



**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 2020**

Churchwardens:

**Chris Gadd, 9 Galaxie Road, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 9AT
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 25TH APRIL 2021
IN THE CHURCH + LIVE STREAMED 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 2019 APCM and Matters Arising
6. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report
7. Election of 3 PCC members
8. Election of Sidespersons
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 18th October 2020 in the church and commencing at 11.15 am. This was delayed from April because of Covid restrictions.

There were 40 persons present at the meeting and a further 19 via Zoom.

Fr Colin Lawlor, Priest chaired the meeting.

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

Fr Colin said:

This is going to be a very strange APCM in what are extremely strange times. We have had to delay the meeting because of Covid and the lockdown and so all of the reports, that I hope you have read, refer to 2019, and we are almost in to 2021! We will come together in April 2021 (hopefully) when we will be reflecting upon 2020, and it will be a very different picture indeed.

However, although the meeting will be referring to 2019, pre Covid, I do want to say a few words today about the effect of the Pandemic, not least since it is because of this that we have had to delay our meeting until now.

Covid has meant that so much of what would be our normal pattern of church life has been put on hold. We could not have our usual social events, our fundraising activities have been postponed, our Mission Action Plan has had to be put on hold and, most important of all, for much of the year we have been unable to worship together. I would like to express my gratitude to those who have helped steer us through this time, from the volunteers who continue to keep in touch with members of our congregation who might be feeling alone and isolated, to those who have made live streaming of services possible, and continue to do so. I would like to thank the Church Wardens and PCC for their continued service, not least those who were due to finish their term of office but who carried on until today. All of this has shown St George's at its best.

Thank you!

On a personal level I have been reflecting these past few weeks on how Covid has impacted on me personally. As someone who lives on

his own (well, almost – Alfreda has been great company) I have been conscious of those who live solitary lives and who may feel isolated all of the time, not just during these troubled times. I am very much a people person and I missed the every day interaction that parish ministry affords and which was no longer possible. I would also like to say thank you to those members of the congregation who rang me, aware that I was somewhat isolated and to make sure that I was OK!

Isolation certainly taught me a great deal about myself.

I am sure that I am not the only one, but I always seem to end up in a supermarket queue where the person at the front wants to engage in a lengthy conversation with the check-out assistant. It makes me feel quite irritable. But I have come to appreciate that this might be the only conversation that person might have that day, or possibly that week. I have become more patient and I hope more kind.

Like many others I have experienced bereavement during lockdown. To lose a loved one is always difficult, but during the lockdown it was, and continues to be even more wretched. As a church we are going to have to respond to a great deal of unresolved grief when this is over, and to this end I am delighted that following the ending of the help in bereavement drop ins, which were hosted in our parish hall, this will now be an in house St George's Church Bereavement Service under the leadership of Linda Smith from our 8am congregation, who is a very experienced bereavement counsellor, and who is also willing to train volunteers from our congregations as bereavement visitors.

When this is all over, and it will be, I hope that as individuals, as a society, and as a church, we will have all changed for the good. That we may be more grateful for all that we have, kinder, less fractious, and more gentle. More like the people that God calls us to be. And I want to end what I am going to say with a poem that I heard recently, and which moved me so much that I have it pinned up in my study as a constant reminder to me. I want to use this as a prayer for us all. It is by an American poet called Laura Kelly Fanucci and it is simply called *When this is over*.

When this is over

When this is over, may we never again take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbours

A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way — better
for each other
because of the worst.

Amen

2 **APOLOGIES** were received from Rosemary Monk, Eileen Oades,
Anna Richardson

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.

John Hood has served for 4 years and therefore steps down this year. On behalf of everyone at St George's Fr Colin said he would like to pay tribute to John who actually came to the end of his 4 years in April but has kindly stayed on. A huge thank you to John for all his hard work over the last 4 years. John was presented with a hamper of beer etc.

Chris has served for two years, and has indicated his willingness to carry on for another year. Chris Gadd has been proposed by Marian Haughton and seconded by Jane Cook.

We therefore need to appoint a new Churchwarden and we have one

nomination from Rosemary (Rosy) Stone, proposed by Patricia Byrne and seconded by June Diaper.

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 155 parishioners currently on the Electoral Roll, 72 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. Tony indicated his willingness to carry on as Electoral Roll Officer and thanks went to Tony for all his work on this.

The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2019, was 104 adults and 8 children with 84 communicants. This includes weekday attendances, however the number increased at festivals.

5 **MINUTES OF THE 2019 APCM AND MATTERS ARISING**

There were 2 amendments to the minutes which were then agreed unanimously as a true and accurate record:

- Page 14 – Linda Wainwright said that the Naomi House “Light up a Life” service did not take place in 2019.
- Page 19, 4th para of the Churchwardens Report re Mothers’ Union should read “...with the branch at Christchurch, Portsdown...” (not St John’s, Purbrook.

6 **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.19:**

Sara read out Dawn’s Treasurer’s report as follows:

Overall the church position is slightly better than we all expected with our assets increasing in value by £10736.58. This is due to very careful management of our spend and increases in the value of our investments at the end of 2019. With the present positions I do not feel that the investments would now be worth as much.

Looking at the Balance Sheet the first thing to mention is that we ended the year with a surplus of funds of £5890.16, compared to a deficit of £10845 last year. However the loans of £10000 that we took out for the repair of the church hall are still to be repaid and this would have wiped out any surplus that we have this year.

Our investment value has decreased in value by £4846.18 and was valued at £30730 at the end of December.

The main bank account held at HSBC had a balance of £12459.07 at the end of December. We also have money in the UTB account of £41374.67 and a reserve buffer account to ensure we are able to manage our cash flow of £7534 (We did not have to use this during 2019). We also have an account specifically for Legacies and at the end of December we had a balance of £840.

