



**The Parish Church of
Saint George the Martyr
Waterlooville**



**Annual Report and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2021**

Churchwardens:

**Mr Chris Gadd, 9 Galaxie Road, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 9AT
Mrs Rosemary Stone, 37 Tor Close, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 8SU**

Banks:

**Lloyds TSB
Bank PLC
272 London Road
Waterlooville
Hants PO7 7HN**

**HSBC Bank PLC
312 London
Road
Waterlooville
Hants PO7 7DX**

**Mr Paul Read
Independent Examiner
9 Tamar Down
Waterlooville
Hants PO7 8QJ**

**THERE WILL BE A ST GEORGE'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING ON SUNDAY 10TH APRIL 2022
IN THE CHURCH AFTER THE 10 am EUCHARIST**

A G E N D A

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
to elect two Churchwardens to serve for one year
4. MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS
Report by Electoral Roll Officer
5. Minutes of 2021 APCM and Matters Arising
6. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report
7. Election of 4 PCC members
8. Reports from the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer and church groups
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of St George the Martyr, Waterlooville, held on Sunday 25th April 2021 in the church and also live streamed commencing at 11.15 am.

There were 45 persons present and the meeting and a further 6 via Zoom.

Fr Colin Lawlor, Priest chaired the meeting.

- 1 **WELCOME:** Fr Colin extended a warm welcome to everyone who is attending the APCM meeting either in person or via Zoom.

Fr Colin said:

It doesn't seem very long ago that we had our last APCM, because it wasn't! The meeting was delayed until October 2020 due to Covid-19. At that meeting I reflected on the Pandemic and how it had affected us, as a church family, and as individuals, so I don't intend going over that today. Nor am I going to say much about the activities that were held in 2020. I am reminded of a Christmas letter I received from a friend who usually writes very long letters.

This years' said simply:

Hope you are well. I am well. This year I went nowhere, did nothing, and saw no-one. Merry Christmas.

2020 has been a year to remember, but not in a good way. Shortly Sara will be presenting the financial report for 2020. I am enormously grateful to her for taking on this role at what proved to be a very difficult time. Our independent examiner commented on the excellent way in which the accounts were presented. Well done, and many thanks to Sara.

If you have had the chance to look at the accounts you will have noted that this was a very challenging year for St George's from a financial point of view. Fundraising was very limited, and the church was closed by the Government for a considerable period of time, which meant that regular giving took a hit. The PCC took the decision that we needed to prioritise paying the parish share in full, and this, along with the implications of Covid-19, meant that it was necessary for us to draw down £30,000 from our reserves. The PCC took the decision it did based upon the fact that any amount owed to the diocese would become a debt which would remain until paid in full. So

it seemed important not to fall into debt whilst payment was possible. And, believe me, we are in a considerably healthier financial position than many churches, and we pray for them, whilst giving thanks for the faithful stewardship of our own church in years gone by, when things were less challenging. I am reminded of the story of Pharaoh in the Old Testament who, under the stewardship of Joseph, builds up an abundance of grain in good years, to ensure there is enough to get through years of famine – though we can't afford seven years.

We need to appreciate that the financial situation that we find ourselves in is not solely down to Covid-19. Just a matter of a few weeks after I started here as parish priest in September 2018, the Fabric and Finance sub-committee produced a draft budget for 2019 which forecast a deficit of around £20,000. After reviewing the budget, and making cuts where we could, the reviewed budget still showed a budget forecast with a deficit of £12, 417. In the event, thanks to a lot of hard work and generosity, we actually finished the year with the books just about balancing – but it was clear to me that there was, and had been, a growing issue over a number of years, to ensure that this was the case.

Which was why 'Stewardship' was a key area within the Mission Action Plan, which was presented to the Church in January 2020. Sadly, with the coming of the Pandemic, much of what we had intended to do in terms of mission and stewardship, has had to be held in abeyance, though Mission and Stewardship and our Mission Action Plan will continue to be at the heart of all we do as we move out of the Pandemic. But this does not mean that nothing has been achieved.

Stewardship is not just about money. It is about how we use the gifts that we have been given by God in terms of time, talent, and money. And so many have stepped up into differing roles in this last year, using gifts and talents they might have previously been unaware of, to the glory of God and the furtherance of his Kingdom. For which we give thanks.

In terms of 'mission' you will doubtless have noticed the number of new people who have been coming to St George's on a regular basis over the past 18 months or so, and many since the beginning of the Pandemic. In addition to this, by the end of 2021, even if we have no more than the current bookings, we will have had more baptisms at St George's in 2021 than in recent years – and this in a pandemic.

And all this is because the most important act of mission that we can do in these difficult times is **to keep our church open for public worship**. I acknowledge that we are lucky to have a large building that can be easily ventilated, and many churches do not have this. Nonetheless the opening of our church has only been possible through a great deal of hard work and, believe me, a lot of sleepless nights. But we have managed to do so safely, and, at the same time, offer online live streamed services for those who are unable to be with us physically at this time, and a huge thankyou to those who have made this possible.

Whilst we look forward to welcoming more of our regulars back, as things ease, we will continue to live stream for those who are unable to do so. I never knew I was going to become a TV evangelist.

I know that there have been times when I have had to put my teacher 'hat' back on and stop people from doing things they might have liked, and reminding people to stick to the rules. But the only reason for this is to ensure that we are able to remain open, safely. Things will hopefully begin to relax in the weeks and months ahead, but we need to remain on our guard. Covid is still there, look at what has happened in India.

From next Sunday we will have a small choir accompanying our Sunday worship. This will give a great lift to our liturgy, and I am grateful to David Cain and the choir. But please, please, do not join in with the singing – hopefully soon we can, but for now, please do leave it to the choir.

Another change that will be introduced from next Sunday has resulted from the feedback received from our Lent groups, not least relating to the session on 'silence'. The Lent groups themselves speak volumes about where we have come in terms of 'stewardship'. In 2019 I asked if any would like to join a Lent group. Hardly anyone signed up, and a number of people said that they didn't feel confident enough. In 2021, on Zoom, we had groups running on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with just shy of 30 people taking part, and each group led by a lay person. That's an example of 'stewardship'.

At any event the feedback, I think from all of the groups, was the desire for more silence and reflection both before and during each service. And this actually mirrors my own wish. And so from next week.

Before each service there will be a 5 minute bell, alerting us all that this is a time for silence and reflection to prepare ourselves for the Eucharist. So please, no chatting after the 5 minute bell.

During the service there will be a short period of silence after the readings and the homily for us to reflect upon what we have heard; along with a short period of silence during the intercessions which I ask all those leading intercessions to include, to allow people to silently offer to God our own personal prayers; and a period of silence after communion and before the post communion prayer.

