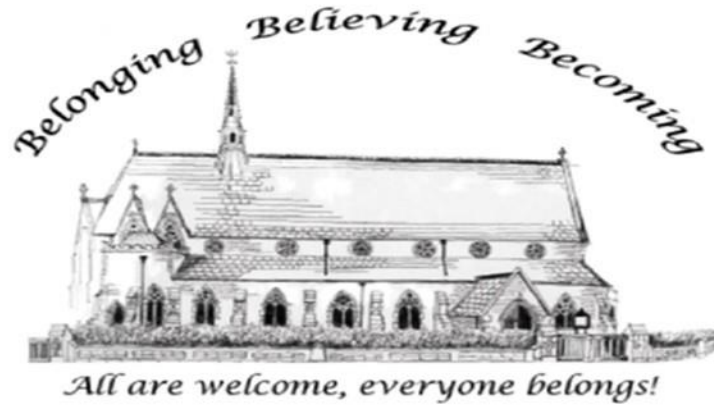




St. Nicholas Church, Blundellsands



St Nicholas CE Primary School
Blundellsands

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
and of the Governors
for the year ended
31st December 2025

Reference and Administrative Information:

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Nicholas Blundellsands is a registered charity, Registration Number 1158819.

St Nicholas' Church is situated in Bridge Road, Blundellsands, Liverpool and is part of the Diocese of Liverpool within the Church of England. The official correspondence address is:

St Nicholas' Vicarage,
Nicholas Road,
Liverpool,
L23 6TS.

Safeguarding Statement:

St Nicholas' Church Blundellsands takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the Church of England's robust procedures and national guidelines.

These can be found at: <http://churchofengland.org/safeguarding>

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues on a safeguarding matter, useful information can be obtained at: '<http://wwwliverpool.anglican.org/safeguarding>

PCC Membership:

For the period 1st January 2025 until the date of the approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex-officio members:

Chair	Rev'd E Anderson
Lay Chair	Prof P Batey
Curate	Revd K Greaves
Churchwarden	Miss A Dobie
Deanery Synod Representative	Prof P Batey
Deanery Synod Representative	Mr S Green
Hon Treasurer (co opted)	Mrs E Sinker

Elected Members:

Mrs G Enstone (PCC Secretary)

Mrs G Cain (until April 2025)

Mrs H Pennington (until April 2025)

Mr P Warren

Mrs J Batey

Ms A Blundell

Mrs L Utley

Mr P Warren

Mrs N Jeens

Mrs J O'Shaughnessy

Co opted members:

Mr D Parkinson

The Revd E Anderson was appointed Incumbent by the Bishop of Liverpool (Patron of St Nicholas' and Diocesan Bishop) and is an ex-officio member of the PCC.

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance acted as Custodian Trustee for the inalienable property of the church.

Bankers - Church:

Bankers - Governors:

Santander UK plc

Barclays Bank plc

Bootle

337-339 Stanley Road

Merseyside

New Strand

GIR OAA

Bootle

Merseyside

L20 3EB

Independent Examiner:

Mr M Howe

Structure, Management and Governance:

St Nicholas' Blundellsands PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Powers 1956 and the Church Representation Rules.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Related Trusts:

St Nicholas' CE Primary School Blundellsands: Foundation Governors are: Mr P Bonnet (Chair), Mrs G Cain (Vice chair), Revd E Anderson, Mrs G Enstone, Mrs L Godfrey, Mrs J Warren, Mrs L Singh

The PCC and its sub-committees:

During 2025 the PCC met 6 times, with an average attendance of 11.

The PCC operates 10 sub-committees (teams), which meet regularly and report back to the PCC: Standing Committee, which acts for the PCC when urgent matters arise and need decision or action between PCC meetings, (subject to subsequent ratification by the PCC), and also prepares for PCC meetings; Worship and Mission; Finance; Under-18 Ministry with Safeguarding; Building and Plant with Health and Safety; Social; Heritage; Restoration, Eco and Communications. The Revd Beth Anderson and Revd K Greaves are ex-officio members of all committees. Other membership comprises:

Standing Committee: Incumbent, Curate, PCC Lay Chair, 1 Churchwarden, Treasurer and PCC Secretary.

Worship and Mission: Mrs G Cain, Mrs G Enstone, Mrs J Batey. Co-opted members: Mrs J Parkinson Mrs J Parkinson.

Finance: Mrs E Sinker, Prof P Batey, Miss A Dobie, Mrs N Jeens, Mrs R Doyle, Mr J Rankin.

