



## ***Annual Report 2023***

# **St Nicholas' Anglican Church Helsinki**

## Contents

About Us.....	3
Foreword by the Chaplain:.....	4
1. Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom.....	5
1.1 Worship .....	5
1.2 Baptisms and Confirmations .....	6
1.3 Marriages and Funerals.....	6
1.4 Music Summary by the Director of Music .....	6
1.5 Communication.....	7
1.6 The Diocese in Europe and the Archdeaconry of Germany and Northern Europe.....	7
2. Teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers.....	7
2.1 Sunday School & Youth Group.....	7
2.2 Confirmation Classes.....	8
2.3 Ministerial Training .....	8
3. Responding to human need by loving service.....	8
4. Seeking to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation .....	10
4.1 Inter-faith Dialogue.....	10
4.2 Ecumenical Work.....	10
5. Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth .....	10
5.1 Safeguarding.....	10
5.2 Caring for Creation.....	10
6. Finance.....	11

## About Us

We are a diverse community, with people of many nationalities gathering as one to worship God and proclaim His unlimited love for us. Our services are in English and follow the Anglican tradition, though people of all denominations and none are welcome. We have a strong choral and musical tradition, as well as a growing children's/youth ministry.

### Our Vision:

We seek to be an inclusive church, that all who worship here may know the love of God through Jesus Christ.

### Our Mission:

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35*

*In response to the command that Jesus gave his disciples, we will be inclusive in our...*

Worship– actively encouraging people from all backgrounds and ages to be involved in our services

Relationships – welcoming and accepting people as they are, and valuing their contribution to our community life

Praying – supporting one another in prayer and joining with people from all faiths and denominations to pray for God's world

Teaching – rooting God's unconditional love in what we preach and in our discussions with young people

Actions – helping those in need, challenging injustice and inequality where we find it, and caring for God's creation

Events – promoting friendship among our congregation, with the wider community in Finland and in the diocese of Europe

## Foreword by the Chaplain:

This is the last time I am writing a foreword for the Annual Report of St Nicholas' Anglican Church in Helsinki. It has been a real blessing to journey with this community for the last nineteen years; first, as a licensed Lay Assistant, then as Assistant Curate and, from 2012 as the Chaplain. I wish to thank all of you who have supported me in my ministry here. I also wish to thank all those who have worked to bring the Chaplaincy to where it is now. When I started, the Chaplaincy was able to afford a full-time Chaplain and a part-time assistant. At some point, my predecessor agreed to a pay cut to allow the finances of the Chaplaincy to be more sustainable. Now there are four persons working in the Church who receive a regular pay: the chaplain, an office manager, the director of music, and an assistant priest. The future is increasingly uncertain due to changes in context in which we operate, but at least we can be confident that the work of the Chaplaincy can and will continue.

When reading annual reports, one is often focusing on the financial performance of the organisation. It would be easy to do the same here. But we must remember that a Christian community exists so that people can gather to worship God together and to tell of his wonderful deeds. A Christian community is to break bread and word together but also to serve its neighbours. A church exists not solely for its members but that through its shared worship it can be equipped to serve others. One of the duties is to be watchmen and stewards of God's grace.

The year 2023 was a busy time for the Chaplaincy. A number of new members joined our church community and Sunday School/Youth Group, and the Choir established their ministries in a new way. I would like to encourage you to consider the next steps: developing and reinforcing existing ministries but also starting new ones.

As part of the Church of England, we acknowledged the Coronation of HM The King Charles III. As the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, he was remembered in a special service on the Eve of the Coronation in May 2023. It has been my long-standing dream that we could celebrate and mark important days of other nations to acknowledge more visibly who we are as a church.

When you read this Annual Report, you will discover that it is structured according to the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion. Mission, education and formation are the foundation on which we have built our ministry, rooted firmly in the Gospels and the tradition of the Church.

Thank to everyone who has supported or participated in the life of the Church, in particular the people who voluntarily give their time to our Church and ensure that it flourishes:

Our Church Wardens and members of the Council for the essential work that they do and the time that they give, the choir and musicians who provide such beautiful music for our Church service, the Sunday School and Youth leaders who nurture our children, our dedicated Coffee Team and all who have been readers and intercessors during the year.

Thanks be to God.

The Revd Tuomas Mäkipää, Chaplain

Our Annual Report below is structured according to the '*Five marks of Mission*',  
adopted by the Church of England.

## 1. Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom

### 1.1 Worship

Numbers worshipping each week remain similar to recent years with an average of 40 people attending Sunday services. The coronation of King Charles III, a recording for BBC Radio 4, and services at Easter and Christmas created welcome opportunities to extend our ministry beyond our immediate congregation.

