

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF STOCKPORT, ST GEORGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1134170

Details

Other names	ST GEORGE STOCKPORT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-02-08
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Provide a Christian place of worship running under the auspices of the Church of England. This extends to providing Sunday Clubs for children, Praise and Play meetings on a Monday morning for toddlers, a variety of associations for instructiona and social events for all groups within the community.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Stockport

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£226,275	£178,365	-	-
2023-12-31	£529,225	£168,203	£605,454	2
2022-12-31	£174,961	£167,535	-	-
2021-12-31	£155,765	£161,955	-	-
2020-12-31	£148,961	£140,718	-	-

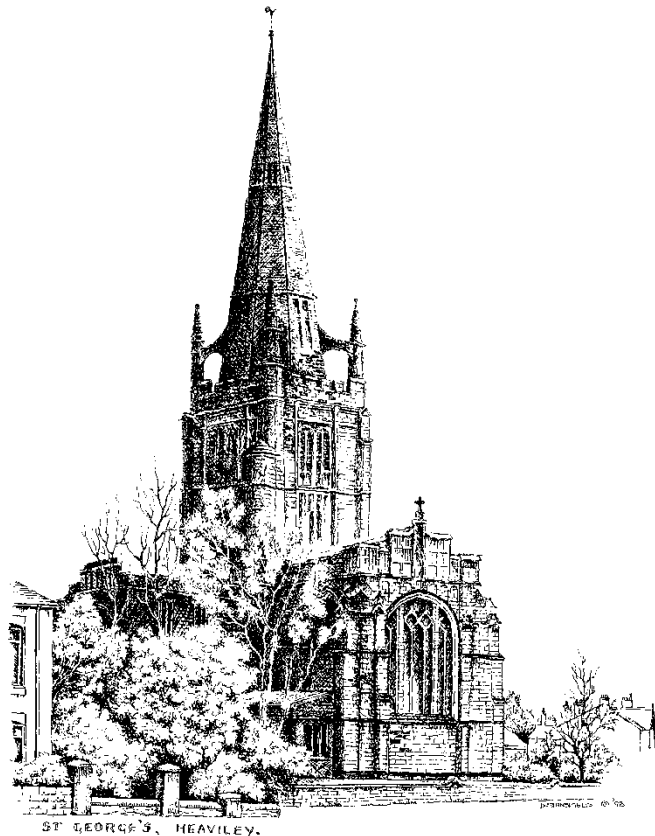
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrea Gaye Millington		2026-04-26
David Davenport		2025-04-27
Dr ANDREW CHARLES REGAN		2013-04-23
Dr Morag Alison Jean Ranson		2026-04-26
Hannah Lucy Whitehouse		2024-04-21
Hazel Jenkins		
Ieva Tsymbala		2025-04-27
James Roy Hibbert		2019-04-28
Janet Neilson		2025-04-27
Lilla Ann Clark		2024-04-21
Louise Margaret Clark		2024-04-21
Peter Smith		2025-04-27
Rev Jennifer Susan McKAY		2022-10-02
Rita Waters		2023-04-23
Robert Mantle		2024-04-21
SUSAN FRANCES BURT		2022-04-24
Susan Marion Cordingley		2020-10-25
Tracey Lorraine Bennett		2026-04-26

Accounts

The Parish Church of St. George, Stockport.

**REPORT and ACCOUNTS
of the
Parochial Church Council**



**presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 27th April 2025

Administrative Information

The Parish of Stockport St George is located on Buxton Road, Heaviley, and the daughter church of St Gabriel is located at Clover Avenue, Adswood.

The parish is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England.

PCC members who served during 2024 with future retirement dates in brackets are:

From January to May 2024

<i>Vicar:</i>	Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall	Chair
<i>Associate Priest</i>	Revd Dr Jenny McKay	<i>(Minister in secular employment)</i>
<i>Readers</i>	Mr Peter Hall	<i>(Also Deanery Synod)</i>
	Mrs Rita Waters	<i>(Also Deanery Synod)</i>
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Andrew Regan	<i>(Also Treasurer)</i>
	Mrs Hazel Jenkins	
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Mrs Sue Cordingly	<i>(2026) Assistant Safeguarding Office</i>
	Mr Ian Roberts	<i>(to November 2023)</i>
<i>Elected members:</i>		
Mrs Sheila Daly	(2026)	
Mrs Marion McCall	(2026)	
Mrs Jennie Vandyes	(2026)	
Mr James Hibbert	(2026)	<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>
Mr Tommy Bowden	(2025)	
Mrs Sue Burt	(2025)	<i>Deputy Warden Assistant PCC Secretary</i>
Mrs Lois Kelly	(2025)	<i>PCC Secretary</i>
Mr Philip Warner	(2025)	
Mrs Penny Bisby	(2024)	
Mrs Janet Neilson	(2024)	
Mrs Morag Ranson	(2024)	
Mr William Hesson	(2024)	

