

May 18th 2023

FISHERTON DELAMERE. ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH PLAN



Part A - [Current Report](#)

The report current at the time of first issue summarises known activity at the church, stakeholders, trends, site resources and results in hand.

Part B - [Consultation](#)

Open consultation findings summarise notes provided by survey recipients in reaction to

Part A, the current report and specifies community planning meeting details.

Part C - [Community Recommendations](#)

Community recommendations include the full resolutions set at the community planning meeting.

Part D - [Action Plan](#)

The action plan splits tasks agreed at and implied by the community recommendations.

Part A - Current Report

Church Introduction & Statement of Significance

St Nicholas's Church in Fisherton Delamere, Wiltshire, England was built in the 14th century. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II* listed building, It was declared redundant on 1 June 1982, and was vested in the Trust on 30 October 1984.

The church, which was built in a chequerboard pattern of flint and stone, sits on a hill overlooking the River Wylde. It was built on the site of a Norman church in the 14th century and was substantially rebuilt in the 19th century. In the 1830s and 1860s John Davis organised the work including the demolition and rebuilding of the chancel under the supervision of W. Hardwick, a Warminster surveyor. It has a two-stage tower which is supported by diagonal buttresses.

Inside the church is a Minton tiled reredos which may date from the 1861 rebuilding. The screen was designed by Frederick Charles Eden and installed in 1912 while carrying out other work on the church. Because of local objections the screen was never painted. The 12th century cylindrical font dates from the 12th century.

William Herbert Allen (1863–1943) a notable English landscape watercolour artist whose career spanned more than 50 years from the 1880s to the 1940s is buried in the churchyard.

Current use (bookings) & voluntary activity

St Nicholas' benefits from the voluntary support of several dedicated members of the small local community at Fisherton Delamere, They support the church in many ways including:

- Supporting the regular services held at the church (Usually Easter Day and Harvest.)
- Remittance of service funds
- Ad hoc reporting of building change

Collection Review

Open Churches Policy status:	Open
Local Community Officer:	Rachel Whitty
Closest Church Classification:	Open
Classification outstanding items:	
Visitor nos. 2016/ 17 (est):	2439
Visitor nos. 2017/18 (est):	1603
Visitor nos. 2018/19 (est):	1322
Current project:	None
Cleaning schedule:	Before use
Welcome table:	Present. Very old guidebook still in print.
Keyholder role:	Present
Key representative role:	Fulfilled (CCT liaison, maintenance reporting)
Area volunteer role:	None
Fundraising roles:	None formal
Stewardship roles:	None
Research, interp & talks role:	None formal.
Accessibility details:	Provided via website
CCT silver plaque:	Installed, poor condition
CCT information board:	Installed in porch.
Oak post:	Not installed.
CCT freestanding board:	Provided
Wall safe poster:	Installed, current
CCT A board:	Provided
Gift Aid envelopes:	Provided
Visitor book:	Provided
Building services:	Electricity
Parking:	Space for 4 cars on driveway to East end. Parking available on Village Green.

Organ:	American Organ & Harmonium in largely unplayable condition.
Churchyard:	Not vested with CCT.
Ringable bells:	4 bells Hung for full-circle ringing. Unringable.
Pews:	Yes.
Fire rated capacity:	60
Seating capacity:	Not determined
Site plan:	Available
Roof alarm:	None
CCTV:	None
Individual item security measures:	None
Nearby attractions:	Salisbury
Public transport:	
Social media presence:	None.
Images on CCT website:	One of three
Regular feature parish news:	Unsure
Services per year:	2
CofE support for services:	Yes
Christmas memory tree:	No.
Tea Party:	No.
Historic Church Tour:	No.
Heritage Open Days:	No.
Ride & Stride:	No.
Champing:	No.
Retail:	No.
Risk assessment general:	Current
Risk assessment fire:	Current
COSHH listing:	Current
Portable appliance listing:	Current
Security Audit:	2015
Children's explorer cart:	No.

Children's trail: No.

