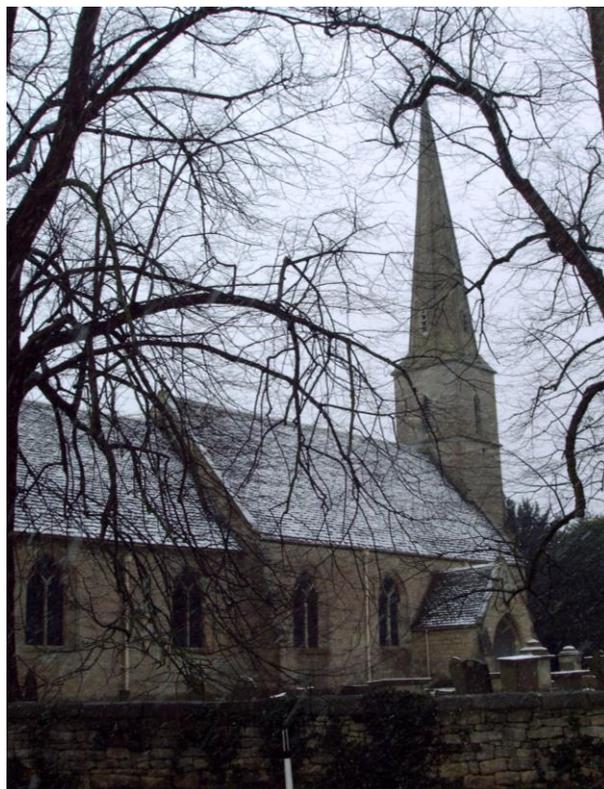
**We aim to strengthen links with our local communities
and the wider church**

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2013

Legal and Administrative

Name: Parochial Church Council of Standish, St. Nicholas.

Location: St. Nicholas' Church is located in the centre of the parish adjacent to Standish Court.



Correspondence: The Secretary (currently Revd Richard Amys), c/o The Rectory, Millend Lane, Eastington, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 3SG.

Members: Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected (up to 6) at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC may co-opt up to 2 further members.

During the year the following served as PCC members:

Revd Richard Amys	<i>Chair (and Secretary from October)</i>
Mrs Yvonne Young	<i>Churchwarden (to April)</i>
Mrs Margaret Hazell	<i>Churchwarden (to April)</i>
Mr Roger Hart	<i>Treasurer (to September)</i>
Mrs Lynda Hart	<i>Secretary (to September)</i>
Mr Graham Stevens (to Feb)	<i>Deanery Synod Rep. (until February)</i>
Mr John Jenner	<i>Churchwarden (from April)</i>
Mrs Hilda Prescott	<i>Churchwarden (from April)</i>
Mr Ian Hodges (from Oct)	<i>Treasurer (from October)</i>
Mrs Lynn Harrison	<i>(from April)</i>
Mr Steve Harrison	<i>(from April)</i>
Mrs Linda Massey	<i>(from April)</i>

Status: The PCC is a charity, exempted from registration with the Charity Commission under the Charities (Exemption from Registration) Regulations 1996.

Independent Examiner: Ms Katrina Naphine, 6 Millend Row, Eastington, GL10 3SF

Bank: Nat West Bank plc, 21 Eastgate St, Gloucester.

Aims and Organisation

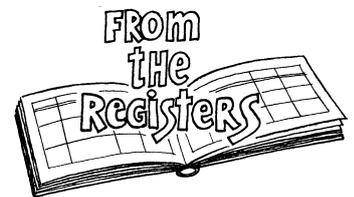
The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as 'to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Standish PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the Church of St. Nicholas, Standish, and the churchyard surrounding it.

Standish is one of six parishes in the benefice of Eastington, Frocester, Haresfield, Moreton Valence, Standish and Whitminster, referred to unofficially as the 'Cotswold Edge' parishes. Joint ministry expenses are shared on an agreed percentage basis with the other parishes. In 2013 this was 8% and in 2014 it will be 11%

Review of the Year

Usual Sunday attendance 8 (2012 – 6); Easter Communicants 9 (12); Easter Attendance 10 (20); Christmas Communicants 0 (20); Christmas Attendance 0 (21); 38, plus 241 at Christingle for Whitminster School (Carol Service held jointly with Haresfield at Haresfield so no Carol Service at Standish in 2012); Harvest festival 12 (25 at Moreton Hill).