Finally, I want to offer some thanks. Firstly to the church wardens, for all that they give and do for all of us, and personally for their support, encouragement, and care for me. For the officers of the PCC, to Jane for being such an efficient PCC secretary, to Sara and her expertise as treasurer, ably supported by Malcolm. To Sonja, our safeguarding officer. To all PCC members and for the many ways in which they contribute to the life of the parish. To the chairs and members of the sub committees. To all who contribute in so many ways, but whom I won't mention by name for fear that I will inadvertently forget someone.

And finally to all of you, for your faithful witness to the Gospel.

I am sure the next few months will continue to be challenging, but together I am equally sure that we will come through stronger, though I am deliberately avoiding the phrase that we will build back better, although I am sure we will.

2 **APOLOGIES** were received from Rosemary Monk, Eileen Oades, Marian Haughton, Andrew Clarke

3 **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO ELECT TWO CHURCHWARDENS TO SERVE FOR ONE YEAR:**

It is the usual practice here at St George's for Wardens to serve for 4 years, but they still have to be elected every year.

Chris has served for three years, and has indicated his willingness to carry on for another year. Chris Gadd has been proposed by Patricia Byrne and seconded by Rosy Stone.

Rosemary (Rosy) Stone has served for one year, and has indicated her willingness to carry on for another year. Rosemary Stone has been proposed by Patricia Byrne and seconded by Sue Hodgens.

Fr Colin asked if there are there any other candidates to come forward for the post of churchwarden? As none were forthcoming Chris and Rosy were duly elected.

They will be sworn in by the Archdeacon in due course.

4 **MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS / REPORT BY ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER**

Tony Rice-Oxley reported that there are 145 parishioners currently on the Electoral Roll, 69 of these are from outside the parish but Tony said he has had several more new applications. Thank you to Tony for all his work on this.

The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2020, was 52 adults and 2 children with 50 communicants. Because of the Pandemic services were also live streamed and the average number watching online per week was 168.

5 **MINUTES OF THE 2020 APCM AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 18th October 2020 (delayed from April due to Covid). There were no matters arising.

6 **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.20:**

Sara Pask gave the following report:

Copies of the full audited accounts which have now been examined and signed off by Paul Read are available or if you would prefer a shortened version this is also available.

Due to the Covid outbreak this year our income streams have been severely affected. Our assets have decreased in value by £28730 as we had to withdraw £30000 from the UTB account to ensure that all our liabilities were covered.

Looking at the Balance Sheet the first thing to mention is that we ended the year with a deficit of funds of £30851, compared to a surplus of £5890 last year. There are still the loans of £10000 that we took out for the repair of the church hall which still have to be repaid.

Our investment value has increased in value by £2123 and was valued at £32852 at the end of December.

The main bank account held at HSBC had a balance of £17196.44 at the end of December. We also have money in the UTB account of £11897 following a withdrawal of £30000 and a reserve buffer account to ensure we are able to manage our cash flow of £7541 We also have an account specifically for Legacies and at the end of December we had a balance of £840.

All assigned fees for 2020 have been paid.

The accounts overview shows the income and expenditure for the past year and these mainly agree with the figures that I give you each month. Added to these are the transactions made by the individual church groups that hold their own bank accounts.

On the income side the donation figure is slightly higher than last year at £2328 (2019 £2200). This comes from Donations made to the church and also collections from baptisms, which we receive half of and the other half goes to the charity of the month. Green envelopes, gift aided pink envelopes and loose plate collections are much lower than last year by £4064 but was only £279 below the budget. Standing orders are £2668 lower than 2019 but on budget for 2020.

The gift day was extremely successful raising £3295.

As expected, due to the Covid Pandemic the fundraising figure this year fell to £3594 made up mostly by money received from Bonus ball (£490), Online Quiz (£407), Autumn Raffle (£1115), 2 Metre Coin Line (£126), Show (£341), Burns Night (£657) and Easyfundraising (£111). We also received a donation of £1000 from the social committee.

We have received dividends from our investment and these have come out slightly higher this year at £922 (£895 in 2019).

Moving to Expenditure we managed to pay our full parish share again this year £66846. In general the expenses remained within budget. Administrator and Insurance costs were the only expenditure that went slightly over budget. Overall our expenditure was £3080 less than our revised Covid Budget of June 2020.

I have again depreciated the church hall by 2% as in previous years and this came to £2500 leaving a balance of the value of the hall as £122518.

My thanks go to Malcolm Brewer, Assistant Treasurer and the Fabric & Finance Committee for all the work they put in and also for their support, together with the support of the PCC. On behalf of St George's Church, my thanks are also due to Mr Paul Read who has examined and signed off the accounts for 2020. I would also like to thank Dawn Trimby for the time she has spent going through my first year of year end accounts.

Sara asked if there were any questions:

Q: Jane Rice-Oxley asked as finances are so unpredictable at the moment would it be a good idea to repay the 10 people the £1,000 each that they are owed while we still have funds.

A: Sara said this money needs to be paid back by November 2022 and this will be discussed at the first meeting of the Fabric and Finance Committee after this APCM.

Tony Rice-Oxley said just to make it clear this budget is a reduced budget which we reduced down due to Covid and not the original budget.

Tony Rice-Oxley proposed that we accept these Accounts for 2020 and this was seconded by Linda Wainwright and agreed unanimously.

7 **ELECTION OF 3 PCC MEMBERS**

First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met over the last year. Thank you to Ian Gibson who has served his 3 years, Mo Peters who has served 2 years for Richard Spurgeon and Sue Hodgens who has served one year for Lisa Toft. Both Mo and Sue are able to stand straight away again.

We have had 4 applications for the PCC as follows:

- Mo Peters – proposed by Marian Haughton and seconded by Tony Shepherd.
- Susan Hodgens – proposed by Chris Gadd and seconded by Tony Rice-Oxley.
- Linda Smith – proposed by Tony Rice-Oxley and seconded by Anne Morgan
- Malcolm Brewer – proposed by Tony Rice-Oxley and seconded by Jane Cook. As Malcolm is Assistant Treasurer the PCC will be asked to co-opt him at the first PCC meeting.

Fr Colin explained for those that do not know Linda Smith that she

attends 8am and runs the Bereavement Support Group which meets in the Hall. She is a highly qualified Bereavement Counsellor.

Fr Colin said Andy Jackson who attends 8am and is Deputy Headteacher at Bishop Luffa School was co-opted onto the PCC last year and he will ask him if he is still willing to be co-opted at the first meeting of the new PCC.

Fr Colin asked if everyone is happy for these four to be elected onto the PCC. Christine Culley proposed that we elect these 4 people and co-opt Andy Jackson again if he is willing. This was seconded by Sonja Pask and agreed unanimously.

9 **ELECTION OF SIDESPERSONS**

This is not now the responsibility of the APCM and will take place at the first meeting of the new PCC.

10 **REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS, PCC SECRETARY AND TREASURER AND CHURCH GROUPS**

Fr Colin went through the individual reports asking if anyone had any questions or comments.

Churchwardens Report - Chris said he would just like to reiterate a couple of points made in this report.

