

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, CHISWICK

PARISH PROFILE 2026



**St Nicholas with St Mary Magdalene, Chiswick
(Chiswick Parish Church)
Church Street
Chiswick
W4 2PJ**

www.stnicholaschiswick.org

Parish representatives: Dr Hilary Lines and Richard Jones KC

Bishop's welcome



The parish of St Nicholas, Chiswick, is located on the banks of the River Thames and in an exciting and lively part of West London. The church already has a good and clear desire to build its congregation and to impact the community, locally and beyond. Building on its established liberal catholic tradition and heritage, St Nicholas is a church that is looking to grow in numbers and depth of discipleship, and to develop its strong record of social engagement and service within the parish. It has a congregation which is excited by challenge and open to the possibility of change. They hope to see a reinvigorated church life that is committed in its

worship, purposeful in building up the Body of Christ, and authentic in its invitational outreach to the surrounding community.

This offers a wonderful opportunity for mission and ministry in an exciting and attractive area of London. We are therefore looking for a mission-minded priest who can provide leadership and help in focusing vision; someone who will enjoy working with lay people who want to see the building up of the life of the church; as well as encouraging engagement with the many opportunities in the local area for outreach, worship and witness.

For the right person, coming into the parish with energy and prayerfulness, this could be an ideal post for someone looking for a fresh challenge in mission and ministry in an Episcopal Area that recognises and values the importance of unity and missional focus.

The Diocese of London, and within it, the Kensington Area, is a supportive place in which to live and to minister. The London Diocesan Strategy, encompasses the broad ambitions of Confident Disciples, Compassionate Communities, and Creative Growth, as well a desire to become a younger, safer, and more racially just church.

There are good colleagues close by in neighbouring parishes. Kensington Area has a sense of purposeful direction that is rooted in the church's core callings of worship and witness together.

Who we are

We are a liberal, inclusive parish with long roots in the Anglican catholic tradition. We are open in theology and sacramental in liturgy.

Our inclusivity means that our doors are open to everyone. People of all backgrounds, experiences, and identities are welcome to explore faith and share in our community. We have no barriers to participation based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, or sexuality.

We are active. We face outwards and seek to serve our community. We act in response to social needs in the community.

We are reflective. We seek to develop our understanding of the Gospel, of our faith and of the implications for living our Christian life.

We have a sense of mission. Like many elsewhere, our numbers suffered over COVID, and we are searching for ways to build up our numbers to be able to serve Jesus Christ better in the community.

We are understated by nature and aware of our shortcomings. We are looking to improve and develop what we do in our worship, in our parish community and in how we reach out to the outer World.

The people of the parish tend to be highly educated and professional in occupation. This is reflected in our make-up.



Easter 2026 – the Peace

In a nutshell, St Nicholas is

- parish-centred, caring for and reaching out to the community in witness to the love of Christ
- catholic in tradition
- inclusive, open to all and welcoming all
- strong in lay involvement
- committed to serving the socially disadvantaged
- conscious that we are part of a wider worldwide Church



Sunday – 10.30 Parish Mass

A new vicar for St Nicholas

After eighteen years with our former vicar and having had just two vicars in over fifty-two years, the parish knows it faces a period of adjustment.

We are looking forward to the changes and challenges that a new incumbent will bring us. Aspects of our life together at St Nicholas that we would like to maintain include:

- Modern catholic teaching, theologically open and challenging
- Modern catholic liturgy, in its fullest expression, with full participation of trained lay people
- A welcome inclusive to all, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or sexuality
- A readiness to baptise anyone, young or old, after preparation
- The admission of young children to Holy Communion, again after preparation
- A willingness in principle to conduct re-marriage ceremonies
- Keeping the church open, literally and figuratively
- The sense of heritage and legacy of this church

The new priest we pray for would be:

- Energetic, with successful experience in parochial ministry and/or in similar ministry
- Sympathetic to the tradition of the parish, yet willing to bring fresh ways of being Church
- An able leader who practises collaborative leadership
- Instinctively inclusive
- Theologically well equipped, with a questioning, open mind
- Inspired by a prayer-life as the foundation and catalyst of their ministry
- Experienced in outreach, inspired to increase the numbers in our worshipping community
- Pastorally adept, with a friendly disposition and sense of humour
- Socially aware, seeking to use what we have for the disadvantaged
- Someone who enjoys interaction with the local community
- A teaching priest, who will help us grow in the faith and equip us in our daily discipleship; and who is able to preach with conviction and clarity
- Aware of and committed to the wider Church, locally, nationally and globally
- Committed to maintaining a relationship with our twin parish of St Simon and St Jude, Namacunde, in Angola
- Administratively competent, with a good understanding of IT and communications
- In the best of worlds, someone with musical aptitude, including a voice to sing the Mass
- In short, a model parish priest!

