

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN FINLAND

St. Nicholas Chaplaincy, Helsinki

Annual Report 2025

St Nicholas' Anglican Church Helsinki

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 flourishing children's 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

From the Chaplain

I was licenced as your Chaplain on 10th August 2025. The welcome has been warm and friendly, and I thank all of you for that. Over the past months, I have begun to know some of your names in the pews on Sundays, but I do apologise if I have not quite got yours yet.

My aim for the first few months was to spend time in the church and get to know the people. I visited our Anglican sisters and brothers in Turku and Tampere. Meeting with our Urdu, Arabic and Igbo speaker communities will happen during 2026. The aim is to get the feel of our multicultural communities as well as to make sure St Nicholas' Church community gets to know me, to build up our attendance both on Sundays and throughout the weekly and yearly activities.

As I look back my first few months in the Chaplaincy and all that has been going on up until the end of the year 2025, I recognise there is much to give God thanks for.

We have families who bring their children to be baptised, which is a great joy. We should also recognise the huge opportunity to make further connections with our local community near Mikael Agricola Church, as well as throughout the whole of Finland; and can begin to think how we as a church can enable them to feel part of the Anglican Church in Finland and enable them to grow in their faith.

I have begun to build connections with our Ecumenical partners by attending the Ecumenical Council in Finland meetings. I continue to build the relationship with Mikael Agricola Church's communities, the Finnish Evangelic-Lutheran Helsinki Parish Union, and parishes such as Helsinki Cathedral and St Matthew's Church in East Helsinki.

Our Advent course drew members to Mikael Agricola Church's Café area, to engage with questions related to book called *Listening to the music of the soul*, by Bishop of Chelmsford England, Guli Francis-Dehqani. We had lively discussions that stretched our thinking of what it means to be a Christian in this busy world of ours.

It has been wonderful to see the diversity of our church family here at St Nicholas' Church and around Finland. We are clearly a welcoming place for people whatever our background. We should be proud of what you have achieved before my time. Yet at the same time, we should identify the areas we need to improve so that we truly are '*an inclusive church, that all who worship here may know the love of God through Jesus Christ*'.

Although it is advised not to change anything in a new church community during the first six months, I did make some changes! We now have reusable booklets for our worship on Sundays. Their covers are various colours reflecting the colour of the Church Year. I hope this change continues to make an impact on how we reduce our use of paper and take care of the God's Creation. My prayer is that these booklets enhance each person's Sunday worship experience, as we learn to hear the story of God's wonderful work amongst His people throughout the generations, and praise his grace towards us.

I am very blessed to have a ministry team working in various ways together with me. I am grateful for the work of clergy, including Fr. Parvez, Fr. Mika, Fr. Isaac, Fr. Amos and Fr. Yousif. For the clergy in Turku and Tampere, who take care of our wider Anglican members. I give thanks for the number of Permission to Officiate clergy and Readers without whom the work of this Church would have been impossible during

the interregnum. I am also very blessed to have a lay ministry team working very hard for the Mission of the Anglican Church in Finland. The Chaplaincy Council, Office Manager, the Safeguarding Officer and Sunday School leaders, who have offered their knowledge about the people and the church. Without their input in so many different ways, it would have been much harder to get a sense of the challenges and the triumphs that we face.

I am also very blessed to have churchwardens – James and Humphrey – who got me quickly up to speed with what was happening in the church when I arrived. And they have continued to help me throughout the autumn in various ways, especially in dealing with our finances. I am sure that we all want to give our thanks for their input and work during the interregnum period. And I want to particularly thank you James, who is stepping down as Churchwarden later in the summer from his role. Thank you for your ministry.

The first six months in the Chaplaincy has taught me a great deal. I was aware that we have some challenges ahead – particularly with the finances. We managed to pay our share of Common Fund in full 2025, helping to enable many of the Diocesan teams to function and offer chaplaincies support. The financial reality however is that we are in deficit and at the end of the year, Sarah stepped down from her role as Office Manager, a decision we did not make lightly. Although our Christmas Bazaar raised more funds than before, more needs to be done – we have to rethink our fundraising efforts. More importantly, stewardship, not just fundraising, must be one of our top priorities over the next 12 months. It's vital that we reconsider our giving: our money, our talents, and our time.

A lot has happened since I arrived. It is impossible to cover everything in this report, and of course other reports will cover some of those things. Here, I want to commend our life together to God with this:

‘Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him’ Lamentations 3:22-24.

The Revd Maria Obafemi-Onuigbo

Chaplain

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

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (**TELL**)
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers (**TEACH**)
3. To respond to human need by loving service (**TEND**)
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation (**TRANSFORM**)
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth (**TREASURE**)

1 Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom (TELL)

1.1 Worship in Helsinki

An average of 56 people worshipping each week in Helsinki in 2025, as we welcomed 4518 people to services.