The accounts receivable at the bottom of the current assets column of £1175 relates to the Gift Aid that is due back to us on the donations made during October to December and this was received on the 12th February. There were no assigned fees due for the 4th quarter of 2019.

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 £2200 (2018 £925). 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 lower than last year by £666. This was however £541 higher than the budget. Standing orders are £1666 higher than 2018 but £2327 less than budget.

The gift day was extremely successful raising £3485.

The fundraising figure exceptional again this year amounting to £15108 and takes into account the money taken by the shop (£8227 before gift aid), and money received from Bonus ball (£530), Fete (£2143.52), Bazaar (£2178.03) and 100 club (£502) to mention just a few. We also received donations from the social committee, Friday coffee morning and Wednesday coffee morning.

We have received dividends from our investment and these have come out slightly higher this year at £895 (£873 in 2018). The interest received on our bank accounts has remained the same as 2018 at £685.

Moving to Expenditure we managed to pay our full parish share again this year £61901. In general the expenses remained within budget. Administrator and Fundraising and sales costs were the only expenditure that went over budget. Overall our expenditure was £5401.60 less than budgeted.

I have again depreciated the church hall by 2% as in previous years and this came to £2551 leaving a balance of the value of the hall as £125,018.

My thanks go to 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.

It is with great sadness that I have to give my resignation from the post of Treasurer. It has been a pleasure to manage the accounts for the last 10 years but my work commitments have increased and I need to ensure I have the time with my family. I will of course be here to support the new Treasurer.

Sara explained that at the last PCC meeting it was agreed that she would take over as Treasurer. She thanked Dawn and Malcolm for all their support as she got into the role.

Fr Colin thanked Dawn for her hard work as Treasurer over the last 10 years and presented her with some leaving gifts.

7 **ELECTION OF 5 PCC MEMBERS**

First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met 9 times over the last year (the March meeting was cancelled due to Covid 19). Thank you to Malcolm Brewer, Lesley Handy and Sandra Hewett who have served their time on the PCC. Lisa Toft has also decided to stand down from PCC. As Sara Pask has taken over from Dawn Trimby as Treasurer it means we need to appoint 5 new PCC members.

We have received 5 applications as follows:

- Patricia Byrne – proposed by Chris Gadd and seconded by June

Chapman.

- Susan Hodgens – proposed by Lynne McNeill and seconded by Jane Cook.
- Lynne McNeill – proposed by Jane Cook and seconded by Linda Wainwright.
- Lynn Winter – proposed by Mabel Maginn and seconded by Patricia Byrne.
- Ceri Ward – proposed by Patricia Byrne and seconded by Susan Hodgens

Fr Colin asked if everyone is happy for these five to be elected onto the PCC. This was agreed unanimously.

Fr Colin said that Andy Jackson who is a teacher at Bishop Luffa School who has been attending the 8am service for the last couple of years did not realise about the Electoral Roll. He cannot stand for PCC until he has been on the Electoral Roll for 6 months but Fr Colin would like to co-opt him onto the PCC if he is willing. This was proposed by Rosy Stone, seconded by Sue Hodgens and agreed unanimously.

8

ELECTION OF 2 DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

Barbie Lloyd and Candy Williams have also served their time as Deanery Synod representatives and Barbie has decided to stand down. However Candy has indicated her willingness to stand again.

We therefore have two applications for Deanery Synod Representative as follows:

- Anthony Rice-Oxley – proposed by Jane Cook and seconded by Christine Culley.
- Candy Williams – proposed by Mo Peters and seconded by Tony Shepherd.

9

ELECTION OF SIDESPERSONS

It has come to Fr Colin's attention that the election of sidespersons, which used to be the responsibility of the annual meeting, is no longer so. It is now the responsibility of the PCC to do this. See Church Representation Rules M6(6) – "The annual meeting may not appoint sidesmen; the duty to do so is imposed on the PCC by section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956". The PCC will now consider this at their first meeting.

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

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

Chris Gadd said he would like to make 2 comments. He would like to give his thanks to John Hood for all his hard work during his time as Churchwarden. Chris said that Rev Sandra had reminded him this morning that we should give a vote of thanks to Fr Colin. We are talking about 2019 but 2020 has been a particularly difficult year for the church and also for Fr Colin and our thanks go to him for his guidance and leadership to us all.

- Church Hall – Tony said he has taken over from Ian as Chair over the last few months.
- Safeguarding – Sonja Pask said she is completely happy to carry on in this role. She would just like to let the new Churchwarden, PCC and Deanery Synod members know that she will be in touch shortly as part of their role means they will need a DBS check and a little bit of online training is expected from the Diocese so everyone has a basic level of safeguarding training. Fr Colin said thank you to Sonja for all that she does.
- Holy Dusters – John said that they desperately need Holy Dusters to join the rota. Please let John know if you are interested.
- Servers – Fr Colin said we will be having 2 acolytes from next Sunday.
- Choir – Fr Colin said that soon we can have a limited choir socially distanced in the Gallery. However they will not be singing hymns as the congregation are not allowed to sing.
- Bonus Ball – Tony said that as the 100 Club finished at the end of 2019 he hoped people who were in that would now join the Bonus Ball.
- A huge thank you to all those who have made streaming of the Wednesday and Sunday services possible this year.
- Huge thanks to Lindsay Hood at 8am and Patricia Byrne and Amber Gadd at 10am who have worked so hard on the door during these strange times.
- Tony wanted to thank John Hood who has been a “miracle man” in the Hall. Anything he mentioned needed doing to John was done by the next day. Thank you so much from all the Hall people for all he has done.

