

## **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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014**

#### **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</i>
Mr John Jenner	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Mrs Hilda Prescott	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Mr Ian Hodges ( <i>co-opted</i> )	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs Lynn Harrison	
Mr Steve Harrison	<i>(Deanery Synod Rep)</i>
Mrs Linda Massey	

*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 2014 this was 11% and in 2015 it will be 11%

## **Review of the Year**

Usual Sunday attendance 8 (2013 – 8); Easter Communicants 12 (9); Easter Attendance 15 (10); Christmas Communicants 15 (0); Christmas Attendance 15 (0); 0, plus 140 at Christingle for Whitminster School (Carol Service held jointly with Haresfield at Haresfield so no Carol Service at Standish in 2013); Harvest festival 22 (12) plus 42 at Moreton Hill (25).



This year there were 2 baptisms (3 last year/33 in the benefice); 2 weddings (0/21); 4 funerals in church (3/25); 4 funerals at local crematoria (2/10).



## **Secretary's Report on the proceedings of the PCC**

The PCC met 6 times in 2014.

The majority of our meetings were held at The Granary, the home of Linda and David Massey, and PCC members were shocked to hear of Linda's sudden and unexpected death in March 2015. Linda was a member of the PCC for a number of years, and we will miss her gentle nature, good humour and hospitality.

In February 2014 we were still awaiting the quinquennial report, but had been informed that there were no major problems. Water ingress into the vestry caused by a blocked drainpipe had caused damage and staining to some of the altar linens and coverings. These were dried and cleaned, though some damage remains. The blocked downpipe was cleared.

The PCC met in March to discuss the Annual Report and Accounts, and again following the Annual Meetings in April when Safeguarding issues were addressed, and the policies updated to reflect new Nominated people in post in the benefice – Caroline Segalov (Children) and Trish Pyne (Vulnerable Adults). Contact and Helpline numbers were now prominently displayed, and these and the policies were put on a wallet on the notice board in the porch. The organ had been attended to, and had been found to be in a far better condition than had been feared.

The PCC had received an invitation to send a response to the Diocesan vacancy-in-see committee, giving our top two priorities for the next Bishop of Gloucester, and the top 2 things we would like to tell him/her. After discussion we decided our top two priorities were: To have a solid commitment to rural evangelism; To develop overseas connections with parishes. The two things we would like to tell the next Bishop of Gloucester are: Don't get so wrapped up in the Cathedral project that the rest of the Diocese gets forgotten; Rural parishes need people resources too.

A stall was held in July in Stonehouse, raising money for the church, and film evening in November. The church was represented in the consultation over the second weekend in October regarding the future development of the former Standish Hospital site. Youngs builders were engaged to clear gutters etc round the church, and the lightning conductor was given a visual check, and memorial stones 'topple rested'. Items for Boot Fair sales were collected during the year, and sold as and when stalls were available.

The PCC recorded its satisfaction that the legislation to allow women to be ordained as bishops had eventually passed through all the legal stages.

Regular updates were given by Ian, our treasurer, throughout the year, and PCC members have been grateful to him for taking this job on in addition to the same position at Eastington. He is standing down at the APCM in 2015, and Steve Harrison has agreed to take over, as has Lynda Hart from me as PCC Secretary – we are grateful to them all!

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

*Richard Amys (March 2015)*

## **Rector's Report 2014**



Last year I wrote about the 7 Disciplines of Evangelism the first of which was prayerful discernment and listening – a time of contemplation. I am really pleased that that first stage was started in February 2015, albeit after a longer than hoped for gestation period, and the members of the 6 PCCs of the benefice who were able to attend during the day were positive about what they had shared among themselves. I am very grateful to Revd Cate Williams for facilitating the event, Steve and Lynn Harrison, the new SPAN editors and Standish PCC members are due to publish a report on the day in April's edition –

thank you to them.