Holy Week and Easter services were well attended in the Cathedral Chapel and at Mikael Agricola Church. Fr. Mika Pajunen offered Requiem Mass for Pope Francis in Mikael Agricola Church on 3rd of May, at the invitation of local Roman Catholic church.

On the 10th of August we had a licencing service for our new Chaplain, The Rev'd Maria Obafemi-Onuigbo, which was attended by 160 friends of the Chaplaincy, including many ecumenical partners.

Towards the end of the year we had our annual Remembrance Day service with the British Embassy, led by the Chaplain, saw wreaths being laid by 11 different embassies. The service was well attended by Embassy staff but also members of the public. Children from International School of Music Finland performed during the service as well as St Nicholas Chamber Choir. We also held our own service on Remembrance Sunday.

In November we also marked Safeguarding Sunday with a dedicated All-Age Service. Making Church a safe space for all is integral to every aspect of our mission, and our clergy, as well as lay leaders, undergo regular checks and safeguarding training as required by The Church of England.

Our biggest service was undoubtedly The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which was held at Helsinki Cathedral on 14th December, welcoming 630 people (online viewings were also 600). The Chaplain presided at the service and several of our PTO clergy joined the procession. The beautiful music and readings were enjoyed by all.

On Christmas Eve afternoon we had for a first time a family service at Mikael Agricola Church, which was attended by 94 people. On Christmas Day service at Mikael Agricola was also well attended, by 92 people, and supported by the British Ambassador who read a lesson.

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. Highlights included Mothering Sunday, in March, where the children gave out their beautiful, hand-crafted flowers to the congregation, and Pentecost service which also had many creative elements from the Sunday School team.

Harvest All Age Festival was also well attended, and the children gathered our food giving from the congregation during the service. Our last All -Age service of the year was a wonderful Christingle service. The service continues to attract new people and current worshippers, some of whom attend specifically for these services.

1.2 Anglican Worship in the rest of Finland

'White Nile' and 'ICCK Tampere' are Anglican congregations of their own right in the Anglican Church in Finland / Diocese in Europe

International Church of Christ the King, Tampere

ICCK is sharing their ministry with the Tampere Lutheran Parish Federation. English services at ICCK were held 50 times during 2025, and altogether they gathered 2860 people, approximately 57 people per service, up from average of 49 previous year. The Rev'd Kati Eloranta leads the congregation, with monthly services taken by our Assistant Chaplain The Rev'd Parvez Gill. The biggest services were the First Advent Sunday, Christmas Eve, Good Friday and Easter Day. All in all they have welcomed many new people into their church, which is a great reason to give thanks to God.

During the year 2025, ICCK's Sunday school was full of life, learning and joyful celebration. The average number of children participating was around 13 and they now meet every week. ICCK's Adult and Children's Choirs are practicing and singing in the special services like Easter Day, Palm Sunday, Multicultural service and Christmas. One of the highlights of the year was the Christmas Carol service's 50-year anniversary on December 10 at Tampere Cathedral, where ICCK children's choir performed carols, and the readers were from the Finnish British Society and ICCK.

One of ICCK's lay synod representatives also joined Helsinki's representative at the Deanery Synod in September in Stuttgart.

White Nile Congregation, Tampere & Närpiö

The Rev'd Amos Manga and The Rev'd Yousif Abujellha are non-stipendary ministers who lead the White Nile Congregation in Tampere and Närpiö. They also minister in Lahti, Kokkola and Vaasa. They have over 150 members, including approximately 30 families.

Arabic services are held every Sunday at Härmälän kirkko in Tampere, and Bible study takes place on Saturdays. One of the highlights during the year was their Youth Conference in Tampere.

Turku Cathedral International Congregation, Turku

This is a joint ministry with the local Lutheran Cathedral Parish, therefore there is English language worship every Sunday, of which once a month Anglican and other Sundays Lutheran.

A total of 11 Anglican Services were held in 2025, with 242 in attendance including 206 taking communion. There was an average of 22 people per service in attendance, with approximately 18 taking communion. The Anglican services are conducted mostly by the Rev'd Timo Viitanen, The Rev'd Dr Miika Ahola. The Chaplain and the Assistant Chaplain also visited the TCIC 2025. The licenced Reader Keith Batterbee and the Reader-in-training Maria Vaatanen assisting with worship. Maria also takes care of administrative matters.

Holy Trinity Anglican Congregation, Espoo

The Rev'd Isaac Ohaju, non-stipendary minister, continues to lead an Igbo-English

congregation in Espoo, which began 2024, and now meets on Sunday afternoons at KilonRisti three times a month for Holy Communion service. Overall number of attendances 2025 was 555, an average per service around 15.

Fr Isaac also continues to service at St Nicholas' in a voluntary capacity, and we are very grateful to Fr Isaac for his service, we especially thank him for his help at St Nicholas' during the interregnum. We are also very grateful to Leppävaara parish for their contribution both financially and physically.