11

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

We are very grateful to Paul Read (who attends the 8am service) for again successfully examining the accounts for 2019. Sara has not been in touch with Paul but will contact him to ask if he is willing to examine the accounts again next year. This was agreed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 11.45pm with The Grace.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

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. 2020 was an unusual year with the Covid-19 Pandemic which saw the church closed for the first lockdown and the 10am services on a Wednesday and a Sunday being live streamed online. Morning and evening prayer on a Monday-Thursday were also introduced during the year. When we were able to return to church a strict risk assessment was carried out, social distancing and the use of masks was observed and there was no singing and the live streaming continued for those people who were shielding or did not feel comfortable coming to church. There were sadly no Easter processions, Summer Fete or Christmas Bazaar and the Hall was not used for a great part of the year.

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: John Hood (until delayed APCM in October)

Rosemary Stone (from October)

Chris Gadd

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Candy Williams

Barbie Lloyd (until delayed APCM in October)

Tony Rice-Oxley (from October)

Elected Members:

Ian Gibson

Mo Peters

Sue Hodgens

Marian Haughton

Anne Morgan

Patricia Byrne

Lynne McNeill

Ceri Ward

Lynn Winter

Andy Jackson (Co-opted)

Committees

The PCC 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 Barrand, 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 boundary. 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 2020, was 52 adults and 2 children of which 50 took communion. Because of the Pandemic services were also live streamed and the average number watching online per week was 168.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 6 times during the year, with an average attendance of 83%. Fabric, Finance and Quinquennial, Pastoral, Social & Fundraising, Hall and Mission and Stewardship sub-committees continued to meet in the interim, to enable items to be discussed in more detail, and reported 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 during 2020 have been less than usual. However, we have supported a wide range of charities, both at home and overseas, in particular £66.61 in December to the Children's Society and continued support of four children under the African Child Trust Scheme. Other benefiting charities included Huntington's Disease Association, New Blendworth Centre, Mission to Seafarers, The Elizabeth Foundation, Naval Children's Charity, African Child's Trust and The Rainbow Centre. We have decided to carry over these retiring collection charities to 2021.

Sadly due to the Covid pandemic social activities and fundraising have been severely curtailed. A very successful online raffle was held in the autumn which raised over £1,000. A weekly quiz has also been held on Zoom which raised £406.61. Although we did not have a carol service in the usual sense,

we did manage to hold a carol service which was live streamed from the church, with only the clergy, readers, choir and organist in physical attendance.

The giving through envelopes and banker's orders has decreased to £32,433, £6,567 less than the original start of year Budget excluding tax and £4,350 less than 2019. Due to Covid it was necessary to review our budget. The tax recovered on all Gift Aid donations for the year was £9,276, a decrease of £1,334 and £1,724 less than originally budgeted. Our St George's Day Gift Day was held in October and raised £3,295. Contributions on the collection plate were £2,052.

The full contribution to the parish share of £66,872 was paid (an increase of £1,243 compared to 2019).

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 spends on this.

Sadly due to Covid

- the Parish breakfasts were not able to take place
- Waterloo Music Festival which would have celebrated its 14th anniversary was postponed.
- 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 not able to take place.
- no Parish outing could take place this year.
- the Church Shop which should have been held in October had to be postponed
- no school Christmas concerts could be held this year.
- the Travelling Nativity could unfortunately not make its annual visit to people's homes.

On behalf of the PCC

Sara Pask, Treasurer
Jane Cook, Secretary

Signed: _____

Fr Colin Lawlor

Date 7 APRIL 2021

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE
COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2020**

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2020 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2019 YEAR TOTAL
INCOME					
Planned Giving S/Orders	30005	-	30005	30000	32673
Planned Giving Green Env	1177	-	1177	700	2159
Gift Aided Pink Envelopes	1251	-	1251	1500	1950
Gift Aid Tax	9276	-	9276	8500	10503
General Collections	2052	-	2052	2000	4432
Gift Days	3295	-	3295		3485
Donations & Appeals	2328	-	2328	850	2220
Liturgical Donations	353	-	353	500	1996
Bookstall	268	-	268	275	879
Parish Magazine Advertising	872	-	872	1000	997
Parish Magazine Sales	62	-	62	100	77
Fees received (PCC)	813	-	813	1000	2979
Fete, Bazaar, Fund Raising	3594	-	3594	2500	19448
Sales	0	-	0	-	42
Photocopying Income	29	-	29	100	248
Income from Investments/Bank	922	-	922	900	1580
Unbudgeted items:					
Fees received (Assigned)	1012	-	1012	-	2094
Other Funds (Charities)	-	544	544	-	3034
Hall Lettings	5906	-	5906	-	20091
Toddler Group Income	-	163	163	-	939
Social Committee	165	-	165	-	3344
Ex.ord Income	5000	-	5000	-	-
Ladies Group	-	-	-	-	-
Pastoral funds received	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	68380	707	69087	48825	115170

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR,
WATERLOOVILLE
COMBINED ACCOUNTS
OVERVIEW FOR 2020**

EXPENDITURE	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2020 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2019 YEAR Total
Parish Share	66872	-	66872	66846	65106
Gas/Elec/Water Insurance	3368	-	3368	3150	2963
Church and Grounds Maintenance	2033	-	2033	2500	1655
Clergy Expenses	1926	-	1926	2000	1986
Administrator	3174	-	3174	3000	3120
Liturgical Costs	362	-	362	600	1498
Magazine, Bookstall & Bulletin	640	-	640	750	745
Piano and Organ tune	328	-	328	350	-
Honoraria and Salaries	3000	-	3000	3000	3000
Administration	542	-	542	600	771
Photocopier Costs	816	-	816	1000	1197
Fees paid out	140	-	140	500	695
Capitation Fee	20	-	20	20	20
Fundraising & Sales costs	114	-	114	400	1486
Pastoral Costs	-	-	-	100	26
Music Support	-	-	-	-	-
Sunday School	-	-	-	100	44
Mission	-	-	-	1200	501
Unbudgeted items:					
Assigned Fees	1012	-	1012		1680
Ex. Ord Outgoing	4309	-	4309		24
Hall Running Costs	8125	-	8125		15129
Hall Depreciation @ 2%	2500	-	2500		2551
Youth Group Activities	-	-	-		-
Social Committee	1000		1000		368
Giving to Charities	-	723	723		2947
Quinquennial costs	-	-	-		1124
Toddler Group	-	-	-		619
TOTALS	100281	723	101004	86116	109255

Treasurer's Report 2020

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 will examine the Accounts again this year.