Conservation reports

Condition Report:

Repairs liability: £32,650

Annualised maintenance: £2,818.44

• Short term:	£8,150.00
- RWG	£6,500.00
- Door closer	£150.00
- Clear roof of moss	£1,500.00
• Medium term:	£10,000.00
- Inspect loose masonry and high level tower stonework	£2,250.00
- Tower pointing and strap decoration	£7,500.00
• Long term:	£14,500.00
- Patch pointing	£7,500.00
- Repair and redecorate opening windows	£2,500.00
- Overhaul west doors and rehang	£4,500.00
• Desirable:	£

All cost figures are estimates, exclusive of VAT and professional fees

Income, Expenditure & Balances

Income

Income 2018-2019:	£544
Wall safe 2018-2019 (incl. above):	£212
Income 2017-2018:	£736
Wall safe 2017-2018: (incl. above):	£0
Income 2016-2017:	£1309
Wall safe 2016-2017: (incl. above):	£678

Expenditure

Conservation expenditure '18/'19:	£0
Maintenance expenditure '18/'19:	£954
Maintenance expenditure '17/'18:	£884
Electricity '18/'19:	£120
Electricity '17/'18:	£161

Balances

Restricted Balance Report Jul '19	£4,957.18
Income less expenditure '18/'19	-£530
Income less ann. maint.'18/'19:	-£2,274.44

Local Community Officer's Summary

St Nicholas' is very fortunate to have benefited from the support of the local community, especially from one neighbour and nominated CCT volunteer, who over the years has raised thousands of pounds for the CCT through her "cards for good causes" initiative.

St. Nicholas' inspires generous support from a relatively small number of visitors each year, the maximum number of visits limited perhaps by lack of signage from the main road to the church. Improved road signage and the addition of video-directions on the church webpage might encourage additional visits over time, all of which would be certain to encounter an extremely well-presented church thanks to the continuing and extremely dedicated care of its local volunteers who visits to clean throughout the season.

A team of volunteer stewards (occasional) and improved interpretation (currently old CCT guidebook) could provide a better visitor experience and increase donations per head.

It is hoped that alternative uses for the building and new potential supporters might emerge as part of the church planning consultation.

Part B - Consultation (Interim Round September 2020)

Summary of consultation responses received by end August 2020

*Following distribution of fifteen questions through our standard church plan questionnaire in summer 2020 to existing Churches Conservation Trust correspondents, (together with an invitation for correspondents to share the survey and associated Church Plan Part A), **no response** was received for **Fisherton Delamere, St Nicholas'** by the deadline of **August 30th**.*

The response received was from a respondent writing in a **[no response]** capacity, who confirmed that their responses related to **St Nicholas', Fisherton Delamere**.

In addressing the question of *a perfect outcome for our work together at the church* the respondent indicated **[no response]**

In writing about challenges anticipated in respect of repair liabilities and running costs, the respondent indicates **[no response]**

Thinking about local life away from the church, in relation to other community projects or activities which might combine with our work to protect the church for the future, the respondent indicated **[no response]**

Considering if increased use of the church might benefit the community, or if increased use might benefit the church itself, the respondent indicated **[no response]**

In relation to identifying conservation priorities for the church, the respondent provided **[no response]**

Regarding priorities, opportunities or ideas for fundraising the respondent noted **[no response]**. In respect of means for initiating fundraising activity, the respondent gave **[no response]**. The respondent also indicated that they would **[no response]** be available to participate in fundraising activity.

In seeking respondents' participation in a future group discussion regarding church planning the respondent indicated **[no response]**.

In answering our final, open question about any additional church matters not covered in other areas of the survey, the respondent indicated **[no response]**.

In addition to responses fielded through the questionnaire, a further **[no response]** respondents wrote back to their Local Community Officer, expressing the following perspectives:

Nil

Part C - Community Recommendations (to follow meetings scheduled for October 2020 - January 2021 ahead of final report April 2021.

May 2023 update from RW LCO: RW had met the one nominated volunteer (referred to as **A** in this update) a few times since RW had started with the CCT back in October 2022. RW had also attended the Carol Service so had met a few local neighbours of the church on that occasion. However, the only contact details that RW had for the nominated volunteer was a telephone number as they did not have an email address or any other contact details for local neighbours. Therefore a face to face meeting was set up with **A** as a starting point.

RW met with **A** on May 18th at their property. RW explained the process for the meeting which was to work through the previous actions listed on the Church Plan, and agree to close them off or carry them forward, discuss potential fundraising ideas and discuss any on-going maintenance issues. The aim at the end would be to capture these ideas into short, medium and long term actions.