Co-opted Members

Mr John Hardy *Deputy Warden*

Independent Examiner: Mr Paul Clancy

PCC Members from May 2024

<i>Vicar:</i>	Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall	Chair
<i>Associate Priest</i>	Revd Dr Jenny McKay	<i>(Minister in secular employment)</i>
<i>Curate</i>	Rev Jane Crook	
<i>Readers</i>	Mr Peter Hall	<i>(Also Deanery Synod)</i>
	Mrs Rita Waters	<i>(Also Deanery Synod)</i>
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Andrew Regan	<i>(Also Treasurer)</i>
	Mrs Hazel Jenkins	
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Mrs Sue Cordingley	<i>(2026) Assistant Safeguarding Officer. Safeguarding Officer from October 2024</i>

Elected members:

John Hardy	(2027)	
Louise Clark	(2027)	
Lilla Clark	(2027)	
Robert Mantle	(2027)	
Hannah Whitehouse	(2027)	
Mrs Marion McCall	(2026)	
Mrs Jennie Vandyes	(2026)	
Mr James Hibbert	(to Oct 2024)	<i>Safeguarding Officer to October 2024</i>
Mr Tommy Bowden	(2025)	
Mrs Sue Burt	(2025)	<i>Deputy Warden Assistant PCC Secretary</i>
Mrs Lois Kelly	(2025)	<i>PCC Secretary</i>
Mr Philip Warner	(2025)	

Structure and Governance

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission, number 1134170.

This report covers the activities of the two churches and of St George's Church Stockport Preservation Trust. The Trust was constituted under a trust deed dated 1st August 1990. While legally a separate charity, the Trust is regarded by the Diocesan Authorities as a connected charity, consequently its transactions and dealings are included in the accounts of the PCC.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All members of the two churches are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This fulfils our public benefit requirement

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees and project groups, which meet between meetings of the PCC.

The project groups in 2024 were for the Christmas Tree Festival, the Grapevine editorial group, the ministry team and the fabrics group

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

The Preservation Trust

The objectives of the Preservation Trust include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church and buildings. The Trustees may also finance other work connected with the voluntary aided school, youth work in the parish, or as agreed by the trustees.

The full PCC met 6 times during 2024 with an average level of attendance of 72%

Achievements and Performance

The Electoral Roll total for St. George, Stockport PCC was 182 at the end of 2024.

- Robert Mantle, Lilla Clark and Hannah Whitehouse were elected to the PCC for the first time.
- Louise Clark was re-elected onto the PCC
- James Hibbert resigned from the PCC and as Safeguarding Officer at the September PCC meeting
- Sue Cordingley was appointed Safeguarding Officer at the September PCC meeting
- Dry rot on the pillar in the Parish Room was treated and the wainscot replaced
- The Sound Sphere was taken down and light bulbs replaced in 5 of the lights in the Nave
- A roof survey was carried out and the roof and gutters were cleaned
- A quote to renew the roof over the bells was approved
- A faculty was obtained to install exterior lights over the West Door, North Porch and Archdeacon's Door
- Faculties were obtained for the Chamber organ in the side chapel and for new curtains in the sanctuary.
- The Quinquennial Inspection had to be postponed as the architect was ill
- The PCC applied for and were granted a Warm Spaces grant.
- Improvements to the curate's house were completed in April and the house has been let since June

Church Attendance

The average weekly attendance, at church, for St. George's was:

(NB last year's figures in italics)

Choral Evensong	38.2	<i>33.0</i>
Early Communion	11.6	<i>12.0</i>
Parish Communion	93.7	<i>88.2</i>
Praise & Play	25.0	<i>28.5</i>
Wednesday Communion	17.5	<i>17.8</i>
Wednesday MP	8.7	<i>9.1</i>

Baptism Assistants Team

The team has enjoyed an amazing 2024.

44 baptisms in total

14 adults (including 10 total immersions) and 1 set of twins

The baptism team now look forward to 2025 so we can continue to enjoy assisting with the very special Holy Baptism Service.

Brenda Swindells

Bell Ringers

Sunday service ringing and Monday practices have been maintained with only a few occasions when there have been insufficient numbers available. Our regular practices have enabled us to maintain a good standard of ringing on Sundays. We continue to extend our change ringing repertoire. Adding to this gradually has also assisted us in the change ringing learning process. Our more recently recruited learners continue to grow in confidence and are making steady progress.

Unlike the previous two years, there have not been the important state occasions for which we have participated in specially organised ringing. We rang for six weddings during the year.

Once again, the favourable weather enabled visitors to participate in two tower tours for Heritage Day in September. Thank you to all who were able to assist.