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

Sara Pask
Honorary Treasurer

Churchwardens Report

2020 at St George's has been, as for so many, a quite extraordinary year with the unwanted arrival of the COVID pandemic.

So much has been said and written about the virus and the effect that it has had on everyday life that it is difficult to muster anything original. But this is a record of our Parish and so it is important to walk through how we have managed through this painful year.

It seems difficult to believe that in January and February 2020 we were looking with mild interest at the arrival and reporting of a couple of cases of a new, unheard-of virus that had seemingly emanated in China. By the Spring, when the first death was reported in this country, none of us could have foreseen what was to follow. However, by April, when we would ordinarily have been planning for Easter and our APCM, the number of cases had spread like wildfire.

The announcement at the end of March that churches would have to close, and with it the realisation that we would not be allowed to gather for Holy Week, was particularly painful. Some of us felt very strongly that the church had taken a wrong turn but given the order to close our doors there was nothing we could do. But with the end of public worship a new opportunity presented itself - to broadcast online. Chris spent the first weeks of lockdown getting to grips with broadcasting our services from his kitchen with Fr Colin speaking to our Parish from the sitting room in the vicarage. We garnered a huge number of views in those early weeks.

As the year progressed, our online offering became more polished. When Fr Colin was able to return to broadcast from the Lady Chapel, our viewing figures reached their peak.

Broadcasting is with us to stay and with Chris in the chair for our Wednesday Eucharist, and with Richard Spurgeon so brilliantly directing our 10am service broadcasts, we continue to attract very good numbers watching at home.

So our thanks in particular to Richard for his enormous contribution to church life through his commitment to helping broadcast our services, and an especially big thanks to John Johnson who (unseen and unknowingly to most) has played a vital part in connecting what we are filming from church to the outside world via YouTube. Without John's technical expertise, dedication to the cause and sheer willingness to keep involved we would not have been able to broadcast as successfully as we have (or indeed at all).

But online broadcasting is one thing. What was increasingly important in a year of social isolation for so many was the need to continue our pastoral outreach to our Parish. We thank Anne Morgan in particular for organising her team to make phone calls to check in with and chat to people on their own, for helping to deliver food and doing the best we can to keep people in touch with St George's life.

Thanks also to Shirley Vann for thinking of and then organising our Tuesday night quizzes which so many have enjoyed on ZOOM. These have continued to this day with the only improvement we can suggest is some sort of handicap system to stop the Pask family from continually winning.

Despite the fact that the virus has had such an enormous impact on what we have been able to do in church, and the curtailment of almost all social activity, we did manage to hold our much-delayed APCM in October. That brought to a close John Hood's role as Churchwarden following his 4 years in the role, extended by the delay imposed by the pandemic. We thank John for all that he brought to the job of warden, and for all that he has done (and continues to do) around the church and grounds.

At that same meeting, we said thanks to Dawn Trimby who stepped down from her role as Church Treasurer after many years of dedicated service. St George's will be forever grateful for her enormous contribution to the smooth-running of our finances over such a long period.

In December we managed to hold an online Christmas raffle, brilliantly organised by Tony and Jane Rice-Oxley which was a tremendous success and raised an incredible sum (which was very welcome given the impact that the virus has had on our church finances).

We were also delighted to be able to hold our Christmas service of carols and readings, despite the difficulties. Whilst only the participants could attend

church in person, it was a wonderful service enjoyed by many online at home. It also brought an end to the tenure of Rod Starr as our much-loved organist and Director of Music. At his final Sunday service the following weekend, we waved him off with fond words, a hearty round of applause and some liquid refreshment for him to enjoy in retirement.

Whilst Rod departed, we were also pleased to welcome one important addition to our church. We are delighted that Alex Holmes has settled so seamlessly into her role as Parish Administrator. She has been for us a wonderful acquisition, helping us and Fr Colin in so many ways (even though much of her first year has been spent working from home).

And so that brought to an end a fairly traumatic year for us as a Parish, and of course for the country as a whole. We as wardens would like to record our thanks for everyone who has done so much to keep our Parish together and to those who quietly continue with their roles around the church. There are too many names to mention but they know who they are.

We also thank the members of our PCC who continued to serve (some for longer than they were planning) and for helping us wardens with encouragement, guidance and prayer in virtual meetings from home.

Finally, a word about our Parish Priest. We believe we are truly blessed to have Fr Colin to lead and guide our church through what has been a tremendously difficult year. He has been the first (and only church) in the Deanery to insist we open at the earliest possible opportunity (of which more in our next APCM report next year) and has always resolved to allow those who, like he, believe that the receiving of the blessed Sacrament in person where we possibly can is vitally important to our spiritual well-being. Yes, the church is of course more than the building. And yes of course we are so pleased with the success of our broadcasts. But the receiving of the sacrament on a Sunday and Wednesday is either everything or nothing. We are so grateful that Fr Colin is determined (and continues to be determined) that it is the former.

