



ST NICHOLAS SOUTHFLEET

PARISH PROFILE 2021



stnicholassouthfleet.org.uk



Our mission is to be an **all welcoming**, all inclusive community that will **support you** in developing your **relationship** with Jesus Christ.”

COULD THIS BE YOUR PARISH?

St Nicholas Church is the heart of a rural parish. We are a warm, welcoming, and friendly church who enjoy gathering together with the aim of deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ. We encourage families through child friendly activities with music, stories and crafts. Our social activities cement our friendships and cater for all ages and needs.

we
are...

- Family orientated.
- Open to new ideas and willing to embrace change.
- A diverse rural parish.
- Supportive of each other.
- A fellowship that enjoys a wide variety of worship both modern and traditional.
- Highly regarded in the community.
- Encouraging the community to feel included by holding different events that cater for all tastes.



Pre-Covid we had...

- ⊗ A mixed age congregation with new young families entering the village.
- ⊗ An enthusiastic choir with much musical expertise
- ⊗ Strong links with the local school.
- ⊗ A Sunday Club, Messy Church and Cool Tots.
- ⊗ And we are hoping to re-start these as soon as possible.



Post Covid our vision is...

- ⊗ To welcome back the community, including young people, partly through our relationships with the schools.
- ⊗ To develop an active pastoral team which will offer support to all those in need.
- ⊗ To enhance our community engagement by developing communication strategies. e.g. by re-launching the Church Magazine and continuing regular contact via our newsletter.
- ⊗ To identify and encourage previously untapped talent.

OUR VISION FOR GROWTH

We are eager to re-energise our mission and ministry for Jesus in the community. There is no doubt that our work with, and for, children, young families and young people in the parish will be critically important towards this end. Without a mission to families and young people, the church of both the present and the future will suffer. There is an exciting opportunity to reach out to schools and draw in young families.

We believe that our strengths include the variety of services we have, our warm and friendly welcome and our child-friendly atmosphere. The fact that many of our members are also members of other village organisations shows that we are not isolated within the community.

We are also working towards nurturing and welcoming new people effectively and developing ourselves spiritually and prayerfully.

Of course we also recognise the very important part played by more senior members of the congregation too, many of whom have been active and committed worshippers for some time. Our aim is to be a supporting and encouraging community that includes/recognises the needs and aspirations of every age and stage within our Church and the wider community.

We are looking forward to developing a warm relationship with St Barnabas and uniting with them in offering a range of services that will benefit from each other's strengths and facilities. We are conscious and open to possible changes that will enable this to happen. We are keen to offer mutual support to each other as we plan our future linked together.



COULD THIS BE YOU?

We are looking for...



- Someone to lead creative and imaginative worship in a variety of styles, Someone with vision and drive to grow the church of St. Nicholas, who is enthusiastic about developing the children's ministry.
- An experienced priest who is good at encouraging people in their Christian journey.
- An incumbent with experience of nurturing and enabling untapped potential by empowering and multiplying leadership and team building through delegation and support.
- Someone who is adaptable, organised and flexible, able to embrace varying aspects of churchmanship with the ability to encourage change where necessary.
- A pastoral leader, who will reach out with compassion to support and comfort those in need.
- A good communicator and 'people' person.
- Someone with a sense of humour.

THE PARISH

Southfleet is a delightful Kentish village with a school, pub and working farms as well as the ancient Parish church, which is the only place of worship in the immediate area. Southfleet is closely situated to the A2 with access to the M25 and within easy travelling distance to the towns of Gravesend and Dartford. There are about 450 homes in the village with a mix of old and new, privately-owned and rented properties.

The Parish of Southfleet extends beyond the village to the hamlet of Betsham, the village of Bean, the residential area of New Barn and other small developments, each of these having its own character.



THE PARISH

Betsham is a small community which retains links with its agricultural past.

There are houses both old and new with traditional agricultural buildings and oast houses still much in evidence, although many of them are now converted into residences. .



New Barn is a purely residential area with no shopping or similar facilities of its own. However, a short drive away in Istead Rise there are local shops serving essential needs.