St Nicholas offers its incumbent

- A good level of support from highly educated and resourceful parishioners, with great local goodwill toward the church, extending beyond the church community itself
- An experienced and wise team of clergy and lay leaders in support

- The encouragement to make good use of free days and holiday entitlement for personal refreshment and pastoral re-invigoration. In addition, times set aside for spiritual development would be welcomed
- Full reimbursement of all expenses and assistance with timely vicarage redecoration
- A ministry set in one of the more attractive parts of London, with good local shops and amenities mostly found a short walk away on and around Chiswick High Road
- Good local schools
- Plenty of green space close by, along the river in Dukes Meadows for over a mile towards Barnes (railway) and Chiswick Bridges and in Chiswick House grounds, both areas within the parish. Among other open spaces, Kew Gardens, Gunnersbury Park, Barnes Common and Richmond Park are all under three miles away.
- A spacious and comfortable vicarage built in 1973 that provides a peaceful home environment overlooking the river Thames



Vicarage Garden Party

Our Parish

St Nicholas Church is the ancient parish church of Chiswick. The first recorded Vicar was John in 1224.

The church stands by the river Thames at the end of Chiswick Mall. At the other end of Church Street from the river, 150 metres from the church, is the A4/A316 junction roundabout. The shops and amenities of Chiswick High Road and Turnham Green Underground station are less than 800 metres away.



The parish lies in West London, at the far eastern edge of the deanery (and London Borough) of Hounslow. The parish had a population of 10,637 in the 2021 census. It is a primarily residential area lying between the river Thames and Chiswick High Road. Fuller's historic Griffin Brewery lies near the church, and some limited light commercial activity takes place in the parish.

Since the time of the Oxford Movement, Chiswick Parish Church has stood within the catholic tradition of the Church of England. We have a modern, liberal, catholic style of liturgy, centred on the Parish Mass each Sunday, with a deep-rooted commitment to lay involvement within the worshipping community.

We value our local community and extend open hands to our parish and local people, offering inclusive access to the sacraments and the occasional offices of the church. We pray that our hands might be Christ's hands in serving the needs of the people.

There is no church school. Chiswick School (secondary) and three primary schools (one Roman Catholic affiliated) are in the parish.

The population has a diverse social mix, but less than is typical of London (see links below). There is a bias in the parish toward the educated professional middle class, a mix reflected in the congregation. Some of our community lead extremely affluent lives, but others live in some of the most deprived sub-ward areas in the London Borough of Hounslow. Consequently, our church community comprises people from many different backgrounds. See demographic data below.

The local community extends beyond just the parish, as is common in London, with considerable overlap of interest among the six Chiswick parishes.



St Mary's Convent, the mother house of the Sisters of St Margaret, and the nursing home it sponsors are in the parish, near the church. St Nicholas supports the convent and nursing home with prayer and by other means where possible. Clergy at St Nicholas have historically maintained close ties with the convent, regularly saying mass there. See: <https://www.saintmarysconventchiswick.com>

Demographic data for the parish can be found on the Church Urban Fund website here: <https://cuf.org.uk/parish/230231>

and more clearly on the C of E website here:

https://d.docs.live.net/935A9BA8CEED5E89/Documents/Church/3%20New%20vicar%202026/Parish%20Profile/HOUNSLOW_230231_St_Nicholas_Chiswick.pdf

Parish Policies

The PCC is committed to supporting and welcoming the ministry of women clergy.

The PCC is committed to giving open access to the sacraments.

The PCC is committed to admitting children to communion.

Lay Eucharistic ministers licensed by the bishop take the blessed sacrament to the housebound, in addition to assisting in the distribution at communion.

The PCC has adopted the London diocesan Safeguarding Policy Statement.

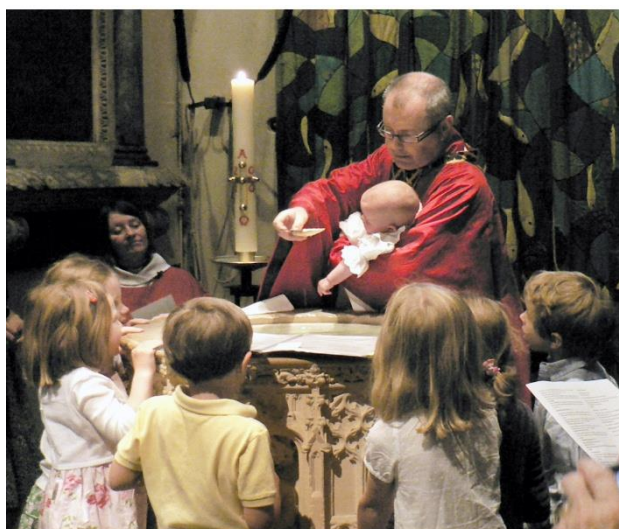
The PCC has expressed its support for the principles of Living in Love and Faith.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

St Nicholas takes very seriously the safeguarding of all our members, particularly children, young people and adults at risk. We have adopted the London diocesan Safeguarding Policy Statement. The PCC checks on safeguarding matters at every meeting. We have appointed a Safeguarding Officer and a Children's Champion, who both liaise with the diocesan safeguarding team. However, we do acknowledge that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church community and encourage a safeguarding culture among all our members.