RW noted that the figures in the current Church Plan required updating so would be used a guide for this meeting. Once more up to date figures were available, the Church Plan would be amended accordingly and recirculated.

RW and **A** worked through the Church Plan document.

There was a discussion around current usage of the Church including the services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. RW explained that Service Booking Forms should be completed for any Service held in the Church. **A** would mention this to the churchwarden at the next Parish Meeting and share RW's contact details with them. RW said that she would be happy to attend a Parish Council meeting and talk about the work of the CCT. **A** thought this would be an excellent idea, made a 'phone call and arranged it on the spot. How income from the services was credited to the CCT was discussed as £100 was collected at the Easter Service with £20 being paid to the organist so £80 should be paid to the CCT but how? Also monies from previous Harvest and Carol Services, although the latter was paid to the PPC for the upkeep of the churchyard. All to be raised at the PCC meeting.

Action – short term –RW to attend Wyle PC meeting 16/08/23 at 11.00am St Mary's Wyle Vestry

Raising money through Church based income was discussed. The sale of Cards for Good Causes was mentioned which had not happened for a few years. Obviously Covid had not helped but also the Charity who managed the distribution of the cards had changed and it had seemed to have switched a High Street format. RW suggested that selling CCT Christmas Card might be a good alternative which **A** agreed to, along with cards by local artists who could be asked to paint the church or even old images used to print postcards. Using the church as a venue for the Wyllye Valley Arts Trail was also and it was agreed to explore this for the next time it was due to happen in two years time.

Action – short term – RW to order and send CCT Christmas Cards to **A**.

Action – medium term – A to approach local artists for potential card creation and old photographs which could be used as postcards. Also using the church as a venue for the Wyllye Valley Arts Trail when it was next due to be organised.

Other potential events were discussed such as approaching Bill Benham, local and celebrity violinist to perform.

Action – short term A agreed to have a think and ask around for ideas and suggestions.

Another potential fundraiser was raised as **A** was the main organiser which was “Meals on the A303” This was an annual event where food was sold on a lay-by on the A303, August Bank Holiday weekend where the proceeds (a few thousand pounds) were split to the Wyllye Valley Churches but St Nicholas’ had not been considered previously. **A** agreed to rectify this.

Action – short term A to ensure that St Nicholas’ got a slice of the A303 monies.

RW and **A** then visited the church to go through the maintenance report

Actions – short term – RW to raise the following issues with Conservation/Maintenance

- RWG/Door Closer - costs
- Repair opening windows/doors – west window in desperate need/west door – potential fire exit risk?
- Electrics – heating in particular – lights not working in the chancel as well
- Legacy left by Robin Thompson – quote to repair stone cross above East Door?

A also shared her husband’s email address for occasional use only.

The meeting closed and it was agreed to set another date in September post the PCC meeting on August 16th.

Part D - Action Plan

The action plan below has been written post the *interim edition* of the church plan, published at the end of **September 2020** and a first full edition of the church plan published at the end of March 2021.

Community Actions

Short term actions (to end September 2023)

- Agree dates for face-to-face or digital meeting to review interim church plan (September 2020 edition)
- Consider approaching local artists to perform in church
- Ensure that St Nicholas' got a slice of the A303 monies collected for the Wylve Valley Churches on August BH weekend
- Review CCT Cleaning Churches standard and report

Medium term actions (to end March 2024)

- Investigate suitability of church for concerts or other uses, and of promotion to prospective local audiences.
- Consider use of the church as gallery space, offering local artists and makers a chance to mount exhibitions, or providing community groups and educational establishments with a suitable venue for temporary displays
- Consider the suitability of the site for Champing

Long term actions (to end March 2024)

- Approach organisers of Wylve Valley Arts Trail to use Church as a venue

Actions complete (to end March 2021)

Local Community Officer Actions

Short term actions (to end September 2023)

- Attend Wyle PC meeting 16/08/23 at 11.00am St Mary's Wyle Vestry
- Order and send CCT Christmas Cards to **A**.
- Follow up with Conservation/Maintenance :
 - RWG/Door Closer - costs
 - Repair opening windows/doors – west window in desperate need/west door – potential fire exit risk?