The support of the Deputy Ringing Master has been especially appreciated, as has the commitment and dedication of all the band, for which my continued sincere thanks.

Andrew Mayes - Ringing Master

Church Choir

2024 was another busy and successful year for choir, and one that saw enormous changes to the younger membership of the choir as the year progressed.

Aside from singing at the usual round of Sunday services, particular highlights during the early part of the year included providing music for the Epiphany Carol Service and the Licensing of Reverend Jane Crook as Curate at Choral Evensong for Candlemas, with the Bishop of Stockport in attendance at the latter.

The choir sang for many of the Services during Holy Week and Easter, with large-scale services once again taking place on Palm Sunday and Easter Day evenings.

Thursday 9th May was a busy day for the choir as they provided music for a funeral service at St. Thomas Becket, Chapel-en-le-Frith (Diocese of Derby) and sang for the Deanery Ascension Day Service at St George's the same evening.

In June the choir performed such items as 'Look at the world' – John Rutter and 'Badgers and Hedgehogs' – Andrew Carter at the annual Pet Blessing Service.

The next major event in the choir's year was the 2024 Summer Tour, during which the choir visited Blackburn Cathedral over the weekend of Saturday 31st August and Sunday 1st September. This tour booking had originally been planned for May 2020, so it was nice to finally have the opportunity to sing in the glorious acoustics of Blackburn Cathedral.

The choir received a tremendously warm welcome from the clergy and music staff at the Cathedral, and an invitation has been extended for the choir to return to Blackburn for another visit just after Easter in April 2026.

Returning to St George's following the summer break, the important services came thick and fast with the choir singing at Choral Mattins (for Heritage Day) and the Battle of Britain Service over the weekend of Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September. That weekend also saw a choir walk take place, along the old Woodhead Railway line near Barnsley to Thurgoland railway tunnel. The concrete-lined tunnel has a vast acoustic, with an echo of around 12 seconds.

A group of choir members spent around 45 minutes singing a cappella pieces in the tunnel – much to the entertainment (and bemusement) of passing ramblers and cyclists!

On Saturday 2nd November the choir hosted its first "Be a Chorister for a day" event (BACFAD) with the aim of recruiting more children to the Junior Choir. The event was largely organised and managed by Hannah Whitehouse, with a team of volunteers from the choir and wider Church family helping out on the day.

The event was an overwhelming success, and as a result we welcomed seven new junior choristers to the choir.

Sunday 3rd November saw the choir provide music at the annual celebration of life Service for All Souls'. This service continues to be a deeply moving occasion and is a very important event in the calendar for the choir.

The year drew to a close with services celebrating Christ the King, the Advent Carol Service, and the annual Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

The Junior Choristers provided music at the three Christmas Eve Christingle Services, and a small group of adults sang for Midnight Communion and the Christmas Day Service.

2024 saw a significant increase in the number of children in the choir, and by the year's end 23 children were actively taking part in the choir week by week.

Thanks must go to the team of people who have continued to provide support to me in my role as Director of Music. Roger Briscoe continues to offer his services as our Associate Director of Music - often at great expense to himself - and we simply wouldn't be able to achieve the standards we set ourselves without his skilled accompaniment at rehearsals, evening services and major Festivals.

Personally, I continue to find it a real struggle to 'manage' the choir on my own each Sunday from behind the organ console and would dearly love to have a second pair of hands to assist on a regular basis.

Our Junior Choir Assistant, Hannah Whitehouse, deserves special recognition for the immense amount of work she does with the Junior Choir. Providing tuition for the Voice for Life medal scheme, managing to find robes for all new choir members, alongside her work as Choir Librarian. Thanks also to Paige Wright Harrison for assisting Hannah in marshalling the Junior Choristers so well during rehearsals and services in church.

I look forward to the year ahead with much excitement, particularly given that the musical life of the choir is thriving, and that we continue to encourage and nurture so many young people through the power of music.

James Hibbert Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival was yet again an enjoyable occasion, and we received many compliments on how lovely and welcoming the church looked. We were delighted to welcome about 3,000 people through the doors to enjoy the imagination and craftsmanship of those who had decorated the trees. It was good to have new exhibitors as well as welcoming back old friends and in all we had about 75 illuminated trees.

Many thanks to all who assisted in whatever way by volunteering time, cakes, advertising and any of the other myriads of jobs, your wonderful efforts also helped raise over £8,000 for church funds.

Hazel Jenkins

Garden Gnomes

Looking back at the Gnomes' articles in the St. George's monthly Magazine, it seems the past year has been very similar to the previous one in terms of our activities

The amount of wet weather was again significantly more than we have been used to. It has been disappointing, but if we are properly clad, we can still get physical benefit from being active in the open air.

