



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



**Annual Report and  
Financial Statements  
of the  
Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Churchwardens:**

**Mr Chris Gadd, 9 Galaxie Road, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 9AT**

**Mrs Rosemary Stone, 37 Tor Close, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 8SU  
(resigned on 31.8.23)**

**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 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2024  
IN THE CHURCH AFTER THE 10 am EUCHARIST**

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**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 2023 APCM and Matters Arising
6. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report
7. Election of 5 PCC members
8. Election of Deanery Synod Member(s)
9. Reports from the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer and church groups
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of St George the Martyr, Waterlooville, held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 in the church commencing at 11.15 am.**

**There were persons present at the meeting.**

**Fr Colin Lawlor, Priest chaired the meeting.**

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- 1 **WELCOME:** Fr Colin extended a warm welcome to everyone who is attending the APCM meeting and said the following:

For the first time in three years I am able to report that 2022 was a normal year (almost). We were able to hold our usual patterns of worship, our normal fundraising activities, along with social and outreach activities.

Our Lent groups, were held in person in 2022, with an option for an online offering if people wished (which no one did). Later in 2022 we began regular bible study groups, and these are now meeting on a monthly basis. These groups are another activity that was envisioned in our Mission Action Plan.

A Knit and Natter Group was formed, and which has been very successful, regularly attracting 30 plus people. With grateful thanks to Patricia Byrne, who is the driving force behind this important outreach activity. A further example of 'outreach' is the monthly cinema, which is now run by St George's.

We were able to resume the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham which, as usual, was well attended.

It was good to be able to have the Waterlooville Music Festival back in St George's, after its enforced 'Covid break'.

In June 2022 a number of us attended 'The Life of Christ' production at Wintershall. A very professional production, on a very hot day.

In the summer we welcomed Revd Liz to St George's as our curate, following her ordination as Deacon. Liz will be ordained priest at the end of June this year. We are already benefitting from her ministry with us, in many ways, but I would like to single out two things of particular significance. Firstly, her work with our young people. She regularly attends Parent and Toddler group, and also, along with

Chris Gadd, has taken our older young people to 'High Tide', a regular ecumenical event for young people (which St George's will be hosting on 12<sup>th</sup> May this year). Secondly, Liz has been a driving force in moving the Eco Church agenda forward, and we are already seeing some of the results of the Eco Church Group in our parish.

In October the PCC had an Away day at the Convent of the Society of the Sisters of Bethany in Southsea. This was a very productive day, during which we began our planning for the Stewardship Campaign, which was launched in 2023, the results of which we are currently assessing.

Finally, I want to offer some thanks. Firstly, to our Church Wardens for all that they do, and for the support and encouragement that they give me. For the PCC, and for the officers of the PCC. To Jane for being such an efficient PCC secretary. To Sara and for her hard work as our treasurer, ably assisted by Malcolm. To Sonja, our safeguarding officer, and Lynn Winter, who assists her. To the chairs and members of our various subcommittees. To David Cain, our Director of Music and to the choir; to Anne, our head server, and the serving team; and to our wonderful Sacristan, Wendy Jenkins. For those who clean the church, arrange flowers, make refreshments, clean the linen, change the altar frontals, read or lead intercessions, trim the candles, prepare the rotas, and help with day to day maintenance. To John Johnson for producing the magazine, and to Alex, our wonderful administrator. To our Sunday School and Parent and Toddler group and those who run them.

To our clergy with Permission to Officiate, and for the help and support that they give me personally, and for covering services.

And to any who I have inadvertently forgotten!

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

We now find ourselves free of restrictions, and hopefully 2022 will be a year when all of our normal activities can resume. But this comes with a word of caution. Covid-19 is still out there, and remains highly contagious (believe me, I know). Whilst we must learn to live with the virus, we still need to take care of ourselves and others. This means that for the time being some of our safety measure will continue, such as keeping windows open and providing sanitation stations.

And if we do this I am confident we can have a happy, prayerful, joyful and healthy year 2022.

2 **APOLOGIES** were received from Alice Pitney, Sara Schillemore, Shirley and Robert Vann, Ian Gibson, Marian Haughton, Patricia Byrne, Ann Hilliard, Andrew Clark.

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

At St George's we agreed in 2021 to revert to the official legal position of 6 years for Churchwardens if they are happy to continue.

Chris has served for five years, and has indicated his willingness to carry on for another year. Chris Gadd has been proposed by Malcolm Brewer and seconded by Linda Wainwright.

Rosy Stone has served for three years, and has indicated her willingness to carry on for another year. Rosy Stone has been proposed by Wendy Jenkins and seconded by Malcolm Brewer.

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 147 parishioners currently on the Electoral Roll, 70 of these are from outside the parish. Thank you to Tony for all his work on this. Tony is standing down at this meeting and Fr Colin we will need someone to take over this job.

The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2022, was 93 adults and 14 children including weekday services.

5 **MINUTES OF THE 2022 APCM AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and were signed by Fr Colin. These were proposed by Linda Wainwright, seconded by Glynn Ross and agreed unanimously.

6 **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.22:**

Sara Pask read out her report which is included in the APCM report and has already been circulated and put on the church website as follows:

“This year has been a very difficult year. We made a withdrawal of £5,962 from the UTB account to ensure that all our liabilities were met, this withdrawal brought the account to nil and was then closed. We still have the Church of England Endowment Investment Account with a valuation of £33,847 at the end of December. These funds are only available to us for a capital project and we only receive the investment interest.

Looking at the Balance Sheet the first thing to mention is that we ended the year with a deficit of funds of £13,938 compared to the deficit of £23,032 in 2021.

The main bank account held at HSBC had a balance of £24,043 at the end of December, and a reserve/buffer account to ensure we are able to manage our cash flow of £2,035. We also have an account specifically for Legacies and at the end of December we had a balance of £841.

All assigned fees for 2022 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 £8,603 (2021 £4,005) - 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 at £7,734 (2021 £6,013). Planned Giving amounted to £27,407 (2021 £28,512). The fundraising figure this year amounted to £11,470 (2021 £18,101).

We have received dividends and interest from our investment and these have come out slightly lower this year at £1,004 (£1,020 in 2021).

Moving to Expenditure we only managed to pay part of our parish share this year amounting to £49,589. In general the expenses remained within budget. Gas, music costs and church maintenance

costs were, in main, expenditure that went over budget. Overall our expenditure was £13,983 under budget for 2022 mainly as we did not pay our full year's parish share.

I have depreciated the church hall by 10% and this came to £12,007 leaving a balance of the value of the hall as £108,060.

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 full version of the accounts is available on request".

Sara asked if there were any questions.

- John Johnson said that looking at the regular income, donations, gifts etc this does not come to as much as the parish share we are paying. If people see that all their giving is just going on the parish share they will think twice about increasing their giving. This is a problem that needs to be resolved. Sara said we still owe money from our parish share from last year which becomes a debt and if we are continually unable to pay our parish share this debt will just increase. Fr Colin confirmed that legacies are ring-fenced and we now have a Legacy Policy. Fr Colin said that we are not the only church in this position. The Bishop is aware of the situation and is looking at the way forward.

How much money do we get back from the Diocese? Our priest comes out of our parish share and Rev Liz, the Vicarage, safeguarding etc. We also received £1500 from the National Church last year to offset increased energy costs.

- Janet Johnson asked if we have to pay interest on the debt and was told no.
- Sonja Pask said that our parish share is based on the number of people on the Electoral Roll and number in the congregation in October. We have a certain number of people and everyone needs to review their giving as set out in the Stewardship skit that we had recently.

Sara Pask asked if it is the wish of this meeting that Fr Colin signs



these accounts. This was proposed by Wendy Jenkins, seconded by Norma Kershaw and agreed unanimously.