#### Special Services & Feast Days

On **Mothering Sunday**, in March, we held an All-Age Service and the children gave out their beautiful hand-crafted flowers to women in the congregation.

#### **Easter**

Holy Week and Easter services were well attended in the Cathedral Chapel and at Mikael Agricola Church. The 'Festival of Easter' was developed last year by the Director of Music and was a good opportunity to welcome people from beyond our congregation, offering an evening of seasonal readings and inspiring music.

At **Pentecost** three children from our Sunday School received their first Holy Communion, which added to the joyful spirit of the service.

A moving service for **Armistice Day** was held at Mikael Agricola Church, in cooperation with the British Embassy and the International School of Helsinki. The participants included staff from different countries' delegations: military attorneys, ambassadors, and embassy officials. Children from ISH performed during the service. We also held our own **service of Remembrance** at Mikael Agricola.

**Nine Lessons and Carols** was held at Helsinki Cathedral on 8<sup>th</sup> December, with over 500 people attending. Bishop David Hamid presided at the service, his last in Helsinki before retiring. We are very grateful to Bishop David for all his support, visits and prayers and wish him a very happy retirement. We were also joined at the service by Bishop Mar Shimun Daniel, who ministers in Iraq to the Ancient Church of the East, and was in Finland as a guest of 'Open Doors.'

On Christmas Eve we provided an evening carol service at **Katajanokka Hotel chapel** which was well attended by guests, joined by members from our congregation. The Christmas Day service at Mikael Agricola was well attended given limited public transport.

#### All Age Worship

Regular All-Age worship took place in Mikael Agricola Church during term-time. The children and young people take an active part during the service. Our last All -Age service of the year included a wonderful nativity play organised by Jane Mayhew-Smith and Christingle making. The service continues to attract new people and current worshippers, some of whom attend specifically for these services.

#### Urdu Language Ministry

The Revd Parvez Gill's ministry continued in both Urdu and English, regularly taking services in Kauklahti Chapel and at St Nicholas. The congregation gathers every Friday evening, 6-8pm in Kauklahti Chapel. Approximately 20-30 people attend the Anglican service. A service of Holy Communion is also held once a month, which is well attended. Bible School takes place for children aged 5 -12, alongside the main service. Approximately 11 – 13 children attend.

## 1.2 Baptisms and Confirmations

We celebrated 5 child baptisms (4 were infants).

Three candidates from Sudanese and Pakistani backgrounds were confirmed by Bishop David Hamid in October at ICCK in Tampere.

([https://eurobishop.blogspot.com/2023/10/christ-king-tampere-confirmations.html?fbclid=IwAR1c\\_vYkHaW6Buq\\_7BV8xq8SS8Oz5Ph73QMOB\\_2p26sOkhwbC0j2PGUawJA](https://eurobishop.blogspot.com/2023/10/christ-king-tampere-confirmations.html?fbclid=IwAR1c_vYkHaW6Buq_7BV8xq8SS8Oz5Ph73QMOB_2p26sOkhwbC0j2PGUawJA))

## 1.3 Marriages and Funerals

There were 2 marriages and 2 funerals in 2023.

## 1.4 Music Summary by the Director of Music

The past year has seen tremendous development and growth in the choral and musical life and activities of the church. Some elements include the continuation of ideas and projects that were initiated the previous year while others are entirely new initiatives.

The professional concert series "Concerts at St Nicholas" continued to create and produce concerts. In March, the choir and organist Kadri Toomoja presented Duruflé's Requiem at Paavalinkirkko and Espoon Tuomiokirkko. Again, in September, the same series presented Rachmaninoff's All-Night Vigil at Espoon Tuomiokirkko and Uspenski Cathedral. These concert projects have assisted in establishing the choir to wider audiences while providing significant ministry through music to the St Nicholas community and the general public at large.

The Festival of Easter continued for a second year with greater attendance. This service was developed the previous year as an Easter equivalent to the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service.

The St Nicholas Chamber Choir—the choir of our parish—has established itself as an independent registered association (rekisteröity yhdistys in Finnish). This major development will allow the choir to apply for funding from a multitude of public and private sources to allow the choir to undertake its mission of concert performances of sacred choral works from a diverse range of composers while actively promoting the core repertoire and principles of the Anglican choral tradition. This means that the choir has its own board of directors, its own budget for operations, and its own ability to produce and promote musical events. In addition to this concert mission, the choir sings at Choral Evensong and regularly scheduled services.