Urdu Language congregation, Espoo

Urdu language ministry, led by The Rev'd Parvez Gill, continues to gather faithfully for weekly worship services every Friday at Suvela Chapel in Espoo. These gatherings provide an opportunity for spiritual growth, fellowship, and communal worship in the Urdu language.

Holy Communion is celebrated once every month, allowing members to partake in this sacred Christian tradition together. In addition to regular worship, various community-focused and spiritual activities were organised.

Finnish Independence Day was celebrated together as a community, fostering fellowship and cultural connection. On International Labour Day, May 1 and during Midsummer community picnics were organised, which were well attended and appreciated by families.

A sports day was organised for children, youth, and adults, encouraging participation across all age groups. And a Summer Bible Camp, providing an opportunity for spiritual growth, learning, and community building. These activities have contributed positively to strengthening Urdu congregation and engaging members of all ages.

Lappeenranta

The Anglican Holy Communion services were started in Lappee Church in Lappeenranta 11th January 2025, as The Rev'd Dr Mika Pajunen helped to enable the local Lutheran clergy to lead the services twice a month. Approximately 12-30 people have attended these services, mainly being international students but also other internationals living in Lappeenranta area.

This is exiting and significant cooperation started at the invitation of the Lappee's parish. The Chaplain met with The Rev'd Mika Lehtola, the Rector of Lappee Parish, in November and those leading services are now in process of getting their Bishop's permission to officiate.

Sastamala

In July 2025, The Rev'd Mika Pajunen, together with St Nicholas Chamber Choir participated in Gregorian Evensong 1662, in St Olav's Church in Tyrvää. This was a truly culturally significant case, as the event is the most important old music festival in Finland.

1.3 Marriages and Funerals

One funeral - led by Fr Isaac Ohaju in Espoo (11.2.2025).

1.4 Music Summary by the Director of Music

The past year for the music ministry and choir has been one significant growth and development. There have been several unique performance opportunities in addition to a continuation of singing at weekly Sung Eucharist services and our ongoing collaboration with Helsinki Cathedral Parish to provide Choral Evensong services at the Cathedral.

Specifically, in July, the St Nicholas Chamber Choir collaborated with Sastamala Gregoriana Early Music Festival to research, curate, produce, and perform a musically, linguistically, and aesthetically authentic Choral Evensong service as it might have been encountered in 1662 London. The service was exceptionally well attended and received.

In August, the St Nicholas Chamber Choir was a guest performer at Kino Agricola, a film festival officially a part of Night of the Arts 2025 (Taiteiden Yö). The choir performed a highly juxtaposed set of English Renaissance motets and African American spirituals.

The St Nicholas Chamber Choir together with some Sunday Choir members has continued its collaboration with Cathedral to provide Choral Evensong services in the central, iconic venue of Helsinki Cathedral. The attendance at these services fluctuates but has surpassed 100 attendees.

Additionally, the St Nicholas Chamber Choir sang the Ash Wednesday service and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Helsinki Cathedral.

The Sunday choir is striving to build and sustain a larger ensemble to regularly sing at Sunday morning services. Although there has been improvement, more strategies need to be developed and implemented.

Many of the collaborations of 2025 will continue into 2026 and beyond. My warmest greetings to the congregation on behalf of the Sunday choir, as well as St Nicholas Chamber Choir, and all involved in the music ministry at St Nicholas, Helsinki.

Erik Riekko

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 1,500 followers (an increase of 89 since last year), and 537 on Instagram (an increase of 84). 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 posts and newsletters by the Diocese in Europe.

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

We were blessed to have the Archdeacon, The Ven Dr Leslie Nathaniel, join us for the licensing of our new Chaplain, The Rev'd Maria Obafemi-Onuigbo. The Deanery Synod took place in Stuttgart with our representatives: The Rev'd Maria Obafemi-Onuigbo from Helsinki and Richard Vincent from Tampere. Richard's Report can be found in attachments.

2. Teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers (TEACH)

2.1 Baptisms

We celebrated 6 baptisms including baptisms in Lappeenranta, Espoo and Tampere.

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 around 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. Last year Jane led more youth-specific sessions alongside Sunday School, which appealed to our older age group. We held a special session for the 85th anniversary of Mikael Agricola church on Palm Sunday, providing activities for children from the different communities that worship in the church.

To increase the safety of children at church we decided to close the doors to the crypt at 10.10am to prevent children from straying outside unnoticed. The Council also agreed that young people should be accompanied when welcoming people in the entrance hall, and we have been stricter about children staying with parents after communion and not going down to the crypt unsupervised.

All Age Services have continued to attract a good number of people, and families who would not otherwise attend a regular Sunday morning service. Children are involved in all aspects of worship, especially leading the prayers and participating in the music. Through social media and the weekly newsletter we continued to share the children's work with a much wider audience.