Following my retirement announcement at the Benefice Birthday service just after Christmas, this meeting took on added significance, being the first opportunity for members of the benefice to meet together afterwards, and thoughts of what might happen from June onwards was also in everyone's minds. As I write I know that meetings with our Churchwardens are being arranged as the diocese begins the process of deciding What Happens Next? Strangely, this is not an area I have any real experience of as most clergy either leave or arrive, but are not around during the vacancy! I will be working with the Diocese, Deanery, Churchwardens, PCCs and others to ensure, as far as I can, that everyone is as prepared as possible to move into the vacancy with confidence.

After over 15 years as Rector of the benefice, it will be hard to say goodbye, as this is the longest I have lived in any one place in my life, and it is always hard to leave friends as you move on. It will also be strange to be living so close, and not to be involved in the day-to-day life of the parishes. Indeed, I am not allowed to take any services anywhere for at least 6 months, and after that it is frowned upon to

come back into previous parishes unless invited to do so. I'm sure that will be hard for me, but those are the rules. I am looking forward to see what God has in mind for me in the future – and I hope you are too.

A big thank-you to everyone, past and present, who have contributed to the furtherance of God's kingdom in our little area of his world, and have done their best to share the love of Christ with those in our area, both inside the church and in the community. 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'.

*Richard Amys (March 2015)*

## **Churchwardens' Report**

No major work was necessary. Repairs were made to the vestry door lock. A screen has been placed to hide the rubbish bins – thanks to Stan Dicker for emptying them!

The churchyard wall was repaired following a collapse.

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 2014**

The starting balance was £386.26. The sources of income in 2014 were from charges for verging at weddings (£600) and funerals (£425) donations from individuals and others (£573) and collections, including All Souls (£324.50). Total income was £1922.50.

The areas of expenditure were on: support for music and choirs (£269); Young Church Mag (1 year), Parish Pump (1 year) and Roots (2 years) subscriptions (£137); Donations to Charities, Churches and individuals, including candles and food (£279.10), Stationary, photocopying and postage (£53), Palm Crosses (£90), Teaching aids and training (£116.50) and the running costs for the benefice website (£214.80). Total expenditure was £1159.40.

This meant a surplus of £763.10 over the year, and at the year end the balance stood at £1149.36.

As I will be leaving at the end of May 2015, the RDF will cease to exist in its present form. I hope to use the money in it to continue to support what has been funded by it until then, and will then hand it over to our parishes – either in one lump to be used as it has been in the past, or divided up between the individual parishes to be used as they wish.

Since I began the Fund in August 1999 I believe that it has been a source of useful funding to both individuals and the parishes, resourcing many and varied projects and people when needed. I would like to thank all those who have donated to the Fund (in particular via the annual All Souls service), and those who have assisted with the verging duties over the years which between them have provided a very large proportion of its income.

*Richard Amys (January 2015)*

## **Deanery Synod Representative's Report**

Our Deanery Synod Representatives are:

Eastington – Vacancy

Frocester – Vacancy

Haresfield – Vacancy

Moreton Valence – Vacancy

Standish – Stephen Harrison

Whitminster – Vacancy

The Rector is a clergy member of Deanery Synod.

### **The meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January was held at Lakefield School, Frampton-on-Severn**

Mrs Judith Knight, the Diocesan head of Human Resources and Safeguarding was the guest speaker. She outlined the approach to safeguarding and safer recruitment in the diocese, and highlighted the new Safeguarding Workshops that are run in the diocese. An update on pastoral re-organisation was given, and the Deanery treasurer spoke about the 2014 Parish Share and funding the Deanery Office.

### **The meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June was held at Painswick Church**

Canon Ian Marsh, the Lay Chair, stood down, and was thanked for all he had done. Canon Margaret Sheather was elected unopposed to replace him.