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### **ELECTION OF 5 PCC MEMBERS / 2 DEANERY SYNOD REPS**

First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met over the last year. We have had some interesting discussions. Thank you to Lynne McNeill, Anne Morgan and Lynn Winter who have served for 3 years and to Patricia Byrne who has served for one year for Ceri Ward who left the area. Patricia is able to stand straight away again. Linda Smith has also recently resigned due to her personal situation.

We have had 7 applications for the PCC/Deanery Synod as follows. Malcolm Brewer, Assistant Treasurer to Sara Pask will be co-opted at the first PCC meeting.

- Patricia Byrne – proposed by Anne Morgan, seconded by Jane Cook
- Sarah Canham – proposed by Tony Rice-Oxley, seconded by
- June Diaper – proposed by Linda Wainwright, seconded by Margaret Deal
- Marian Haughton – proposed by Sheila Howard, seconded by Norma Kershaw
- Dawn Hyett – proposed by Anne Morgan, seconded by Candy Williams
- Anne Morgan – proposed by Jane Cook, seconded by Sue Hodgins
- Lynn Winter – proposed by June Diaper, seconded by Susan Deal

Tony Rice-Oxley has finished his term of 3 years as Deanery Synod rep and is also leaving the area shortly so is standing down. Our grateful thanks go to Tony for all he has done.

Fr Colin said that at the first PCC meeting of this new year we will need 2 people who have been elected above to stand as Deanery Synod representatives.

Fr Colin asked if everyone is happy for these seven people to be elected onto the PCC/Deanery Synod and this was agreed unanimously.

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

**Churchwardens Report** - Chris Gadd said first of all thank you to Rosy for writing the report. Thank you to Fr Colin for all that he does and for his leadership and guidance.

Fr Colin said that the APCM report had been out for some time both hard copies and on the church website so asked if anyone had any questions on any of the other reports and none were forthcoming.

9 **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

We are very grateful to Paul Read (who attends the 8am service) for again successfully examining the accounts for 2022. Sara said that Paul has indicated his willingness to do this again next year and thanked him for all that he does. This was proposed by Linda Wainwright, seconded by Janet Johnson and agreed unanimously.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 11.55 and was followed by the St George's Day Parish lunch.

## ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

### 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. Services were held every Wednesday at 10am and Sunday at 8am and 10am. Morning and evening prayer took place in the Chapel from Monday to Thursday at 8.30am and 4.30pm and 9.15am on a Wednesday.

### 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  
**Curate:** Rev Liz Quinn  
**Ex Officio:** Jane Cook (Secretary)  
Sara Pask (Treasurer)  
Malcolm Brewer, Assistant Treasurer (co-opted)
- Wardens:** Chris Gadd  
Rosemary Stone (resigned 31.8.23)
- Representatives on the Deanery Synod:**  
Candy Williams  
Sarah Canham
- Elected Members:**  
Sue Hodgens  
Mo Peters  
Dawn Hyett  
Alice Pitney (resigned 17.1.24)  
Sara Schillemore  
Elaine Shimbart (resigned 21.6.23)  
Patricia Byrne  
June Diaper  
Marian Haughton  
Anne Morgan
- Co-opted:**  
Malcolm Brewer, Assistant Treasurer  
Lynn Winter, Deputy Safeguarding Officer  
Candy Williams, Deanery Synod

We were very lucky to have Rev Liz Quinn as our Curate.

## **Committees**

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

## **Church Attendance**

There are 147 parishioners currently on the Electoral Roll, 70 of these are from outside the parish. 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 Derek Strickland and it will be agreed by the PCC. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2023, was 95 adults and 13 children. This includes weekday attendances.

## **Review of the Year**

The full PCC met 6 times during the year with an average attendance of 82%. The PCC meets once every 2 months with Fabric, Finance and Quinquennial, Pastoral, Church Hall, Mission and Stewardship, Social and Fundraising and Eco Church sub-committees continuing to meet in the interim, to enable items to be discussed in more detail, and report back to the full PCC to get any items confirmed. 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.

We have supported over 12 wide-ranging charities, both at home and overseas, in particular £181.80 to the Children's Society and continued support of three children under the African Child Trust Scheme. Other benefiting charities included The Humane Society, Portsmouth Samaritans, Bishop's Lent Appeal, Alabere, Christian Aid, The British Ecological Society, Mission to Seafarers, Alzheimers Research, Mercy Ships, Let the Children Live and Cowplain Age Concern. These were all retiring collections.

The giving through envelopes and banker's orders decreased slightly to £31,142, which was £700 under budget before Gift Aid Relief. The tax recovered on Gift Aid donations amounted to £12,756 – this figure included Gift Aid owing to us and we are now up to date with our claims. No Gift Day was held in 2023. Contributions on the collection plate were £4,151 for 2023 which is an increase of £790. £59,943 was spent to provide the Christian Ministry from St George's Church, which includes the partial contribution to the parish share of £27,550.

Our remaining fund balances are invested in a CBF Church of England Endowment Fund currently valued at £33,000 – we are allowed to spend the interest but cannot withdraw any of the capital unless it is to pay for a capital project.

Paul Read examined the accounts and has agreed to examine them again next year. 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:

- Sadly Fr Colin was on sick leave for part of the year but we were very lucky to have Rev Liz Quinn as our Curate and our retired clergy have been so supportive.
- The Waterlooville Music Festival took place in June for a week and was again very successful and well attended. We said goodbye to Don Lloyd as Director and conductor of Meridian Winds.
- A total of 41 of us again joined with our friends from Havant for our annual trip to Walsingham.
- A Parish outing was again organised to “The Life of Christ” at Wintershall in July.
- After many years we said goodbye to Tony and Jane Rice-Oxley as they moved to Bishopstoke but still come back for the occasional service.
- Bible study groups now meet regularly, on a monthly basis.

On behalf of the PCC

Sara Pask, Treasurer  
Jane Cook, Secretary

Signed:  Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024  
Chris Gadd, Churchwarden

## **Treasurer's Report 2023**

Good morning everyone, I hope you have all had a chance to look through the financial information for the year ended December 2023.

I'm afraid that it doesn't make very exciting reading but I would like to thank everyone who makes regular thanksgiving payments to the Parish by standing order, envelopes and through the Parish Giving Scheme.

The first thing I will mention is that, according to the accounts, the parish made a surplus of £9,000 in 2023 as against a deficit of £14,000 in 2022. However, this is not as good as it may seem because our Parish Share to the Diocese for 2023 was set at £66,200 we were only able to pay £27,550. This, I believe, is the first time that we have not been able to pay our full share in many years.

In 2023 the PCC took over the payment of the Church Hall gas bills as the Hall was no longer able to cover this themselves. In 2023 our total gas bill amounted to £9,600 (2022 £670). As you all know, gas prices rose steeply during 2023 and this is also a major factor in the total paid out.

The parish had a Stewardship drive early in 2023 which resulted in an annual increase in giving of £1,000. Unfortunately, some people left the parish or passed away which had an adverse effect on our income. I would like to take this opportunity to urge any of you who currently give regularly by bank standing order or green envelope to seriously consider changing to the Parish Giving Scheme which is made by a monthly direct debit from your bank account (which you can cancel or amend at any time). Another benefit of the Parish Giving Scheme is that you can ask for your giving to be increased by a chosen percentage on an annual basis which prevents your giving losing its value over the years. One other advantage of this scheme is that it takes away most of the bureaucracy involved in the Parish claiming Gift Aid back. If you would like any information about the Parish Giving Scheme please ask me.

Our fundraising efforts during 2023 resulted in a profit of £7,000 (2022 £12,000). The decrease in funds raised was due, mainly, to the fact that we did not have a Church Charity Shop in 2023. The shop is a very lucrative source of funds but it was also very hard work for the organisers and volunteers. It is not known whether we can have a shop again in the future due to the redevelopment of Waterlooville town centre.