We are thankful to all the children who inspire us each week and to our teaching team - Jane, Caroline, Tino and Sarah.

2.2 Confirmation Classes and Confirmation

This year there were no classes and Confirmation.

2.3 Ministerial Training

St Nicholas' continued to contribute to the training costs of ordinand Dr Joel Gillin, who has been an active member of our community. We are delighted to be supporting him on his ordination journey, together with the Diocese in Europe.

We continued to support a Reader-in-training, Maria Vatanen, in Turku. Her training was completed in the end of 2025.

2.4 Lent and Advent Group

During Lent we held a course based on the Life Builder study book 'Fruit of the Spirit' by Hazel Offner. We reflected on the following fruits of the Spirit: Peace, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Love. The sessions were led by a mix of clergy and lay volunteers.

During Advent there was discussion group based on the book called Listening to the music of the soul, by Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, from Church of England Diocese of Chelmsford. Since this was a first Advent group for a long time it was attended on average 4-5 people.

3. Responding to human need by loving service (TEND)

3.1 Supporting Charity

In February our young people raised €134 for **Unicef** by making and selling pancakes after the service.

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

The Bishop's Advent Appeal

1200€ was raised for the Bishop of Europe's Appeal – supporting Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza.

At **Christmas Bazaar** we provided free tables to help several charities raise funds for their valuable work in Finland and abroad: The Vallila Help Center, Unicef Finland, Seed Ry, 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, Tino Jayapal and Jane Mayhew-Smith.

Parish Picnic 18th June 2025

It was lovely to spend time together and share food by the seashore close to the church.

Chaplain's Licencing Party 10th August 2025. We are grateful to everyone who made the journey to join us, brought food and helped set-up.

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. Welcomed a couple of new stalls. Entertainment included a Christmasy Songs by Deborah Jones, the Celtic Band, Morris Dancing and Greek Dancing! Visitor numbers were higher than previous years and we made approximately 8000 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.

We continue to value warm relations with **the British Embassy** and Ambassador Laura Davies was particularly supportive of our Christmas Bazaar, Remembrance services, Nine Lessons and Carols, and Choral Evensong. We look forward to further collaborations.

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

4.1 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.

On January 23rd, 2025, Fr Mika Pajunen, attended a meeting with the Cabinet Minister Adlercreutz on church affairs. This was part of the minority churches' delegation, organised by the Finnish Ecumenical Council.

The Rev'd Dr Miika Ahola continued to represent us as a member on the board of the Ecumenical Council, with Saija Kainulainen as vice member. In November new representatives to the Ecumenical Council's Sections were appointed: The Rev'd Dr Miika Ahola continuing in the Section for Theological Issues, together with The Rev'd Saija Kainulainen representative in the Section for Social Issues, The Rev'd Timo Viitanen in Section for Equality and lay member, Maikki Aakko in the Section for Local Ecumenism. The Rev'd Dr Mika Pajunen attended the Ecumenical Council Autumn Assembly 11th November. The Rev'd Maria Obafemi-Onuigbo will also participate the General Assembly as well as the Ecumenical Church Leader's meetings.

A bilingual and ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service was held at Helsinki Cathedral together with Tuomasmessu and Helsinki Cathedral Parish. The service usually attracts only around 10 - 20 people when each worshipping community has held their own service - but the impact was so much greater when we joined together in worship, welcoming 137 people! The Bishop of Helsinki was also present at the service. Our thanks to all involved, especially the clergy - who

included Maria Obafemi-Onuigbo, Kati Pirrtimaa and Isaac Ohaju, and our music director Erik Riekko, and the St Nicholas Chamber Choir for the beautiful music.

90^v celebration of Mikael Agricola church led by the Bishop of Helsinki on 19th April 2025

We worked with the other worshipping communities in Mikael Agricola church to provide a multi-lingual and ecumenical service, celebrating the 90th anniversary of the church building. Kati Pirrtimaa helped to incorporate Anglican elements into the service for us and Erik, and the choir contributed some beautiful music to the event. Our Sunday School team provided crafts and activities for children. It was wonderful to be part of this historic celebration, it also marked the first time that the different communities had come together in this way to worship together.

5. Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth (TREASURE)

5.1 Safeguarding

Making Church a safe space for all is integral to the Good News of Jesus Christ, where we are called to care for one another - especially the most vulnerable. 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, led by The Rev'd Cecilie Strommen. Our Safeguarding Officer, Dr Harriet Frances-Ehnholm also spoke 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.

Season of Creation (September/October):

The season of creation was marked with an All-Age Harvest Festival on 5th October 2025.

5.3 Chaplaincy's Carbon Footprint

The Diocese in Europe has recently developed a tool called 360Carbon to help chaplaincies measure and reduce their carbon emissions. It uses information on our energy use and travel to calculate the annual carbon dioxide emissions.