<https://stnicholaschiswick.org/safeguarding/>



Liturgy and Worship

Our Parish Tradition

The Christian faith we uphold:

- is grounded in confidence in the love of God (as in John 3:16)
- is built on the established traditions of the catholic church
- upholds the constancy of the sacraments and of sacramental worship
- acknowledges that tradition develops as the Church and the World change

The heart of our witness and worship is the Parish Mass each Sunday and on major festivals. There is a strong liturgical tradition in the parish, to celebrate the Mass in a reverential but accessible manner.



Blessing of palms - Palm Sunday

We also believe in the power of the sacrament of baptism in mission and outreach. We have an open baptism policy. This policy, backed up by baptism visiting (mainly by lay people), has acted as a real bridge between the church and the community and has drawn people, especially parents of young children, into the church.

The St Nicholas community consists of concentric circles reaching out into the general community of Chiswick:

- There are 109 members of congregation on the electoral roll, with children and young people in addition
- There are 469 individuals subscribing to the parish e-newsletter - mostly in the worshipping community, even if in many cases only on an irregular basis
- There is a larger circle, not members of the church congregation but who identify with St Nicholas as their church and who turn to the church for baptisms, weddings and funerals or at other critical moments in their lives
- There is the wider population of the parish whom we serve

Children are accepted as full members of our community. We make young children welcome in church, we devote effort to bringing children up in the faith, and it is our policy to admit children to communion (typically at ages seven to nine).

Ritual, ceremony and music are seen as important elements in our worship. Our style of liturgy aims to be both dignified and relaxed and aspires to be inclusive of all. We use the contemporary English services from Common Worship. We are rebuilding a team of servers, which had been suspended during the COVID years.

Our regular pattern of worship

Sundays

8am Said Mass: average attendance **10**

10:30am Sung Parish Mass: average attendance **75**

Weekdays

Morning Prayer: Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays (currently in abeyance)

Weekday Masses: until recently Thursday Mass at 9.30am

The church is open during daytime hours, and on most days people, both local and visiting, take the opportunity to sit in church for private prayer.

Worship at home

The parish provides a “Daily Worship at Home” list of Bible readings, with a Psalm and a Gospel reading for each day, as a simple structured type of daily office. This is included in our weekly e-newsletter. We also list resources for prayer and daily worship on our website.

Music

Our Director of Music, David Cresswell, has been working hard in recent years to revive our choir after its effective dissolution during the pandemic. Our current transitional pattern of choral participation in the Parish Mass rotates among:

- our five choral scholars, drawn from years 11-13 of Chiswick School, on two Sundays per month during term time
- our reviving voluntary choir, made up of regular members of the congregation, currently on one Sunday per month
- and “Singing Round the Piano,” on one Sunday a month, which any members of the congregation may join to sing an anthem

Additionally, on major festivals we engage professional singers to boost the choir.

Families and young people

Children are always welcome. Children’s Church takes place during the Sunday Parish Mass, while very young children are welcome in church with their parents. When appropriate supervision has been available, a crèche has in the past been held in the vestry area.

Children’s Church

Children’s Church is a warm, close-knit community of children from three to eleven. The number of children attending varies greatly over time but is currently about ten. Children’s Church is intentionally family centred. Following a safer recruitment process, leaders volunteer on a rota, while an active WhatsApp group of parents keeps communication flowing and helps nurture the strong sense of community.

We use published materials such as *The Complete Children’s Liturgy Book* by Katie Thompson and *Creative Ideas for Children’s Worship* by Sarah Lenton to root our work in the weekly lectionary. From there we offer age-appropriate teaching and activities for younger children, typically using arts, crafts and simple storytelling to help them explore faith in creative ways.

As children grow older and move into secondary school, many understandably develop other weekend commitments. They still remain part of the parish family, often joining in Children’s Church plays or other key events for Christmas, Easter and other festivals. Some prefer to attend the main service or to join other areas of parish life such as bell-ringing. At times some of the older children stay or return as volunteer helpers.

At present we do not have enough volunteers to run a dedicated youth programme for those who have passed through Children’s Church, but it is an objective to be able to do so.

What makes our Children's Church distinctive is not size but spirit. It is a deeply relational, family-led community, where children know they belong, where parents support one another, and where faith is shared with gentleness, creativity, and joy. Community is not just something our Children's Church talks about, it is a defining characteristic.



Nativity 2025

Baptisms and Confirmations

There are on average about eight baptisms each year, which take place within the Parish Mass or at 12:15pm on a Sunday.

We offer preparation for confirmation at least annually, with typically about five candidates each year.

Admission to Holy Communion

Children, usually aged between seven and nine, are admitted to Holy Communion prior to confirmation after a short preparation course.