We give him enormous thanks for his dedication and hard work, his leadership and his thought-provoking and inspiring homilies. And we give thanks to God for sending him to us.

Chris Gadd / Rosy Stone

St George's Church Hall Report

2020 was not a good year for the hall as for everyone and everything else. January and February were much as usual but after that we had to close the

hall for extended periods of time because of Covid regulations. It was hard to keep up with all the various rules and regulations for use of a church hall and whilst use of the church itself was well covered in Diocesan reports, use of church halls was not made so clear.

We undertook a change of hall keys before the lockdown period as had been planned and this was done without problem. The hall remained open during a few phases of the lockdown but sadly we had to restrict use of toilets and the kitchen. The lack of use of the boiler and the dishwasher created their own problems as so often happens when equipment is underused. The boiler had to have a major repair whilst the dishwasher had to have several dry tubes replaced. Overall the hall lost some £2,200 over the course of the year.

The investigation into the church heating led to a major investigation in the boiler room below the hall as there was a regular amount of water across the floor. The heating problem in the church heating was cured within the church itself and not the hall sited boiler as it was the relay system which was at fault. However it led to further investigations as to the reason for the amount of water flushing down the boiler area and these investigations are ongoing at this time. We also turned back to an architect report dated 1999 when they pointed out, over the length of some 40 pages, that the hall was in need of considerable work even at that time. Their recommendation that the roof be retiled was carried out albeit recently and also the replacement of the front windows. However there would still appear to be a considerable number of points raised in that report which need further study.

Sadly we lost our major customer, Slimming World, who moved to the Catholic Church hall to enjoy better parking. This was a sad loss as we had done so much to accommodate all their requirements over the past two years.

Tony Rice-Oxley
Chair, Hall Committee

Mothers' Union Report (at Christ Church, Portsdown)

We were only able to have three monthly meetings in 2020 before they were sadly curtailed due to COVID-19.

The meeting in January was a Eucharist Service held in Christ Church Portsdown at which St George's ladies were welcomed into their branch and two new members were admitted.

Judith Cook, the speaker at our February meeting, spoke on the subject – entitled rather intriguingly – the Four R's. This was a most interesting talk

about 'Recycling' – the best ways to “Reduce”, “Re-use” “Re-cycle” and “Reclaim for energy”.

At the AGM in March the minutes of the last AGM were read, a new Secretary and two new Committee members were elected.

The Deanery Subs Day on 29th January was held in the hall of All Saints Church, Denmead, where MU Merchandise including Easter cards was available.

We were also able to order MU cards at Christmas and watch the Mothers' Union “Nine Lessons and Carols” on YouTube.

Janet Johnson

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral Committee has met just twice during 2020. The first was in person, on the 20th January and the second, via Zoom, on the 3rd June. Owing to the Pandemic, much of the Pastoral Committee's remit has had to be put on hold!

Obviously, throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, there has been no Sunday School, no integration between 8 and 10 o'clock congregations, no toddler group, no lent lunches and no pastoral or sick visiting. A list was drawn up of all vulnerable and alone people and, throughout the Covid situation, these people have been contacted by their allocated Pastoral person via the telephone.

Lesley Handy and Lisa Toft have resigned from the Pastoral Committee and I would like to thank them both for all their hard work over the years.

The majority of the matters addressed at the last Pastoral meeting are still on hold, due to the Pandemic, but hopefully it will not be too long now before things can start to get back to normal.

Anne Morgan
Chair Pastoral Committee

Safeguarding report 2020/21

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.

We are very lucky to have bereavement support services connected with St George's and it is positive to hear this service will be starting again shortly, following the impact of the pandemic. This service will initially be by appointment only. All new volunteers for this provision will be DBS checked, just as the main facilitator of the service is.

Survivor Care and Support

Churches can be well placed, often in the heart of our communities, to offer a safe place for survivors and victims' to come and share their experiences, and the Diocese of Portsmouth is committed to responding positively and compassionately to the needs of those who have suffered abuse.

The Portsmouth Diocese works in partnership with external services that specialise in supporting survivors/victims who have experienced abuse, and who can develop a programme of support and care that is centred around their needs.

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 follows the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and adults, as well as Church of England specific policy and practice.

I can confirm The PCC have continued to comply with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' -Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance, through:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church;
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation;
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons;
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

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**.

The PCC have also agreed to appoint a deputy safeguarding representative/officer and this role has been taken up by **Lynn Winter**, who will act as an additional person, who individuals from the congregation can approach & discuss concerns with if required, in Sonja's absence.

OR

If the matter is more urgent or high risk in relation to a child or adult & you are unable to speak with Sonja or Ian first, please contact the following, services or dial 999 if there is an immediate danger /immediate attention is required :-

Children services:

If you have any concerns because you think 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

Adult services:

If you have concerns or want to report you should contact Hampshire Adult Services:

0300 555 1386 during office hours 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday,
8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday

Out of Hours

Phone 0300 555 1373 (public and professionals) / Text 07565 205102 (hard of hearing/deaf clients only)

If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger, or requires immediate attention, call emergency services on 999.

Finding other help and support

- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are worried about a child.
- 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)

Coronavirus: advice and guidance

There are some important issues to bear in mind regarding safeguarding while restrictions remain in place during the coronavirus pandemic.

www.portsmouth.anglican.org/safeguarding/coronavirus/advice-and-guidance/

There are additional links on the diocese website offering the following advice & information:

- Advice for parishes that are considering volunteering to help those in their local community
- Advice from the national C of E about recognising and reporting safeguarding issues during the outbreak
- Advice for parishes that are communicating with young people during lockdown
- Information about how the Disclosure and Barring Service [DBS] is helping during the coronavirus outbreak
- Information about where to get help with regard to domestic abuse
- An update from the national C of E safeguarding team regarding COVID-19
- Some FAQs from the national C of E safeguarding team about action during the outbreak

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 Safeguarding Training & Development Policy 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. All PCC members are expected to complete basic awareness safeguarding training online, as standard.