Since we do not own our building, it is difficult to calculate our energy use, but we have calculated our carbon footprint for 2025 based on travel data for our chaplain

and assistant chaplains. Travel on chaplaincy business last year generated a total of 1.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide. A full breakdown is given below.

Carbon Footprint for Helsinki (St Nicholas)

Total Annual Emissions: 1.70 tCO₂

Travel: 983 kgCO ₂			
Staff: 983 kgCO ₂			
Item	Quantity	Factor	Emissions
Medium hybrid car	1,498 km/year	0.147 kgCO ₂ e/km	221 kgCO ₂
Medium electric car	780 km/year	0.049 kgCO ₂ e/km	38 kgCO ₂
Taxi	40 km/year	0.186 kgCO ₂ e/km	7 kgCO ₂
Bus	4,958 km/year	0.130 kgCO ₂ e/km	646 kgCO ₂
Train	5,508 km/year	0.006 kgCO ₂ e/km	31 kgCO ₂
Light rail or tram	1,113 km/year	0.036 kgCO ₂ e/km	40 kgCO ₂
Flying: 720 kgCO ₂			
Helsinki Vantaa Schiphol (3,042 km, economy class return)		0.148 kgCO ₂ e/km	451 kgCO ₂
Schiphol Stuttgart (1,022 km, economy class return)		0.263 kgCO ₂ e/km	269 kgCO ₂

Given our location, it is difficult to avoid flying to most Diocesan events but we can consider how to reduce our flight emissions in future, for example by taking a flight plus train as an alternative to two connecting flights.

6 Churchwarden's Report

Following a period of leadership transition (both lay and clergy) we have enjoyed an exciting year at St. Nicholas' Anglican Church, during which we have welcomed our new Chaplain, The Rev'd Maria Obafemi-Onuigbo, and experienced God's blessings in many ways. We celebrated the end of the interregnum at a joyful licensing service for our new Chaplain in August attended by the Archdeacon.

We continue to be blessed by our close ecumenical relationships locally, particularly with the Finnish Lutheran Church, and celebrated the 90th anniversary of our joint place of worship, Mikael Agricola Church, together at a memorable bilingual and ecumenical service on Palm Sunday. We have also seen slow but encouraging growth in both our Children's and Music Ministries, with Sunday School thriving and new members joining the choir.

Alongside our routine liturgical patterns and priority ministries, the work of the Wardens and the Council has focused on improving the financial situation of the chaplaincy and implementing our fundraising strategy. We successfully hosted a

fundraising Variety Show organised by our Director of Music, Erik Riekko, and surpassed previous fundraising efforts at our annual Church Christmas Bazaar. We have also taken some difficult cost-saving decisions, including making cuts to our staffing resources, minimising staff travel costs and repurposing our investment portfolio. We were delighted to discover that we have been successful in our application for a grant from the Diocese of Europe's Mission Opportunities Fund early 2026, which will go directly to support our Urdu and Arabic language ministries led by The Rev'd Parvez Gill and The Rev'd Amos Manga and The Rev'd Yousif Abujellha.

Despite these efforts, it is clear that the chaplaincy will need to continue to make prudent decisions if the financial costs of the chaplaincy are to remain sustainable. We are hugely thankful to the body of servant-hearted volunteers who are the heartbeat of chaplaincy life and, most of all, we are grateful to God for His continued provision for our community.

7 Financial Summary 2025:

As highlighted at the previous Annual Meeting, our current financial position is not sustainable. The total income of the Chaplaincy does not cover the salaries of our staff, which is a huge concern. The situation is not a new one, as illustrated by the considerable deficits the Church has incurred over the past four years – ranging from 50k to over 80k euros.

The Anglican Church in 2025 had a significant deficit of 57 500€ and had to rely on withdrawing investment funds again to meet its financial obligations. The remaining investment funds would be exhausted in two years' time if the current pattern continues. The Financial situation means that the new Chaplain works only in 75 % capacity, and at the end of the year, the hard staffing decision.

Financial stability and sustainability of the Church will therefore be a key priority for the Chaplain and Council, with renewed efforts on fundraising and cutting down on expenses.

The revenues from main operations amounted to 64 500 euros, and the operating deficit was 122 000 euros

The fundraising surplus was 36 000 euros.

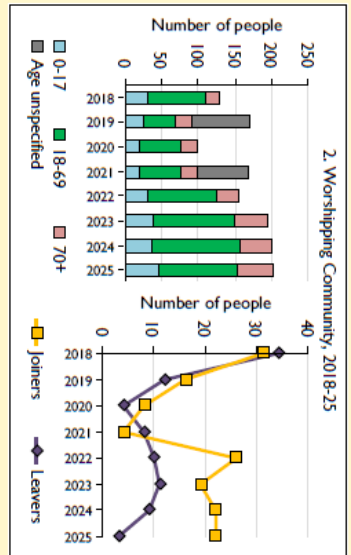
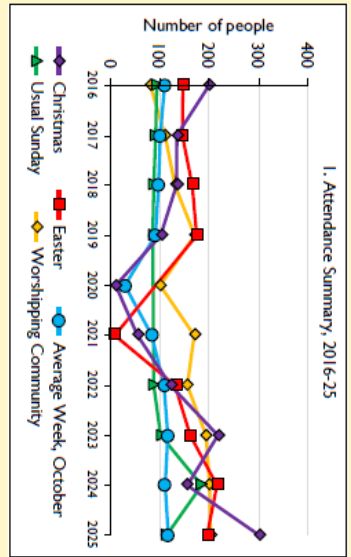
The deficit for the fiscal year was -57 500 euros.