Windy days have also been more frequent and intense, adding small branches to the usual debris of twigs and leaves for us to clear

Nevertheless, we feel we have managed to maintain tidiness together with colour in the garden area via plants and shrubbery. We are particularly pleased the flower bed at the east end lawn, initiated as part of the 125th Anniversary of our church building, is now thriving as a rose bed. in the view of passers -by on the A6

Our thanks go to all those members of our church community who have provided plants, bulbs and financial donations to help us keep the gardens attractive and welcoming. We appreciate your support.

The gardening team are very much a 'mixed ability' group, with several members knowledgeable about the skills of gardening. Others are happy to do the less skilled but equally important tasks, - tidying up litter, weeding beds and paths in summer, collecting up leaves etc in the autumn.

There is plenty to do and we would like to increase our number as some members have had to retire or have moved away.

It has been good to welcome Liz Bailey to our number in recent months and we can promise a warm welcome to any new helpers who might like to join us on a Tuesday morning from about 9.30am onward with a welcome coffee break at about 11 am

For the record, there are still tasks carried over from last year's report to be addressed which will require professional input:

Pruning of the lime trees in the North Avenue

Cleaning of the War Memorial stonework

Re-laying or replacing the paving in the Garden of Remembrance

Clearing up the area around the compost heaps

Walter Stead – Novice Gnome

Grapevine

The magazine is published in 10 monthly issues per year except for July/August and December/January when a combined issue is published. The monthly magazine is a 24-page full colour issue including the July/August issue, while the December/January issue was expanded to a 28-page issue. During 2024 the magazine published a range of articles related to our Christian mission, with some of the highlights being articles on Bishop Sam's visit to officiate on the Baptism and Confirmation service in January, the seven last words of Christ on the cross, how to read the bible, the wisdom of the Proverbs, and pilgrimages.

The magazine continues to include regular contributions from the Garden Gnomes, Praise and Play, the Mothers' Union, and the Sunday Clubs as well as the monthly recipe provided by Pamela Ferguson. We have made Chris Dawson's *Reflections on Meditation* a monthly feature, which provides a series of insightful and reflective pieces on meditation and prayer.

Printing in full colour continues to provide opportunities to include attractive photo stories. These have included photo stories on the choir's summer tour to Blackburn Cathedral in late summer, the removal of the sound sphere, the Kelly's trip to Baarle-Nassau and Baarle-Hertog where you can stand with one foot in the Netherlands and the other in Belgium, and a wonderful double page spread of photographs from the congregation's visit to Llandudno in late April, which appeared in the June edition.

The December/January edition included a centre page spread of 12 of the best photos from the year. The magazine incorporates photos from contributors as well as using copyright free photos from the Unsplash and Geograph® Britain and Ireland websites but with a clear acknowledgement of the photographers. The magazine has also included a number of features on environmental issues as part of our Eco Church mission.

During 2024 we sadly included obituaries for Jose Westwood, Marjorie Lees, Stephen Jones, Rosie Stead and Bill Roughley.

The magazine committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month ahead of the publication of the magazine at the beginning of each month. With the passing of Rosie Stead in June 2024 our group has lost a tireless driving force, regular contributor, organiser, and inspirational friend. Rosie contributed to the magazine over many years, with obituary editor being one of her many indispensable roles. Writing her obituary demonstrated how skilled she was in this role. Kate Stephenson has kindly taken over this very challenging role. We thank all of our regular contributors without whom we would not be able to produce such a high-

quality magazine each month. We also thank Angela Foulkes for her work with Andrew Regan undertaking final proofing of the magazine text ahead of the publication. After several years of having a vacant editor role, I have agreed to formally take on the role of editor.

Andy Clark

Handbell Ringers

We don't really have anything to report. People ask me what I will do if/when I retire. There are so many things that I can do including reestablishing St George's handbell ringers!

Andy Clark

Inspire Café Church 2024

The relaxed feel of this service appealed to a number of people as we shared fellowship and food together around the tables.

The music was a mix of traditional and the more modern, encouraging people to try out some of the less familiar tunes as well as give voice to the known.

On Remembrance Sunday, we had a Taizé style café church which led us on a different musical path with the gentle repetitions creating an awesome sound as the sung responses grew in confidence.

These services are structured in the way that they have confessions, bible readings, a talk and a blessing but they have a flexibility so that people should feel comfortable in coming along and resting in God's presence.

Come and see.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Lent Breakfasts

The Breakfasts followed the usual formula – five consecutive Saturday mornings in the Chapel from 9.30 to 11.0. We began on 17 February and ended on 16 March. Breakfast was served at 9.30, the talks followed at 10.0 with a time for questions before we finished at 11.0.

This year's topic was: "Alternative Ministries – Meeting People Where They Are." We looked at four ministries outside the confines of formal church. (Numbers attending each session are in brackets at the end of each summary.)