You may have noticed that we have an “Endowment Fund” which is currently valued at approx. £33,000. Under the terms of the Fund we can only receive the interest from this investment but we can apply to spend some or all of the funds on a “capital project”. We have been exploring the question of improving the efficiency of heating the Church in a much more eco-friendly way. The boiler, which is housed in the Church Hall, is over 25 years old and will inevitably require more repairs or may even become unusable. The PCC are looking into various options and the funds in the Endowment Fund will certainly be needed then.

A couple of good things to say about 2023 from a financial standpoint is that we were finally able to claim back just over two years of Gift Aid that was due to us which shows in the amount received of £12,700.

The Film Club is doing well financially, is covering all its expenses and last year made a profit of £2,900. However, as these funds are in a “restricted fund” we are not able to use it for general parish expenses other than those directly related to the running of the club. The PCC can, if necessary, resolve to spend some of these funds for another reason.

I would like to give my thanks to Malcolm Brewer, our Assistant Honorary Treasurer for all his help and support during 2023 and I look forward to this continuing for 2024.

My thanks are also due to Paul Read, our Independent Examiner for examining the annual accounts. I am pleased to say that Paul has agreed to examine the accounts again next year.

Please can I ask you all to approve the 2023 year end accounts by a show of hands. Those in agreement? Those against? Any abstentions? Thank you.

Chris and I will sign the accounts off.

Thank you.

Sara Pask  
Honorary Treasurer to the PCC

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE  
COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2023**

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2023 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2022 YEAR TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>					
Planned Giving S/Orders	28709		28709	30000	2845
Planned Giving Green Env	963		963	850	100
Gift Aided Pink Envelopes	1469		1469	1000	275
Gift Aid Tax	12756		12756	8000	628
General Collections	4151		4151	2200	225
Gift Days	-		-	1500	
Donations & Appeals	2361		2361	5000	400
Liturgical Donations	-	699	699	500	72
Bookstall	235		235	275	24
Parish Magazine Advertising	800		800	750	73
Parish Magazine Sales	40		40	100	1
Fees received (PCC)	1935		1935	2000	254
Fete, Bazaar, Fund Raising	7028		7028	10000	1234
Sales	7		7	-	
Photocopying Income	107		107	100	9
Income from Investments/Bank	1243		1243	1000	102
Bulletin Sponsorship	480		480	480	42
Church Hire	4770		4770	300	41
<b>Unbudgeted items:</b>					
Fees received (Assigned)	1782		1782	-	149
Other Funds (Charities)	-		-	-	
Hall Lettings	27068		27068	-	1098
Toddler Group Income	828		828	-	10
Social Committee	1659		1659	-	87
Ex.ord Income	17881		17881	-	1399
Film Club	-	2940	2940	-	664
Pastoral funds received	-			-	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>116272</b>	<b>3639</b>	<b>119911</b>	<b>64055</b>	<b>9741</b>



<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>RESTRICTED</b>	<b>2023 YEAR TOTAL</b>	<b>YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account</b>	<b>2022 YEAR Total</b>
Parish Share	27550		27550	66200	49589
Gas/Elec/Water Insurance	13542		13542	15800	2995
Church and Grounds Maintenance	2227		2227	2350	6541
Clergy Expenses	1512		1512	2000	1599
Administrator	3820		3820	4000	3500
Liturgical Costs	-	722	722	500	434
Magazine, Bookstall & Bulletin	767		767	750	717
Piano and Organ tune	102		102	400	240
Administration	826		826	750	566
Photocopier Costs	788		788	1000	902
Fees paid out	343		343	-	35
Capitation Fee	20		20	20	20
Fundraising & Sales costs	1239		1239	600	934
Pastoral Costs	-		-	-	50
Music Support	1310		1310	1000	853
Sunday School	111		111	100	-
Mission	157		157	1000	475
Director of Music	5186		5186	4700	5416
<b>Unbudgeted items:</b>					
Assigned Fees	1125		1125	-	1840
Ex. Ord Outgoing	16918		16918	-	19757
Hall Running Costs	28507		28507	-	12900
Hall Depreciation	-		-	-	12006
Social Committee	1154		1154	-	1143
Giving to Charities	1863		1863	-	2796
Quinquennial costs	-		-	-	-
Toddler Group	698		698	-	-
Film Club	7589	1018	8607	-	1043
Bank Charges	204		204	-	208
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>117558</b>	<b>1740</b>	<b>119298</b>	<b>101170</b>	<b>126559</b>

## **Churchwardens Report**

Our year at St George's started brightly and with high hopes for a sense of normality after some traumatic covid-affected years. Whilst we had much to celebrate and enjoy, the year ended with further challenge.

First the good news. St George's remains a thriving, well-supported and vibrant parish church filled with dedicated, faithful Christians.

Fr Colin led a ministerial team that included Rev Liz and three retired clergy.

Following our April APCM, a happy band of pilgrims attended Walsingham for the weekend for some much needed and enjoyable spiritual refreshment.

Our summer fete was well attended, and, despite some heavy winds, the weather at least was kind to us.

Waterlooville Music Festival was a tremendous success and brought many non-church attendees through the doors at St George's. It remains a terrific outreach to our local community.

Then matters took a rather dark turn.

At the end of June the church suffered some vandalism which necessitated closing the church for a few days and the involvement of the police.

Shortly thereafter, Fr Colin, who had been dealing with not only a very busy parish life but challenges with his elderly parents, was forced to take extended compassionate leave. This then developed into mental health issues for Fr Colin for which treatment was arranged but precluded him from any ministerial role whatsoever. This continued to be the case until the end of the year.

We continue to pray for Fr Colin's return to full health.

I was very blessed that we had a tremendously capable curate in Rev Liz to help me hold the fort, as well as the support of our retired clergy (Frs Ray, Charles, Tyrone and Rev Sandra) and our brilliant Parish Administrator Alex who managed the office in her usual calm and efficient way.

Notwithstanding all this wonderful support, it has been a very difficult 6 months and has given me a great insight into the many real challenges of parish life. It was not what I signed up for when becoming churchwarden I have to say! Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians that the Lord "will not suffer ye to

be tested above that ye are able, but will also make a way to escape, that ye me be able to bear it". But by golly, that test this year was certainly a full one.

The degree of challenge was somewhat heightened when we received the news that Rev Liz had been asked by Bishop Jonathan to transfer the remainder of her curacy to the Meon Valley parishes. Just before Christmas at a very well-attended service we bade our farewell. As I indicated above, Rev Liz had been a tremendous support to me, particularly during the challenging second half of the year, and I don't think I would have managed to hold the church together without her magnificent support, guidance, and hard work.

I would also like to record my thanks to the endless support of the PCC who have stepped up in this tricky time (and throughout the year) and to the myriad of people who help serve our church in so many ways it would be impossible (and dangerous) to try and record them all.

It's also fitting that I give my thanks on behalf of the parish to Jane and Tony Rice-Oxley who, after many decades of faithful service at St George's, moved away from the parish in the Summer.

Despite all that we have endured, I pray that God may bless us in all that we seek to do in his name in the year ahead.

Chris Gadd  
Churchwarden

### **St George's Church Hall Report**

The Church Hall Committee met 5 times during the year. Tony Rice-Oxley stood down as Chair as they were moving away at the APCM. The March meeting was held at Jane Cook's house following which the Committee provided a lunch to thank Tony for all his work for the Church Hall over many years to which Jane R-O was also invited. The Committee presented him with a cake, card and gift voucher for a Champagne tea for 2 at The Ivy Chichester.