Late in the year, discussion began with Tuomiokirkonseurakunta regarding the formation of an official partnership to develop authentic Choral Evensong services at Tuomiokirkko. These talks were successful and the results of those discussions will manifest themselves in the following year.

The choir continued its tradition of singing at the Remembrance Day service in November.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was tremendously moving this year with the retirement of Bishop David. It attracted a more diverse attendance that in the past few years, perhaps in part due to our Yle TV broadcast the year before.

I, the Director of Music, would like to extend my sincere thanks to the choir, musicians, and to all who are involved in development and sustainment of the musical life and ministry at St Nicholas.

It is a vibrant, living, and diverse ministry and we will strive to evolve and grow with the spiritual needs of the church and community that we serve.

## 1.5 Communication

### Newsletter

The weekly newsletter continues to keep people updated with what is happening at St Nicholas' and is important for staying in touch with members of the congregation who are unable to attend church regularly, as well as friends of the Chaplaincy who live abroad. There are between 70 and 100 views of the newsletter each week.

### Social Media

During the year we continued to broaden our outreach through social media. On facebook we have 1,292 followers (an increase of almost two hundred since last year), and 375 on Instagram (an increase of 87). Social media also enabled us to connect with people in Finland and beyond, as well as to connect with other churches in Finland and the Church of England. Regular posting of our activities has led to us being featured in several online newsletters by the Diocese in Europe.

## 1.6 The Diocese in Europe and the Archdeaconry of Germany and Northern Europe

In September the Chaplain led one of the **BBC Radio 4** services as part of a feature series on the Diocese in Europe. Several members of the congregation and choir took part in the recording which was aired nationwide in the UK. This [article](#) on the Diocese in Europe website summarises the project that St Nicholas' took part in.

In August a **visit from the Archdeacon**, Leslie Nathaniel, prompted a small group from St Nicholas' to discuss issues concerning racial justice prior to the upcoming ecumenical **conference on Racial Justice** in Freiburg, Germany. In November we sent two delegates, Esther and Saija, to conference. They both produced excellent written reports and will be delivering a talk on the conference to our congregation in February 2024.

During the visit by the Archdeacon, the Chaplain travelled with him to **Tallinn** to meet with the Very Revd Gustav Piir, Priest-in-Charge of the Anglican Congregation of St Timothy and Titus. The Chaplain returned at the end of the year to Tallinn to help preside at a remembrance service.

The Chaplain helped to plan the **deanery synod** in Copenhagen, and attended with representatives from Turku and Tampere.

## 2. Teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers

### 2.1 Sunday School & Youth Group

Our regular Sunday School runs most Sundays at 10am in the crypt. The Youth Group is for young people aged 11 and over. We have ten young people who regularly join us on Sundays. Each session will typically involve a Bible story, a game/ demonstration or experiment, a related craft, song and prayer. This year we tried to ensure that the group was split according to age range each week when possible. Online preparation classes were held for first Holy Communion, with three children participating.

All Age Services involve the children in all aspects of worship; Children lead the prayers, are involved in the music and interactive talk. Through social media and the weekly newsletter share the children's work with a much wider audience.

The Sunday School and Youth Group took the lead with charitable fundraising in the community and helped raise awareness of environmental concerns.

The annual Nativity play was a great success and was performed as part of an All-Age Christingle service.

We are thankful to all the families who join us and support us, and to our teaching team - Jane, Jayawin, Tino and Sarah.

## 2.2 Confirmation Classes

This year there were no dedicated classes in Helsinki but candidates were prepared separately in Tampere.

## 2.3 Ministerial Training

During September, Ana Moskvina joined us on a successful two-week ministerial placement from Cranmer Hall in Durham, UK. She preached in Helsinki and Turku, assisting the priest at the services and helping to lead mid-week morning prayer. The Chaplain arranged a full programme including a pastoral visit, a lecture in the Theology Department of the University of Helsinki, attending a local ecumenical meeting and an online clergy chapter meeting, as well as participating in a meeting of the Co-operation of Religions (CORE) in Finland.

## 2.4 Lent Group

During Lent we had a well-attended discussion group based on the poems of Malcolm Guite. We are very grateful to Dr Joel Gillin who developed and led the course.

## 2.5 Lecture Series

At the end of April the Chaplain held two lectures on *Coronation Theology*, one in English and the other in Finnish. In September Dr Joel Gillin led a four week course on *Anglicanism*. This was followed by another lecture series, on the *Nicene Creed*, in October by Dr Edward Roslof. We are very thankful to all our 'lecturers' for sharing their time and expertise with us.