The church safeguarding representative will use the diocese training & development policy as a guide, when requesting certain individuals in paid or unpaid roles in the church, need to complete certain compulsory training. Due to the current backlog in training caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing rules, Leadership and Domestic Abuse training will initially be by invitation only & Safer Recruitment training is currently unavailable. Basic Awareness and Foundation training can be completed online.

Sonja Pask
Safeguarding Officer and DBS validator

George's Men

As with much else in 2020, George's Men sadly were not able to meet for their social get togethers as has happened in previous years. There were no curries, no Christmas skittles, indeed virtually nothing at all.

In Lent 2020 we did start to take out the panels of the windows in church and got to clean probably two thirds of them. Sadly, as we worked our way round over a period of four weeks, the guidance changed and we had to stop.

A small team of George's Men did manage to put up some lights on the tower for Christmas for which members of the public and the church were very grateful.

Other than that, we very much hope for a more social 2021 when the regulations allow.

Chris Gadd

St George's Ladies report

Because of Covid the St George's Ladies Group only met at the beginning of the year. We met for our post Christmas meal at Barnards Restaurant in Denmead when 28 ladies attended and a lovely evening was had by all. A member of the congregation also put on a Scentsy evening in February and Rev Sandra led one of our Lent meetings before everything shut down. However the Ladies Group do have a group set up on Facebook so have kept in touch that way during the year.

Rosemary Monk

Walsingham Cell Report

Sadly because of Covid our annual trip to Walsingham with our friends from Havant had to be cancelled. We met at St Faith's Church for afternoon tea on 8th March to discuss our forthcoming visit but this sadly then could not go ahead as the Shrine was closed due to lockdown on Low Sunday when we usually go. Sadly the 2021 trip also had to be cancelled but we look forward to our annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham resuming in 2022 from April 22nd to 24th. Further information from Linda Wainwright and Jane Cook

Linda Wainwright / Jane Cook

Holy Dusters

A great big Thank You to the ladies that have carried out essential cleaning during the last year during which time the long-standing Holy Dusters team have been unable to operate due to the pandemic restrictions. Despite much reduced use of the Church, the need to resume a regular cleaning programme is much needed.

An appeal for new volunteers is being made to enable the resumption of regular cleaning (clearing of cobwebs, dusting, glass cleaning, sweeping, etc.) so that we may maintain St George's as a pleasant and welcoming church. The aim is to set up two groups, each one cleaning monthly. Do please consider volunteering to join the team, the commitment would not exceed an hour and a half each month. Should you wish to join the team, please contact John Hood or the Churchwardens.

John Hood

Church Flower Fund

This year has been a very strange year due to the Pandemic. The church was closed for part of the time when services were live streamed. We managed to do some flower arrangements once the church was open again, particularly Harvest and Christmas and I would like to thank my small team of flower arrangers for their time spent doing this.

We do use our large stock of artificial flowers with fresh greenery as flowers are so expensive but if you wish to donate for flowers for a special occasion please speak to June Diaper or Lynn Winter who will be pleased to advise you.

June Diaper

Bible Reading Fellowship

The number of people subscribing to the Bible Reading Fellowship New Daylight notes now stands at seventeen. 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, I ensured everyone received their copies throughout the pandemic, delivering to those people who were unable to attend Church.

The Group subscription rate from May 2021 is £4.75 per copy. I have sample copies available and I can arrange new subscriptions at any time of year. There is now the option to receive the notes via a computer or mobile phone if preferred.

Linda Wainwright

Deanery Synod Report

Three meetings were held in 2020 – 6th February, 24th June (cancelled) and 9th November. St George's was represented at Deanery Synod by Candy Williams and Barbie Lloyd (until the APCM in October) when Tony Rice-Oxley took over.

Summary taken from Deanery Synod meeting held at St James' Church, Emsworth on 6th February 2020:

Introduction from the Host Parish, and Opening Prayer, Revd Andrew Sheard, Rector, St Thomas a Becket, Warblington, with St James', Emsworth who expressed his delight that Synod was meeting at St James' and talked about everything that goes on in the two churches in his care.

Licensing of Revd Andrew Sheard as Joint Area Dean - the Venerable Gavin Collins, Archdeacon of the Meon, introduced himself and explained that he had been covering during the period awaiting the appointment of a new Archdeacon of Portsdown. He praised the ministry under Andrew's care as rector, describing Emsworth as being a "slick and wise" church. He also thanked Revd Canon Karina Green for her five years' service as the previous Joint Area Dean and her assistance, temporarily, as Acting Archdeacon of Portsdown. The Archdeacon, on behalf of Bishop Christopher, then performed the official licensing ceremony of Andrew Sheard as Joint Area Dean for Havant, a tenure of five years. Ian Snares then joined Gavin and Andrew and prayers were said for their combined ministry.

Guest Speaker, Ian Coombs, Diocesan Ambassador to the Children's Society: spoke about the Children's Society and its purpose in today's world, and to look at how churches might choose to support the Society. He gave an overview of the Society and described events that take place.

He explained The Good Childhood Report which is sent to the government and shows the changes occurring in childhood, such as the anxiety a child experiences, which lingers sometimes for up to 10 years, when a family suffers financial shock. The Children's Society is working with councils to have a fund to help families at such times.

Ian stressed how important it is to look after children's mental health.

Currently the Society supports 13K youngsters, many with deep and complex needs. There are many others who could also be supported. Ian asked for the Deanery Synod members, and their wider communities, to pray for The Children's Society, and asked them either to become campaigners or to identify those who might be enthusiastic. The Society is an Anglican society, the churches can share ownership in its purpose.