- He gave his grateful thanks to Richard Spurgeon and John Johnson who have enabled us to broadcast our Wednesday and Sunday 10am services on You Tube. It has become almost second nature now but was very different at the start when he was broadcasting from his kitchen.
- Huge thanks to Fr Colin who has guided us through an extremely difficult year. This has required an enormous amount of work on his part and we are all extremely grateful that he managed to open our church at the earliest possible opportunity and allowed people to receive the blessed Sacrament in person on a Wednesday and Sunday. As a mark of our appreciation Chris presented Fr Colin with a bottle of whisky.

Church Hall - Tony said that it has been a really hard year for the Hall and he would like to extend a big thank you to Malcolm Brewer and John Hood. We have kept the Hall going with limited use. We have just started to re-open with all that entails – risk assessments, extra cleaning etc so it has been quite a job. The income is less as we lost Slimming World. We have 3 regular bookings so need to increase this as the Hall accounts are looking very sad. A leak that has been going on for years has been fixed which involved new

pipework and a new stop cock outside.

Pastoral – Anne said a huge thank you to everyone making phone calls and keeping in touch with people who are unable to come to church. Fr Colin said we need to carry on with this for people who cannot come back for various reasons.

Safeguarding – Sonja said thank you to Lynn Winter for stepping in as Deputy Safeguarding Officer. With Covid it has been difficult to see people face to face but Sonja encouraged people to get in touch either with herself, Lynn or any member of the PCC who have had safeguarding training if they have any concerns.

George's Men – Fr Colin said they have not been able to meet socially but have met to do essential maintenance.

St George's Ladies – have not been able to meet except for the post Christmas meal and a couple of other things early in the year but Jane said that there is a St George's Ladies Facebook group so people can keep in touch.

Walsingham – Linda said we just hope and pray that we are able to go next year as we have now missed 2 years.

Holy Dusters – John said there is a new rota of people who have volunteered once restrictions are lifted.

Church Flower Fund – June said there is now a vase under the memorial book if anyone wants to add flowers.

Bible Reading Fellowship – Linda said nothing to add but to get in touch with her if anyone would like copies.

Deanery Synod – Not many meetings have taken place and these have all been on Zoom.

St George's Servers – not everyone on the serving team is back in church but hopeful before too long that the situation will change. As you know we only have 2 servers on a Sunday and none on a Wednesday.

Sunday School – Fr Colin said that hopefully we will be in a position to start up again soon.

St George's Parent and Toddler Group – unable to meet for most of the year but can now meet with no more than 15 adults and unlimited number of children so Fr Colin is hopeful they can start up again in the summer.

St George's Band – have not had an opportunity to perform but want to encourage people to join.

Social and Fundraising – huge thanks to Shirley for chairing this committee for longer than she had planned. We do need a new chair if anyone would like to volunteer.

again successfully examining the accounts for 2020. Sara will confirm if Paul is willing to examine the accounts again next year. This was proposed by Rosy Stone, seconded by Patricia Byrne and agreed unanimously.

- Glynn Ross proposed a vote of thanks to Tony Rice-Oxley for getting the Hall up and running again. He said he has worked really hard.
- Margaret Symonds said thanks to Tony and everyone involved in supporting the 4 children under the African Child Trust scheme.

As there was no further business the meeting closed with a blessing at 11.50am.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

Background

St George's Church has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent (Fr Colin Lawlor) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the churchyard and church hall. Although the country was in lockdown from January to June services were held every Wednesday and Sunday at 10am. These services were also live streamed to people who were vulnerable and felt unable to attend. People were asked to book their space online and a risk assessment was carried out to determine how many people we could comfortably hold, and what additional measures were needed to keep people safe. Hand sanitising stations were situated in the porch, temperatures were taken with a thermometer on entry, social distancing was observed in the pews and every other pew was left empty, masks had to be worn, there was no singing, Eucharist was distributed in one kind only by Fr Colin to people sitting in their seats. Morning and evening prayer continued in the main body of the church on a Monday to Thursday.

Membership

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: Fr Colin Lawlor

Ex Officio:

Jane Cook (Secretary)

Sara Pask (Treasurer)

Wardens: Chris Gadd
Rosemary Stone

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Candy Williams

Tony Rice-Oxley

Elected Members:

Marian Haughton

Anne Morgan

Patricia Byrne

Lynne McNeill

Ceri Ward

Lynn Winter

Mo Peters

Sue Hodgens

Linda Smith

Malcolm Brewer (co-opted)

Andy Jackson (co-opted)

Committees

The PCC now meets every two months and operates through a number of committees/groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC – Fabric, Finance & Quinquennial, Church Hall Committee, Social and Fundraising Committee, Pastoral Committee, Mission and Stewardship Committee and we have reports at each meeting from Sonja Pask, our Safeguarding Officer and on Deanery Synod meetings from our Deanery Synod representatives.

Church Attendance

There are 145 parishioners currently on the Electoral Roll, 69 of these are from outside the parish. Tony explained that the list that is displayed now only has names on it because of GDPR. If anyone still wishes to fill in a form after this meeting they can do and hand it to Tony and it will be agreed by the PCC.

The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2021, was 90 adults and 3 children. This includes weekday attendances. Sadly because of Covid these numbers are still down this year because some people were still nervous about attending church services.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 8 times during the year with an average attendance of 79%. Fr Colin has now changed the frequency of the PCC meetings to once every 2 months with Fabric, Finance and Quinquennial, Pastoral, Social & Fundraising, Hall and Mission and Stewardship sub-committees continuing to meet in the interim, to enable items to be discussed in more detail, and report back to the full PCC. The PCC will continue to invite outgoing Churchwardens to remain on the PCC for a further year to provide continuity.

Sara emails the monthly overview of the budget accounts to PCC members before the meeting to give people a chance to send any questions to her so they can be answered at the meeting.

Sadly due to Covid and less people in church our Charity retiring collections at the end of each service have been less than usual. We have supported over 12 wide-ranging charities, both at home and overseas, in particular £128.89 to the Children's Society and continued support of four children under the African Child Trust Scheme. Other benefiting charities included The New Blendworth Centre, Four Paws, Christian Aid, Friends Without Borders, Stop Domestic Abuse, Mission to Seafarers, Elizabeth Foundation, Naval Children's Charity and Rainbow Centre. These were all retiring collections.

The giving through envelopes and banker's orders decreased slightly to £32,268, but came in £518 over budget excluding tax. The tax recovered on all Gift Aid donations for the year was £7,461 a decrease of £1,815 and under budget by £1,539, however, Gift Aid for the final quarter had not been received by the end of 2021. We did not hold our usual Day Gift Day in 2021. Contributions on the collection plate were £2,557.

£85,670 was spent to provide the Christian Ministry from St George's Church, which includes the full contribution to the parish share of £64,949 (an increase of £2,335 compared to 2020).