Under-18 Ministry with Safeguarding: Mrs L Utley, Mrs E Sinker (Parish Safeguarding Officer), Mr P Warren, (DBS Verifier), Mrs J OShaughnessy. Co-opted members: Mrs L Martin, Mrs C Creed, Mrs B Sapre, Mrs C Hughes

Building and Plant with Health and Safety: Mr S Green, Miss A Dobie, Co-opted members: Mr C Rooney, Mrs R Doyle

Social: Mr D Parkinson, Mrs A Blundell, Co-opted member: Mrs L Jones

Heritage: Prof P Batey, Mrs G Cain, Mr S Green, Mrs L Utley, Mrs G Enstone, Mrs J Batey, Co-opted member: Mrs L Godfrey

Restoration: Mr S Green, Prof P Batey, Mrs G Enstone, Mr D Parkinson. Co-opted member: Mr T Johnston,

Eco: Mr P Warren, Miss A Dobie, Mr S Green

Communications: Mrs J Batey, Mrs G Cain, Mrs G Enstone.

PCC members, both individually and collectively, receive training as and when deemed appropriate by the PCC. This has included: trustee responsibility, safeguarding, domestic abuse awareness, first aid, Parish Giving Scheme. Members who are also Foundation Governors of St Nicholas' School regularly complete local authority governor training courses.

Risk Assessments and Policies:

The PCC has undertaken a programme of risk assessments to identify major risks.

Procedures have been put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact on the life of the church. Areas of risk covered have included: finance, first aid provision, PAT testing, food hygiene, safeguarding and disclosure and barring. The Church's Health and Safety Policy is reviewed and updated by PCC annually, with Health and Safety checks carried out monthly. PCC also reviews the Safeguarding and Volunteer Policies yearly.

For fuller information regarding the financial risk assessment policy and trustee and patron payment, please see:

St Nicholas' Church Blundellsands and St Nicholas' School Blundellsands: Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council and of the Governors for the year ended 31st December 2023, published separately and available on St Nicholas' Church website

<http://www.stnicholasblundellsands.org> Currently one patron, the office assistant, and one trustee, the hall bookings secretary, receive payment for their work for the church.

A safeguarding update is available below as part of the report of the Under 18 Ministry with Safeguarding team.

Electoral Roll Report April 2026:

The number of people on the Electoral Roll in April 2026 was 111. Having lost 3 people through relocation, a move to another church or sporadic worship at St Nicholas', the total then stood at 108. We added 7 names to the role this year, bringing the final total to **115**.

It is interesting to note that of those who have joined the Electoral Roll for the first time, one worships regularly at the Sunday 8.30 service and six come to the Sunday service at 10.30. We also have broad representation from Midweek Communion, Church@School and Picnic Praise. If all those on the Electoral Roll arrived at church at the same time on the same day it would be wonderful! Some people attend more than one service in a week, some people only ever go to one particular service in a week and some people come to church once a month or even less, still feeling that they are regular worshippers. This echoes our message that, at St Nicholas', 'All are welcome, everyone belongs', which is why we offer a range of worship opportunities.

We have 72 female members and 43 male: the age profile is more evenly distributed, with 56 people aged up to 65 and 59 aged over 65. This continues to be a very encouraging balance.

So next time you're in church, have a good look around and if you notice a new face, please make that person welcome with a smile and an introduction. If you can welcome them by name when you next see them, it would make all the difference!

Objectives and Activities 2025:

The general functions of the PCC are stated within Section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) measure 1956. St Nicholas' PCC has the responsibility of jointly operating with the Incumbent in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church, a Grade 2 listed building, and for St Nicholas' School.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC has given consideration to the **Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit, in particular the specific guidance related to the advancement of religion.**

- **Regular public worship, open to all:**

In planning our public worship, our aim is to develop the diversity of what we offer so that we can extend a warm welcome to the widest possible range of worshippers from within both our regular congregation and the wider community.

We continue to hold two weekly Sunday morning services, at 8.30am (using the BCP once a month) and at 10.30 am (live streamed where possible). Both include Communion, apart from the monthly All Age 10.30 am service, aimed to appeal to a wide age range of children and young people. Regular Wednesday morning Communion also continues to take place, but in a more informal, cafe-style setting, in either one of the smaller church halls or the community space at the back of church. This allows greater emphasis on Bible study and discussion and can perhaps appeal to those less familiar with a traditional church setting.