Over the year we lost several of our regular hirers and since Covid the number of bookings for birthday parties seems to have reduced significantly. At the January meeting concern was expressed over the rising gas bills for the Hall, which included the heating for the church and it has previously been a tradition for many years for the hall to pay the gas heating costs for the church. As this was no longer affordable it was agreed that the PCC now pay the gas account. The hall continues to pay their Electric account.

The Hall Committee organised several Saturday mornings during the year to clean the stage, committee room, back kitchen etc which is not covered by our cleaners. A flat rate charge of £10 was agreed for the use of the kitchen by hirers.

Our outside noticeboard was looking very tatty and Andrew Clark, who was Hall Manager for many years arranged for a new one to be bought and he paid for it.

A maintenance list is regularly produced and working parties set up to deal with any problems.

Following the APCM when Tony stood down the Hall Committee didn't have a chair so as Churchwarden Chris Gadd took on this role. Also, the hall lost the Hall Manager.

Furthermore the church lost the services of John Hood who carried out repairs etc to the hall without being asked, as soon as they were needed.

Due to lack of hirers the cleaners have been reduced to a 3-day week for 1 hour a day. If we have 2 events in quick succession then an extra day is requested.

The Hall is only just managing to break even with income and outgoings and if anything major goes wrong we will be in a dire situation.

Church Hall Committee

### **Christ Church Portsdown Mothers' Union, including members from St George's**

Our first meeting of the year on 7<sup>th</sup> February was a service in Christ Church Portsdown during which two new members were admitted, this was followed by our AGM.

In March Revd Marcus Collie, a curate at Christ Church, talked about his journey to faith and Ordination.

Our speaker in April, Revd Matt Grove, spoke about working with an Ecumenical mission in a deprived neighbourhood in Lisbon the previous summer.

The theme at our May meeting was "Coronations past and present".

Members had brought souvenirs from as far back as the 1937 Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth up to a new King Charles III 50p piece.

In June we welcomed guests including other Mothers' Union branches and local churches to our annual Summer Tea Party. There was a buffet tea, a table quiz and a large raffle.

At our July meeting we discussed what changes we would make if we "Ruled the World".

The service which we usually have in September was transferred to October. In December we held our Christmas Celebrations tea again with guests.

Janet Johnson

## **Mission and Stewardship Committee Report**

Apart from the Stewardship campaign which was launched on 29<sup>th</sup> January the Committee has not met as Fr Colin was chair and he has been off sick.

## **Pastoral Committee Report**

Committee Members: Patricia Byrne, Rosy Stone, Marian Haughton, Anne Morgan, Lynn Winter, Linda Smith, Shirley Vann, Candy Williams, Lynne McNeill.

The Committee has met 5 times over the year, meetings arranged before the PCC meetings so that it can report back. Each meeting discusses the pastoral care for the sick and elderly and phone calls or face to face visits take place when appropriate.

Marian Haughton came to the end of her Anna Chaplaincy training in March and the official commissioning was held with 2 others at St George's on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May. At the June meeting Marian gave an account of what her role will be.

Linda Smith suggested we bring the Bereavement group under Pastoral and this is now called "St George's Church Friendship Group with Bereavement Support".

At the September meeting Patricia Byrne who was chair stood down from the committee for the time being and Rev Liz chaired a couple of meetings. Rosy Stone resigned as Churchwarden and therefore did not attend any further Pastoral Committee meetings. Rev Liz was informed of the type of pastoral contacts which are undertaken and the face to face visits we do and an update was given on potential new visits. Rev Liz agreed to talk to Alex Holmes and Patricia Byrne as to the nature of these visits and the paperwork involved. Rev Liz then agreed to share the information at the next meeting. Members of the Committee take it in turns to do Baptism visits to the family to advise what is involved and then attend the Baptism service to welcome the family.

At the September meeting Marian gave an update on Anna Chaplaincy and the nursing homes she is visiting.

Linda updated on the Friendship Group which has split into 2 groups which meet fortnightly. Each group is well attended and is thriving.

At the November meeting Marian and Anne Morgan agreed to create a list of potential people requiring visits and when contact is made the visits will happen in pairs – Marian and 1 other whose face is known to the person to be visited.

6 baptisms took place during the year. Families were visited and any questions answered and the family were given an information book. Marian has now been trained as a Baptism visitor and will work with Linda Wainwright and Candy Williams.

Anna Chaplaincy – Marian is visiting a number of older people in their homes. She is regularly visiting a number of people at South Africa Lodge Care Home and arranged a Christmas Carol Service on 6<sup>th</sup> December and a number of the congregation assisted with the singing and Marian knitted a Nativity scene as a focal point for the service with some help from Knit and Natter members and she knit small choir figures to give to those in attendance. An Anna Chaplaincy service was held at the Cathedral for people interested in becoming Anna Friends (assistant to the Anna Chaplain) and 3 members of St George's attended with Marian. At this meeting it was also agreed that people who regularly attend services at St George's but have been unexpectedly absent for a couple of weeks would be discussed by the next Committee meeting to decide if a phone call would be appropriate to check on the welfare of the individual.

Pastoral Committee

### **Knit and Natter Report**

I am very pleased to report that in just over the 2 years since its inception the Knit and Natter Group has gone from strength to strength, and now fulfils an important function for a significant number of ladies within the local community. From around just 8-10 attendees in the early days, the Group now regularly has around 30 people coming along each week.

My colleagues, Rosie Stone and Pat Mitchell, and I have always tried to ensure that the Group provides a relaxed, convivial, and friendly atmosphere for those who come along. The weekly meetings every Tuesday afternoon provide everyone with the opportunity to learn and practice arts and crafts such as knitting, embroidery, and crochet – indeed many of the ladies have learned a variety of new skills from others within the Group. Furthermore, since it was set up the Knit and Natter Group has undertaken several charitable projects such as the knitting of shawls and blankets, in addition to much-needed tiny garments for the Premature Baby Ward at QA Hospital in Cosham.

The purpose of the Group goes beyond just the practical aspect of handicrafts – for a significant number of the ladies who come along, it is a highlight of their week (especially those who live on their own) and provides what in some cases is the only opportunity they might have to meet and socialise with other people. For this reason alone, I believe that the Knit and Natter Group has a vital role within our local community.

I would also like to confirm that the Knit and Natter Group is self-funding, with everyone who comes along paying a nominal amount to cover the cost of the tea, coffee and biscuits that are provided.

Patricia Byrne

## **EcoChurch at St George's Report**

It's been a productive year for the Eco church group. The committee have worked hard and are grateful for the support of St George's congregation. In Spring 2023, the Toddler group led by Dawn Hyett, helped put up some bird boxes and filled and installed some bug hotels in the churchyard. They also created a wonderful insect environment in a majestic bug Palace dedicated to the Coronation of King Charles. All these wooden homes were made by John, a supporter of toddler group, to whom we are extremely grateful.

At the summer fete Sonja and Iain very kindly ran a children's activity to make bug houses out of recycled materials. We also had a display of photos of all our work in the churchyard so far. We encouraged the use of paper-plates and there was no single use plastic.

Prior to the fete we held a film night of a David Attenborough film about Climate Change – The Facts to which we invited other churches in the Diocese. It was well attended and provoked lots of meaningful discussion. Eco group have managed to raise enough money to support a Toilet Twinning project and our hall loos are now twinned with a new loo in Uganda. There is a certificate on display in the Hall.

In keeping with the intention of reducing our carbon footprint, our Harvest meal was provided using locally sourced produce as much as possible, was entirely vegetarian and there was also a vegan option.

At Christmas and Easter the Sunday School have made large cards for the whole congregation to sign to reduce paper waste.

There is a display in church of all the Eco church activities and a copy of the St George's Land Management Plan which the PCC agreed to adopt.

As a result of these efforts, the Bronze A Rocha Eco Church award has been achieved and the plaque is displayed in church along with a framed dedication to Len Palmer to show our respect for him and our gratitude for the money he left to the church, some of which has been used to support the Eco Church initiatives. We think he would have approved.