Fundraising events - Ian said that Christingle services raised £1m a year, as did the Society's collection boxes and they have many new ideas and are keen to help at special services, talk to groups, schools etc. Ian brought

many brochures offering practical and spiritual help for members to take away.

To contact Ian for advice or to invite him to any events/presentations, his email is ianncoombs@gmail.com.

Finance Report: Paul Franks, Deanery Treasurer

Capitation Fees: these are £10 per 100 people on the Electoral Roll. All monies had been collected and Paul thanked all the treasurers for their work. Because there is a surplus in the Deanery Account, Paul recommended the Capitation Fee remains the same for 2020. Jonathan Jeffery seconded the proposal and it was unanimously accepted.

Deanery Accounts to 31st December 2019: Expenditure was down on the previous year due mainly to fewer meetings and no lay training expenses. The account had a surplus of £117.37 and the balance brought forward from the previous year was £1,370.22.

Koforidua: Voluntary donations had been requested, and £600 received. A donation of £500 was made to Koforidua in December to pay for training of an evangelist minister. Because there was money in the account from donations, this could be done immediately and the minister is on the course already. The balance in the account is £1,834.30. Paul proposed that voluntary donations should continue to be requested. This was seconded by Vickie Morgan, and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Parish Share: The Parish Share contributions had been discussed at the previous Deanery Standing and Finance Committee, and it was noted that every parish had paid their full share, some slightly over. A big, big thank you is due.

Andrew thanked Paul for his work as Deanery Treasurer, and reiterated Paul's thanks to the parishes and their treasurers for the excellent results. He noted that Havant Deanery was just one of two deaneries in the Portsmouth Diocese to have so succeeded. He said that a letter was being sent to each treasurer in recognition of their much appreciated efforts.

Area Deans' Notices and Any Other Business

- *Vacancies Update*

Ian asked for prayers for Richard Hutchins, and his wife Diana, on his licensing as Priest in Charge of **Catherington and Clanfield** on Saturday 14th March at 4pm, at Catherington. The **Purbrook** appointment is being reviewed and the exciting developments will be announced soon. It is hoped to advertise the **House for Duty post at BCI/RC** within a few weeks; the meeting was asked to pray that God provides the right person as this post is critical to Revds Vickie and Richard being both able to work with the six parishes and to think about mission and evangelism in this large part of our deanery. The **Lay Chair** role has been unfilled for a few years – Andrew and Ian are keen to end this unsatisfactory situation. Andrew emphasised that it is important that the House of Laity has representation at diocese level – he had been conscious of this lack when recently discussing the Live|Pray|Serve

strategy with the Bishop. He stressed that Deanery Synod comprises two houses, one of Clergy and one of Laity, and that it is the House of Laity's responsibility to elect one of their representatives to be Chair alongside the Area Deans. Andrew ended by saying that it is not as onerous a role as it might have appeared to be in the past, that it is vital to the balance of Deanery Synod, and it would be wonderful if a Lay Chair could be elected to start when the next three-year Synod term starts on 1st June. He encouraged everyone to think seriously about whether they could commit, or if they knew someone who might be suitable. Revd Jenny Rowley will be joining the deanery as **Archdeacon of Portsdown**, with her licensing scheduled for around Easter. The meeting was asked to pray for her as she prepares to move.

- **IDWAL**

As had been discussed at the November Synod, Bishops from across the Anglican Communion, with their wives, will be attending the Lambeth Conference and also spending time in their link deaneries. Bishop Felix will be visiting Havant deanery on Sunday 19th and Monday 20th July. A programme of events is being considered. *Deanery Synod elections 2020* Ian discussed the Deanery Synod elections due to take place at the APCMs this Spring. He encouraged current members to re-stand, and asked everyone to think about working together as a deanery. *Speakers and topics* The Area Deans would like to hear any suggestions the Synod representatives might have for both speakers and/or topics. It is important to see what is around, and to support Christian and church organisations nationally and internationally.

Deanery Synod Meeting to be held on 24th June 2020 - CANCELLED

Summary taken from Deanery Synod meeting held on Zoom on 9th November 2020:

This meeting was taken up with discussion around the possible restructuring of Havant Deanery which will be reported on in next year's APCM report when final decisions have been made.

Jane Cook
on behalf of Deanery Synod reps

St George's Communications Team

Social Media / Live Streaming

The lockdown has changed our approach to social media out of all recognition. What was once a relatively small part of our outreach has

become, over the course of 2020 and the various lockdowns, a vital tool to engage with the Parish.

The broadcasting of our services has of course been the principal change to our virtual output. From the early faltering starts from the vicarage living room, through to beaming out from the Lady Chapel to the very polished services we now broadcast, our services have attracted a lot of interest and average approximately 100 views each Sunday (which may include several people in a household so the number could be significantly greater). It is our intention to continue broadcasting even when things return to normal.

Our Facebook page attracts considerable interest and we have approximately 1000 people who have liked, and regularly follow, the St George's Church page. It continues to be a very important part of our communication strategy.

Chris Gadd / Richard Spurgeon / John Johnson

St George's News and Website

2020 proved to be a difficult year. Christmas 2017 when the magazine was redesigned into A4 full colour format, the idea was to focus much more on pictorial content, thanks to the ability to print photographs in high quality colour. With the onset of the pandemic and "lockdown" not much was happening and any sort of news became in short supply, and especially photograph opportunities. Finding content has been challenging.

Fortunately the magazine has an archive of past material going back many years, and we resorted to reviving some articles from years gone by. But we do very much need new authors of interesting original articles, and if you would like to try out your writing skills your contributions will be hugely appreciated. Why not give it a go?