# 3. Responding to human need by loving service

## 3.1 Supporting Charity

### Support for Ukrainian Refugees

In February representatives from USPG visited us in Helsinki to report on the activities of the Vallila Help Center, whom St Nicholas' has helped to receive funding from the appeal by the Diocese in Europe collaboration with USPG. The report was widely shared in the diocese and featured at the General Synod: [General Synod: USPG and the Diocese in Europe report on Ukraine appeal | Diocese in Europe \(anglican.org\)](#)

During the year we continued to work closely with USPG and the Ukrainian Association in Finland. The Chaplain made weekly visits to the centre and providing advice and support to their leadership and workers. The congregation at St Nicholas continued to generously donate food and clothing, and regular volunteers included Alex Mayhew-Smith and Joel Gillin. St Nicholas' helped the center to apply for a final round of funding from USPG/Diocese in Europe, which came through in December.

St Nicholas' is now part of a network of churches in the Diocese who are undertaking work with refugees. The Chaplain joined Eeva, the Humanitarian Aid Coordinator at the Vallila Help Center, as she gave a tour in September to the Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy, Kirsti Bourret. In December the Chaplain also arranged a visit with Bishop David Hamid, further raising awareness of the center's work in the diocese.

### Other Charitable Events/Fundraisers

In March our young people raised over 400 euros to be shared between **Toilet Twinning** and the **Vallila Help Center** for Ukrainian Refugees in Helsinki.

At **Harvest Festival** the children decorated boxes to collect generous offerings of food by the congregation for the Salvation Army food bank in Helsinki.

We invited the charity **Lyra** to talk to our young people in October. Annika Hilli and Humphrey Kalanje told us of the challenges faced by girls in rural Tanzania and how Lyra is making a tangible difference to their future. After the talk/service the children and young people at St Nicholas' held a bake sale, together with handicrafts from Tanzania, to raise just under 600 euros for Lyra.

### **The Bishop's Advent Appeal**

810.50 euros in cash donations was raised at Nine Lessons and Carols, with half going to the Bishop of Europe's Appeal.

### **Christmas Bazaar**

At the Bazaar we enabled several charities to widen their reach and raise funds for their valuable work in Finland and abroad: The Vallila Help Center, Lyra in Africa, Unicef Finland, Seed Ry, Caritas, and the Puupäät.

## 3.2 Community Events

### **Sunday Coffee**

We wish to thank the coffee team for their dedication throughout the year in serving our community and providing hospitality to visitors. Special thanks to Jane Johnson, Rebecca Maaranto, Anja Haltia, Kerry Osborne, Tuula Kuusisti, and Tino Jayapal.

### **Coronation Party**

We had a dedicated service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, followed by a lunch party with activities for young and old. The celebration was supported by the British Embassy and brought in people from the wider community. There was a coronation quiz, raffle and selfie station, as well as planting and biscuit decorating activities for children. We are grateful to everyone who made food, donated to the raffle, helped decorate and to the 'pirates' for entertaining us!

### **The Christmas Bazaar**

The Bazaar served the wider international community in and around Helsinki, offering a range of entertainment, food and an opportunity to meet with friends. We increased the number of stalls by five. Entertainment included a Celtic Band, Morris Dancing and a Punch and Judy Show. Visitor numbers were higher than previous years and we made 5854.65 euros in profit for St Nicholas'. There was a wonderful community spirit and we are grateful to all our amazing volunteers who gave their time so freely and generously, especially our hardworking churchwardens!

## **Pentecost Picnic in May**

A picnic by the sea after the service brought members of the community together, both young and old. It has become an annual tradition over the last few years.

## 4. Seeking to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

### 4.1 Inter-faith Dialogue

In March, our Chaplain was a panellist at a seminar in Parliament (Eduskunta) marking the 100th anniversary of the Freedom of Religion Act in Finland. The speaker, Mr Matti Vanhanen, greeted the audience on behalf of the Parliament. The seminar highlighted the experience of minority groups.

### 4.2 Ecumenical Work

We continued to liaise with our partners and networks: The St. Nicholas's Foundation, The Ecumenical Council in Finland, The Helsinki Ecumenical Committee, and Helsinki Lutheran Parishes.

In January we helped to host an ecumenical prayer meeting with Herättäjä-Yhdistys as part of the **'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.'** Our Chaplain gave a talk about the Porvoo Agreement

In November we sent two delegates, Esther and Saija, to the **Diocese in Europe ecumenical conference on Racial Justice** in Freiburg Germany. They both produced excellent written reports and will be delivering a talk on the conference to our congregation in February 2024.