In addition, Picnic Praise, twice a month on Sunday afternoons, caters for families with nursery and primary age children and includes games, crafts, music and Bible stories, while Church@School extends our school / church and family links in a different setting.

In addition to the celebration of the major yearly Christian festivals, special services are held which reach out directly to those suffering from illness, bereavement or other forms of distress.

Inclusivity has also been an important consideration when planning worship and is under constant review. Care has been taken to make our premises and services as accessible as possible for the elderly, disabled and those with dementia or learning difficulties, while babies and very young children are made welcome at all services with a dedicated children's corner and breast-feeding space. Equality of access for all is represented through the incorporation of the Pride Progress flag into our logo.

- **The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation:**

Meetings and courses provide structured opportunities for prayer outside normal services and visitors to the church are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity for private prayer and contemplation whenever the church building is open for any purpose.

Since the end of pandemic restrictions we have worked to increase the number of such occasions, holding events such as welcome days, heritage open days and a prayer festival. A prayer tree is placed centrally for those who wish to request support for themselves or a loved one and this is widely used, by both regular church members and visitors.

- **Pastoral work, including visiting the sick, the elderly and the bereaved:**

Clergy and members of the congregation regularly visit those who are sick, bereaved or housebound. Considerable efforts are also made through live streaming of services and distribution of the weekly church newsletter, electronically or by hand, to ensure that all who are unable to attend church in person are able to feel part of the church family.

- **Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups:**

Regular weekly Bible study and prayer meetings take place and attendance at a variety of courses is also encouraged.

- **Taking of religious assemblies in local schools:**

Our Vicar has developed a close relationship with our church school, regularly taking both whole school and class assemblies. School church links are supported through the work of a

team of seven Foundation Governors drawn from the congregation and through joint eco ventures.

- **Provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos:**

The Bridge youth group has been successfully re-established for children from Year Six and above, supporting their transition from primary school to a variety of local secondary schools, exploring faith and offering confirmation.

- **Promoting the whole mission of the church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special need groups:**

Earlybirds, providing tea and toast for parents and younger toddlers after the morning school run, and Picnic Praise, mentioned above, provide regular opportunities to support parents and young children. Also weekly, Soupa Thursday is open for morning coffee or a soup and sandwich lunch for members of our community in need of companionship, a meal or a 'warm space'. Activities such as board games, crafts and a book swap are also available and the numbers attending have grown steadily over the two year period since its establishment. Although this event is largely staffed by volunteers from the church, Sefton CVS is also on hand to provide links with local support services for those with specific special needs.

- **Supporting other charities, at home and overseas:**

We have continued to support our church mission partners through CMS. We also support the Children's Society, Christian Aid, the local food bank, the Red Cross, Sefton Baby Baskets and the Salvation Army. The Finance Team reviews our giving annually.

- **Promoting links with our ecumenical partners in Churches Together:**

Recent years have seen many changes for the churches of both the L23 Partnership and Churches Together in Crosby and Blundellsands, making partnership working within and across both groupings all the more vital, an aim which St Nicholas' Church is keen to pursue in all aspects of our mission and ministry. L23 clergy meet every week and are looking to do more together across the churches.

- **Reaching out to our local community in ways which make a positive difference to the lives of our neighbours:**

A common theme across most of the activities outlined above is that of community outreach, providing practical, emotional and spiritual support, food, warmth and companionship to our neighbours in a variety of ways. We also see the role of the church as providing an important hub to promote community cohesion and a sense of local identity. Many Heritage activities provide opportunities for discussion and reminiscence, often focusing on the two chapels of remembrance, evoking memories of family members and a shared past. Our Social Team also welcomes members of the community to a wide range of events such as quizzes, litter picks and treasure hunts.

Achievements and Performance 2025. Reports from the Teams:

Worship and Mission:

2025 was another busy year at St Nicholas'. We started off with a Vision Day, when everyone was invited to share their views about what our church means to us. On Mothering Sunday, daffodils, kindly donated by Barrington's, were distributed during our worship and our usual Easter services took place in April, followed in May by the Music Festival, which was extremely successful and raised a grand total of £600.

At the beginning of June we held a Welcome Day, with a variety of crafts in the church and games in the hall, while, on the 8th, we welcomed Tongues of Fire for our Pentecost service. Also in June, we had our first Party Sunday, when the most popular of the activities available to all ages seemed to be the beetle game. The event proved so enjoyable that we held another in November! Still in June, however, we held a Songs of Praise Sunday and enjoyed both the hymns and hearing people's reasons for choosing them. Then, concluding a crowded month, came our second Vision Day.