In the first session, our own Jenny McKay talked to us about her ministry as a Minister in Secular Employment. Working as a vet. within a research context, she

leads a team of people. Within that context her ministry is not overt. It is about her relationship with and support for those she works with. (20)

On 24 February Howie Pickering, known to many of us for his association with bikers, talked to us about the work of the Waterways Chaplains. They minister to people travelling and living on Britain's canals. More people now live on them than did at the height of the Industrial Revolution - people escaping difficulties in life, others unable to afford a house, and so on. Chaplains help them access services as well as providing pastoral care and a listening ear. (24)

Abigail Ogier talked to us about being a chaplain in a Nursing Home. She called her talk "Company on the Final Lap." Abigail said it's about being flexible in approach, fitting to the needs of the individual, thinking on your feet - especially when you are about to sing, "What a friend we have in Jesus" and someone shouts out, "He's no friend of mine..." (16)

Our final talk on 16 March was by Tina Rimmer, a former Street Pastor. She told us of the work of the Street Pastors who had been based in Hazel Grove. Tina told of how, working in pairs on Friday and Saturday nights, they interacted and supported those they encountered on a night out. Hazel Grove, with its pubs and takeaways was surprisingly busy. (16)

On 16 March we held our usual reflection and discussion session. As well as exploring the individual impact each speaker had made on each of us, we marvelled at the variety of Christian ministry in our communities. (13)

Once again, I would like to record our thanks to all the speakers, to Peter Smith and his team for setting up and providing breakfast, and to Sue Cordingley, Marion McCall and Morag Ranson for their support in organising these Lent Prayer Breakfasts.

Chris Dawson

Linen Guild

The small group continues to care for all the linen used during the services.

Pat Rigley

Messy Church for Adults

As adults, we don't always get the time to be creative, so it was wonderful to meet together on two evenings this year to focus on Easter and Christmas whilst having the opportunity to meet new people and to have some creative fun.

We enjoyed hot cross buns at Easter and made door wreaths, table flower arrangements, crosses made from nails and Easter cards.

We enjoyed mince pies at Christmas, as you might expect, along with some warming non-alcoholic mulled wine. We made table decorations, door wreaths, tree decorations and cards, Rocky Road Christmas pudding, cards and had a go at a glo in the dark candle holder

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Messy Church Bake Off

For something that started as a children's Messy Church activity, this has emerged as a firm favourite with adults locally and across the globe. Thanks for tuning in.

It's amazing how natural it has become to bake and talk about Jesus at the same time – an aspect of multi-tasking that I hadn't envisaged.

Thankfully the products of my endeavours are shared with ministry teams, clergy chapters and diocesan meetings who graciously eat the products out of politeness I imagine.

Offerings have ranged from mince pie brownies, and then an extension of that as I tried Brookies, a marriage of Cookies and Brownies, and the onto Icelandic Marriage cake which I made for my parent's 66th wedding anniversary and then overcooked it to the extent that my Mum gamely tried to slice it with an electric carving knife!

It has been a true delight to share this ministry with you over the years. I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Messy Church for Children

We met in church for our Easter session and there are some lovely pictures in the magazine of children making beautiful spring flower shapes, chocolate crispy nests and even a quiet corner for people to do puzzles.

Our Christmas session saw the children making crowns, cards and stars along with many other things and they were pleased to take home a goodie bag that include chocolate. We were delighted that several of the families from the hotel came along to join in.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union have had a very happy and successful year with 3 new members, Gaynor, Marissa and Sarah and Andrea has transferred from another branch. We now have mother and daughter as members, Brenda and Sarah.

During the year we have had a varied programme, Afternoon Tea and a Strawberry Tea as fund raisers. Peter Ball spoke about his experience as a Judge, Brenda Baxendale spoke about Easter women, Janet Neilson gave us a Musical Afternoon, Linda Brook shared her experiences as Mayor, deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Visiting Angels came to tell us about the benefits we are entitled to, our Director of Music, James, shared his Christmas Desert Island discs, we made boxes and filled them with chocolates with Enid. Vicar Elaine conducted a communion service and also gave many interesting facts about weddings when members brought items from their own weddings, photographs, dresses, invitations, cards and service sheets.

We have continued to give simple prayer books at Baptism services and Bibles to couples who are married in church, the group has knitted soft toys to give to both Praise and Play and the Pre-school play group and provided two baskets of chocolate for the CTF raffle. We are also collecting used biros and coloured pens to give to the school helping with their eco-friendly drive.

The branch has also raised £300 for MU charities.

We are a very friendly group and welcome visitors and new members at all our meetings.

Pat Rigley

Praise And Play

During this year both Sue Burt and Lois Kelly stood down (after 15 years and 13 years respectively), running the group.