Profit and loss statement		01.01.2025 - 31.12.2025
Ordinary operations		
Income		64 514,00
Loss		
Expenses from Ordinary Operations		-20 683,70
Personnel		-95 918,09
Other Expenses		-30 695,78
Tuotto-/kulujäämä		-82 783,57
Acquisition of funds		
Profit		48 905,87
Loss		-9 826,95
Tuotto-/kulujäämä		39 078,92
Investment and finance operations		
Income		24 448,51
Loss		-3 651,87
TILIKAUDEN TULOS		-22 908,01
TILIKAUDEN YLIJÄÄMÄ (ALIJÄÄMÄ)		-22 908,01

A	B	C	D	E	F
Draft Budget 2026	Euros				
EXPENSES					
Personnel	108 216,00 €				
Other Expenses	35 000,00 €	Bookkeeping, Travel, IT, SS			
Ordinary Operations	6 000,00 €	9 lessons, Rememberence, Bazaar			
Deanery Synod	5 000,00 €				
Common Fund	13 368,00 €				
Fr. Isaac	3 000,00 €	Ringfenced for Fr. Isaac			
Arabic Ministry	5 000,00 €	From mission grant			
TOTAL	175 584,00 €				
INCOME					
Grant - Helsinki Parish Fed	22 411,00 €				
Grant - Church House	27 721,00 €				
Grant- Espoo Cathedral Parish	6 000,00 €	Ringfenced for Parvez			
Giving - plate/Bazaar	40 000,00 €	Including cards			
Grant - Ministry of Culture		Application deadline 16th April			
Grant - St. N Foundation		Ringfenced for xxx			
Grant - Leppävaara Parish	3 000,00 €	Ringfenced for Isaac			
Mission Grant from Diocese	20 000,00 €	Ringfenced for Urdu and Arabic ministry			
TOTAL	119 132,00 €				
Total Profit/Loss	-56 452,00 €				

Appendix 1 – Statistics of Mission

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Helsinki in the Deanery of Nordic and Baltic

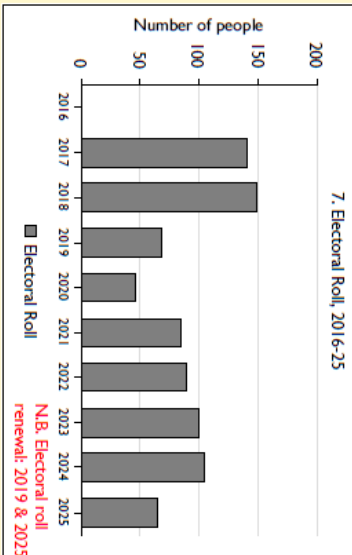
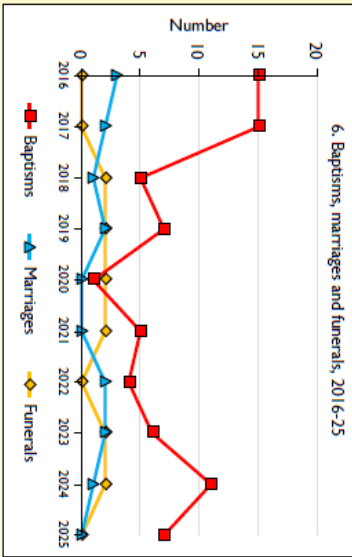
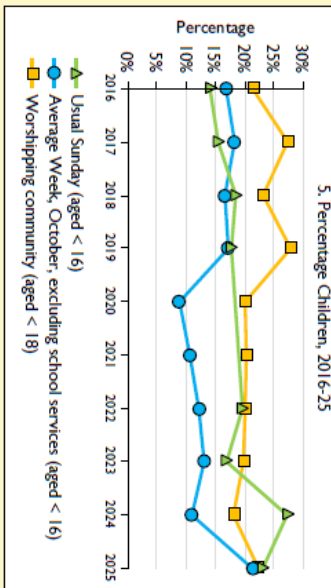
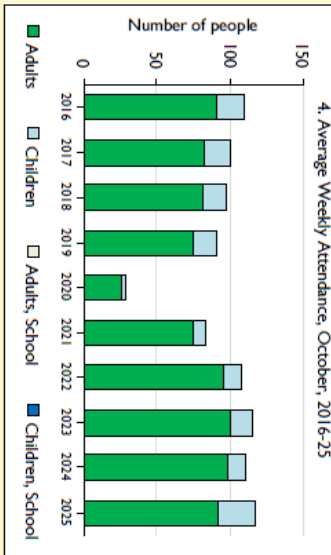
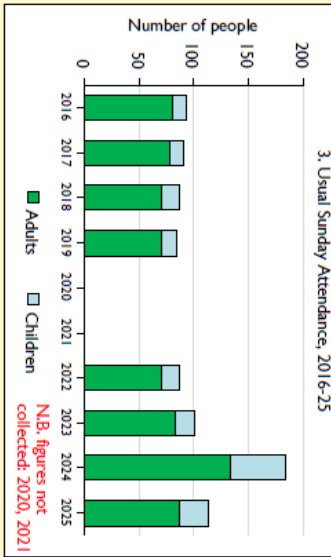