Rev Liz played a huge part in all of this and we send her our grateful thanks. She investigated the water project at Koforidua which we hope to include in one of the retiring collections in 2024.

A meeting arranged with David Cain has continued the discussion into how we can heat and light our church more sustainably and with much lower running costs. This discussion is ongoing, and we are excited about seeing it come to fruition soon.

Eco Church group looks forward to another productive year.

Mo Peters

## **Safeguarding Report**

### **Vulnerable Adults**

**Definition of a Vulnerable Adult:** A person aged 18 or over, who is or maybe in need of a community care service by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is, or maybe, unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

We often consider a vulnerable adult to be someone who is impacted by illness, infirmity or perhaps have learning difficulties, however those who are impacted by circumstances such as domestic abuse / violence, or a bereavement which can impact on an individual's mental health can also be deemed vulnerable.

An example of supporting and working with vulnerable adults can be seen within the ministry of the Anna Chaplaincy programme /network:

Anna Chaplaincy is a ministry of the Christian charity BRF and has been established specifically to provide care for older people, especially those living in care homes and sheltered accommodation, and to their families and the staff that look after them. Anna Chaplains also promote the spiritual welfare of older people in the wider community, particularly those facing challenges living independently.

### **Child Protection**

The Diocese of Portsmouth is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults and creating protective and supportive environments where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey in safety. The diocese and St George's follow the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and adults, as well as Church of England specific policy and practice.

### **Domestic Abuse**

The church can play a significant role in responding to domestic abuse and offering care and support for victims. *'Responding to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Practice Guidance 2017'* sets out the church's commitment to addressing and responding effectively to domestic abuse both within its own community and wider society.

### **Reporting abuse or raising a concern**

If someone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical attention contact the emergency services on 999.

There are Safeguarding Advisers in every Church of England diocese across the country and Safeguarding Officers in every parish. If you are worried about someone and want to raise a concern or report abuse, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team or initially your church PSO's [parish safeguarding officers]: **Sonja Renfrew** OR **Lynn Winter** -Deputy Safeguarding Officer- [safeguarding@stgeorges.church](mailto:safeguarding@stgeorges.church)

The Portsmouth Diocese have a team of Safeguarding experts to support you. If you have a safeguarding concern, the Portsmouth Safeguarding Team



can be contacted during office hours, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm  
via: [safeguarding@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@portsmouth.anglican.org) / 023 9289 9665

**Out of Hours advice** can be sought from the Thirtyone:eight helpline  
on [0303 003 1111](tel:03030031111), selecting option 2.

All new parish safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Diocesan  
Safeguarding Team using the safeguarding report form:

[https://cofeportsmouth.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/SG\\_Report\\_Form\\_0zgHWHb.docx](https://cofeportsmouth.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/SG_Report_Form_0zgHWHb.docx)

In addition to this, the National Safeguarding Team manages safeguarding  
cases relating to senior clergy including bishops and deans-

[safeguarding@churchofengland.org](mailto:safeguarding@churchofengland.org)

Getting support from other organisations:

**NSPCC Helpline** 0808 800 5000 (10am–4pm Monday to Friday) or email  
[help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) at any time.

**Child-line:** 0800 1111 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are a  
child or young person and are worried about anything.

**National Domestic Violence Helpline:** 0808 2000 247 (lines free and open  
24 hours). Phone if you are experiencing domestic abuse.

**Samaritans:** 08457 90 90 90 (open 24 hours). Phone if you feel you are  
struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.

**Action on Elder Abuse :** 080 8808 8141 (free phone Monday to Friday 9-  
5pm).

**The Survivor's Trust:** 08088 010 818 (free phone Monday to Wednesday  
10am-7:30pm, Thursday 10am-6pm, Friday 10am-2pm)

### **Training & development**

The Portsmouth Diocese is committed to ensuring that all church officers are  
aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and have the core skills and  
knowledge to protect children and/or adults from harm.

The Church of England Safeguarding Learning & Development Framework  
2021 sets out the expectations and requirements for safeguarding training for  
all ordained and lay church officers within the diocese, whether they are paid  
or unpaid.

Safeguarding training can raise sensitive and emotive issues. If you feel  
unable to complete any required training for your role due to personal  
experiences, you may be offered an exemption or pass. If you would like to  
talk to someone from the Safeguarding Team about this prior to attending a  
course , please don't hesitate to contact the Diocese Safeguarding Trainer  
Julia Barton via email [Julia.barton@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Julia.barton@portsmouth.anglican.org) or via mobile on  
07384 548190.

Sonja Renfrew

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) - [safeguarding@stgeorges.church](mailto:safeguarding@stgeorges.church)

## **George's Men**

St George's Men have met socially only once this year, that being our annual curry at our restaurant of choice, Pasha in Cowplain. This well-supported and much-enjoyed evening has become an annual fixture.

Whilst we have not met socially too frequently, the men do collectively and individually provide a tremendous amount of help in maintaining the grounds and doing many other jobs that assist in keeping the parish spend down. In the forthcoming year, we very much hope we can meet up more regularly.

Chris Gadd

## **St George's Ladies report**

St George's Ladies have a Facebook group which keeps people up-to-date with what is going on and anyone not on Facebook is sent an email by Rosemary. Any ladies in the congregation are very welcome to join us. You don't have to come to every event but if you are interested please have a chat to one of us.

In January 30 of us met at No 73 in Waterlooville for our post Christmas meal and Secret Santa.

In March our Lent penance was to do church cleaning and gardening and we had a talk in the Hall from Rev Liz on her journey to ordination. During Lent lunches were served in the Hall on 5 Wednesdays.

In May we had our annual bluebell walk at Clanfield finishing with a drink at The Rising Sun.

In June we met at Northney tearooms for a cream tea. Sue Hodgens hosted our summer get together at Edge of Beyond in July which had to be held indoors because of the unsummery weather!

In September the annual Strictly sweepstake started. On 1<sup>st</sup> October a very successful Harvest lunch was held in the Hall which also served as a thank you to Tony and Jane Rice-Oxley for all their work at St George's over so many years when gifts and a cake were presented to them and the ladies of the congregation produced a wonderful buffet. Both past and present members of the congregation and youth club were invited and it was lovely to see so many people.

We were also invited to Rosemary's for a New Zealand picture show from their holiday earlier in the year.

In October we had a craft evening and put the poppies up in the church and the grounds in readiness for Remembrance Sunday.

In November we had a Beetle drive and quizzes and people suggested ideas for our get togethers in 2024.

In December we had our Christmas gathering with food, craft and the ever popular Snatch raffle. Another busy year.

Jane Cook / Rosemary Monk

## **Walsingham Cell Report**

The St George's group of 26 pilgrims set out on the Friday after Easter and as usual we travelled with our friends from St Albans, West Leigh, St John's, Rowlands Castle, St Faith's, Havant and St Michael and All Angels, Paulsgrove - 41 in all. The Havant Cell were again led by Bishop John Hind.

The St George's pilgrims were very fortunate to have both Fr Colin Lawlor and Rev Charles Howard leading the Waterlooville Cell. St George's serving team again enhanced the wonderful outdoor processions and we again experienced the beautiful liturgies and the fantastic food.

On the Saturday our coach driver took us to Cromer where a lovely afternoon was spent, the sun shone and we saw the peregrine falcons in the church tower. Ice creams were enjoyed on the seafront and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time there.

There were a few medical issues – most noticeably a return trip in a taxi to Cromer on Sunday morning to Minor Injuries Unit with Anne Morgan who had fallen but was thankfully OK. When we came to leave around 4pm on the Sunday the coach had a flat battery and we had to wait for someone to come from Lowestoft to jump start it. Then it was discovered the door wouldn't shut properly so by the time they had fixed that it was 7pm before we left Walsingham.