Praise and Play continued to meet on a Tuesday morning in the Parish Room, supported by myself, Tracey, Marris, Andrea and Kim, along with Elaine

We have had a number of children, and their adults attend each week with a number of newcomers who have also attended regularly.

The format of the group remains the same – refreshments, play, organized activities/ crafts, singing, story time and prayers.

Thank you for your support.

Sue Cordingley

Prayer Chain

This past year has seen comings and goings both in the members of the prayer chain and in the people for whom we have prayed.

In terms of our prayers, we feel great joy when happy families feedback encouraging news about the outcomes of the improved conditions of their loved ones.

Sometimes the news can be sad, but I believe our prayers contribute some part to the easing of the passing of the loved ones.

We take no credit for any of these.

Our prayer chain has been active for a number of years now. It is an important way that members of the congregation can contribute to the important, behind the scenes work, we do. There are no meetings. Members receive an email from time to time requesting prayers for anonymous people needing prayerful support.

As you can tell, we welcome new members to the team. Please email me, Phoebe, at marshyreeds@gmail.com to join our team.

Most importantly, I wish to thank all the members of the prayer chain for your steadfastness and support over the past year. I'm sure your prayerfulness is recognised by the spiritual world.

Phoebe MacLeod

Safeguarding

Following James Hibbert resignation in September 2024, I became the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

It took some time to become registered with 31:8 the organization that completes the DBS checks as this was over Christmas there was a further delay. This has now been resolved, and I can apply for DBS Certificates.

All immediate checks have been completed.

The PCC received information, advising them of the 3 yearly DBS Checks and reminding them to complete the Basic and Foundation Level Safeguarding Course.

Thank you for your patience and support,

Sue Cordingley

St Gabriel's

This is what We (Me, Congregation volunteers, The Good Gym and Community Projects) have done OUTSIDE at St Gabriel's, cleared the grounds of overgrowing undergrowth, hedges and trees, cleaned the patios and children's play area, cleaned concrete, repaired the raised bed and painted it, filling with compost from the grounds (grass, leaves, twigs), painted plant pots for a scented garden, yet to be established. Painted windows jubilee room outside and soffits and repaired the guttering (free guttering from building sites) cleared out the guttering both Jubilee and main building removing a tree that was stuck. Repaired the walkway roof so I can fit new front door when wall dries out.

INSIDE at St Gabriel's painted the Jubilee room and laid a new wooden floor, cleaned and tailored the curtains, removed the rubbish. Main building painted and papered the toilet, painted the one room off the hall right side and the main hall half painted with the help of the Community Projects who continue to help us every Wednesday into 2025, decluttered, repurposed the clutter with the help of the congregation volunteers, cleaned kitchen and vestry. Tidied the tool shed. Need for 2025 to continue to paint inside with Community Projects, kitchen needs an overhaul paint and tiles, and other rooms needs painting, vestry needs painting too. I am hoping to sort out the heating the fence and guttering with a grant, as well as overhaul the disabled toilets to make them more accessible to those that need them with a separate grant. I will fit and paint the front door to ensure the place is inviting and sort out the damp by the above means. I will also sort out the back door and fit a fire escape exit here.

Project for 2025, fit flooring to toilet and kitchen, (reclaimed vinyl) formalise the gardens more to make easy maintenance (weed suppressant, wood chips, formal borders) make sensory garden, jet wash patios, cut bushes down more, restore the fence with a grant, replace the guttering to prevent damp with a grant. Repaired benches. Finish painting the railing fence inside and out. Sort out signage. It would be nice to start renting out the buildings more and make a profit to put back into both St Gabriel's and St George's. Once the front door is on and the kitchen transformed. It will look much nicer. The heating will be more economical and be able to be programmed to keep damp at bay and make the place warmer to visitors and venders. I see table sales, garden parties, fetes, coffee mornings and maybe movie nights with appropriate licenses etc, toddler groups, singing groups, activities, knit and natter, craft days, meeting room, exercise classes and even more church services.

Jackie Vandyes

Sunday Clubs

Sunday Clubs numbers have grown sufficiently to form three groups comprising infants aged 6 and under, juniors and a senior group for those in year 6 and above. The intention is that the children in the main part of church leave during the first hymn and the choristers leave after the Gloria. The youngest children use the small parish room and the two older groups both work in the larger room. It can be distracting to be in the same room, but we do not currently have enough staff to use two rooms.

Children in the choir leave the session earlier than the others so they are not always able to complete an activity to back up the bible story and discussion. It is however preferable than having no session at all for them, as the youngsters contribute well and enjoy Sunday Club.

Due to a delay obtaining DBS clearance for several members of the Sunday Clubs staff, we have been meeting in the coffee area at the back of church. Whilst not ideal, we have still been able to offer a bible story and simple activity each week during term time and colouring in the holidays. We also again made nature themed decorations for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival which were then re-used as we were invited to decorate a Christmas tree at Lyme Park.