This year there were 3 baptisms (7 last year/27 in the benefice); 0 weddings (3/10); 3 funerals in church (5/26); 2 funerals at local crematoria (2/8).



Secretary's Report on the proceedings of the PCC

The PCC met 5 times in 2013.

Many thanks to Lynda Hart, who retired as Secretary in September, as she moved from the parish. The Rector volunteered to stand in as Secretary, and compile this report and the Annual Report for the year.

In February the PCC was informed that Graham Stevens wished to resign as Deanery Synod Rep, and from the PCC. He had completed a risk assessment for the church. The Rector gave more details about his sabbatical, to be taken from May-July. The PCC were informed that a new account was to be set up within Eastington PCC's accounts for all future fees, which would then be disbursed to parishes each month as at present. It transpired that the PCC had to give its approval for any new tenant for the ground floor of the Village Hall. Those who helped with the recent Film Evening and Coffee and Mince Pie morning were thanked. Arrangements for a pancake evening were finalised, and it was agreed to apply for a stall in Stonehouse on the green again.

At the April meeting following the APCM dates for future PCC meetings were decided. Plans for the new benefice website were shared, and the Safeguarding policies were reviewed. The date for the Quinquennial inspection was set for August – this has not yet been received due to a long holiday over Christmas and New Year by our architect.

At the July meeting the PCC was told that the security light in the porch had been replaced, as had the floodlight timer. Roger and Lynda Hart said that they were hoping to move to their new home late August/early September. They were thanked for all their hard work over the years.

In October Ian Hodges was formally co-opted onto the PCC as Treasurer – he is also Treasurer of Eastington PCC. As he was unable to make the meeting, another date was made for November so he could present a finance report. The PCC decided to keep the Parish Share pledge for 2014 at £2,700, the same as in 2013. A Jumble and Bric-a-Brac sale was planned for December to be held in church, and arrangements for the Film Evening in November were discussed. The PCC authorised the Rector and Churchwardens to approve the new tenancy for the Village Hall.

In November the Rector said he had consulted the Diocesan Organ Advisor, and now needed to get an estimate from our organ tuner initially, before we could make a decision about what was needed to repair the organ and how much it could cost. Ian presented his first report to the PCC. The Film Night had made £172.

Reports from the Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods were also discussed during the year.

Richard Amys (February 2014)

Rector's Report



I would like to thank everyone for their support in 2013, not least for holding the fort for the 3 months I was away on sabbatical. This afforded me a really good mid-career break. For 9-10 weeks of it Angela and I, accompanied by our dogs, toured England and Wales in our caravan. I had the opportunity to explore North and South Wales, parts of the Midlands, Lincolnshire, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, East Sussex and Berkshire. I was able to read and relax, do a bit of writing, bird watch, and experience worship in other denominations as well as in other C of E churches.

We also visited both Rome and Turkey, which were fascinating. On a more mundane note, during the time we were at home we stripped out, redecorated and refurbished my study in the Rectory, which has made a huge difference – more space freed up, tidier (though not perfect by any means) and better organised. The challenge for 2014 is to replace my ageing desktop computer.

Thank you to everyone in the parish and benefice who encouraged and supported me in taking this 'time out' from my ministry, and to all those who took services while I was away.

I'd like to share a bit about where we as a parish and as a benefice might develop in the future. I recently had the opportunity to hear the Bishop of Sheffield, The Rt Revd Steven Croft, talk to the clergy of our diocese about evangelism, or as the Roman Catholics call it, evangelisation. He had had the opportunity to attend a 3-week synod in Rome called by Pope Benedict, where hundreds of Roman Catholic bishops gave 5 minute presentations of what was happening in their dioceses all over the world as regards sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the difficulties they faced. Bishop Steven returned home, and at a Deanery Synod meeting in his own diocese he was struck by the similarities in the discussions at a local level with those in Rome. He did joke that in our own General Synod we generally allocate 3 days to discuss 15 topics, whereas the Roman Catholics took 3 weeks to discuss one – and in great depth!

He described Evangelism as ‘communicating faith and making disciples’, and said that Evangelism should not be a ‘dirty word’, but be a normal part of our lives as Christians. He wanted to dispel the myth that it is easy – it is in fact hard and challenging – but we need to have a firm grasp on reality and hope. We are called to be hopeful, just as we are called to love, and these are virtues we need to practice every day.