During 2023 Pilgrims met at St Faith's on 11<sup>th</sup> March for a Cream Tea and on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July gathered at Marian Haughton's house for a BBQ. On both occasions services were held. An additional service and Cream Tea was held at St Faith's on 10<sup>th</sup> September, and looked specifically at ways those Cell members no longer able to travel to Walsingham could still feel included in the Pilgrimage. The Waterlooville Cell also met on 29<sup>th</sup> October and followed a Compline Service Booklet prepared for all Church seasons by Fr Charles.

This annual trip is always the weekend immediately after Easter and costs approximately £250 per person.

Linda Wainwright and Jane Cook currently do all the admin for this. We have 15 people booked from St George's on the 2024 Pilgrimage. If you are thinking about joining us in 2025 (the dates will be 25-27 April 2025) or if you would like more information about this weekend please do talk to one of us.

Linda Wainwright / Jane Cook

## **St George's Holy Dusters Report**

The last 12 months have seen the 14 stalwart members of the Holy Dusters team continuing their “behind-the-scenes” and often unnoticed hard work and efforts to ensure that St George's is kept spick and span for everyone.

The cleaning sessions, now every three weeks as numbers have dropped, mean that each member of the Holy Dusters is “on duty” quite frequently, and we would very much welcome other members of the congregation to come forward and join our team, thereby helping to spread the burden of this important work.

Each and every one of the church cleaning team has done their bit throughout the last year, and it would be remiss of me not to personally thank Sue Hodgens, Rosy Stone, Pat Mitchell, Margaret Deal, June Diaper, Ian Gibson, Sharron Hillary, Anne Morgan, Christine Culley, Jane & Steve Cook, Marian & Barry Haughton, for their time, hard work, and ongoing commitment to this very important, if not exactly glamorous, aspect of our church.

Patricia Byrne

## **Church Flower Fund Report**

We are very grateful for the donations we receive from the congregation to enable us to use fresh flowers for the Festivals. Flowers are very expensive and, whilst we all would probably prefer to see fresh flowers each week, the monies in the Fund do not stretch that far. We have a huge stock of artificial flowers, which are used extensively with fresh greenery during ‘lean’ times.

Thank you to the small team of flower arrangers for their time each week and especially for preparing the Festival flowers at Easter, Christmas and for the Music Festival.

June Diaper

## **Bible Reading Fellowship Report**

Sixteen people subscribed to the Bible Reading Fellowship New Daylight notes during 2023. 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 2024 will be £4.99 per copy and there is now a large print deluxe edition available at £6.35 per copy. I continue to deliver copies at the appropriate time to a several parishioners who are unable to attend Church. 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

### **Havant Deanery Synod Report**

There have been 3 meetings through the year:

**The 198<sup>th</sup> meeting** was held on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March** at Hart Plain Church, Waterlooville and the introduction was by Rev'd Kate Macfarlane, Associate Area Dean with worship led by the Deanery Band. Lesley Baker from **St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain** gave a presentation about the exciting plans for the celebration of their church's centenary year. They have also achieved the Bronze Eco Church Award on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Sandra Haggan and Karina Green from **St Faith's Havant and St Alban's West Leigh** gave a joint presentation describing the activities the 2 parishes join together with, they believe working together in partnership is something exciting. Sandra Matthews and Max Cross from **Bedhampton Parish** gave a joint presentation called "A Spiritual Moment in the Toilet" which described the much needed upgrade to the toilets at St Nicholas. The upgrade is complete and the community groups can continue to meet in St Nicholas and the church can serve the community. Kate Macfarlane from **Hart Plain** gave a presentation about how their Creativity Club became their Warm Hub out of the recognition of the rising cost of living. They have reflected on the fact that the people who attended the Warm Hub enjoyed the fellowship and friendship and have decided that they will continue with the group under the same name because of its success. Julia Parsons from **All Saints Denmead** gave a presentation about their Lent course looking at unanswered prayer and the impact of their paid youth worker with rising numbers of children attending church activities. Rev Liz Quinn from **St George's, Waterlooville** gave a presentation on new Eco Church initiatives. Andrew Sheard and Bruce Watson from **Warblington with Emsworth** gave a presentation about Breakfast Church taking place in the parish hall on 2 Sundays a month. Amanda Sim and Andrew Martin from **Catherington and Clanfield** gave a joint presentation describing the work with children and the development of their community links. In the absence of anyone from **St Francis, Leigh Park and St Clare, Warren Park** a short video was shown about the Havant Passion Play 2023. Pam Ewing and Mary Close from **St Johns, Rowlands Castle** – Pam spoke about how they were very active with children about 20 years ago and are now trying to grow the number of children in church and Mary spoke about Anna Chaplaincy in the parish. Christopher Morrison from **St Thomas a Becket, Warblington** gave a presentation about the strength

they have in an older congregation and more traditional worship and he spoke about community and parish links.

**The 199<sup>th</sup> meeting** was held on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June** at Christ Church, Portsdown. Andy Wilson gave the introduction and explained the joining of the parishes of Portsdown and Purbrook and also of 150 years of ministry at Christ Church. There was a **Lay Leadership presentation** by Canon Dr Anthony Rustell, Diocesan Director of Ministry and Mission. Canon Law says we cannot use lay ministry in some circumstances but we want to reverse that to say yes, we can. Deaneries need to be as flexible as possible. Church is one body with many members – how do we value the skills of each individual in order to build God's church. Enabling not dictating. How can we resource and support churches? For instance, offering Reader Training over 2 years not 3 and blended learning. The National church has Three levels of ministry:

**Non-commissioned** – servers, choir members, band, reading and leading intercessions, flower arrangers, vergers, house group leaders etc. These should ideally be supported through proper oversight and training, there should be proper working agreements etc.

**Commissioned** – public facing with short training for instance Lay pastoral assistant, Anna Chaplaincy, Lay Preachers, Lay Worship leaders. Those with suitable gifts are discerned in the parish, training is provided through the Deanery or Diocese, commissioned in Deanery to their parish. Training is no more than 8-10 weeks and not academically accredited.

**Licensed** - Readers, Licensed Pioneers Ministers. Can be Lay or ordained. Leading an area of work in church's life, part of a Benefice team and work with incumbent. This involves responsibility beyond the parochial, either selected nationally or through the Diocese.

**Oversight Minister** – this is an incumbent type role that we are familiar with.

**Focal Minister** – This may be a Self-supporting Minister or some other form of recognised local leader.

**Readers/LLM** – Training for this will be 2 years at Sarum College. Age cut-off points which were previously low are going to be more relaxed.

**Other forms of recognised ministry include:** Church Army Evangelists, Pioneers – Licensed Lay Workers, Diaconate, Priesthood, Religious life, Youth Work, Administrators

In Portsmouth Diocese there is now a **Michaelmas Cohort** training and preparing for ordination mainly taken from experienced and trusted Readers who are developing their ministry further and will be ordained in September 2023. During questions the view was expressed that parishes should consider funding not just for youth workers, but for older persons ministry too. The importance of working with other denominations was also emphasised. There was then a welcome to new Deanery Synod members and brief discussion groups on "what we hope to achieve".