Parish Census and deprivation summary
Parish population (2021): None

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	7%	7%	23%
% aged 20-44	7%	7%	33%
% aged 45-69	7%	7%	31%
% aged 70 & over	7%	7%	14%
% Christian	7%	7%	46%
% non-Christian religion	7%	7%	11%

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <https://arqjis/IWZGHO>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and <https://www.cdf.gov.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2025): 2 **Parish Code: 440110**



Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure. Number of churches included in returns: 2016 2/2017 2/2018 2/2019 2/2020 1/2021 2/2022 2/2023 2/2024 2/2025 2. Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 23/04/2026. Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unt@churchofengland.org

This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the Parish. **Attendance statistics:** taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns. Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools. **Easter:** Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. **Baptisms:** all baptisms & thanksgivings. **Marriages:** marriages & services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages. **Funerals:** those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries. Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020. **Census data:** taken from the 2021 national Census. **Deprivation statistics:** IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Oct 2025. The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations. For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>



SMM Dashboard for the Parish of Helsinki in the Deanery of Nordic and Baltic

Report	Field	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	199	134	133	101	10	54	121	217	155	301
	Easter	146	145	165	174	-	8	130	161	215	195
	Average Week, October	109	100	97	91	29	83	108	116	110	117
	Usual Sunday	93	91	87	85	-	-	87	101	184	113
2. Worshipping Community	Worshipping Community	80	110	130	170	100	169	155	193	200	202
	Total			130	170	100	169	155	193	200	202
	0-17			30	25	20	20	31	38	36	45
	18-69			80	45	55	55	95	110	121	109
	70+			20	20	25	24	29	45	43	48
	Age unspecified			0	80	0	70	0	0	0	0
	Joiners			31	16	8	4	26	19	22	22
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Leavers			34	12	4	8	10	11	9	3
	Adults	80	77	71	70	-	-	70	84	134	87
	Children	13	14	16	15	-	-	17	17	50	26
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Adults	91	82	81	75	26	74	95	101	98	92
	Children	18	18	16	16	3	9	13	15	12	25
	Adults, School	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-
	Children, School	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-
5. Percentage Children	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	14%	15%	18%	18%	-	-	20%	17%	27%	23%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	17%	18%	17%	17%	9%	11%	12%	13%	11%	21%
	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	21%	27%	23%	28%	20%	20%	20%	20%	18%	22%
6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Baptisms	15	15	5	7	1	5	4	6	11	7
	Marriages	3	2	1	2	0	0	2	2	1	0
	Funerals	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	0
7. Electoral Roll	Electoral Roll	-	141	149	68	45	85	88	99	105	65

Statistics Notes:

- The statistics for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day do not include the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols which welcomed 630 people
- Parish figures include only Helsinki, but not Urdu congregation or Holy Trinity Espoo.
- Tampere is included in the electoral roll and baptism figures.

Appendix 2 – Archdeaconry and Deanery Synod

Archdeaconry Gathering of Deanery Synods of Germany and Northern Europe
4th to 7th September 2025 in Stuttgart, Germany. Attended by Richard Vincent from TCIC.

This year's Scandinavian and Baltic States Synod was included in the meeting of Deanery Synods of Germany and Northern Europe. This event happens every three years and this year the venue was in Stuttgart, southern Germany. It was also to celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council in 325AD which was a meeting of Christian bishops in Nicaea to reach agreement on different matters concerning the church. From this came the formation of the famous Nicene Creed.

Address by the Bishop of Europe

Bishop Robert began by talking about our theme, 'Confident faith and Gospel action'. It was interesting that Nicaea is in the Diocese of Europe, and he said that other important Christian historic sites are too, such as Carthage (modern day Tunis) and Rome. The Bishop stated that confident faith has authenticity, it brings stability and possesses an enduring value. He said that four areas of action the Diocese was also working on were:

- Building up chaplaincies with new work and starting new chaplaincies
- Development and training (curates, clergy and lay ministers)
- Youth and children's work
- Gifts to the world (social and racial justice, creation care and ecumenism)

According to statistics he said that from 2023-2024 the weekly attendance in churches grew by 7.9%, especially among young men. It appears that there is a revival of young males coming back into the church who are attracted by people with a confident faith and that it is taken seriously by those who practice it.