Southfleet village has approximately 450 homes, and around 160 in Betsham. Bean has 670 homes and in New Barn there are around 1100, with a further approximately 50 in smaller developments, giving a total of around **2430 homes** with a population of around **7600 people**.



THE PARISH

Bean has seen many developments over the past few decades with a variety of homes and is closely situated to Bluewater shopping centre, and the Dartford Crossing. Facilities have grown to match the needs of the villagers, Bean also has a medical centre, a village shop with a post office, a school, a village hall, a public house, a children's playground and an extensive and attractive Country Park, which is family and dog friendly.



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

St Nicholas Church is situated in the centre of the village and is an ancient Parish church dating back to the 14th century with additions from the Victorian period and the provision of kitchen, toilets and meeting facilities in the 1980s. It seats up to two hundred and fifty people (for a full and detailed history of the church please see our web site).

Services are held each Sunday in the church at Southfleet. We don't have a church Hall, but a variety of events take place within the Church and when necessary we hire the Village Halls in the parish.

The church is used regularly by Sedley's School for events such as coffee mornings (held in the meeting area), Acts of Worship, Christmas and end of year performances, meetings and exams.



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Our Church

Southfleet is one of the ten parishes in Cobham Deanery, in the Rochester Archdeaconry, and part of the Diocese of Rochester.

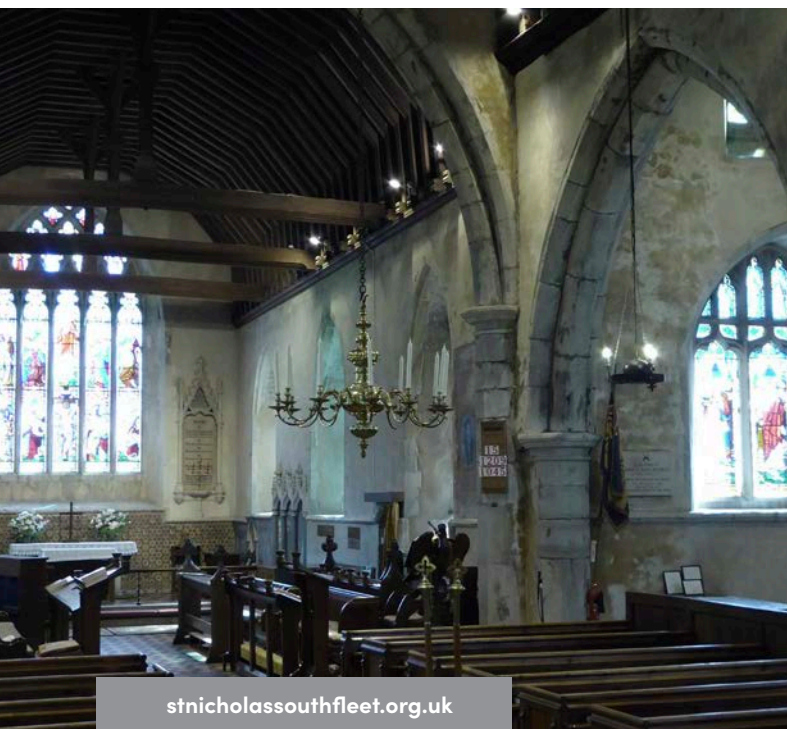
At the moment we have 112 people on the Electoral Roll. Our beautiful church is a very popular venue for weddings and baptisms.

Local retired clergy and other licenced lay ministers help us with service cover when needed.