The Very Reverend Stephen Lake, Dean of Gloucester Cathedral, was the guest speaker. He spoke about the life of the cathedral, and the ambitious 'Project Pilgrim' (to Connect, Engage and Restore). He was able to tell synod members that they had been successful in securing development funding from The Heritage Lottery Funding - £4.5 million over the next 10 years.

Revd Matthew Page talked about the Street Pastors initiative in Stroud, and synod voted to fully support and endorse this development.

It was announced that the Deanery Office, and our administrator, Sally Withers, would be moving to an office in The Shambles in Stroud in August, after being at Frampton Court for the past 4 years.

### **The meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October was held at Cainscross Church Hall**

The guest speaker, the Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Rt Revd Martyn Snow, introduced himself to the members, and thanked everyone for their welcome and support, especially following Bishop Michael stepping back from his role as Diocesan bishop. He highlighted the challenges ahead in the diocese – Growing the Church, nurturing the faith, providing effective ministry in every parish, and enabling a smooth transition to the appointment of the next Bishop of Gloucester.

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

With my departure in 2015 there will be no regular attendee from any of our parishes at Deanery Synod meetings. PCC secretaries get the minutes, but this is not the same as having someone present. This is something for the parishes to consider.

*Revd Richard Amys (January 2015)*

## **Electoral Roll Officer's Report**

There were 25 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 – the only change being since the revision -the recent death of Linda Massey who was a PCC member and host to our meetings.

*Revd Richard Amys (March 2015)*

## **Bell Ringers' Report for 2014**

Two quarter peals were rung in memory of ringers – one for Lionel Longney in August, and another for Sue Catchside 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**

We have made good progress financial this year from a deficit of £2,391 last year in General funds to a Surplus of £448 this year. Although the total shows a deficit of £960 this was because we are using funds for what they are intended for, mainly maintenance costs in our case this year (see note 15).

General fund income was up by just over £750 on last year, with general expenses being down with less than £2,087 to last year's figure. These are very promising figures, giving us a good start to build on for 2015, but we still need to ensure our general funds through giving and fundraising meet our day to day running expenses.

## **Notes to the Financial Statement for the year ended 31/12/14**

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, for the amount of £553.36. Down on last year's which totalled £740.12. We also had Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) claim for the period 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013 to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014, for the sum of £118.14. For special services and funerals the amount of £59.65 was passed on to the relevant charities from the GASDS claim.

#### 4. Collections and other giving

The amount for the year is made up as follows:

	£
Loose collections	1,962.52
Planned Giving	<u>1,787.30</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,749.82</b>

Loose collections is just over £1,100 up on last year, this is mainly due to larger collections collected at funerals and weddings of which there was more of last year. Planned giving was also up by just over £560 on last year, a very encouraging trend.

#### 5. Fundraising

Fundraising activities for 2013

<u>Gross Profits banked</u>	£
Stonehouse stall	180.37
Egg box	288.48
Film evening	243.00
Boot fair	<u>4.73</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>716.58</b>

Fundraising total is up £164.33 to last year.

#### 6. Income from trading

Fees are made up from;

Weddings x 1	257
Funerals x 8	1,179
Memorial x 1	52
Int. Of ashes x 2	116
Refund of benefice exp.	11
Parish fees error 2013	<u>58</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,673</b>

Church Lettings: Hire of premises for polling station.

#### 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 £2,862, the PCC decided to keep the pledge to the same as last year's at £2,700. This was paid in full.

#### 8. Working expenses

8% of incumbent's working expenses, such as car expenses, telephone, stationery and postage. These expenses totalled £268.33, slightly up on last year.