In practice there is the reality of a cycle of despair: We find it difficult to proclaim the faith, which leads us to proclaim the faith less, our confidence becomes eroded, we find that we have fewer resources at our disposal, and we have less input into society – which makes it more difficult to proclaim the faith, and the cycle goes on.

To counter this he suggested 7 Disciplines of Evangelism:

1. Prayerful discernment and listening – a time of contemplation.
2. Apologetics – defending and commending the faith.
3. Evangelism – the initial proclamation.
4. Catechesis – frequent nurture courses, learning and teaching faith.
5. Ecclesiastical Formation – growing the community of the church.
6. Planting and forming ecclesial communities.
7. Incarnational mission.

Bishop Steven then challenged the clergy of our diocese to consider where these disciplines are being formed and nurtured in their own ministerial practice, and in our parishes and benefices. I am hoping that as a parish and as a benefice we can work through these challenges and find opportunities to work through these disciplines, starting with those of us on our PCC. I believe that it is essential that we work prayerfully together to break out of the cycle of despair, and reclaim the virtue of hope if the church is going to not only survive, but prosper in the future.

Richard Amys (March 2014)

Churchwardens' Report

Looking back from January 1st to April 2nd, before being elected Churchwardens, nothing major was done on fabric maintenance, nor during the Rector’s sabbatical.

We were sorry to lose Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis from the diocese, who was very helpful during John’s previous duties as churchwarden. We will also miss Roger and Lynda Hart who spent a lot of time in the churchyard re. maintenance during the remainder of the year.

The floodlights and porch light were sorted out by Steve Evans, and the rainwater channel round the channel re-pointed by Blackwells. The downpipes on the new Vestry were blocked, causing water to seep into the cupboard, damaging some burses, veils, palls and corporals. Members of the PCC cleared the blockage. The tenor clapper shattered, and was replaced. Minor repairs to the gate were carried out, and the porch was repainted.

The churchyard has been well looked after by Rob Luke, and thanks to the Parish Council for its grant towards maintenance. Thanks also to Stan Dicker and the other volunteers for opening and closing the church.

John Jenner, Hilda Prescott, Churchwardens (March 2014)

Rector's Discretionary Fund Report

The starting balance was £444.90. The sources of income in 2013 were from fees charged for verging for weddings (£225) and funerals (£225) donations from individuals and others (£95) and collections, including All Souls (£350.88). Total income was £895.88.

The areas of expenditure were on: support for music and choirs (£102); Young Church Mag subscriptions (£18); Donations to Charities, Churches and individuals (£485.54), Stationary, photocopying and postage (£180.99), and the set-up costs for the benefice website (£167.99). Total expenditure was £954.52.

This meant a deficit of £58.64 over the year, and at the year end the balance stood at £386.26.

At long last our benefice website came into being, and the RDF paid for the initial start-up costs. As income was greatly reduced from that in 2012, so the scope of the fund was similarly reduced, though it still managed to buy the latest Diocesan Directories for each parish, supply £100 as the 'float' for the new benefice fees account, and buy 100 pens with our benefice website address on them which have been distributed as gifts early in 2014 to members of the church congregations.

Richard Amys (February 2014)

Deanery Synod Representative's Report

Our Deanery Synod Representatives are:

Eastington –Celia Harris, vacancy.

Frocester – Marjorie Hawkins

Haresfield – Vacancy

Moreton Valence – Sally Van Eeghen

Standish – Vacancy

Whitminster – John Green

The Rector is a clergy member of Deanery Synod.

The meeting held on Wednesday 30th January was held at St. Mary's Church, Painswick

Bishop Michael was the guest speaker, supported by Lucy Taylor (Diocesan Communications Officer) and Pauline Godfrey (Department of Mission & Ministry) who spoke about the Diocesan strategies of 'Journeying Together' and 'Effective Ministry in Every Parish'. Ben Preece-Smith (Director of Finance, and later in the year Diocesan Secretary) updated the Synod on the financial situation in the diocese. The Revd Malcolm King was welcomed as the new Team Rector of the Stroud Team Ministry.

The meeting held on Monday 22nd April was held at Minchinhampton School.

Helen Richardson (Diocesan Giving Officer), following up from Bishop Michael's visit, spoke about the various ways the diocese can assist parishes with financial stewardship. Revd Peter Francis (Woodchester and Brimscombe) was welcomed, the Appointment of Revd Rosie Woodall to Bisley was announced, and a number of clergy leaving were announced: Revd John Van de Linde (Bussage and Eastcombe), Revd Michael Withey (Holy Trinity, Stroud), Revd Steve Early (Nailsworth), Revd Chris Collingwood (Minchinhampton – moving to York Minster), Revd Jeff James, and Revd Ann Morris. A report was given on the Deanery's parish share position, and that of the Deanery Office.