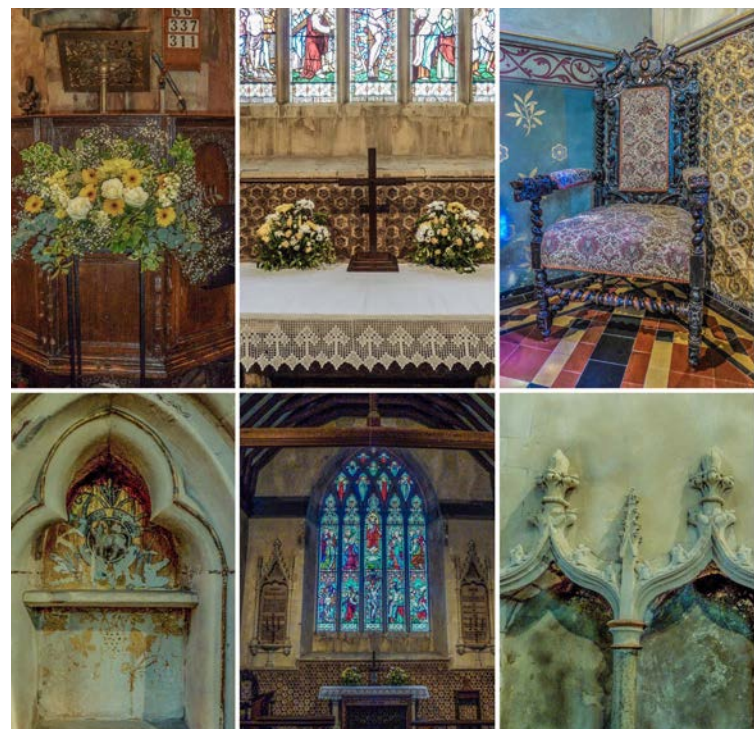
The Parish has two active Churchwardens, a Treasurer, and various other valuable supporting teams including a representative and dedicated PCC who are ready and motivated to embrace the challenges ahead.



- There is an established musical tradition at Southfleet and we have a committed church choir and we are very fortunate to have a regular organist and two pianists. Recently we have had a new audio system installed with a digital projector and screen which will give us the capability for live streaming and recording of services. We have staging available.



stnicholassouthfleet.org.uk

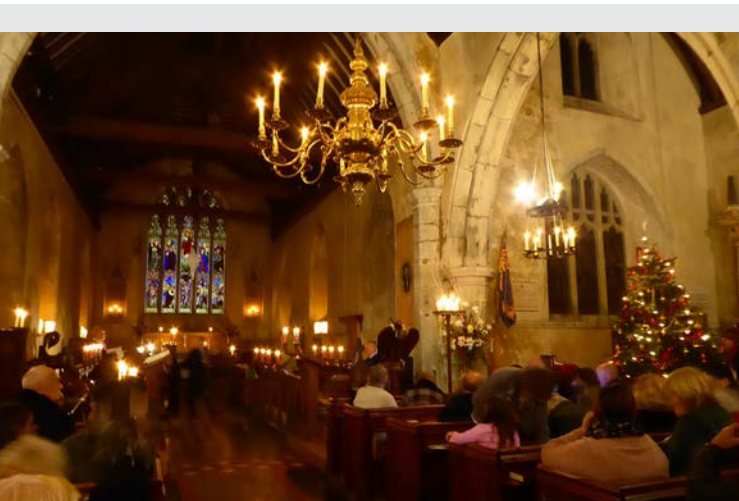


ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Worship

Each Sunday there is a said service of Holy Communion at 8am, using the Book of Common Prayer.

The Family Service is at 10.30am each Sunday. We have had regular parade / children's services.



Before the COVID 19 pandemic a midweek said Communion Service was held on Wednesday mornings at 10am and on Friday mornings Sedley School's Worship was held in church.

There is an enclosed carpeted area at the back of the church in the meeting area, with a TV, books and toys available for parents with young children and the Sunday School meets here most Sundays. It is moderately sound-proofed and can be used as an office.

Messy Church has met regularly. It was a happy family occasion. Post-Covid our aim is to continue with these meetings.

Other worship events include:

- ❁ Christingle
- ❁ Ash Wednesday
- ❁ Maundy Thursday
- ❁ Good Friday and Easter Services
- ❁ Harvest Festival
- ❁ Memorial Service
- ❁ Remembrance Service
- ❁ Carols by Candlelight

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Fellowship and Parish Life

In line with Government Guidelines we hope the following will resume.

On **Monday** morning the school will use the meeting area for Coffee and Chat, and in the evening maintenance work is carried out.

Tuesday mornings are a regular time for the Mowers/Gardeners to meet at St Nicholas Church, when a group get together enjoying fellowship and keep the grounds in excellent condition.