Mission and Outreach

Crosslight

St Nicholas is proud to have helped establish a branch in 2016 of the debt advice charity Crosslight Advice (www.crosslightadvice.org), which uses our parish hall to hold its face-to-face appointments. In addition to paid staff, volunteers from the church and local community contribute to the valuable work of the team. The branch operates with the support of a stand-alone local charity, affiliated with the parent organization. Its trustees, including the previous vicar, have been drawn mainly from the St Nicholas community, as was the branch's recently retired first manager.



Community lunches

Ten times a year, a team of volunteers organises a monthly community lunch, often themed around seasonal holidays and topical events. These lunches are hosted for anyone in the parish, but in particular for the elderly and housebound. This is a joyous occasion of fellowship and friendship.

Afternoon concerts

The church organises a series of popular monthly classical music concerts on Sunday afternoons. The performers are up-and-coming artists mostly from the Royal College of Music or the Royal Academy of Music. Proceeds help to fund our choral scholarships and other music costs. About 60 people attend each concert, with over 100 attending our December 2025 brass concert. Tea and homemade cakes served afterwards provide an additional draw for the events.

Ad hoc projects

St Nicholas is aware of the problems faced by members of the local community. From time to time we have organised outreach projects in response to emerging needs. Over recent years these have included

- Providing EFL teaching to local women, mostly parents in the local schools
- Using the church building to provide a weekly Warm Welcome during the “cost of living” crisis
- Establishing and managing a forum to see how St Nicholas, with local partner churches, could respond to the problems of modern slavery in our community

- Partnering with the West London Refugee Centre to give practical support to asylum seekers in the area

We have also supported the Hammersmith Food Bank and in the past ran a playgroup in St Denys Hall.

Namacunde



NAMACUNDE



*St Simon & St Jude Namacunde: church building nearing completion 2019
with parish priests of SS Simon & Jude and St Nicholas*

We have had a longstanding involvement with the diocesan organisation ALMA (Angola London Mozambique Association). Through ALMA we were introduced to the church of St Simon and St Jude, Namacunde, in southern Angola, with which we have been twinned since 2009. We have over the years raised funds to support the church and its activities, including the purchase of land on which to build a new church. Beginning in 2014 the St Nicholas Development Project included in its objectives the financing of the new church building, which was consecrated in 2019. Representatives of St Nicholas visited Namacunde in 2010 and again for the opening of the new church. St Nicholas has also raised funds to help finance a nutrition programme that allows members of its Mothers' Union to offer support to young mothers and children in an area with an endemic drought problem.

Developing the Faith

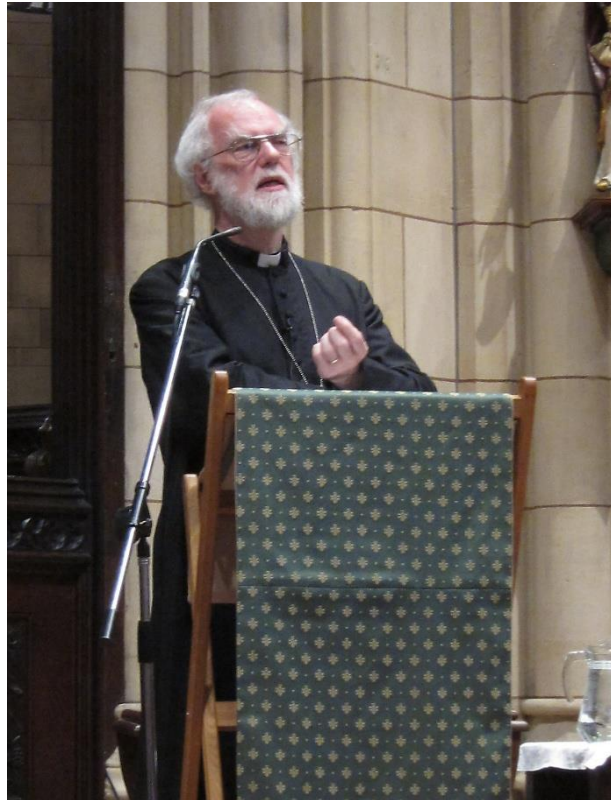
Children

The care and development in the faith of our young people is centred on our Children's Church. Information on this is found above under Liturgy and Worship.

Adults

There is normally a study group in Lent, with topics chosen by the clergy or congregation, and in the past at other times of the year.

St Nicholas has had a tradition over recent years of holding "Conversational Evensongs" at which people with an interesting story to tell are invited to speak of how they developed in faith. Guests have ranged from Archbishops to members of the congregation: names to be dropped include Archbishops Rowan Williams and Stephen Cottrell, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Eva Schloss and Frank Field (who was brought up in the St Nicholas congregation).



The Most Revd Rowan Williams



Frank Field MP

It will be a priority of a new incumbent to enhance the learning opportunities in the parish life here.

Our Parish Family

Social life

Many of our social activities capitalise on the culinary skills of our congregation and our love of sharing food, wine and good conversation. In early December each year we honour our patron saint and celebrate the life of the church with a festive gathering, drawing in the local community. These have included a three-course dinner and fund-raising auction and raffle for eighty people, hosted in the church.