The meeting on Thursday 25th July was held at Sheepscombe Village Hall

The guest speakers were Mr Will Mansell, who heads the Stroud Foodbank, and Mr Andy Harding, who spoke about the work PSALMS was doing with young people in the area. Revd Malcolm King is the new Area Dean. Revd Vernon Lidstone spoke about his work as Retirement Officer in the Deanery – he is now

retiring from the post! Revds John Hunnisett and Alison Guy will be taking over. Revd Mike Holloway was announced as the new rector in the Beacon benefice.

The meeting on Wednesday 23rd October was held at Cainscross Church Hall

The guest speaker, Canon Andrew Braddock, spoke on Mission Action Planning. The Area Dean spoke about the formation of the Stroud Team in the context of MAPing, and how it had been useful.

During the year there were also regular reports received from both General and Diocesan synods.

Revd Richard Amys (February 2014)

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

There were 24 names on the Electoral Roll last year. Following this year's revision there are 25 names on the Roll, 16 residents and 9 non-residents.

Revd Richard Amys (March 2014)

Bell Ringers' Report for

Two quarter peals were rung in memory of ringers – one for Lionel Longney in August, and another for Sue Catcheside in February of this year – both ringers who have rung at Standish and been supportive of our tower. The bells have been rung for special services.

Numbers at practices have been swelled by learners from other towers – often 10-14 ringers being present!

The clapper on the Tenor bell shattered in November, but was replaced in time for the Christmas services.

John Gibson, Tower Captain (March 2014)

Treasurer's Report

Being my first year as Standish treasurer, I would like to thank everyone on the PCC for a warm welcome and I am glad everyone is happy with the way I set out the accounts. I would also like to thank Roger Hart for his hard work before me and a thank you for helping me out with all the information I needed to take over.

Last year we had a good income thanks to a liability payment and a VAT reclaim through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. We also had good income from loose collections and donations last year, unfortunately they have dwindled quite a bit this year and even our fund raising have seen a decline in funds. Therefore this has left us with a deficit of £2,282.89 for the year. Emphasis needs to be placed on raising more general funds for 2014 to ensure the day to day running expenses are met. Fundraising and increasing planned giving and collections will need to be a priority.

Notes to the Financial Statement for the year ended 31/12/13

1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

2. Accounting policies

The financial statements include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Receipts are included as received and payments when irrevocably paid.

Restricted funds must be used for the purpose for which the money was given or donated. Unrestricted funds used for any charitable purpose of the PCC. Designated funds are amounts earmarked for specific purposes by the PCC. Designated funds may be undesignated by the PCC at anytime.

3. Income tax recovered

Income tax recovered from Gift Aid was from 1st January 2012 to 31st December 2012, which came to £740.12. Slightly down on last year's which was £747.12. Last year's figures also include VAT reclaimed through the Listed Places of Worship Scheme that came to the sum of £4,191.72.

4. Collections and other giving

The amount for the year is made up as follows:

	£
Loose collections	856.12
Planned Giving	<u>1,225.10</u>
TOTAL	2,081.22

Loose collections is just over £2,000 down on last year, this is mainly due to larger collections collected at funerals and weddings of which there was more of last year. Loose collections as from 6th April 2013 qualify for Gift Aid, claiming under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS), this will be claimed at the end of the tax year.

5. Fundraising

Fundraising activities for 2013

<u>Gross Profits banked</u>	£
Pancake evening	208.05
Produce Stall	265.80
Euphony concert	<u>77.95</u>
TOTAL	552.25

Film night raised £165.00 was banked as donation for gift aid purposes. Last year's figure was £265.00. Also last year we had a Christmas mini market which raised £344.34, which is why last year's total is more at £1,136.43.

6. Income from trading

Fees are made up from;

Weddings x 1	75
Funerals x 7	1,024
Total	1,741

Church Lettings: Hire of premises for polling station, this year we increased the cost by £20. Last year we had an extra booking for Police and Crime Commissioners election.

7. Parish Share

The Parish's share of the Deanery apportionment is allocated by the Deanery using the Diocesan formula. This formula is based on clergy numbers, active church membership and average parish income. The proposed Parish share for 2012 was £3,104, with advice from the Treasurer on the PCC's current financial situation the PCC decided to pledge £2,700. This was paid in full.