On **Wednesday** mornings at 8.45am Cool Tots meet in the church for an hour, the aim being for parents to meet other parents with pre-school children and to encourage them to socialise and introduce them to a church environment over a cup of tea and chat.

Thursdays T@2 is held twice monthly, a social time for tea, cake and varied conversations, where everyone is welcome.

The school uses the church for Worship on **Friday** mornings and the Church choir meet to practise on Friday evenings twice a month.

Celebrations at a visit to Mpwapwa in Tanzania where we are involved with helping at Queen Esther's School for Girls.



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Fellowship and Parish Life

There is a House Group for all ages who meet regularly for Bible study, Prayer and fellowship.

The PCC meet approximately every 6 weeks to discuss the business of the church, finance, mission and outreach and fund-raising activities.

St Nicholas Southfleet had a quarterly magazine. It was delivered throughout much of the parish by a team of volunteers.

We had regular newsletters and have a well-maintained and informative website www.stnicholassouthfleet.org.uk



Church Events have included:

- ❁ Musical events of differing genres
- ❁ Strawberry Fair
- ❁ Autumn/Christmas Fair
- ❁ Bi-annual Arts Festival
- ❁ Flower Festival
- ❁ Quiz Evenings
- ❁ Harvest Supper
- ❁ Children's Activity Day



THE LOCAL AREA



THE LOCAL AREA

The Parish is served with a regular hourly bus service into Longfield, Gravesend and Bluewater, one of the largest shopping centres in the region, with a large variety of shops and restaurants and a multi screen cinema. Southfleet has easy access to the A2, M20 and M25 motorways, the port of Dover and Kent coast is only an hour's drive away. Several airports such as Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted, Luton and City are within easy access from these motorways. We are well served with rail travel too, not only mainline trains into London from Gravesend, Dartford and Longfield local stations but the new International and commuter station of Ebbsfleet which opened in November 2007 boasts 4 trains an hour with an impressive journey of only 22 minutes to St Pancras! The Ebbsfleet train also has services to Ashford, Ramsgate, Canterbury, Paris, Brussels, Lille, Calais and Marne-la-Vallee for Disneyland Paris.

There is still a great deal of agricultural and green belt land in the Parish and over recent years a number of the farms have diversified to include livestock. There is a large food packing plant and several small industrial units within the parish. There are allotments available close by for enthusiastic growers.



Supermarkets are within easy reach and include Sainsburys, Morrisons and Waitrose.

There are also a variety of small shops in the village of Longfield.

Three private nursing homes are situated in the village.

The attractive Village Hall is well equipped with a modern kitchen and is the venue for many activities with an excellent playing field and car parking facilities. The premises are largely used by local groups such as Southfleet Gardeners Society – which still holds its annual show – W.I, Active Retirement Groups such as Southara and SIRG, Flower Arrangers, Keep Fit classes and Rainbows for the children. Many members of the congregation belong to several of these groups. A defibrillator is positioned in the village outside the school.



SCHOOLS

Sedley's CE (VA) Primary School is one of the oldest schools in Kent, founded in 1637 and is still in the original building! The school has enjoyed a mutually supportive relationship with St Nicholas Church, and located next door to the church makes good use of its facilities. The school actively sought Voluntary Aided status to further cement the relationship between Church and School. The school is half form entry and has four classes.

Bean Primary School is also situated in the parish. Although a Local Education Authority School, it has close links with the church which the headteacher would like to further develop.

We are hoping a new incumbent will want to be fully involved in school life, giving the older children experience of Communion Services and assisting staff in delivery of RE curriculum as well as serving as a School Governor. When asked, local schoolchildren said "they would like a person who promotes God in a way that is loving, kind and accessible".

Locally there is a wide range of Secondary School provision – Academies, Grammar, Single-sex and mixed schools, as well as St George's Church of England Secondary School.