Other events have included a wine-tasting dinner (again for eighty people) and auction held in church; a cabaret night, supper nights and wine tastings in the church hall; and a safari supper in the homes of church members.

The Friends of St Nicholas (see below) also hold social events and music evenings in the church, including with local jazz bands.

We have an active book group and have held walks and picnics to include the children.

Bells

There is a strong core of bell-ringers, who ring the bells in the eight-bell belfry before the Sunday Parish Mass and on request at weddings and funerals. They also ring in other churches in the area. They regularly contribute to national peals, such as for the coronation of King Charles III, and ring handbells before our annual carol service.

Friends of St Nicholas Church

The Friends of St Nicholas, made up of members of the church and others in the local community interested in the heritage of the parish church, gives financial support to St Nicholas for improvement works to the fabric of the church and churchyard. About 100 households currently pay subscriptions to the Friends. Their subscriptions add to the funds for maintenance and improvements. The Friends organise a varied programme of lectures, concerts and visits to raise further funds. Since 1985 the Friends have donated £171,000 to church projects.

Communication

Sunday service booklet

Each week our parish administrator produces a booklet that includes Mass texts, readings, hymns, prayer lists, who is doing what that week, as well as parish notices.

Weekly e-bulletin

Each Thursday an e-mail newsletter is sent to (currently) 469 recipients. This includes a message, usually from the vicar, and news and notices.

Website and social media

Our website (www.stnicholaschiswick.org) is currently designed and maintained by a contractor but is updated by the parish administrator. The website needs further development, and how this is done is currently under review.

Parish news and events are publicised on X, Instagram and Facebook. Facebook is also used for information for the church members. We also have a parish WhatsApp group that's used for the very occasional timely announcement or reminder.

News and notice of events are published in local media outlets such as the ChiswickW4 and Chiswick Calendar e-newsletters. This supplements occasional posters and flyers about events that are distributed by parishioners around the neighbourhood.

Archive

The church has retained its archives, which have been looked after with a high standard of care by the Archive team, currently comprising two archive-competent members of the congregation. As well as caring for the archives, the team handles enquiries from those searching for details of ancestors or for research documentation, since many well-known historical figures have been recorded in the parish registers. They also mount exhibitions in the south aisle of the church, containing historical information about the church and those attached to it, and welcome the opportunity to give presentations on the archive material.

Staffing and Lay Involvement

Vicar Vacant. The only stipendiary post is that of the parish priest.

Associate Vicar Fr Andy Rooney (non-stipendiary)

Fr Andy was licensed to St Nicholas in 2025. He was a member of the St Nicholas congregation and became licensed as a lay reader here. He also found his priestly vocation at St Nicholas. He served in other West London parishes after his ordination.

Honorary Assistant Priest Mother Eileen McGregor

Mother Eileen was licensed as non-stipendiary associate vicar of St Nicholas in 2016. Since 2020 she has had PTO in the Diocese of London. She continues to officiate at St Nicholas, at St Mary's Convent and at other churches in the area.

Lay Reader Emeritus Martin Daly

Martin has ministered in the parish for nearly 60 years and is a deep source of experience and knowledge on the worship and life of St Nicholas. He continues to participate fully in services.

Employees of St Nicholas:

Parish Administrator Hayley Shah

Director of Music David Cresswell (on a self-employed contract)

Church and Hall cleaner Jane Harrison

Lay Ministry

Many lay people are involved in ministry within the parish. There are eight Eucharistic ministers, licensed by the Bishop, who assist in the administration of Holy Communion at the 10:30 Mass. Two more are also licensed, who participate only by taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound.

Lay people read the Old Testament and New Testament at Mass, and currently twelve are trained to lead intercessions.

Families who are bringing children for baptism are visited by lay members of the church.

See also **Appendix A: The Church Team**

Resources

Finance

Financial Policies

- Planned Giving with Gift Aid is encouraged, using the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)
- Expenditure is signed off by the churchwardens week by week
- The PCC reviews management accounts every quarter
- General fund reserves are targeted to cover half of annual expenditure
- The PCC's objective is to return to covering the diocese's calculation of the cost of a "single vicar parish"
- The parish accounts are examined by an Independent Examiner
- Clergy expenses are reimbursed in full

Financial Highlights and Challenges

	2025 – General Fund
	£
Income	136,790
Of which Planned Giving	75,505
Expenditure	140,318
Of which Diocesan Common Fund	75,000
Shortfall	(3,528)
Reserves	61,324

nb: the shortfall in income was more than covered by accrued Gift Aid not yet recovered

The PCC has managed overall to keep the general fund in balance since COVID. Previously there had been years where the fund ran a continual deficit, covered by reserves. The balance has only been maintained the past two years by reducing the contribution to the diocesan Common Fund from what was requested.

The contribution requested has risen by far more than inflation over the past years. The Common Fund core parish assessment is the cost of the diocesan-financed staff, in our case one vicar. That amount is £99,880 for 2026, an amount that is then adjusted for the ability to pay. St Nicholas' offer for 2026 was agreed at £75,000.

