

The proposed
new parish of
Southbourne-on-Sea
Congregation meetings

21st and 22nd January 2024



Welcome and introduction

- Everyone here has an equal voice and every view is important; this is your chance to make your views known
- Questions are welcome throughout, but there will be time at the end of this short presentation for everyone to have their say
- Please use a microphone so all can hear; either raise your hand and we will get a microphone to you, or come and use the stand microphone

Southbourne-on-Sea

- God loves Southbourne
- God loves the Church of England!
- The Bishop shares the care of souls with the vicar and he shares it with all of you
- The work of building the kingdom of God in Southbourne is ours
- How do we best discharge this joyous responsibility?

Why one Parish? (1)

- The need of the world to hear the good news of the kingdom is only matched by its lack of understanding of God and church
- Our energies as small disparate communities are disproportionately used keeping the show on the road, Sundays and week in week out
- With a larger unified church family, we can share the load and free ourselves more for the mission to which we are called

Why one Parish? (2)

- All that we treasure in our churches can be sifted and tested so that we can be clear about what God would have us say yes to
- With larger teams, Small Saints and Crafty Sunday could be duplicated
- The relationship with St. Katharine's primary school could grow exponentially with countless missional possibilities
- The music that we so treasure can flourish

Nuts and bolts

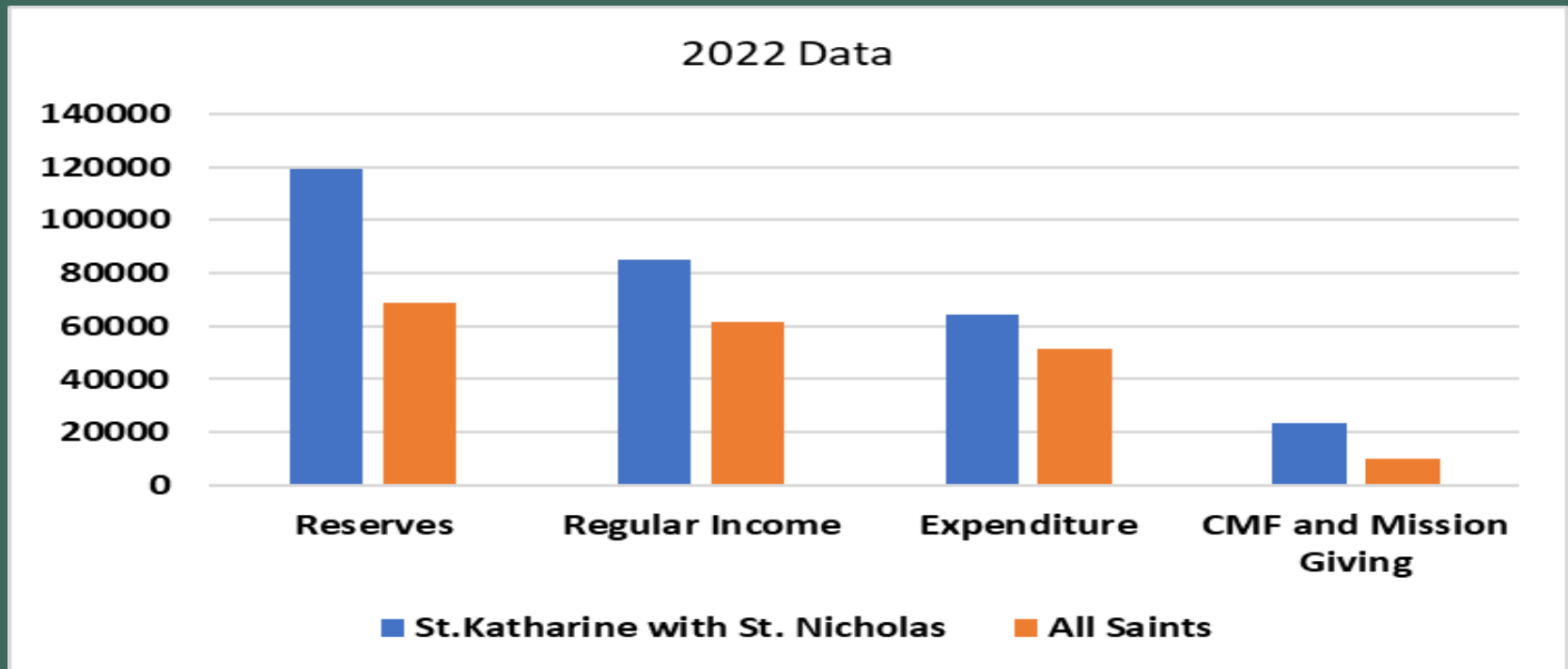
- Southbourne-on-Sea currently has 2 parishes and 3 churches, only 1 of which has a vicar
- Each church has between 30 and 40 worshippers in buildings designed for 100+
- Neither of the current parishes has met in full the requested CMF to the Diocese for some time