Address by the new Suffragan Bishop

Bishop Andrew said that he'd been in his post for about six months and already visited 18 chaplaincies in 12 different countries. He said that these were both exciting and challenging times for the Diocese of Europe in having to deal with finances, safeguarding and ageing congregations. This led to the question being asked, what is our calling as Anglicans in a European context? He added that it was important to know 'where our home is', in other words what we believe, what our values are and where we can agree to disagree, or what our non-negotiable stances are.

Women's ministry

The Dean of Women's Ministry in the Diocese of Europe, spoke about the role of women and how important it was that women thrive in the ordained ministry. She was appointed in 2022 by Bishop Robert to strengthen, celebrate and champion the ministry of women across the Diocese for a period of five years. She said that

currently in the Diocese of Europe there was a smaller percentage of licensed women clergy than other dioceses, in 2024 there were 30 licensed women clergy but in 2025 there were 37 and the number was growing. The vision she has was for an increase in the number of ordained women in positions of ministry at every level. She said that there should be more support for female clergy, encouragement for younger women to explore the vocation, and an expansion in the opportunities for women's spiritual growth and well-being.

What's been happening in the chaplaincies in Scandinavia and the Baltic States?

Norway (Oslo, Trondheim, Bergen and Stavanger) - Congregations have been heavily involved in baptisms, confirmation preparation, the training of clergy and lay readers (they have two newly ordained curates), having sermons on Zoom, working more closely with the Church of Norway under the Porvoo agreement, and having 'messy' church services, so services based on creativity, celebration and hospitality for families.

Latvia (Riga) – The church there has been involved in running a Saturday soup kitchen serving the local community, opening up Sunday School Bible studies, and having a focus on being a more welcoming congregation for everyone.

Iceland (Reykjavik) – The representative said that they used to have many armed forces congregants attending monthly English services but that had diminished in recent months due to the closing of local military bases. Instead, the church has been attended by many more tourists, so although there's been some shrinkage there's also been some growth.

Sweden (Gothenburg) – The church meets in the morning every Sunday for their English service. They have a small number of permanent staff with an overseeing priest and many locums. There's a dynamic church council, a gardening group, international services where people dress up in national costume, yearly harvest festivals and carol services, sometimes with visiting choirs, like the Cambridge choir from UK.

Denmark (Copenhagen) – They had many big events around the year, and their English service is regularly attended by about 80 people. At the moment they are redefining their children's and youth work and want to soon open a soup kitchen. They now have a permanent assistant curate and they try to keep the church open for at least three hours a day to allow visitors to come in.

Finland (Helsinki) – They have an English service every Sunday attended by between 40 and 50 people with at least 20 different nationalities represented. They have an All-Age service once a month and are at present building lots of connections in the community. There is a small group of active people who regularly help out and on Wednesdays they've started an evening prayer group. There is a new chaplain, Revd Maria Obafemi-Onuigbo, who was installed last year, she is Finnish Nigerian and has recently served as a parish priest for Helsinki Cathedral Parish.

Finland (Tampere) – Richard contributed to telling members all that was happening with ICCK, such as a quarterly newsletter, Multicultural and All-Age services, open stage events, women's fellowship meetings, a retreat meeting for council members that was held near Christmas, end of month birthday celebrations and regular

Sunday Schools.

Safeguarding

Susan Boyd underlined the real need for those in leadership and lay helpers to make sure they've done all the necessary safeguarding training courses, which have to be done every three years. If there are safeguarding issues in the communities then we can go to the safeguarding pages on the website, consult the local safeguarding officer or contact London directly who have a paid team of experts ready to help with any safeguarding issue, no matter how seemingly trivial. She underlined the fact that safeguarding is all about caring for one another and looking out for each other's well-being. Then she posed two questions, how can we prepare church to be a safe place for everyone? And what is the culture of your church?

Fundraising

Juliet Evans, the fundraising advisor to the Diocese of Europe, talked about different ways to raise funds in congregations. She said that when we think of fundraising and giving there are different areas we need to look at, such as: generous giving by the congregation, tax exempt giving, digital giving, legacies, actual fundraising, grants, major donors and other sources of income. She then introduced a Digital Giving Project which she had been establishing as part of her role within the Diocese of Europe. This consists of a device made available to congregations to facilitate the recording of gifts.

Racial Justice Conference

This conference was organised by Archdeacon Dr Lesley Nethaniel, held from 4th to 7th December in Berlin. The conference was sub-titled, God's Kaleidoscope and covered embracing diversity, re-examining democracy and challenging hostility.