Our remaining fund balances are invested with the CBF Church of England Investment and United Trust Bank.

Paul Read agreed to examine the Accounts and the PCC are very grateful to him for the time he has spent on this.

The following has happened during the course of the year and most will be written about in more detail in the following reports:

Due to Covid

- the Parish breakfasts were sadly still not able to take place
- Waterloo Music Festival which would have celebrated its 15th anniversary was sadly postponed for a 2nd year.
- no processions were able to take place.
- Fr Colin's visits to local schools, a monthly service at Two Beeches Nursing Home and services at South Africa Lodge were still not able to take place.
- no Parish outing could take place this year
- the Church Shop took place for 2 weeks in November and was very successful.
- school Christmas concerts were not held.
- the Travelling Nativity was unable to visit people's homes again this year.

On behalf of the PCC

Sara Pask, Treasurer
Jane Cook, Secretary

Signed: _____

Fr Colin Lawlor

Date

27 / 3 / 22

Treasurer's Report 2021

Due to the ongoing Covid restrictions this year, our income has been affected accordingly. Our assets have decreased in value to £185,787. We made a withdrawal of £6,000 from the UTB account to ensure that all our liabilities were met.

Looking at the Balance Sheet the first thing to mention is that we ended the year with a deficit of funds of £23,032 compared to the deficit of £30,551 in 2020. We still have £6,000 still to repay in loans that we took out to repair the church hall.

Our investment value has increased in value by £4,724 and was valued at £37,575 at the end of December 2021.

The main bank account held at HSBC had a balance of £7,967 at the end of December. We also have money in the UTB account of £5,962 following a withdrawal of £6,000 and a reserve buffer account to ensure we are able to manage our cash flow of £7,541. We also have an account specifically for Legacies and at the end of December we had a balance of £840.

All assigned fees for 2021 have been paid.

The accounts overview shows the income and expenditure for the past year and these mainly agree with the figures that I give you each month. Added to these are the transactions made by the individual church groups that hold their own bank accounts.

On the income side the donation figure is higher than last year at £4,005 (2020 £2,238). This comes from Donations made to the church and also collections from baptisms, which we receive half of and the other half goes to the charity of the month. Green envelopes, gift aided pink envelopes and loose plate collections are up on last year by £1,403. Standing orders are £1,552 lower than 2020. The fundraising figure this year increased to an incredible £18,101.

We have received dividends and interest from our investment and these have come out slightly lower this year at £1,020 (£1,454 in 2020).

Moving to Expenditure we managed to pay our full parish share again this year £64,949. In general the expenses remained within budget. Director of Music, Liturgical costs and electricity costs were, in main, expenditure that went over budget. Overall our expenditure was £1,451 over budget for 2021.

I have again depreciated the church hall by 2% as in previous years and this came to £2501 leaving a balance of the value of the hall as £120,067.

Thank you to all who contribute regularly by standing order, the Parish Giving Scheme, envelopes and one-off donations and to all who contributed by organising and taking part in our fundraising events.

My thanks go to Malcolm Brewer, Assistant Treasurer and the Fabric & Finance Committee for all the work they put in and also for their support, together with the support of the PCC. On behalf of St George's Church, my thanks are also due to Mr Paul Read, for examining the Accounts this year.

A summary of the Accounts is shown overleaf. A full version is available on request.

Sara Pask
Honorary Treasurer to the PCC

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE
COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2021**

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2021 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2020 YEAR TOTAL
INCOME					
Planned Giving S/Orders	28452	-	28452	30000	30005
Planned Giving Green Env	1003	-	1003	1000	1177
Gift Aided Pink Envelopes	2753	-	2753	750	1251
Gift Aid Tax	6286	-	6286	9000	9276
General Collections	2257	-	2257	2500	2052
Gift Days	-	-	-	3000	3295
Donations & Appeals	4006	-	4006	6000	2328
Liturgical Donations	727	-	727	300	353
Bookstall	243	-	243	275	268
Parish Magazine Advertising	730	-	730	800	872
Parish Magazine Sales	15	-	15	50	62
Fees received (PCC)	1684	-	1684	660	813
Fete, Bazaar, Fund Raising	18102	-	18102	12000	3594
Sales	-	-	-	-	0
Photocopying Income	23	-	23	100	29
Income from Investments/Bank	311	-	311	700	922
Unbudgeted items:					
Fees received (Assigned)	1436	-	1436	-	1012
Other Funds (Charities)	-	544	544	-	544
Hall Lettings	7239	-	7239	-	5906
Toddler Group Income	-	163	163	-	163
Social Committee	194	-	194	-	165
Ex.ord Income	9389	-	9389	-	5000
Ladies Group	-	-	-	-	-
Pastoral funds received	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	84850	707	85557	67135	69087

ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2021						UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2021 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2020 YEAR Total
Parish Share		64949	-	64949	64949				66872	
Gas/Elec/Water Insurance		1289	-	1289	1289	1450			3368	
Church and Grounds Maintenance		1741	-	1741	1741	2300			2033	
Clergy Expenses		1623	-	1623	1623	2000			1926	
Administrator		3567	-	3567	3567	3600			3174	
Liturgical Costs		-	710	710	710	500			362	
Magazine, Bookstall & Bulletin		666	-	666	666	600			640	
Piano and Organ tune		369	-	369	369	350			328	
Administration		607	-	607	607	600			542	
Photocopier Costs		915	-	915	915	1000			816	
Fees paid out		31	-	31	31	500			140	
Capitation Fee		20	-	20	20	20			20	
Fundraising & Sales costs		750	-	750	750	200			114	
Pastoral Costs		-	-	-	-	-			-	
Music Support		-	-	-	-	-			-	
Sunday School		61	-	61	61	100			-	
Mission		49		49	49	1200			-	
Unbudgeted items:										
Assigned Fees		1436	-	1436	1436	-			1012	
Ex. Ord Outgoing		6067	-	6067	6067	-			4309	
Hall Running Costs		11140	-	11140	11140	-			8125	
Hall Depreciation @ 2%		2501	-	2501	2501	-			2500	
Youth Group Activities		-	-	-	-	-			-	
Social Committee		65		65	65	-			1000	
Giving to Charities		-	1255	1255	1255	-			723	
Quinquennial costs		-	-	-	-	-			-	
Toddler Group		-	17	17	17	-			-	
TOTALS		97846	1982	99828	99828	79369			98004	

Churchwardens Report

If one could provide a short summary of 2021 at St George's it would be, in general terms, a return to pre-Covid normality, but it has been gradual and, at times, very frustrating.

So to the beginning of the year.

In January the country was told we were re-entering a further period of lockdown with closure of schools and non-essential retail.

We at St George's, under the guidance and leadership of Fr Colin, bucked the trend of many in the Diocese (and indeed the country) by continuing to keep our church open. We did so with all the appropriate safety measures necessary.

Parish meetings tended to continue to be conducted virtually but much of the rest of the business of the church continued in person as best we were able. The streaming of our services remained to serve those who were unable to attend services.