#### 9. Deanery Admin

11% share of Stroud's Deanery Administration fees of £600.00 = **£66.00**

### 10. Cost of services

Photocopying for services £81.54 and wine & wafers £14.00. **Total £95.54**

### 11. Church running expenses

Church running expenses for the year were;

	2014	2013
	£	£
Electricity	311.25	352.24
Insurance	<u>2,299.07</u>	<u>2,359.59</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,610.32</b>	<b>2,711.83</b>

### 15. Church Maintenance

Maintenance costs were made up by;

	Designated	Restricted	<b>Total</b>
Fire extinguisher service		£211.32	
Clapper replacement	£252.72		
Quinquennial inspection		£643.44	
Organ maintenance	£408.00		
Grass cutting		£800.00	
JNC fire extinguisher service		£42.72	
Fencing in grave yard		£85.00	
<b>Total</b>	<u>£660.72</u>	<u>£1,782.48</u>	<b>£2,443.20</b>

### 16. Charities

Donations made to charities in the year were as follows:

Gloucester Historic Churches Trust (SO)	£50.00
The Children's Society	£122.73
High Street Medical Centre	£55.41
The Children's Society (GASDS)	£30.68
High Street Medical Centre (GASDS)	£13.85
Water Aid (GASDS)	£10.12
Cats Protection	£31.00
Winstone's Memorial fund	£277.41
Sue Ryder	£100.00
FOCUS	£100.00
Hover Aid	£27.05
	<u>£818.25</u>

### 18. Sundry Expenses

Sundry expenses include; Candle3 £51.86 Candle Transfer £3.99 Bell ringing Affiliation fee £10.00 & Gloucester Locksmiths £42.00. **Total £107.85.**

*Ian Hodges, Treasurer, January 2015*

**Standish Parochial Church Council**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for the Period to 31/12/14**

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restrict ed Funds	Total	2012
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<u>Incoming resources from donors:</u>					
Income Tax recovered	612	41	19	672	740
Planned Giving	1,787	0	0	1,787	1,225
Loose Collections	1,274	125	564	1,963	856
Commonwealth War Graves	15	0	0	15	15
<u>Income from Grants</u>					
Parish Council Maintenance grant	0	0	900	900	900
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources:</u>					
Fund raising events	717	0	0	717	552
Donations	50	0	150	200	691
<u>Income from investments:</u>					
Interest	50	11	43	104	204
<u>Income from trading:</u>					
Fees	1,673	0	0	1,673	588
Church Lettings	170	0	0	170	170
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>6,347</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1,675</b>	<b>8,199</b>	<b>5,942</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
<u>Activities directly relating to the work of the church:</u>					
Parish Share	2,700	0	0	2,700	2,700
Working expenses	268	0	0	268	243
Deanery Admin	66	0	0	66	28
Admin Expenses	0	0	0	0	12
Cost of services	96	0	0	96	47
Church running expenses	2,560	0	50	2,610	2,712
Church maintenance	0	661	1,782	2,443	1,754
Charity/Mission giving	50	191	578	818	470
Governance costs	30	0	0	30	0
<u>Other payments:</u>					
Sundry Expenses	108	0	0	108	52
Honourarium	20	0	0	20	70
Giving Envelopes	0	0	0	0	38
Fund raising fees	0	0	0	0	100
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>5,898</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>9,159</b>	<b>8,225</b>
<b>Net Receipts / Payments</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>-674</b>	<b>-735</b>	<b>-960</b>	<b>-2,283</b>

Bank Account Balances	01/01/14	31/12/14	Difference
	£	£	£
Treasurers Account	22,333	10,372	-11,961
CBF Account	3,250	14,250	11,000
Rev Cash Account	-32	-31	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,552</b>	<b>24,591</b>	<b>-960</b>

Breakdown of account totals	01/01/14	31/12/14
<b>Treasurer's Account;</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General funds	6,330	6,754
Fabric Fund	14,890	2,150
Memorial Fund	262	265
Organ Fund	591	1,188
Tower Fund	260	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,333</b>	<b>10,372</b>
<b>CBF Account;</b>		
Fabric Fund	150	12,150
Memorial Fund	700	700
Organ Fund	1,800	800
Tower Fund	600	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,250</b>	<b>14,250</b>