Our school joined us for Education Sunday in September, and at Harvest, we set up seven stations of Experience Harvest, which three junior classes joined and really enjoyed themselves.

November saw our two services of remembrance and celebration, Hope and Thanksgiving and Remembrance Sunday. December started with a new venture, a Christmas tree festival, which invited local businesses to sponsor a tree for their chosen charity. Indigo Vibe concluded the festival with a variety of seasonal songs. During Advent we went on to hold a nativity service, a toy service and the annual carol service, when the school again joined us and sang beautifully. Finally, Christingle was followed by the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Throughout the year, Early Birds continued to grow and Soupa Thursday remained as popular as ever. A number of those who attend Soupa Thursday also turn their hands to crafts and have created some beautiful displays for church. Volunteers celebrated the approach of Christmas with a party in church for Early Birds and a Christmas lunch for forty people for our Soupa Thursday regulars.

Under 18 Ministry with Safeguarding: 2025/26 brings positive news from this team which met once in each school term; tasks have included a review of the church's procedures for safer recruitment of paid staff and volunteers. We're extremely grateful to Pete Warren for undertaking this major piece of work in addition to his role as DBS verifier, which involves ensuring that all clearances are valid and up-to-date.

No safeguarding incidents relating to children and young people were reported to Liz Sinker, Parish Safeguarding Officer. Safeguarding training needs have been met through the Diocese and PCC is most grateful to Liz for carrying out this important role.

Under 18 Mission for our children and young people has continued with enthusiasm throughout the year as follows –

- **Early Birds**, a group for our youngest children and their parents/carers, is increasingly popular in the community. Jen has overall responsibility with support from two willing helpers. There are plenty of inviting resources, crafts, story & singing sessions and a healthy snack prepared by Soupa Thursday volunteers. End of term celebrations involve parties in church with visits from Santa and the Easter Bunny – all so much fun!
- **Picnic Praise** – Services led by Beth take place twice a month on Sunday afternoons and the menu of games, crafts, singing, bible stories and prayer proves really popular with families.
- **The Bridge** Beth organises weekly evening sessions for two groups of young people in Y6 - Y9, assisted by Pat (All Saints with St Frideswyde Church) and Alison (St Nicholas). They have great fun with activities, crafts, games and most importantly, discussion.
- **The Children's Corner** is a quiet area offering books, puzzles, simple crafts etc for families. It's always lovely to hear a little hum of activity.
- **Church@School** – The team plans services throughout the academic year making for a great collaboration between home, school and church. Pre-school and school age children and their families join us for bible stories, games, crafts, music and prayers. This year has seen our young people more involved in leading the worship.

Building and Plant with Health and Safety and Restoration:

The hall heating system and the fire extinguishers were serviced.

At this time of writing, mid March, the roof alarm is due for its annual service in late March.

The siren has not been working for several months and will be attended to during the service.

The company recommends we upgrade the system to respond to a 5G signal.

We will discuss the financial implications. One of the considerations is that our insurer will only pay a restricted amount should a claim for lead theft arise in the event of having no roof protection system in place.

The two year old church heating boilers were serviced for a discounted fee last year but there will no discount this year.

Of the three urgent jobs highlighted in the 2024 Quinquennial inspection report, one of them has been completed. This was to repoint the mortar in the high level turreted area on the North gable.

The damp issue on the North aisle has not yet been resolved. We are working on a solution both externally and internally. Paint is being purchased to apply to areas above one meter high.

The Buildings Strategy Manager from the FfM team is to inspect the church in Mid March as part of the Right Buildings Process.

VAT is no longer reclaimable from the GPOW scheme for repairs and maintenance which will have a seriously negative financial impact on any grant awards.

The MWP have been busy this year. Among the jobs done include venting the heating system, securing the loose boundary wall coping stones, sanding and staining several plant stands, cleaning the inside of the stained glass windows, polished brass items and plaques, cleared sand from transept window ledges, applied beeswax to pulpit and hymn boards and painting gates and ferramenta.

Andy, Peter and Steve have kept our paths and car park areas free from moss and weeds

Pat and Ian are also to be applauded for the care and dedication they take to maintain the plots, borders, memorial garden and wildflower area.