Our APCM was held, in person, on 25th April 2021. It was an odd occasion, in many ways, with the APCM for the year 2020 having taken place only a few months after the much-delayed last APCM (held the previous October).

As the year progressed, and restrictions began to ease, we were also able to re-start some of our social activities to include a very enjoyable Summer Fete in August, the return of the Christmas bazaar and the ever-successful charity shop.

Enormous thanks are offered to all those who did so much to make these events a success. We hesitate to name names (for fear of missing people out) but this effort was, and is, vital to our financial well-being.

Our Christmas services were well attended owing to the easing of Covid restrictions and we approached New Year with gusto, organising Mission activities and social events for the coming months.

Our PCC and committees – Social and Fundraising, Mission and Stewardship, Pastoral, Fabric and Finance and the Church Hall – are full of pro-active people keen to keep St George's Church running like a well-oiled drum. Thank you to all involved. We couldn't do it without you.

We have lots of things planned for next year, such as Lent Groups, Lent lunches, Parish outing to Wintershall, pilgrimage to Walsingham, Parish lunch and the Waterlooville Music Festival is again able to take place.

Chris Gadd / Rosy Stone

St George's Church Hall Report

Yet again the hall suffered greatly from the restrictions due to Covid. Hirers who wanted to return could not do and we had to ensure adequate cleaning and sanitisation of all the facilities for the few who did come back. We did not permit any casual use during the early part of the year due mainly to the cleaning costs involved.

The first quarter of the year showed a very small income of just £171 against expenditure of just over £2,000. This included a £1,000 repayment of one of the loans and the continuing need to provide heat, light and cleaning. The second quarter was a little better when we had to pay over £1,000 for the complicated repairs to the mains water system; this left us with a deficit of just £800.

We welcomed some occasional bookings. However we did miss our very lucrative Friday morning letting to the Slimming World who had moved to the Catholic Church Hall. The third quarter gave us a small profit of £750 with the return of most of our long term hirers. The fourth quarter showed a large loss mostly due to the repayment of a second loan repayment and more work done to the roof area.

In November 2022, the loans which were made towards the main roof repairs will be due for repayment. Whilst this is a church PCC responsibility in the main, the hall has been trying to raise monies to pay for some of these. The bank account of £4335 at year end reflects some of these savings but the regulations over the past two years have made it difficult to raise monies other than those directly related to the day to day running of the hall. The continuing viability of the hall is an ongoing worry and it was suggested that we have a major survey done of the hall structure to see the way forward.

Tony Rice-Oxley
Chair, Hall Committee

The Mothers' Union Branch Report (at Christ Church Portsdown)

We had our delayed AGM on 27th July. We have 37 members, with an average of 18 attending meetings.

On 9th August, Mary Sumner Day, there was a service at St James' Church, Emsworth, followed by tea in the hall. Norma and Diane had a table of MU Merchandise and Christmas cards were on sale. It was really nice to be able to be together again to chat and catch up on news after we had been separated by COVID-19 and lockdown.

On 7th September there was a communion service in Christ Church, Portsdown followed by tea and biscuits in the small hall. The speaker at our October meeting was Felicity Keeping whose subject was "Metamorphosis" or "Change".

In November Pauline Wale talked about our MU projects and had brought some items knitted by members for the Neo-Natal Unit at Q.A.Hospital.

We were unable to have guests at our Christmas party in December but our branch members enjoyed an afternoon with carols and seasonal poems plus a tea of savouries, cakes and mince pies.

Janet Johnson

Mission and Stewardship Committee

A meeting was held on 25th October when the Committee reflected where we are at the moment as we have not been able to do a lot during the pandemic.

- Welcome booklets are ready to be handed out to new people.
- Fr Colin is keeping in touch with the local Scout group and the RNA.
- Not possible to go into schools at the moment.
- Parish Audit - Jackie, the local Community Officer for Asda is to be invited to a meeting in the New Year to discuss where our services might be needed.
- Care Homes – no visits allowed at The Beeches or South Africa Lodge during Covid.
- We have new members who wish to be involved with the Sunday School and are awaiting DBS checks.
- Dawn Hyett will bring the toddlers into church occasionally to look around and have a short story.
- Discussing holding a Family Service on a Sunday afternoon.
- David Cain keen to recruit children to the Choir.
- Bible/Study groups – in Lent and maybe once a month.
- Stewardship campaign – invite the stewardship guy at the Diocese to the next PCC meeting in February.

- Housing developments – part of Berewood is within our parish but the boundaries are in the process of being changed and this is currently going through Parliament. A post for Minister in Berewood has been advertised but Fr Colin said he can't see it happening soon

Fr Colin Lawlor, Chair

Pastoral Committee

In the year of 2021 we had only one Pastoral Committee meeting, which was held on Monday the 8th November. The main matter discussed at this meeting was the issue of vulnerable people and how contact was maintained with them during the pandemic.

The Committee went through the list of vulnerable people and discussed each individual and how their needs had been met during Covid, how their needs would continue to be met and also discussion about people who no longer needed to be on the list.

We are pleased that Sunday School is back up and running and also St George's Parent and Toddler group. Toddlers currently has a waiting list and is up to full capacity. Well done to Dawn Hyett who has worked hard getting Toddlers up and running again.

Waterlooville Food Bank continues to be supported and bereavement training has now been started.

Anne Morgan
Chair Pastoral Committee

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding, in simple terms, is keeping everyone safe from harm. The Diocese of Portsmouth's '**Live, Pray, Serve**' vision speaks of '**seeking growth in depth of discipleship, impact on society and the numbers of those who are becoming disciples of Christ**'. Helping the Church feel like a safe place for people and their families to worship, socialise and work can only help to encourage more people to become involved in Church life and assist the Diocese in achieving that vision.

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP)

Kerry Young is the recently appointed Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP). The main purpose of the DSAP is to provide a source of advice, expertise, governance and scrutiny on

safeguarding. The DSAP is always interested in hearing feedback and comments regarding safeguarding matters in the Diocese.

Parish safeguarding officers have now been invited to voluntarily attend the DSAP, on a rotational basis, in order to understand, first hand, how safeguarding is being delivered and received at a parish level and to give PSOs the opportunity to have an input into safeguarding decisions that are made at DSAP.

If you wish to comment, compliment or complain about how a safeguarding concern has been dealt with, Kerry's contact details are as follows: Kerry Young: c/o Diocese of Portsmouth, First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, PO2 8HB Email: kerry.young@portsmouth.anglican.org

Adult safeguarding:

Please note: There continues to be a printed & laminated flowchart for the attention of all parishioners, on how to act when 'Responding to Disclosures from Adults' - on the hall notice board.