8. Working expenses

8% of incumbent's working expenses, such as car expenses, telephone, stationery and postage. Working expenses also includes sabbatical cover of services done by other clergy, this was paid by share through Benefice expenses. These expenses totalled £242.83

9. Deanery Admin

8% share of Stroud's Deanery Administration fees. Total for the year £27.50

10. Admin Expenses

Treasurer's administration expenses paid by donated cash

Postage	£5.70
Printer paper	<u>£5.99</u>
Total	£11.69

11. Cost of services

Photocopying for services £28.54 and wine & wafers £18.82. Total £47.36

12. Church running expenses

Church running expenses for the year were;

	2013	2012
	£	£
Electricity	352.24	311.35
Insurance	2,359.59	2,105.37
Total	2,711.83	2,416.72

15. Church Maintenance

Maintenance costs were made up by;

Installation of new light & time clock	£195.00 £117.60
Quinquennial inspection	£1,400.00 £12.28
Grass cutting (x2)	<u>£29.09</u>
Gate repair	
Paint for porch	
	£1,753.97

16. Charities

Donations made to charities in the year were as follows:

Gloucester Historic Churches Trust	£50.00
Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis – Leaving project	£50.00 £30.00
Bishop John's Farewell Gift	£100.00
Richard Amys Sabbatical Funerals;	£70.00
Alzheimer's Society	£117.50
WaterAid	<u>£52.00</u>
Cotswold Care Hospice	
	£469.50

18. Sundry Expenses

Sundry expenses include; Main door key £6.00, Round up weed killer £24.99, Chamber Keys £5.00, Diocesan Directory £6.00, Bell Ring Affiliation fee £10.00. Total of £51.99.

19. Fund raising fees

Hire of Standish Village Hall at £100.00.

Ian Hodges, Treasurer (February 2014)

Standish Parochial Church Council
Receipts and Payments Account for the Period to 31/12/13

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	<i>2012</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
<u>Incoming resources from donors:</u>					
Income Tax recovered	670	63	7	740	4,939
Planned Giving	1,200	25	0	1,225	956
Loose Collections	642	40	174	856	2,857
Commonwealth War Graves	15	0	0	15	15
 <u>Income from Grants</u>					
Parish Council Maintenance grant	900	0	0	900	900
<i>Liability payment</i>	0	0	0	0	8255
 <u>Other voluntary incoming resources:</u>					
Fund raising events	552	0	0	552	1,136
Donations	671	20	0	691	4,892
 <u>Income from investments:</u>					
Interest	185	18	1	204	384
 <u>Income from trading:</u>					
Fees	588	0	0	588	1,741
Church Lettings	170	0	0	170	300
Total receipts	5,594	166	182	5,942	26,375

PAYMENTS

<u>Activities directly relating to the</u>	2,700	0	0	2,700	2,700
<u>work of the church:</u>	243	0	0	243	148
Parish Share	28	0	0	28	30
Working expenses	12	0	0	12	57
Deanery Admin	47	0	0	47	75
Admin Expenses	2,712	0	0	2,712	2,417
Cost of services	1,754	0	0	1,754	6,082
Church running expenses	230	66	174	470	609
Church maintenance	0	0	0	0	0
Charity/Mission giving					
Governance costs					
<u>Other payments:</u>					
Sundry Expenses	52	0	0	52	92
Honorarium	70	0	0	70	30
Giving Envelopes	38	0	0	38	0
Fund raising fees	100	0	0	100	20
Total Payments		66	174	8,225	
	7,985				12,260
Net Receipts / Payments	-2391	100	8	-2,283	14,116

Bank Account Balances	01/01/13	31/12/13	Difference
	£	£	£
Treasurers Account	24,615	22,333	-2,282
CBF Account	3,250	3,250	0
Rev Cash Account	-31	-32	-1
Total	23,803	23,519	-2,283

Breakdown of account totals	01/01/13	31/12/13
Treasurer's Account;	£	£
General funds	8721	6,330
Fabric Fund	14,881	14,890
Memorial Fund	258	262
Organ Fund	518	591
Tower Fund	237	260
Total	24,615	22,333
CBF Account;		
Fabric Fund	150	150
Memorial Fund	700	700
Organ Fund	1,800	1,800
Tower Fund	600	600
Total	3,250	3,250