## **Deanery Mission Action Plan Update and Implementation Teams –**

Andrew, Area Dean presented details of the priorities in our Deanery Plan. We are fortunate in our Deanery that we are nearly fully staffed with stipendiary positions. A Powerpoint was shown with 4 key headings: Growth, Leadership, Working Together, Youth & Children and Older People. Volunteers then joined the Deanery sub groups and implementation teams:

### **Deanery Mission & Pastoral Committee**

Clergy – Colin Lawlor, Emma Racklyeft and Bruce Watson

Lay – Bill Berry and Shelley Saunders

### **Deanery Standing and Finance Committee**

Clergy – Max Cross, Richard Hutchins and Emma Racklyeft

Lay: Bill Berry, Peter Eberle, Paul Franks (Deanery Treasurer), Pam Ewing, and Deb Henning-Vears (Parish Treasurers)

### **Youth and Children Implementation Group**

Clergy – Jonathan Jefferies, Kate Macfarlane, Brune Watson and Joy Windsor

Lay – Jackie Butt, Clare Hargreaves and Lewis Jones

### **Leadership Implementation Group**

Clergy – Richard Hutchins

Lay – Tim FitzGeorge

**The 200<sup>th</sup> meeting** was held on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November** at St John The Baptist Church, Rowlands Castle. Andrew Sheard introduced and welcomed new clergy – Chris Spencer, Coleen Jackson and Jenn Camirand. Rev'd Coleen Jackson was serving on Diocesan Synod as a member of the laity and now she has been ordained she wishes to continue on Diocesan Synod as a member of the clergy.

**Eco Church** – Rev'd Andrew Sheard introduced Rev'd Will Hughes, Vicar of St Peter's Church, Petersfield and Rector of Buriton and Rachel Houlberg from the Diocesan Environmental Advisory Group. He said care for the environment would be important to church even without climate change – we are stewards of God's creation. As Christians we love and value what God has made. The 5 marks of mission define what the church is about. The fifth mark is: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. This is a priority for the whole church. A Rocha is a charity based around care for creation. They run 'Eco Church' a scheme offering bronze, silver and gold awards to churches engaging in environmental action. The Eco Church questionnaire covers five areas: worship and teaching, building, land, community and global engagement and lifestyle. The Church of England has set a target for all churches to be carbon neutral by 2030. The mission statistics website has a questionnaire to enable churches to measure their carbon footprint. £30 million will be available to help churches with environmental projects. The Diocesan Eco Church champion is David Cain, based at Peninsular House. The DAC have changed the rules so that replacing boilers with something more

environmentally friendly is easier than replacing like for like. Replacing light bulbs can hugely reduce energy bills and LED bulbs last longer. The cost of solar panels has dropped and panels now provide more energy. Churches need to keep on top of general maintenance and make a plan for reducing their carbon footprint. The Diocesan Eco Group meet regularly. Giles Chapman from DAC can give advice about net zero planning. What we do in our churches is important but we all need to work to make our homes carbon neutral too.

Possible funding bids for the Deanery include a Pioneer Minister for Berewood.

General Synod agreed that Prayers of Love and Faith will be commended to be issued by Bishops in early December and stand-alone services with Prayers of Love and Faith can be used on an experimental basis following advice from the House of Bishops. It was acknowledge that this process has been difficult.

Candy Williams / Sarah Canham

### **St George's News and Website Report**

Website: <https://www.stgeorges.church>

Not much has changed over the year as far as the magazine and the website are concerned. St George's News continues to be published four times a year, and the website continues to be updated, often on a daily basis, with planned services and events going into the diary and calendar, and the Sunday Bulletin and reading sheet being available to download. The magazine itself can also be found on the website, as well as past issues going back to 1997.

For the magazine, the main issue we have is to gather sufficient new and interesting material for publication. Budding authors, please give it a try and write something for St George's News. As well as reports on church activities, you could write about your favourite hobby, your holiday, a charity you support, something of interest that you have experienced; and it can be either a short one-off piece or something longer that we can serialise. Note that material for publication does need to be original or free of copyright. Photos and illustrations to accompany articles are particularly welcome.

Also, our advertisers are important to help cover the cost of magazine printing and ultimately contribute to Church funds. If you can help encourage businesses you know to advertise with us, it will be a great help. Also, please use the companies and trades people that advertise in the magazine when you can, and let them know that it is their advert that has secured your business.

Don't forget, the website is a huge source of information and interest about our Church and all that is going on. If you are organising a church event of



any sort, please let us know so that the On-Line diary and calendar can be updated. Email to: [feedback@stgeorgesnews.org](mailto:feedback@stgeorgesnews.org)

St George's News was the first Parish Magazine on the Internet, established in 1996.

The website address is a bit special and not easy to forget! just type in: [stgeorges.church](http://stgeorges.church)

John Johnson

### **St George's Church Friendship Group (with Bereavement Support) Report**

St George's Church friendship group, runs twice per month, every second and fourth Monday of every month including bank holidays from 10-12.

We have about 30 people that come regularly to our group and we also have new people who come along. Everyone is always made very welcome.

Every meeting there is the opportunity to catch up or make new friends, and if anyone ever needs bereavement support we can arrange that for another time.

During our meetings we may do a short quiz which is often seasonal, for example an Irish quiz for St Patrick's day etc. We arrange a lunch out each month and we choose as a group where to go. It could be a pub lunch or a garden centre for example. We have recently had lunch at Stanstead garden Centre. We always have an extra special Christmas dinner in December and we do Secret Santa.

We also try to arrange other outings, last year we had a boat trip on the Chichester canal, a trip to the Buddhist monastery and a trip to the Kings Theatre.

Our meeting on the second Monday in December is always a big event. We have about 12 stalls around the hall, we don't charge the stall holders as they enhance our event. We invite the Mayor of Havant and her Consort. Last December it was Councillor Rosy Raines. We also had Santa attend who went round all the tables giving our guests Kitkats. A fantastic event.

At our coffee mornings we provide teas, coffees, and home made cakes, people put a donation in the bowl and we run a raffle, and many people also bring in a raffle prize.

From this money we pay £10 per meeting to the Church for hall hire. The rest of the money goes into the bank and we use it to put towards some outings like the Pantomime for example.

Many people from our group have formed their own little friendship groups and arrange their own meet ups, outings and even holidays away together. We have also supported people in other ways, like taking to and from hospital or doing house visits.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lindsay Hood for her continued support helping me to serve the teas and coffees every meeting and the clearing up.

Thanks to everyone who helps to support this group.

Linda Smith

### **St George's Choir Report**

Musically, 2023 was a busy year with the choir singing at the Sunday morning services with additional extras such as Candlemas Carols, an evensong for St George's Day and the full round of Easter Services. The first Sunday in November included a Requiem for All Souls' where the choir prepared Karl Jenkin's Armed Man as the mass setting and which was 'performed' with an augmented choir and organ. Services over the Advent season included an atmospheric Advent Carol Service at the beginning of December and at the end of the year it was great to welcome a sizable congregation for the Christmas Carol Service, this year again with the added colour of a small brass group. Unfortunately, the choir finished the year slightly fewer in number due to the departure of Tony & Jane Rice-Oxley and I'd like to thank them for all their years of dedication to the choir. New members, young and old are always welcome to join in, you will be most welcome!

I'd like to thank Fr Colin and the churchwarden Chris for all their help and support; all the members of the choir for their hard work and dedication 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 Servers Report**

We are currently very lucky to have a regular team of 5 servers for a Wednesday morning. Many thanks to all of them and even though he has moved, Tony Rice-Oxley has mentioned, that if required, he would still be happy to serve occasionally on a Wednesday. We are always happy to have new servers, so if anyone is interested in serving on a Wednesday morning, please let me know! Full training would be provided.

On a Sunday morning we still have 3 servers each week - an MC/Crucifer and 2 acolytes. We currently have 11 servers, trained and available to serve on Sundays. Three of those servers are also trained as thurifers, plus, of course, Fr Charles and several young ladies from the Sunday School are available to be boat girls.

Thank you to all the servers for your continued support and commitment. If

there is anyone in the congregation who would like to become a server on a Sunday morning, please don't hesitate to speak to me! Again, full training would be provided!

I haven't forgotten about re-introducing the servers' annual dinner! Just need to find a venue!