Diocese Safeguarding Adviser -07544566850

Safeguarding Team - 023 9289 9677/665

Hampshire Adult Services -0300 300 555 1386 OR 0300 300 555 1373 (out of hours)

Portsmouth City Council Adult Social Care Help desk -023 9268 0810

Childrens safeguarding:

If you have a safeguarding concern about an adult or child, please speak with Sonja Pask - The churches Safeguarding Rep- Tel: 07725904432 or contact the Diocesan safeguarding adviser Ian Berry -Tel: 07544 566850.

Or if the matter is more urgent or high risk in relation to a child & you are unable to speak with Sonja or Ian first, please contact the following, service:-

Concerns about a child-Hampshire MASH [Multi Agency Safeguarding HUB]

If you have any concerns because you think that a child might be being abused and you want to talk to someone or ask someone to find out what is going on, you should contact Children's Services:

0300 555 1384 during office hours 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday

0300 555 1373 at all other times to contact the Out of Hours service

Safeguarding Dashboards:

The purpose of Safeguarding Dashboards is as a tool to assist in making safeguarding administration and governance in parishes simpler for everyone and as a useful self-assessment tool. Approximately a quarter of all parishes are currently utilising the dashboard. Use of a dashboard is now in place for St George's and a review is taking place of any additional administration required, in line with using this tool.

Training & development

Active engagement with safeguarding training supports all those who have a role within the Church to effectively recognise and respond to possible abuse and implement best safeguarding practice. The Church of England's new National Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework was published in April 2021.

The new safeguarding learning pathways support participants in developing and maintaining the necessary values, beliefs, knowledge, and skills to safeguard and protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults, as outlined in the 'Promoting a Safer Church' House of Bishops policy statement (2017). This new framework replaces and updates the 'House of Bishops Learning and Development Framework Practice Guidance' (2015) and the second and third editions of this document published in January 2017 and July 2019. The revisions to this edition are driven by a programme of change designed to strengthen the opportunities for learning and development in safeguarding.

The framework sets out:

- The vision, model, standards and requirements for safeguarding learning and development in the Church of England context.
- Details of the range of learning and development pathways available, role requirements and guidance about delivery.
- Details of additional learning and development opportunities.

Following learning from case reviews, the IICSA investigation (2020) and emerging training trends in statutory partners, the new approach to learning in this framework aims to be more "transformational" and "impactful" to individuals. It seeks to change and embed a healthy and proactive safeguarding culture and develop positive attitudes, rather than having a sole focus on process and facts. Safeguarding learning and development is now best viewed as a journey with an outcome, rather than an event. The voice of victims and survivors of abuse is critical to each step of the safeguarding learning journey.

DBS news

Please be aware confidential declaration forms are required in addition to / prior to completion of DBS check - these can be signed off electronically by a required person or a physical copy can be viewed and then signed. All copies will be kept securely and in line with GDPR good practice.

In addition to this, changes have been made to how frequently people in applicable roles within the parish, need to renew their DBS certification. If an individual is signed up for the renewal service, renewals will take place as required. The time frame for DBS reviews to take place has changed from every 5 years to every 3 years. The Diocese are aiming for all required renewals to be in place by 2024.

Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Anthony Rustell, Diocesan Safeguarding Lead

Tel: 023 9289 9654 anthony.rustell@portsmouth.anglican.org

Ian Berry, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Casework

Mob: 07544566850 ian.berry@portsmouth.anglican.org

Julia Barton, Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer

Mob: 07384 548190 julia.barton@portsmouth.anglican.org

Theresa Winship, Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Tel: 023 9289 9665 theresa.winship@portsmouth.anglican.org

Kerry Young, Chair of Safeguarding Advisory Panel

kerry.young@portsmouth.anglican.org

Sonja Pask

Parish Safeguarding Officer [PSO] and DBS validator

safeguarding@stgeorges.church

George's Men

Sadly due to the pandemic George's Men were unable to meet for the majority of the year. However they did meet up for an Indian meal in Cowplain later in the year. They continued to do work around the church, church hall and grounds when needed.

Chris Gadd

St George's Ladies report

St George's Ladies have limped through the year amid uncertainty over levels of lockdown and the need to stay safe. It was July before we could meet in person at Glendene for our annual BBQ. It was so good to see each other again. September's planned Sausage Sizzle didn't happen as the lifting of restrictions meant that quite a lot of people took the chance to get away. The Strictly Sweepstake kept us occupied through to December. In October Sue and Liz hosted a Chinese evening with take-away and an interesting talk with pictures by Rosie about her trip to China. November saw the Church Shop open and the poppies come out ready for Remembrance Sunday - some renovations are planned for the coming year to fill the gaps that are forming. In December we opened the Hall windows and spread out so that we could gather for a Christmas get together. Thanks to Dawn Hyett for the craft activity and to everyone for their Snatch Raffle prizes.

A meeting in February was held to put together ideas for 2022 in the hope that we can meet more regularly in safe situations. The Facebook group has

helped keep many of us in touch.

Rosemary Monk

Walsingham Cell Report

Sadly because of Covid our annual trip to Walsingham with our friends from Havant had to be cancelled for the second year running as the Shrine was still closed when we usually visit the weekend after Easter. It was decided too difficult to rearrange for later in 2021 so we are now planning our visit from 22nd to 24th April 2022 with 24 people expressing an interest to attend.

Our only get together during the year was a service at St Faith's Church on 10th April, organised and led by Havant, marking what would have been the Pilgrimage weekend. A Eucharist, with the Homily preached by Fr Colin, was preceded by Stations of the Cross with images of the Stations at the Shrine projected on a screen. The service was later streamed for those unable to attend.

If you would like any further information about Walsingham please ask Linda Wainwright or Jane Cook

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Linda Wainwright / Jane Cook
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Holy Dusters

Despite the challenges that Covid laid at our doorstep, it has been so very heartening that with 16 volunteers coming forward we have been able to carry out our church-cleaning duties on a regular, fortnightly basis during the last year.

I would like to make particular mention of Gill Barrett; despite her illness and failing health, Gill continued for as long as possible to play her part in ensuring that St. Georges was always clean, tidy, and looking its very best – she will be sadly missed by so many of us.

The cleaning of St. Georges might not be the most glamorous side to being a member of the church but it is nonetheless a vital one, and one that so often goes unseen by so many of the congregation. I would like to extend a big “Thank you!” to each and every member of the cleaning teams – you are all truly “unsung heroes” of our parish!

Patricia Byrne

Church Flower Fund

It has been another strange year as we all try to aim towards getting back to some normality in our lives.

At Easter it was agreed by the PCC that we should use artificial flowers to avoid additional financial burden. This we did. In addition, fresh daffodils were kindly donated to add to the displays.

We were able to decorate as usual at Harvest time and an appeal for funds for fresh Christmas flowers raised over £200.00 – a magnificent amount. Thank you to all whom kindly contributed.

For the majority of the year, we use artificial flowers, from our huge stock, together with fresh greenery, usually only buying fresh for the major Church Festivals plus, of course, special requests for weddings and other occasions.