What happens if nothing happens?

- The reality (especially post COVID) is that both parishes will struggle to maintain existing ministry and will find opportunities for mission hard to resource
- Unless there is a considerable change of fortunes at some future point, we will hit a crisis and change will be forced upon us

Parish financial comparison

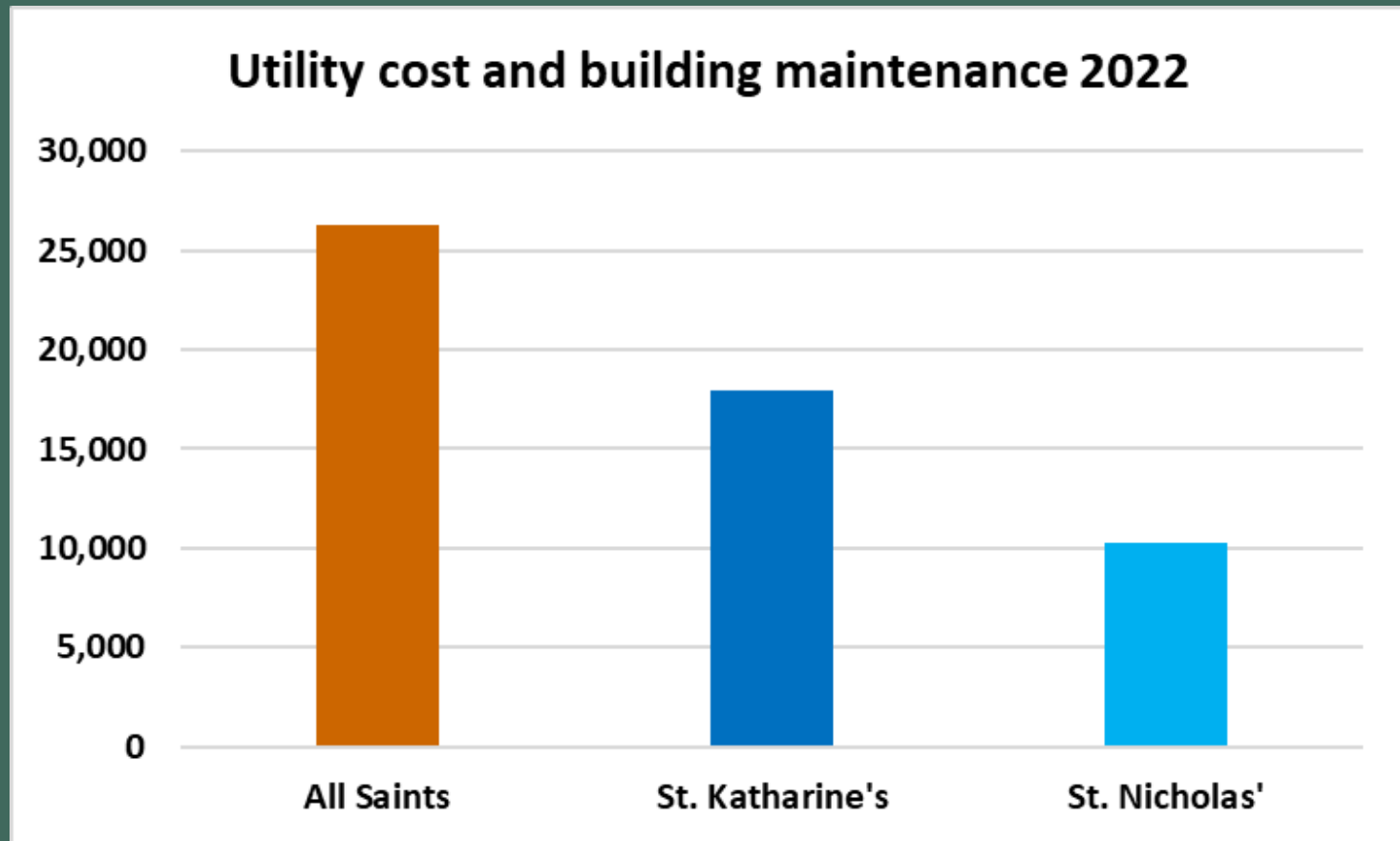
The parish of St. Katharine with St. Nicholas is the most financially viable, though neither parish is currently paying the full CMF amount requested