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- Electrics – heating in particular – lights not working in the chancel as well
 - Legacy left by Robin Thompson – quote to repair stone cross above East Door?

Medium term actions (to end March 2024)

- Consider adding video directions to the church for prospective visitors' information
- Consider producing an online audio guide for the church to address the current lack of printed interpretation

- Investigate suitability of church for concerts or other uses, and of promotion to prospective local audiences.
- Consider use of the church as gallery space, offering local artists and makers a chance to mount exhibitions, or providing community groups and educational establishments with a suitable venue for temporary displays
- Consider the suitability of the site for Champing

Long term actions (to end September 2024)

Actions complete (to end May 2023)

- Distribution Part A reports for each church to all existing correspondents, together with survey
- Receive, anonymise and collate survey responses and add to Church Plan Part B
- Resolve initial findings, conclusions and recommendations based on Part A & B, expressed as short, medium and long-term actions
- Publish Part A, B & D as Interim Church Plan to colleagues by end September 2020
- Undertake staff consultation against Interim Church Plan by end November 2020
- By end November 2020 review colleagues' feedback regarding updates to church plan part A, to include
 - Conservation interpretations
 - Presentation improvements
 - Champing data
- Complete community audit to identify additional survey respondents and participants in face-to-face or digital meetings by end November 2020
- Repeat survey for additional respondents by end January 2021
- Agree dates for face-to-face or digital community meetings by end January 2021
- Publish Church Plan Version '2021-22'
- Review potential for promoting availability of secure parking outside church
- Review church web page to ensure clear directions available for all visitors
- Share CCT Cleaning Churches standard and report
- Resolve updated findings, conclusions and recommendations based on Part A, B & C expressed as short, medium and long-term actions for each site (Part D)
- Resolve updated findings, conclusions and recommendations based on Part A, B & C expressed as short, medium and long-term actions for each site (Part D)
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CCT Actions Other

Short term actions (to end September 2023)

- Provide interpretation of maintenance and repair plans to further explain anticipated costs described in part A above.

Medium term actions (to end March 2024)

Long term actions (to end September 2024)

Actions complete (to end May 2023)

None

Appendix 1: Summer 2020 Questionnaire

1. This is the first of fourteen questions in the survey - thank you in advance for working through each one. First of all, we need to know if you're completing the survey on behalf of an organisation or writing in a personal capacity (If you're writing on behalf of an organisation, please use the text box to let us know which one. Thank you!)
2. Which church are you writing about? (Don't worry, you can complete additional questionnaires for other sites if you like!) Please state the location and dedication, as in 'Sapperton, St. Kenelm's'. Thank you.
3. People are involved with our sites in so many different ways. In your own words, please describe your relationship with the church building.
4. Some people are actively involved at the churches we look after together. If you're part of this group, tell us about your involvement. Cleaning, attending services and fundraising are just a few of the most frequent activities we share, but we'd appreciate as much detail as you might be happy to provide.
5. In your own words, and having reviewed 'Part A' of our church plan (sent to you by email with the invitation to this questionnaire), please describe a perfect outcome for our work together at the church. What would you like to see happen in terms of community involvement and other use of the building?
6. Bearing in mind the repair liabilities and running costs described in the report you've read, what challenges do you anticipate for a sustainable future at your church?
7. Thinking about local life away from the church, which other community projects or activities are you aware of that could combine with our work to protect the church for the future?
8. Here are two questions together... Could increased use of the church benefit the community? How would this increased use benefit the church itself?
9. What do you think are the most important conservation priorities at your church? For each or all of these priorities, please also let us know about any ideas you have for addressing them.

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10. Income and expenditure for the church is detailed in 'Part A' of the report we sent you. Addressing conservation priorities will entail finding new ways to raise funds. Tell us about any ideas or opportunities you have identified for raising additional income at the church.

 11. What do you think might be the best ways to get started with any fundraising activities you have suggested?

 12. If you don't already, would you be interested and available to take part in future fundraising activity?

 13. Almost done! We'd like to invite you to join us in a group discussion about the church later this year, either in person or through 'phone / video conference. Would you be willing to join the discussion?

 14. Last question! Is there anything else you'd like to share about your interest in the church which we haven't asked you already? Otherwise, thank you again so much for reflecting on the future of the church through your answers.