Heritage:

In May 2025 the Team was pleased to welcome again Leicester-based World War 1 military historian Peter Cousins. His talks have become a regular feature in the heritage calendar and have proved extremely popular among local audiences. In September the Team participated in the Heritage Open Days, a national initiative that provides an opportunity for the general public to view buildings that would normally not be accessible to them. St Nicholas' offered guided tours covering the main heritage features, as well as talks on Blundellsands-based polymath Thomas Mellard Reade and on *Charming Manners*, the fictional account written by wayward St Nicholas curate Joseph McCulloch exposing some of the pretentious social attitudes prevalent in the Blundellsands of the 1930s.

A new feature in 2025 was an organ recital played by Michael Foy on the St Nicholas' fine Norman and Beard organ.

Taken as a whole, the 2025 heritage events proved very successful and well worth repeating in 2026. The Heritage Team always welcomes new members who can be involved in any one of a range of activities.

Social:

During the last year the members of the Committee and other volunteers have catered for several events at church.

Quiz night and social get together. In February 2025 a Quiz night combined with Cheese, chutney and crackers, attracted just over 60 adults who all had an enjoyable evening together, getting the year off to a good start with plenty of socialising during the evening. By popular request this will be repeated again in March 2026.

Visit and talk by our CMS partners Elise and Jon Fletcher Cakes, biscuits, drinks before and after the talk attended by 30 adults

Party Sunday There have been two of these events when the Committee has taken the lead in serving refreshments after the service followed by Baked Potatoes, choice of toppings, cakes and drinks for tea. These have each been attended by more than 50 adults and children

Harvest Sunday Lunch Hotpot, Red cabbage, cakes and drinks attended by 40 adults

Carol service the December Carol Service was followed by the traditional Mulled wine and mince pies, along with non alcoholic drinks and alternative biscuits for those with dietary needs.

I would like to record my thanks not only to the Committee members but also to the people who regularly help out with serving, washing up and clearing up after the events.

Eco:

This has been a challenging year for the ECO team. We are pleased to report that in our annual Energy Report to the diocese we are able to demonstrate significant reductions in energy used, both for electricity and gas. In kilowatt hours electricity usage is down by 6% and gas by 12%. The spread of LED bulbs has certainly helped, and we think a better general awareness of the need to reduce energy usage has helped with both forms of energy.

There have been some developments which demonstrate that a single event can spark off a chain reaction. A year ago the Church had been nominated for “demonstrator status” for the work it was carrying out towards achieving Net Zero Carbon 2030. Unfortunately we did not win the competition, but, as a sort of consolation prize we were granted a fully funded Energy Survey to be carried out by a specialist firm of surveyors. This was carried out mid-way through the year and the resulting report contained many recommendations as to how we could reduce energy further, and these were all costed out. This report has become the basis for deciding how to best maintain the buildings and make ECO advancements at the same time. In addition, by virtue of the fact that we obtained the Energy Survey, the Church became eligible for a grant to help towards implementing the survey recommendations.

The PCC is now busy looking at what further grant aid could be obtained, and the focus will be towards retaining heat in the buildings and so making further energy savings.

We continue to work closely with St Nicholas' School who now have their own ECO team and their own development plans. This last year we have joined the pupils in doing beach cleans, and we have tentative plans to merge the understanding of nature with prayer sessions. One of the commercial sponsors for the school ECO team have recognised the role the Church is playing and as a result offered us a small grant to develop the Church "green aspects". At the time of writing this report we are about to go shopping for items which will benefit the Church gardens particularly.

Communication:

- **Church's website**, managed and developed by Joyce and continues to be the shop window for the church. It details services (existing and new), and aims to reflect church life through its social activities with information and photographs and posters and through a proactive approach. Weekly newsletters, monthly service rotas, hall timetables and Annual Reports & Financial Accounts are all uploaded regularly.

Joyce has indicated to PCC that she will be resigning from Website manager in the new year in 2026 after 14 years.

- Several church members manage **the church FB page** and posts are shared to other local FB pages to maximise publicity for events and services.
- **Joyce and Glenda** share the responsibility to design large outside posters and other publicity.
- Inside notice boards in church, hall foyers and halls have been updated periodically to reflect changes in services and church personnel.

Finance:

Accounts for the financial year ending December 2025 are presented separately.

St Nicholas' CE Primary School

The Headteacher's concluding report for the year ending December 2025 creates a vivid picture of an exceptionally busy year, both academically and in terms of the wider life of the school.