Most judicious use of our buildings

- Together we are maintaining costly premises with limited income
- We need to make tough decisions about where and how we worship, and what is both desirable and sustainable
- In 2023, the average monthly expenditure at All Saints exceeded the monthly income by around £1.5k - £2k, whereas with higher income and lower costs, St. Katharine's and St. Nicholas' generated a small surplus

Most judicious use of our buildings



Pre-requisite for merger

- To facilitate the merger, the PCC of St. Katharine with St. Nicholas will revoke the Resolutions accepting male only headship / presidency
- Instead, both PCCs have approved a Memorandum of Understanding which allows the merger to proceed with everyone coming together in an atmosphere of trust and grace
- Importantly, the MoU reflects that we remain committed to moving forward in a spirit of mutual flourishing

Worship together

- Our primary purpose (of building for God's kingdom) is inspired and fuelled by worshipping together as his family
- Our current thinking around worship is that:
 - We will endeavour to offer traditional worship, both central Anglican and Anglo-Catholic in style in balance across each month
 - We will discern what contemporary worship best suits St. Nicholas' with initially a weekly Eucharist

Proposed new parish structure

- Rev Canon Mike Powis will be the incumbent supported by self-supporting or retired priests
- The parish will be well served by accredited lay ministers including 3 Licensed Lay Ministers and 6 holding Bishop's Commission for Mission
- One PCC with two churchwardens, two deputy wardens, one treasurer, one secretary, one safeguarding officer and one electoral roll officer plus at least one representative from each of the three churches
- One parish office and one paid administrator

What happens next? (1)

- We are still in the **Informal consultation** stage which began in 2021
- The views expressed at these meetings will be carefully considered by the two PCCs
- If anyone would like to make a written submission or talk to a PCC member, please do so within the next 2 weeks
- Once the PCCs are content, the Diocese will help draft proposals which will form the basis of a scheme to create the new parish

What happens next? (2)

- A **Formal Consultation** between the diocese, deanery leadership and the PCCs then takes place before proposals are sent to the Church Commissioners to turn into a draft scheme
- A **Public Consultation** on the draft scheme then takes place and any comments received, either for or against, go directly to the Church Commissioners
- If there are no objections, the scheme comes into effect the following month
- Realistically it will be at least 9 months from now before the new parish is formed

In summary

- Our prime motivation as the church of God is to build for his kingdom
- How that is best achieved is a task of discernment and then action, based upon what we whole heartedly believe he is calling us to do
- It will be challenging; it may be transformative
- Doing nothing doesn't mean standing still but rather going backwards in our ever-changing world

Questions, comments and views

- Everyone here has an equal voice and every view is important; this is your chance to make your views known
- Please use a microphone so all can hear; either raise your hand and we will get a microphone to you, or come and use the stand microphone
- If you would prefer to make a written submission to the PCC please do so in the next couple of weeks