Donations towards the flowers are always welcome and it is planned to appeal for donations for fresh Easter Flowers at the appropriate time.

We are grateful for the donation of large bunches of artificial roses and tulips which have already been used, plus a large roll of artificial grass. The latter will be used in particular at Easter and Christmas to enhance the displays and help protect the Sanctuary floor. Thank you to the donors.

Sadly, we are missing one of our blooms and we all wish June a speedy recovery and swift return. In the meantime, sincere thanks to the rest of 'the bunch' for their hard work and support.

The Flower Team

Bible Reading Fellowship

The number of people subscribing to the Bible Reading Fellowship New Daylight notes now stands at sixteen. The booklet gives a printed passage from the Bible for each day of the year on a set theme, which changes every 10 days or so, with prayers and comment written by a wide variety of theologians. Published 3 times a year in January, May and September the Group subscription rate from May 2022 is £4.85 per copy and there is now a large print deluxe edition available at £6 per copy. I continue to make sure anyone who has not returned to Church worship receives their copy at the appropriate time.

I have sample copies available and I can easily arrange new subscriptions - just ask me. There is also the option to receive the notes via a computer or mobile phone if preferred.

Linda Wainwright

Deanery Synod Report

St George's was represented at Deanery Synod by Candy Williams and Tony Rice-Oxley.

- A meeting was held on Zoom on 25th January 2021 where the prime and almost sole focus was on presenting the draft proposals for the deanery plan and this was discussed in great detail.
- On 3rd February an extra meeting of the PCC was held to discuss the Havant Deanery Mission Action Plan on Zoom.
- On 10th May a meeting was held via Zoom with Jenny Rowley, Archdeacon, Portsdown, Jenny Hollingsworth, Deputy Diocesan Secretary and Simon Whitbread, Support Leadership Team & Diocesan Strategic Development Programme Manager and Ian Snares, Joint Area Dean to again discuss the Havant Deanery Plan.
- A meeting was held on 2nd September at St Nicholas' in Bedhampton where Messy Church was discussed and was very popular.
- A meeting was held on 22nd December at Hart Plain Church, Cowplain with the new Deanery Band with an invitation to join the band to all congregations and attending churches. Charley Williams was elected as Deanery Synod Secretary. Richard Hutchins presented a paper entitled: Affirming Lay Leadership in Havant Deanery and Portsmouth Diocese. Angela Herring, IDWAL representative e for Havant Deanery gave a presentation following her recent trip to Ghana to visit the diocese with which we are partnered.

Deanery Synod reps

St George's Communications Team

Live Streaming

Services were live streamed on a Sunday during the year until November when it was decided to live stream services once a month to try and encourage people back into church. The St George's Church page on Facebook is used to keep people in touch with what is going on at the church.

Chris Gadd / Richard Spurgeon / John Johnson

St George's News and Website

~~The first half of 2021 was once again~~ a difficult time with much normal church activity curtailed or impacted by COVID restrictions, with the knock on result that newsy material for the magazine was in short supply. Thankfully the latter part of the year saw church activities gradually reviving, and by the year end church life was approaching some measure of normality, to the extent that the PCC decided to reduce the live streaming of services from weekly to once a month.

As in 2020, during the year the magazine, website, and live streaming of services were all important in keeping everyone in touch with St George's when so many remained cautious of attending the church in person. The magazine is always keen to have fresh, original material for publication. If you have anything interesting to write about, please let us have it! If you run or are involved in a church organisation, please let us have a report of your activities, with photographs.

As always, our Advertisers are very important in supporting the costs of printing the magazine and enabling the magazine to contribute financially to the church. Please support our advertisers by using them whenever possible, mentioning to them that you saw their advertisement in the magazine to encourage their continued support. If you know of any businesses that might like to advertise, please put them in touch with us. We are keeping advertising rates the same as previous years in the hope that advertisers will continue.

Remember the website has a vast wealth of material to view. Copies of magazines going back over more than 20 years, the Sunday Bulletin, and the Parish Calendar which is kept up to date with all that is going on. Live streaming, service book, Church Hall booking list. Birthdays, registers, and forms for baptisms and weddings. PCC minutes, and past copies of the APCM report. And much more.

We do hope people enjoy reading the magazine and that any suggestions for improvement in any way would be welcome. Thanks to everyone for supporting your Parish Magazine, and the church website.

John Johnson

St George's Bereavement Support Group

This new Church Bereavement support group started in 2020, but due to lockdown we couldn't actually get started until 2021, when restrictions were lightened. For several months we were allowed to have groups of ten people,

so these people were by invitation only and we tried to vary the people, so as not to leave anybody out who really wanted to attend.

As well as the coffee morning, we were able to offer bereavement support and this was frequently done over the phone. In the past year, over 200 calls have been made by 4 helpers.

When restrictions were completely lifted, we were able to open our group to the public and from September 2021, we were then also able to go out for group lunches and outings.

Each month we have seen new people coming to the group, they have been offered one to one support at another time and some have taken the offer of support. We are now regularly seeing 30-40 people.

People can put any donation they want in the dish and we also have a small raffle. After costs there is about £30 profit. This will accumulate over the months and it will be put to maybe a theatre show or coach trip. In December we were able to arrange a trip for 24 people to go to the Pantomime.

I would like to thank Lindsay for her continued support with the teas and coffees and lovely cake arranging.

We have also been able to offer some 'snapshot' training, for anyone who wants to come or for those who visit others. We have had two sessions so far, provided by Janet Quintavalle, a very experienced Bereavement counsellor originally from the Coop funeral care services.

I am still trying to get confirmation of the next two sessions by the Samaritans and Naomi House and Jacks place.

I am happy for anyone to give out my number – 07834457284 - if the person you visit needs bereavement support.

Linda Smith

St George's Servers

I little thought, when writing last year's Servers' report that we would still be suffering from the effects of the Covid pandemic when I am writing the 2021 report.

I am, once again, very grateful to my current team of 11 servers, who have been prepared to continue serving once allowed. We are still quite a way from our original number of 20, but never mind!

We really hope that we will soon be able to return to a full band of servers but due to lack of numbers, we will only be able to provide 3 servers (instead of 4 or 5) each week, unless it is a Festival and we have a procession! So we will have a crucifer/MC and 2 acolytes on an ordinary Sunday and MC, crucifer, thurifer, 2 acolytes (and hopefully a boat girl!) on feast days.

We now have a band of 8 servers for Wednesday morning 10am Mass and we hope to start this in the New Year. This will be great, as we now only have to serve every 2 months and there is plenty of scope for swapping, if we find we are unavailable!

We are delighted to welcome June Chapman to our serving team and 2 other servers who are now prepared to return. Full training will be given when normal service is resumed. If anyone would be prepared to join our serving team, please let me know. Training would obviously be provided.

Sadly we have been unable to go to Walsingham for the last 2 years but plans are going ahead for a visit in 2022 and our servers who go will be able to support Fr Colin there.