Academic progress in both Key Stages remains excellent, with pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 achieving 15% above national targets for their age group and 76% reaching what would have been the recommended SATs targets across Reading, Writing and Maths combined. Staff are particularly pleased to see that disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities have made really strong progress, which the Headteacher has no hesitation in attributing to the hard work and total commitment of staff at every stage of pupils' progression through the school, supported by an exceptionally strong culture of teamwork and cooperation. Crucially, children in need of additional support are identified early and this is combined with a strong focus on pastoral and mental health support at every stage, enabling all children to achieve as fully as possible across every aspect of the curriculum.

Attendance rates remain high, with persistent absence well below national averages, a factor which benefits children at every stage from Early Years through to Year Six. There is no doubt also, that the sense of continuity this creates, as well as promoting academic progress, also enhances enjoyment of school life, strengthens relationships and creates a genuine sense of team spirit whatever the children are engaged in, whether academic study or extracurricular activity.

An important priority remains the goal that every child undertakes a daily minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity as this is still seen as an important factor in supporting both physical and mental wellbeing. Central to pupils' enjoyment of and, most importantly, ability to benefit from their time in the classroom is their enjoyment of their studies and this last year has seen the adoption of a wide range of new and exciting schemes of work in all subjects, enriching and enhancing the daily classroom experience of children and teachers alike.

The thread which of course runs through all aspects of our daily school life is our close connection with St Nicholas' Church and particularly with our Vicar, Revd Beth, who can be seen regularly not only in regular morning assemblies, but in classrooms and in the church itself, where pupils are frequent visitors and enjoy the opportunity to experience their faith within its beauty and among its regular worshippers.

Vicar's Report

Looking back over 2025, I feel that St Nicholas Church (that is you lovely people) persisted and developed.

You persisted in caring for each other in all sorts of different ways and in meeting to worship God, pray, learn and share ideas. You persisted in caring for our community, our church premises and

environment. This annual report details all the different people, groups and ways this happened. Thank you so much. Thank you to our working party and gardeners; to our Soupa Thursday and Early Birds teams; our Church@School team and youth leaders; all our contributors to the bulletin and our service rotas. Thank you to Anne, our Church Warden, our Assistant Wardens and all our PCC members and those on our various teams that plan and organise how this church runs.

In the middle of all these continuing good things, we also found time for envisioning and planning. We met on two Vision Days (February and June) to seek God's plans for us. These were great times and prompted us to develop the diversity and appeal of our worship and involve and include as many people as possible. People have shared their faith stories through their favourite hymns in our Songs of Praise services. People from across our whole range of varied groups and congregations have come together for Pentecost Praise and for Party Sundays in June and November. We have risen to the challenge of more catering and eaten together more; building community and friendships.

We have served our school and had a lot of fun putting on Experience Harvest and we brought the community together for celebrations, fun and fundraising with our Music Festival and the new venture of our Christmas Tree Festival.

We also spent much time considering the Fit for Mission proposal and in September the PCC voted to join the 'working as if' stage of Fit for Mission along with our neighbours St Michael's and St Luke's. In order to make a viable Larger Single Parish (LSP) we started working with 6 churches from Sefton South Deanery. Teams are being formed as we move forward with this.

We didn't make it to the beach this year for our Pet Blessing Outdoor service but it actually worked much better in our garden in September. We have been musically blessed this year and give thanks for the gifts of Kirsty, Jakub, Dan, Cathy, Mike and Ken who have faithfully and brilliantly led us in our worship.

We have supported The Salvation Army, The Children's Society, Sefton Baby Baskets as well as our regular missional giving to Christian Aid and CMS. It was a particular delight to get a visit in July from Jon and Elise our new CMS missionaries working in Bangkok and their daughter Bow.

We said a huge thank you (and 'don't be a stranger') to Rev Alan Brooks this year as he stood down from active ministry with us. We have greatly benefited from his contributions to St Nicholas'. I am deeply grateful for the ongoing ministry, talents, time and energy of Linda Jones (our fabulous Lay Reader), Chris Jones, Alison Blundell and Kate Greaves. Kate came to the end of her ordinand placement with us in 2025 and we had the joy of celebrating her ordination in June. She is now our shared L23 curate and though she is currently on placement in other L23 churches, she is active in our PCC and will be returning to work more closely with us next year.

In God's grace we have risen to meet challenges and opportunities this year. May we continue to grow in his light and love.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136

The Church of St Nicholas Blundellsands
St Nicholas' CE Primary School Blundellsands
Belonging Believing Becoming