## 5. Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth

### 5.1 Safeguarding

All clergy underwent Safeguarding training and record check clearance certificates were required as a normal part of their ministry. Members of the Council also underwent safeguarding training and our lay volunteers were encouraged to go through the process to ensure that our congregation is a safe place for young and vulnerable people to visit. The Church of England's basic training courses were used.

We held a special All-Age Service in November to mark Safeguarding Sunday, this was the first time we have held a dedicated safeguarding service and we will look to repeat it in subsequent years. Our new Safeguarding Officer, Dr Harriet Frances-Ehnholm held a session on safeguarding with the children from Sunday School and Youth Group, and also introduced herself to the congregation.

### 5.2 Caring for Creation

#### **Gardeners' Corner**

One of our regular ways of highlighting care for the environment was through our 'Gardener's Corner' feature in the weekly newsletter. Peter Joy and Peter Knight shared their gardening wisdom with us through useful tips and humour. Jane Mayhew-Smith has also contributed several environmental pieces for the newsletter.

**Season of Creation (September/October):**

The season of creation was marked with an All-Age Harvest Festival. The children displayed their beautiful artwork and prayers based on the theme of peace and justice for the [Season of Creation](#)

The Chaplain also participated in a Diocese wide campaign to raise awareness of the ways we can care for creation.

**6. Finance**

Please see separate documents.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Chapter 1 § 1 and Chapters 2 and 3 of the Small and Micro Enterprise Regulation using micro business regulations.

**Grants**

The grants received by the Anglican Church of Finland are presented in the income statement in the fundraising group.

**Pension expenses**

The Chaplaincy staff's pension insurance is handled by external insurance companies. Pension expenses have been recorded to the financial statements on an accrual basis. There is no uncovered pension liability.

**To give a correct and adequate picture**

The uncertainties of recent years (pandemic, war in Ukraine, rising living costs) will continue to affect the Church's finances for the coming years, especially the limited cash reserves used to finance operations. The increase in wage costs forces the church council to monitor the economic development closely.

The Chaplain will transition to other duties in June 2024. This will bring some savings in the short term before the appointment of a new Chaplain, estimated to be in early 2025.

Starting in 2024, Edward Roslof will assume the role of Chaplaincy Treasurer, bringing with him extensive experience in the operations of various international organizations, foundations, and other entities.

**Liabilities**

Leasing agreements

Tukirahoitus Oy Leasingsopimus 426663:

Toshiba copier serial number CFKF27331

2023	659,88 €
2024	659,88 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>1319,76€</b>

**Personnel**

	<b>31.12.2023</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b>
Average number of personnel	4,0	4,0

## 7. Tilinpäätöskatsaus suomeksi

Tilinpäätösaineisto on toimitettu erikseen

Tilinpäätös on laadittu Valtioneuvoston asetuksen pien- ja mikroyrityksen tilinpäätöksistä esitettävistä tiedoista säädettyjen 2 ja 3 lukujen pienyrittäjänsääntöä noudattaen.

### Avustukset

Avustukset löytyvät eriteltyinä tilinpäätöskirjasta. Avustuksia saatiin Helsingin seurakuntayhtymältä, Kirkkohallitukselta ja pienempiä avustuksia eri tahoilta.

### Eläkemenot

Kirkon työntekijöiden eläkkeet ovat vakuutettuina Työeläkeyhtiö Elossa. Työeläkemenot ovat kirjattuna tilinpäätöstietoihin ajantasaisin tiedoin. Kirkolla ei ole työeläkevelkaa.

### Tulevaisuudennäkymät

Viimevuosien epävarmat näkymät (pandemia, Ukrainan sota, elinkustannusten nousu) aiheuttaa paineita Kirkon taloudelle myös tulevina vuosina. Erityisesti toiminnan rahoittamiseen käytettävät kassavarat ovat edelleen pieniä. Palkkakustannusten nousu pakottaa kirkkoneuvoston tarkkailemaan talouden kehitystä.

Kirkkoherra siirtyy muihin tehtäviin kesäkuussa 2024. Tämä tuo joitain säästöjä lyhyellä aikavälillä ennen uuden kirkkoherran nimittämistä arviolta alkuvuodesta 2025.

Kirkon taloudenhoitajana aloittaa vuonna 2024 Edward Roslof, jolla on pitkä kokemus erilaisten kansainvälisten järjestöjen, säätiöiden ja muiden organisaatioiden toiminnasta.

### Vastuut

Leasingsopimukset

Tukirahoitus Oy Leasingsopimus 426663:

Toshiba kopiokone sarjanumero CFKF27331

2023	659,88 €
2024	659,88 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>1319,76€</b>

### Henkilöstö

	<b>31.12.2023</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b>
Average number of personnel	4,0	4,0