As always, our Advertisers are important to us, and with businesses under pressure, retaining some of our advertisers may not be easy. The advertising is reasonably priced and if you have influence on a local business to direct some of their advertising budget in our direction it will be a great help to the Church finances. Also, please use those businesses that advertise with us when you can, and let them know that their advert in St George's News influenced your buying decision.

Turning now to the website, this has become a crucial means of communication, and reference point for supporting On-Line streaming, and even a means of distributing the magazine at times when visiting the church was not possible. Streamed video of our services on the Internet became a

medium whereby many are able to take part in church services remotely, and proved to be a necessity which is now seen as permanent, especially as viewing figures indicate clearly that the streamed services are attended by large numbers who were not a part of the regular congregation. This COVID has directed us towards a new means of outreach. And everyone has found a new meaning for the word “Zoom”.

John Johnson

St George's Servers

This year's servers' report will be somewhat different to any I have previously written!

Of my current band of 20 servers, only 6 of us have been prepared to serve during the Pandemic. Many thanks to Norma, Tony, Sonja, Alice and Amber, who have supported me throughout this difficult time.

Services have been very different, with just 2 acolytes at the 10 o'clock Eucharist on Sundays. There have been no servers at other masses. We are all looking forward to when we can, once again, have our full team back on duty! Hopefully this will not be too far away now. Many thanks to Father Colin, who has ensured that St. George's has been such a safe place to worship in during the Covid-19 scare. Far, far safer than being in a supermarket! I do hope that once things go back to normal, all servers will return and we can continue as before and be the envy of other churches in the area!

If anyone else would like to join the serving team, please let me know. You will receive all the training you need to assist at the altar.

Anne Morgan
Head Server

Sunday School

Unfortunately, we have not been able to worship and work together as a Sunday School for most of the year. We have missed their cheerful enthusiasm and valued contributions, not only in Sunday School, but in our corporate worship too. We look forward to welcoming the children back as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Sunday School Team

St George's Parent and Toddler Group

The Parent and Toddler group was thriving at the beginning of 2020, with several new members. Before lockdown we were already using disinfectant wipes and dishwashing plastic toys but keeping equipment sanitised around toddlers is obviously very difficult. We missed saying goodbye to our rising fives at the end of July. I don't know when it will be feasible to re-open fully but we hope it won't be long.

Rosemary Monk

St George's Choir

Sadly 2020 wasn't to be the choir's usual mix of singing for regular worship and special Feast Days. We started the year normally enough but when Covid-19 reared its ugly head everything changed and sadly we were in lockdown through Holy Week and the Easter Festivities - always a highlight for the choir. As restrictions allowed, and sadly with some of our members shielding, a reduced number of us resumed singing, with socially distanced rehearsals and singing a motet for the Sunday morning eucharist. Things remained sporadic throughout the year with us rehearsing and singing at whatever services we were allowed and at Christmas those who felt able to support the Carol Service sang a lovely selection of carols. Sadly the final Sunday of 2020 saw us say goodbye to Rod. For the motet we chose to sing Rod's own setting of 'There is no Rose' which is one of the choirs favourites. We had thoroughly enjoyed our time singing with Rod with many highlights through the years. We know 2021 will start with more restrictions but hope we will soon be able to return to singing with our new Director of Music, David Cain with whom we are looking forward to working.

Julia Spurgeon
Choir Leader

St George's Band

The church band has not had the opportunity to perform during the pandemic, numbers are stable but will fall as younger members move onto 'A' level colleges so I am concerned about how we can support the church in the future. If anyone I don't know about plays an instrument please can you make yourself known to me so I can include any possible new members in future events.

Don Lloyd

St George's Social and Fundraising Committee

Although we did not have the expected celebrations that we were planning to celebrate the 50 years since our church was extended, we did manage to have some social events as well as raising some funds for our church. We started the year with a Burns Night celebration where Scottish festivities were the order of the night. This was followed with a celebration following the Candlemas service, where a shared lunch was enjoyed. The Parish Show, The Bright Side of Life was enjoyed by all those who participated in it as well as those that watched the performance.

We then had the pandemic to contend with. All the planned events were cancelled or postponed and other means of socialising at a distance and trying to raise funds for the church were explored. We started with an on-line quiz and those that managed to master zoom enjoyed a regular evening of taking it in turns to quiz each other on various subjects. It was lovely to be able to listen to the banter between the participants.

We then planned an open table top sale but unfortunately had to cancel as the risk of spreading the disease increased. We did manage to continue with the Church Open Day and prayer tree and some of our congregation was able to have private prayer and line coins up to lengths of 2 metres. The St Georges gift day went ahead as well as the sale of book of poems. We continued raising money with the Bonus ball, Easy funding etc and rounded off the year with a raffle which due to the generosity of the congregation, raised some much-needed funds for the church.

This year we look forward to resuming some of our usual social and fundraising occasions as soon as we are able. If you have any good ideas or would like to get involved, please speak to one of the Social and Fundraising committee.

Shirley Vann
Chair – Social and Fundraising Committee

St George's Bonus Ball Fundraiser

Our weekly bonus ball fun fundraiser continues with a regular donation being made to church funds. £520 is scheduled to be paid in each year. We have some 40 players whose £1 a week secures them a number in the weekly national Lotto draw. If their number comes up as the bonus ball then they take that week's prize which is generally about £32. If no one holds that number then the amount moves on to the next week making a double payment and so on. We keep £100 as the maximum in any one week.

We are always happy to have new members and now that the 100 club fundraiser has ceased we hope that some of those members will join the bonus ball fundraiser instead. We welcome any new players who can join at the four quarterly renewal times, 27th March, June, September and December.

Tony Rice-Oxley

www.stgeorges.church