Hopefully we will have one new Assistant Leader soon and someone who is interested in being a Leader, however as one person has had to step down, we are still looking to recruit further Leaders and Assistant Leaders (helpers). The commitment for Leaders is about 30-40 minutes to prepare a session using the published lectionary around once a month; helpers don't need to prepare, just turn up when it's their session.

Louise Clark

Associate Minister's Report

I continue to enjoy immensely the experience immensely of working in your friendly city church with a wonderful musical tradition and a tremendously supportive ministry team.

My working agreement continues for two Sundays per month with some flexibility in there. From April 2025, my secular employment will be reduced to 4 days per week enabling me to provide some additional help during our forthcoming interregnum. I have led and preached predominantly at the 8.00am and 10.15am services and contribute to the livestreaming of Morning Prayer and our monthly Reflective Gatherings jointly led with Chris Dawson and Sue Cordingley. I also cantor for some of the Choral Evensongs and presented on my secular ministry at the Lent Breakfast series. A big highlight was our June Animal Blessing Service in which we had two rather lively donkeys, and we look forward to their return! I have also performed baptisms, including my first immersion baptism, and weddings.

I continue to be a Minister in Secular Employment in my IDEXX Laboratory workplace. Social media as The Reverend Vet continues well with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, X, BlueSky and TikTok presence. The main platform is Facebook which currently has 11 700 followers. Followers (including church members) continue to enjoy the daily reflections, poems, animal facts etc, especially when unable to attend church due to physical disability. A large proportion are also exploring faith. It is exciting to reach out to people that the physical church cannot reach. Some watch our livestreamed Sunday services and Morning Prayer, and it will be nice to see how the Reverend Vet and Stockport communities can continue to interact.

A big thanks to my very supportive Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin-Hall.

Jenny McKay

Report from the Vicar 2024

The busy pace of our ministry has continued, and it has been a real joy to engage in so many services and events and to meet so many amazing people.

We held a vibrant Epiphany Carol service in January along with a Confirmation service a week later where we welcomed Bishop Sam to confirm and baptise a good gathering of eight people.

We also met with our brothers and sisters in Christ across the denominations for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, Palm Sunday in March, the Pentecost breakfast in May, the Harvest service in October and the Community Carols around the tree near Davenport station, then again at St Gabriel's and also the school Carols at Davenport Methodist in December. We also said goodbye to our good friend, Revd Lindsay Kemp as she retired to Lincolnshire in the Summer.

The Renew Stockport prayers continue to be well attended by church leaders and members on the first Friday of every month despite the early start at 8am and it is a real privilege to spend that precious hour in prayer and worship amongst those from other churches and Christian Fellowships in Stockport.

We continued with our InSpire Café Church which enabled us to gather in a less formal way around tables, as we worshipped together, shared food and fellowship and learned some new songs alongside the old favourites. We used the same model for a Remembrance Café Church in November using the wonderful music of Taizé which was arranged by Andrew Mayes who also kindly facilitated the powerful Communion service on the Monday of Holy Week.

Holy Week and Easter gave us an opportunity to journey together in the various services and two Messy Churches, one for adults and the other for children which was well attended, as was the Christmas Messy Church sessions for children and adults.

The scouts returned for their St George's Day service in April which was well attended. All the squirrels, beavers, cubs and scouts along with their leaders all looked very smart.

Saturday 27th April was a day of some celebration as a coach load of us headed off to Llandudno with a number of our Persian Christian family. For many of them, they hadn't had any opportunity to visit the seaside. We were blessed with the most glorious day weatherwise and the journey went ahead with no hold ups thanks to our wonderful driver. We had some snacks packed for the journey and then people chose where to have their lunch and guided by the map, took their

time to have a look around. Thanks to everyone for organising this and for raising the money to help it all to go ahead. A really memorable occasion.

We continue to welcome new members to our church of all ages, and it is wonderful to see God at work in these people. We prepared children to receive communion before confirmation via a short course of three sessions which took place after the main morning service. It was encouraging to see so many children attending along with their families.

The choir were well received at Blackburn Cathedral following their weekend residence there and were invited to come back which is a great accolade. I am proud of all they have achieved.

They sang Choral Matins at the Church Open Day in September and again at the Battle of Britain Service the next day.

The Christmas Tree Festival welcomed hundreds of people through the doors, along with those who sang or danced for us over the five days that the festival was open. We had so many delightful encounters and conversations with our visitors and guests.

The Advent and Christmas Carol services were beautiful, and Bishop Sam returned to be part of the Nine Lessons and Carols at his own request.