Anne Morgan, Head Server

### **Youth Ministry at St George's Report**

The young people of St George's have regularly met this year for fun, games and worship.

This started, with the encouragement and support of Rev Liz and Chris, to taking our young people to the monthly meeting called High Tide. This is a diocesan initiative held every month on the second Friday evening at different churches around the parish. The course of the evening follows a well-tryed and very successful format. Food (young people are always hungry), games, then worship music and a talk. Even in the time that we have been attending the numbers at high Tide have increased enormously and is very much enjoyed by all.

Rev Liz and Chris then arranged a home group for our young people, usually two weeks after High Tide, also on a Friday evening, the first of which was at Rev Liz's house. We have called our young people who attend St George's Dragons and our evening follow a similar format to High Tide. Food, games and then craft work and worship. This group alone has grown from just two people to about a dozen each time. We hope very much to see further growth in number over the coming year.

Chris Gadd

### **Sunday School Report**

During 2023 Sunday school has continued to meet regularly each week stopping temporarily during half terms and school holidays. For most of the year we have hosted a small regular group of children aged between 2 and 10 approximately. Not all are able to attend each week, but all are welcome whenever they can come. Ditto any children in Church who would like to pop in to see what we are doing.

Due to the fact there are not enough children in a particular age group to work in groups, we have continued to work as one group. This has proved challenging, trying to aim teaching at appropriate levels. To this end, we are using various resources including the all age worship teaching manual, Stepping Stones, along with resources from Twinkl and others.

We continue to mark the important festivals in the Church year with appropriate activities. For example, for the Epiphany, we learned that Jesus

was revealed to the world – his public showing. We talked about the different gifts and their meaning. The children coloured and decorated pictures of the wise men. Penny and Hope made and decorated a splendid star to go on our Board.

To help remember the Baptism of Jesus, the children watched an animated version of the story and decorated paper doves to remind them of the occasion.

The children were also involved in scattering wild flower seeds to create a wildflower area for bees and other insects as part of our Eco Church initiative. We took part in the Palm Sunday procession, waving Palms, happily welcoming Dexter the pony.

For Harvest, the children talked about their favourite foods and created a colourful poster, which formed part of the Harvest procession. Other projects were to make some delicious bread and create a model vegetable 'plot'. In addition, Sunday school were delighted to take up the Eco Church Bronze plaque during the Harvest procession.

Once again, this year, for Remembrance Sunday, Sunday school made their own poppy wreaths and were invited to lay them at the Lych gate.

Our Nativity Play was performed on the 17<sup>th</sup> December, featuring some of our younger children in the main roles. Each taking on a few words each, they all did extremely well. This year also saw the introduction of a couple of more modern songs. Thank you to Jess for producing and directing, to Sheila Howard for her continued support and to Ellen Deal for her help with the singing.

To end on a positive note, towards the end of the year, we were delighted to welcome baby Polly, sister to Heidi, welcome Polly! Officially, this report covers from January until December 2023, but good news needs to be shared, we have recently also welcomed another baby to Sunday school, Baby Lydia, sister to Eleanor. Welcome Lydia! We are expanding! We pray it may continue.

The Sunday School Team

### **St George's Parent and Toddler Group Report**

We have twenty-one children of which four of are babies born in the past year on the register. I have messaged people on the waiting list but have not had replies. The adults are a mix of grandparents and parents and the children range from babies to pre-schoolers.

The children get the opportunity to do a craft each week. We try to do a painting craft at least once a term. Gluing is the children's favourite craft, we try to introduce different textures to them while being as environmentally

friendly as possible by using things like wrappings from Easter eggs, off cut material and scrap paper from when cut-outs are done.

The mats are hoovered every half term and the blanket in the baby area is washed regularly. The toys Hand gel, tissues and wipes are available.

We went into church twice during the year, once for the Easter Story and egg hunt, and again for the Christmas story read by Rev Liz. After the Christmas story we returned to the Hall to await Father Christmas and have a little party. I still send a birthday card to each of the children from 'Friends at St George's Church Toddlers'. I also held an indoor street party for the King's Coronation which the adults and children really enjoyed. The Toddlers group presented a big bug Hotel to the church for the King's Coronation which they had great fun filling and often visit to see who is staying at the Hotel. We have also hung bird boxes, placed small bug boxes and planted apple trees around the church yard with the help of ECO Church. If the group is in the church magazine parents/ grandparents are giving a copy paid for from funds, this advertises the church and other activities that happen.

Fiona continues to help serve the teas and coffees and has been leading the singing sessions. I am very grateful for all that Fiona does for the children and Toddler Group as a whole.

I welcome people as they arrive, keep the register, accounts up to date and prepare the craft. I shop for the milk and biscuits before each session then set up the room and craft table. The adults and children help pack the toys up before the singing session and place them by the stage or cupboard. We allow the adults to bring in children's clothes/toys etc. they no longer need for anyone to take. The adults must ask if they can bring stuff in so that only one person a week brings bits in and they have to take home anything that no-one takes.

We donated £100.00 to the church hall.

If there is anyone out there who would like to help at Toddler Group, 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. One of the parents Tasha helps when she can in group.

Dawn Hyett

## **St George's Social and Fundraising Committee Report**

The Social and Fundraising Committee is without a Chair as we couldn't find anyone to take it on so a different member of the Committee chairs each meeting.

We had a very successful Quiz evening in January which raised £420 and around 60 people attended. In March we held a Maggot and Horse Race night which was great fun. We provided Ploughmans and tea and coffee and made a fantastic £994.80.

Lent lunches also took place on 5 Wednesdays in March and raised £348.50 for the Christian Aid Emergency Appeal towards the relief effort for the Turkey and Syria Earthquakes.

In April we organised a Parish lunch after the APCM which was very successful. 47 people attended and we made a profit of £312.

The Summer Fete took place on 20<sup>th</sup> May with lots of stalls and Cascade Chorus Barber Shop choir entertaining us and £1,669.44 was raised.

During the summer Linda Smith offered people the opportunity to go with her to her hives in Blendworth for a bee experience which several people did and which was a very enjoyable and informative afternoon. Some people also did honey spinning with Linda later in the year at her house. This raised money for church funds.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July a Parish Outing was again organised to Wintershall "Life of Christ" which those who attended enjoyed.

In September we organised a Barn Dance with the band Jigfoot which Richard Spurgeon kindly paid for and we provided jacket potatoes and fillings and 54 people attended and we raised £147.07.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October we had a Harvest Festival bring and share lunch with special guests of honour Jane and Tony Rice-Oxley who have done so much for St George's over so many years. We invited past and present congregation and 'old' youth club members and many came to wish them luck on their move to Bishopstoke. A collection and card had been organised and we presented them with cake, flowers, wine, Mayflower Theatre voucher and a cheque to buy something to remember St George's by.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December the Christmas Bazaar took place with lots of lovely stalls and opened by Father Christmas. A Christmas event also took place in Waterlooville precinct on the same day and as it was a freezing cold day lots of people came in to warm up, have a look round the stalls and enjoy a bacon roll and coffee. An amazing £2,272.94 was raised.

Social and Fundraising Committee

## **St George's Bonus Ball Fundraiser Report**

The St George's Bonus Ball has been running since 2008, and, for a nominal weekly fee, awards a prize to the person who matches the bonus ball in each

Saturday's weekly National Lottery draw. If an unselected number is drawn, the prize rolls over into the following week. Currently, we have about 50 members, but there are a total of 59 numbers available, so more players are always welcome!

In 2023, we had 29 different winners, with the lucky participant pocketing around £40 on each occasion. More importantly, this fundraiser donated just over £500 to the church over the course of the year, so a big 'thank you' to all those who take part.

Iain Renfrew



Saint George the Martyr  
Waterlooville

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