We have had planned giving campaigns for many years. The loss of congregation members through removal or death is a constant pressure, so that we have not been able to match our planned giving to the Common Fund requests rising in real terms. We have asked givers to sign up for PGS, as this helps cash flow and eases administration, especially in respect of the reclaim of Gift Aid.

Since 2013 the parish also receives rent income from the flat that was built as part of developing St Denys Hall.

Apart from the General Fund, the PCC also has an Endowment Fund, which is invested in St Denys Hall, and a few small restricted funds. One restricted fund contributes to the church's music costs, including paying for the entire cost of our choral scholars. This fund comes from the revenue earned from the monthly afternoon concerts.

We continue to look for ways to increase our income, especially from the hire of the church and hall.

Over the years 2014-2026 St Nicholas has run a Development Campaign, raising approximately £1.5 million in total. This fund has now been fully utilised, with the development objectives achieved. The campaign has taken some parish giving away from contributing to the General Fund of the church. Drawing that back over coming years will be an important challenge.

For details on the parish finances, see **Appendix C (Financial Information)**

Buildings

The church building

Extensive development of the church building has occurred over the past (roughly) quarter of a century. This began with the re-laying of the wooden floors in the nave and aisles in 2000; the restoration of the 15th-century tower, the only remaining above-ground structure from medieval times, completed in 2003; and the installation of a new lighting scheme in 2007, which has since been uprated to use LED lamps.

At the time of the appointment process for the last incumbent, in 2007, the parish profile stated that there were *“practical shortcomings of the church building. There is no WC. There are no adequate facilities for the provision of refreshments. There is a lack of on-site storage.”* Since 2014 a Development Project raised approximately £1.5 million to finance

- The restoration and re-siting of the organ
- Using the space vacated by the organ and choir vestry to build a kitchen, WCs, a new clergy vestry and a high-level meeting/storage space and ancillary facilities
- New boilers
- The overhaul of the sacristy to provide better storage and replacement choir vesting space
- A two-stage overhaul of the failing external stonework with new step-free access to the south door
- The construction of a complete new church for our twin parish in Namacunde, Angola

The final, relatively small part of these works is nearing completion as of May 2026.

With its current improved facilities, the church building is used by local schools and choirs for concerts and events, though there is potential for such appropriate external uses of both church and hall to be increased.



St Denys Hall

In the past the parish had church halls on the site of St Mary Magdalene church, a former daughter church of St Nicholas. These were sold during the 1990s, as they were costing more in upkeep than they were earning for the parish.

Using the proceeds from that sale, which could only be expended on new hall facilities, the former St Denys Cottage was redeveloped in 2013 as St Denys Hall on the ground floor, with a flat above it on the first floor. This is a valuable resource, with the hall of the right size for current parochial needs and directly opposite the church. The flat, originally conceived as potential curate accommodation, has been let to produce an income for St Nicholas. The parish uses the hall as a meeting space and for parish events, such as the monthly Community Lunches. The hall is also occupied on Tuesdays by the Chiswick branch of Crosslight as the base for its work in the London Borough of Hounslow.



Parish Office

The parish office is situated on the ground floor of the vicarage. The room it occupies has its own external door, a kitchenette and a WC. This room was built in return for a parish contribution to the cost of the vicarage's construction in 1973 and is dedicated for the use of the parish—currently as the parish office.

For details on property, see **Appendix B (Buildings)**

Growth, Challenges and Planning

The primary mission of St Nicholas, as the ancient parish church of Chiswick, is to the people of the parish. Looking outwards, our priority is to extend and improve the church's involvement in the local community.

Looking inwards, the people of St Nicholas are looking to develop new ways to learn about, share and grow in the faith.

Looking outwards:

- We need to communicate our faith in Jesus Christ to the parish and grow the numbers in the fellowship of God's people here
- We wish to continue offering a smiling welcome to children and their families. We have well-established policies of open baptism and of admitting children to communion at an early age (typically this has been between seven and nine)
- We need to continue evolving and improving our ministry to young people, adapting to the changes in the social environment
- Our church buildings give us the opportunity to offer space to local groups. The church is already used by local schools for concerts and other events. We provide a series of monthly recitals in church which have proved popular. We need to find ways to further increase this engagement with the local community, as well as to raise funds
- We would like to supplement our monthly community lunches with additional forms of service to take the love of Christ into the area
- We are committed to the work of Crosslight in the community, which provides debt advice to people suffering the burdens of debt
- We seek to find other ways to help the socially disadvantaged in our vicinity. Our eyes are open, looking for other ways to reach our hands out to help
- Underlying all our work and initiatives is our openness to all who come, with a welcome irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality or economic status

Looking inwards

We can improve the ways of helping us to examine our faith and what it means to us.

We need to provide our people with

- Ways of exploring our faith in Jesus Christ
- Greater awareness of catholic spirituality
- Knowledge of the Bible and of Christian theological tradition
- An understanding of the liturgical calendar
- The potential for new forms of worship and learning

We are also working hard at maintaining the purely social side of our church fellowship in ways that appeal to all generations.