ST NICHOLAS SOUTHFLEET PCC
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
RECEIPTS					
Income from Donors					
- Planned Giving & Gift Aided Contributions	28,068		500	28,568	29,652
- Legacy	11,000			11,000	-
- Collections	5,983		2,671	8,654	7,149
- Inland Revenue Gift Aid Rebates	9,906			9,906	11,707
Other Voluntary Income					
- Donations	3,156		7,601	10,757	40,603
- Functions	6,212			6,212	4,873
Interest	-		101	101	97
Other Church Income					
- Fees	9,732			9,732	16,670
- Diocesan grant (vicarage rent)	-		13,383	13,383	-
- Miscellaneous	2,472			2,472	1,876
Total Receipts	76,528	-	24,256	100,784	112,627
PAYMENTS					
- Heating & Lighting	3,385			3,385	2,641
- Church & Yard	2,521			2,521	2,108
- Rector's Expenses	639			639	0
- Rates	670			670	796
- Pledge	47,071			47,071	44,000
- Missions, Away Giving	1,157		2,671	3,828	2,951
- Organ	530			530	258
- Functions	1,607			1,607	465
- Printing	1,268			1,268	287
- Administration	2,663			2,663	7,222
- Insurance	3,968			3,968	3,829
- Services	1,356			1,356	2,809
- Legacy Expenditure (Candlesticks)		210		210	
- Major repairs/project costs	-		25,595	25,595	63,897
Total payments	66,836	210	28,266	95,312	131,263
Excess of receipts over payments	9,692	(210)	(4,010)	5,472	(18,636)
Transfers between funds	(10,748)	11,000	(252)	-	-
	(1,056)	10,790	(4,262)	5,472	(18,636)
Net movement in funds	(1,056)	10,790	(4,262)	5,472	(18,636)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Cash at bank and in hand 1 January	24,533	-	22,439	46,972	65,608
Cash at bank and in hand 31 December	23,477	10,790	18,176	52,444	46,972

ST NICHOLAS SOUTHFLEET PCC
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Cash Funds					
Cash in hand					26
Bank current account	6,902	10,790	-	17,692	12,356
Bank reserve account	16,575	-	-	16,575	12,151
Church Repair Fund	-	-	18,176	18,176	22,439
	<u>23,477</u>	<u>10,790</u>	<u>18,176</u>	<u>52,444</u>	<u>46,972</u>
Other Monetary assets					
Gift Aid Recoverable	<u>7,236</u>	-	-	<u>7,236</u>	-
Liabilities					
Accounting/IE Fee	<u>620</u>	-	-	<u>620</u>	-

Notes

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis

2 The movements in Designated and Restricted Funds during the year were

	Bal B/Fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal C/Fwd
Designated					
Legacy Fund	-	-	210	11,000	10,790
Restricted					
Church Projects & Church Repair Fund	22,439	21,585	25,595	(252)	18,176
Away Giving/Missions	-	2,671	2,671	-	-
	<u>22,439</u>	<u>24,256</u>	<u>28,266</u>	<u>(252)</u>	<u>18,176</u>

Funds

General Funds are those that can be used for any purpose that the PCC wishes.

Designated Funds are those that the PCC has set aside for a particular purpose, but they can be utilised in another way if circumstances require it.

Restricted Funds are those that have been given for a particular purpose and can only be used for that purpose.

The Legacy Fund represents money received from former church members, with the expressed wish that items be purchased to remember the family, but without creating a legal restriction on use. These funds have been set aside by the PCC to do that.

Church Projects & Church Repair Fund represents money given specifically and being held to carry out various church projects such as major church repairs, new boiler, folding doors in church etc.

Away Giving/Missions represents money given or raised for various local, national and international charitable causes.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to a sum in the region of £16,500. It is held to smoothe out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £23,477 held on unrestricted funds was in excess of this figure.

Heritage Lottery Fund Grant

We were pleased to be granted a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant of £139,900 to carry out essential fabric repairs, conservation work to two murals on the Chancel walls and funds for new boilers. Following applications to other Trusts and Charities we raised additional funds which has allowed the PCC to complete all the fabric repairs, new guttering and some roof repairs. We have also installed two new larger boilers and completed not only the work to the murals but also conservation on the Reredos behind the Chancel altar.

We have raised in excess of £20,000 for the new heating system which has now been installed, enabling the church to be used more often.