Many thanks to everyone for your continued support. Hopefully, when normal service is resumed, we will be able to arrange a servers' dinner or social gathering again!

~
Head Server

Sunday School/Creche

In line with all other groups we had to temporarily close Sunday school in the spring of 2020.

For much of 2021, we have been unable to meet. However, due to an influx of regular young children, it was decided that we should try to accommodate these children in a Crèche environment, with the carer present. This commenced in September 2021.

We are grateful to Dawn Hyett for donating surplus toddler toys to add to those in Sunday school already held. In addition, new books, with a Christian theme aimed at toddlers, have been purchased. Toys and books are always available, so too is colouring.

The session is very simple with a short story and a prayer. A small group of leaders take turns to lead each week. As far as is possible, we still try to follow the Church year.

Just recently, we have been pleased to welcome back some of our older children. We were delighted to see them. Their presence is also very valuable, both in the hall and in Church, helping to provide a positive influence on the younger children. It also means we can give more content to the sessions and age appropriate material is always available for use.

Sincere thanks go to Sheila Howard for writing and producing the children's Nativity Play this year. In view of the ages of most of the children, the story of Christmas was told through a series of tableau type scenes. They all performed extremely well and it was a heartening sight to be able to welcome this tradition back as part of our Christmas Celebrations.

New children are welcome at any time. It is vital that we do all we can as a Church to grow the Sunday school. These children form a crucial segment of our Church Family and, with careful nurturing, will play an equally important role in the years to come.

Volunteers are welcome too and if you are interested in leading one of the weeks, please speak to Anne Morgan or Fr Colin.

The Sunday School Team

St George's Parent and Toddler Group

The doors to Toddlers were re-opened on 7th September 2021 after the COVID lockdown. The numbers were low to begin with, but we now have a full twenty-five children on the register and six more on the waiting list. All the toys were thoroughly cleaned before the children returned as they had been sitting in storage during lockdown. The toys are now rotated each week to allow time for cleaning. Mask have been worn when government guidance requires us to wear them. Hand gel and wipes are available, and most adults do their hands as they enter the hall.

I welcome people as they arrive and keep the register and accounts up to date. Many of the adults are still grandparents while the children range from babies to pre-schoolers. The children get the opportunity to do a craft each week. We have been into church for the Christmas story read by Father Colin, after which we returned to the hall to await Father Christmas (Father Charles) and have a little party. We send a birthday card to each of the

children from 'Friends at St George's Church Toddlers' and many of the adults have said what a lovely idea it is after the child has received the card. Fiona has returned to toddlers and continues to serve the teas and coffees and has been taking the singing sessions. I am very grateful for all that Fiona does for toddlers.

Glynn kindly helps get the toys out before each toddler session and returns, climbs under the stage at the end of the session to put toys away. The adults and children help pack the toys up before singing session and place them by stage or cupboard.

The 2021 books were handed to Malcolm Brewer who has checked them, and I am pleased to report no issues have been found.

If there is anyone out there who would like to help at toddlers, I would be very grateful. If you are free on a Tuesday morning during term time between 9.30am and 11.45am please contact Dawn Hyett. All helpers must undergo a DBS check.

Dawn Hyett

St George's Choir

Musically, 2021 started in rather a challenging way but became one of gradually re-introducing much missing music and singing to worship. At the start of the year the new round of lockdown measures meant no singing was allowed and with the choir not able to play a full part in services, the musical parts of the service were covered by organ music – played by a social distanced organist in splendid isolation from the organ loft! With the easing of restrictions the choir were able to sing for services from the beginning of May and we took the opportunity to sing a non-congregation mass setting and learn some new motets, a situation which continued until the end of July when congregational hymn singing was re-introduced. From September we were able to return to the usual full sung mass arrangements.

The choir have certainly emerged from their enforced break with renewed vigour and in addition to the regular Sunday services have worked very hard for some extra events which have been well received. The last Sunday in October included a Requiem for All Souls' where the choir prepared Faure's Requiem as the mass setting which was 'performed' with a small string orchestra and organ. Services over the Advent season included an atmospheric Advent Carol Service at the start of December and at the end of the month it was great to welcome back a sizable congregation for the Christmas Carol Service, this year with the added colour of a small brass group.

I'd like to thank Fr Colin and the churchwardens for all their help and support in this my first year as Director of Music; all the members of the choir for their warm welcome and assistance as we moved out of lockdown and were able to sing and worship together more. And also to you all for your kind words and encouragement for all we do musically together, it is very much appreciated.

David Cain
Director of Music

St George's Band

Since the start of lockdown the church band has not performed in church. In previous years I have raised the point that we needed new members to allow it to develop and this has not happened.

Because of the lack of people coming forward to play, the ensemble has for some time consisted of my family being able to cover all parts required. This has worked well, and we played at the Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Christingle services on a regular basis for a number of years.

In 2021 I asked if the church band was wanted for the Christingle service and was told we were not needed, however in the past for the Christingle service, I have been able to put a sizeable band together for this service including members of the congregation so was surprised to find out we were not required.

I feel that now is the time to accept that the church band is closed, as the requirement for the church band seems to have gone.

We will of course continue to support St George's church at the Remembrance Sunday service if required.

Don Lloyd

St George's Social and Fundraising Committee

When the lockdown that we had endured in the first few months of 2021 was lifted, the time and planning previously invested by the Committee came to fruition with a plethora of events being scheduled for the rest of the year.

First up was the St Georges Summer Fete, which was not only very well attended but also enjoyed something of a "post-lockdown party atmosphere",

helped along by live music and a never-ending stream of bubbles - courtesy of a very impressive bubble-making machine!

Equally successful was the Vicarage strawberry tea party, which gave many parishioners who came along the chance to catch up with friends they hadn't been able to see for so many months due to the pandemic.

The Charity Shop was once again open in its usual slot in the latter part of the year and provided a major injection of money to the parish coffers, whilst December saw the welcome return of our traditional Christmas Bazaar.

Looking ahead, there are various fund-raising events in the pipeline including a parish outing.

The proactive approach of the Committee, coupled with the all-important support of all our parishioners, means that our Church is well-placed to face the rest of 2022. We are very much all looking to putting the last few difficult years behind us and getting on with what we do best – in the inimitable style that St George's Church has made its very own.

Patricia Byrne / Rosy Stone

Joint Chairs – Social and Fundraising Committee

St George's Bonus Ball Fundraiser

We continue with our weekly bonus ball fundraiser with support from many parishioners and others. Each quarter we pass £130 into church accounts. The scheme runs quarterly and newcomers can only join at the beginning of each quarter so that winnings can be calculated. Each week about £35 is paid out to the winner of the Saturday Lotto bonus ball.

We have a few spare places if anyone would like to come on board. This fund raiser has now been running for 12 years and has been a popular and fun way of raising much needed money.

Tony Rice-Oxley

www.stgeorges.church