Appendix A: The Church Team

Vicar	vacant
Associate Vicar	Fr Andy Rooney
Honorary assistant priest	Mother Eileen McGregor
Reader Emeritus	Martin Daly
Churchwardens	Chris Lucy Nick Lines
Parish Administrator	Hayley Shah
Safeguarding Officer	Richard Jones
Children's Champion	Laura-Jane Wareing
Director of Music	David Cresswell
PCC Secretary	Hayley Shah
PCC Treasurer	Catherine Taylor
Eucharistic ministers	Vicar
Sacristan	Heather Johnson
Servers	Nick Lines
Rota of scripture readers	Hayley Shah
Rota of intercessors	Nick Lines
Welcome (including sidespeople)	Chris Lucy
Refreshments after Mass	Diane Daly
Children's Church	Laura-Jane Wareing
Community lunches	Anne McBride
Keeper of the Archives	Ann Rix
Planned Giving Secretary	tbc
Faculties Secretary	tbc
Captain of bell tower	Anthony Rands
Flowers in church and garden	June Ford-Crush
Development Appeal Chair	Hilary Lines
Friends of St Nicholas	Simon Morgan, Chair
St Mary's Convent	Mother Jennifer Anne SSM
Crosslight Chiswick branch	Nikki Beckett, Branch Manager
Inspecting Architect	Ian Angus DipArch RIBA
St Simon & St Jude Namacunde	Rev Moises Alfeus
	Ven Elias Mbala, Archdeacon of South Angola

Appendix B: Buildings: Architecture and History

The Church Building

The Parish Church of St Nicholas is a Grade 2*-listed building, rebuilt to the design of John Loughborough Pearson in the 1880s but incorporating the ancient tower of Kentish ragstone built in 1425 by the parish priest, William Bordall. Pearson's work is in neo-Perpendicular style, but it also incorporates Early English-style chancel windows made as the initial part of a projected rebuilding scheme designed by William Burges in the 1860s.

The church building is consequently predominantly Victorian Gothic, built with a triple nave capable of seating 300; the nave is almost as wide as it is long. The chancel continues the central nave to the east beyond a wooden screen, incorporating a choir and a broad sanctuary area. To the south of the chancel is a Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament or Lady Chapel, also behind a wooden screen; within the chapel there is a reredos by W. D. Caröe.

The church was rebuilt over the foundations and vaults of the old church. The vaults under the chancel and possibly elsewhere were filled with concrete at the time of the rebuilding, though there are extant vaults under the north aisle at least. Oliver Cromwell's headless body is allegedly buried in the chancel vault. His daughters Mary, Countess Fauconberg and Frances, Lady Russell are definitely buried in the vaults, having lived in the parish at Sutton Court (no longer in the parish). William Kent the architect (of Chiswick House among much else of note) is also buried in the vaults under the nave.

To the north of the chancel, the sacristy/vestry area was internally re-configured in 2017-18 to include the restored and re-sited organ, a renovated sacristy and a new clergy vestry, kitchen, WC and meeting room added. A new boiler was also installed in the boiler room by the tower's south wall at the same time.

The organ was built originally in the early 19th century by Thomas Russell and was previously at Holy Trinity Church, Cloudesley Square, Islington. It was installed at St Nicholas by Manders in the 1970s and rebuilt with electronic action by F. H. Browne in 2017.

The tower is the only remaining medieval part of the church. It has been restored at various times over the years, including by W.D.Caröe in 1900 and most recently by Ian Angus in 2003.

Five of the eight bells rung every Sunday were hung in 1656, unusually during the Cromwellian period, partly from a gift from Lady Fauconberg. The west door of the church opens into the tower, the lowest level of which holds the font and also forms the ringing chamber for the bells.

Many monuments from the previous church building were re-erected in the rebuilt church and in the tower, including the notable memorial to Sir Thomas Chaloner (1561-1615).

The church windows are glazed with stained glass throughout. This is mainly Victorian, some of a very high quality. The exception is one window to the south of the chancel, where the glass was lost to wartime bomb damage and replaced by clear glass, which frequently casts sunlight across the sanctuary at 11am.

The current condition of the church is good, having undergone a full stonework renovation programme over the past seven years (apart from the tower, which was restored earlier). The inspecting architect is Ian Angus of Andy Burrell Architects (and previously of Carden & Godfrey), who was appointed in 2001 but who is shortly retiring. The last Quinquennial inspection was undertaken in March 2023.



Church redevelopment
New organ installation
Stonework replacement

The Churchyard

This is one of the important churchyards of London, in terms of the tombs it holds. Twenty-six have listed status. Among the tombs in the church and churchyard are those of William Hogarth, the Italian poet Ugo Foscolo, the artist P.J. de Loutherbourg (in a tomb designed by Sir John Soane), J. M. Whistler and Sir Charles Tilston Bright, who laid the first telegraph cable across the Atlantic.



Hogarth's tomb

St Denys' Hall

St Denys' Hall, across Church Street from the church, was built in 2012-13, retaining the street frontage of the former St Denys' Cottage. The cottage was originally the vicarage coach house and was named after the sisters of the Community of St Denys, who lived in the cottage and acted as lay workers in the parish from the 1930s to the 1970s. Home to several curates afterwards, it was purchased by the PCC from the London Diocesan Fund in 2000 and improved at that time, before the 2012 reconstruction. Above the hall is a flat, which is rented out to produce a revenue stream for the parish.



The hall is used as the home of Childrens' Church; as the home of the Chiswick branch of Crosslight (who occupy it on Tuesdays); as the main meeting room of the parish; and as a space for parish and community events. It is also let out to community groups (and occasionally for parties) to raise income.

Vicarage

Chiswick Vicarage was built in 1973. It is a large detached house built to a high standard in neo-Georgian style, in the garden of the former vicarage overlooking the river to its south east. There are attractive gardens to front and back of the house. The frontage to Chiswick Mall is bounded by a brick wall with a gate which leads to steps down to street level (the Mall floods at high tide several days per month) while the rest of the garden is bounded by wooden fence or by old brick walling.

The living accommodation is on the first and second floors and consists of:

- Large through living room and dining room, with wide view of the Thames
- Large kitchen
- 5 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- 1 additional WC

The ground floor has two rooms:

1. The Vicar's study, which is a large room overlooking the garden, and connected to it by internal doors
2. The Parish Room, currently the office for the parish, equipped with computer, printer, photocopier and filing cabinets; this room has a kitchenette and off its hallway a WC. There is a separate external door to the Parish Room, access to which is gained without crossing the vicarage garden.

The vicarage has two garages behind the house, with a driveway from Church Street running between St Denys' Hall and the back of the former vicarage. Like most of Chiswick, the surrounding streets form a controlled parking zone, with parking restricted from Monday to Friday.

The house is gas centrally heated and is equipped with an alarm system.



Appendix C: Financial Information 2025

St. Nicholas Chiswick Parish Church							
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025							
		General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2025	Total 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME from							
Voluntary Income		96,789	2,405	65,924	0	165,118	142,367
Other Voluntary Incoming Resources		20	0	1,640	0	1,660	8,328
Activities for Generating Funds		6,917	0	6,799	0	13,716	38,947
Investment Income		29,410	0	7,687	182	37,279	38,412
Income from Charitable Activities		3,654	80	0	0	3,734	4,163
TOTAL INCOME	2	136,790	2,485	82,050	182	221,507	232,218
EXPENDITURE on							
Cost of Generating Voluntary Income		(21)		(989)	0	(1,010)	(2,886)
Charitable Giving		0	0	(2,063)	0	(2,063)	(1,424)
Charitable Activities		(125,683)	(2,163)	(6,228)	0	(134,074)	(127,622)
Church Management & Administration		(14,615)	0	0	0	(14,615)	(15,693)
Major Projects		0	0	(242,150)	0	(242,150)	(16,556)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3	(140,318)	(2,163)	(251,430)	0	(393,911)	(164,181)
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		(3,528)	322	(169,380)	182	(172,404)	68,037
Transfers between funds							
Adjustments							
(losses) / gains on revaluation of investments				(1,219)	(445)	(1,664)	710
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(3,528)	322	(170,599)	(263)	(174,068)	68,747
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		64,851	194,227	246,965	534,050	1,040,093	971,346
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		61,324	194,549	76,366	533,787	866,026	1,040,093

St. Nicholas Chiswick Parish Church

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	£ 31 Dec 25	£ 31 Dec 24
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	719,310	719,310
Investment Assets	6	73,761	237,043
		793,072	956,353
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	7	80,188	89,796
Debtors	8	2,480	2,584
		82,668	92,380
Current liabilities			
Creditors: due within one year	9	(9,714)	(8,639)
Net current assets		72,954	83,740
Total assets less current liabilities		866,026	1,040,094
Funds:			
Endowment Funds	10	533,787	534,050
Restricted Funds	11	76,366	246,965
Designated Funds	12	194,549	194,227
Unrestricted Funds	12	61,324	64,851
Total Funds		866,026	1,040,093

The Saint Nicholas Collect

Gracious Lord, you have called us out to worship and to serve. May your spirit be with us as we pray together, that we may share your life-giving love; that in your love we may see and serve the needs of our neighbours; and, in so serving them, we may worship you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

John Newton

*Late parishioner and former churchwarden
(from Daily Worship at Home: see p12)*

***Loving God,
we thank you for the example of St. Nicholas,
who fed the hungry, brought hope to the imprisoned,
gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all.
May we strive to imitate him by putting you first in all we do.
Give us the courage, love and strength of St. Nicholas, so that,
like him, we may serve you through loving
our brothers and sisters.***

Amen.

Amy Welborn

Author of St. Nicholas of Myra: A Saint for Advent and Christmas