The Ministry team grew again with Revd Jane Crooke licensed to us in January to continue her training and, whilst she was on secondment to St Saviour's to cover a maternity leave for most of the year, she and I kept in close touch for supervision sessions. In addition, we welcomed Revd Hugh Griffiths to the parish who is retired with permission to officiate. It's great to have them both with us.

It is a privilege to serve alongside all of those in our ministry team and I will miss the closeness of our friendship and fellowship as I leave the parish at the end of March 2025.

There have been some special times with people at the various life events, uplifting occasions when people have shared how Jesus has impacted on their lives, and overwhelming times when people have stood in solidarity with me and the family when things have been challenging for us during my dad's illness. Thanks to all who have stepped up to the plate. It has been appreciated.

So, with a heavy heart, we leave you with our love, thanks and blessings for all that we have done together.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. With every blessing **Elaine**

Financial Review for 2024

The PCC recorded an overall increase in funds of £52,790 over the year. PCC unrestricted funds reduced by £3,685. The Fabric Fund increased by £56,969 and St Gabriel's funds increased by £1,116. The Choir Legacy fund decreased by £286, the Fearn fund reduced by £435, the Preservation Trust by £100 and the Music Fund was unchanged.

St George's unrestricted funds

St George's unrestricted funds showed a surplus before transfers of £36,315, which became a deficit of £3,685 after transferring an amount of £40,000 to the Fabric Fund. For comparison, last year's figures after removing the income from the sale of the curate's house were a surplus of £1,445 before a transfer of £8,000 to the Fabric Fund, and a deficit of £6,555 after the transfer.

Overall income to unrestricted funds increased from £143,866 last year (again, removing the effect of the sale of the curate's house) to £180,439 this year. Total voluntary income, excluding legacies and grants, was steady, with a small increase of £712 to £94,365. Income received from letting the church and parish rooms increased by £16,760 to £32,821, with most of this increase coming from a single hire of the church for a television production. Net income from fundraising events was £8,716, as a result of a very successful Christmas Tree Festival. The Grapevine magazine made a surplus of £544, reduced from £2,476 last year. Grants totalling £2,256 were received, of which £2,136 came from the Fearn Trust. Rental income from 30 Maple Close for the part-year from May onwards amounted to £8,194.

Overall expenditure increased by £1,703 to £144,124. Parish Share costs increased by £3,587 to £75,344. Church energy costs decreased by £6,801 to £25,186, mainly as a result of a reduction in the unit price of gas. Expenditure on church maintenance increased from £627 to £3,859. Upkeep of services, including music and organ costs, increased slightly from £5,335 to £5,642. Expenditure on the Parish Rooms decreased by £1,450 to £4,422, with a reduction in spending on gas heating.

The curate's house at 30 Maple Close has had further improvements made to the property during 2024 costing £10,102, and which appear as additions to tangible fixed assets. This property is now valued on the balance sheet at £342,728.

A transfer of £40,000 was made during the year from St George's unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund, of which £20,000 came from a legacy and £8,700 from the Christmas Tree Festival. It was not necessary to transfer back any funds in order to comply with our financial reserving policy.

Designated Funds

St Gabriel's funds

There was a surplus of £1,116 for the year, in contrast to a deficit of £315 last year. Income for the year increased by £1,685 to £4,024, largely from a full year of rental income from a local worship group. A grant of £500 was received from the High Sheriff's Police Trust, towards materials for maintenance and decoration. Total expenditure increased by £254 to £2,908, with an increase in electrical heating costs being mostly offset as a result of professional upkeep of the churchyard being replaced by volunteers. The reserves available in St Gabriel's funds now stand at £9,390.

Fabric Fund

This fund was established in 2017 and received a further grant of £100 from the St George's Preservation Trust. There was an increase in the value of investments of £4,666, and a transfer of £40,000 into the fund from Unrestricted Funds. This transfer came from a combination of a surplus in the Unrestricted Fund, profit from the Christmas Tree Festival, and a legacy of £20,000. A further legacy of over £13,000 was also received directly into the fund. There was expenditure of £11,340 on maintenance costs. The Fabric Fund currently stands at £201,417, representing an increase for the year of £56,139.

Choir Legacy Fund

This fund was established in 2020 with a £5,000 bequest from Frank Gee, a former chorister. After expenditure of £500 to support the choir and revaluation gains of £214, the fund stands at £4,206.

St George's restricted funds

The PCC is grateful for the continuing support of the *Fearn Trust*, which provided a grant of £19,864 to cover the cost of insuring both St George's and St Gabriel's churches.

Music Fund

This fund was established to receive grants for musical activities. In 2024 both income and expenditure were nil and so the balance is unchanged at £5,822.

Choir Music Fund

This fund may be used to cover the cost of the replacement of choir music and has a balance of £112.

St George's Preservation Trust

Income for the year was nil. Expenditure this year comprised a grant to the Fabric Fund of £100, which has reduced the balance within the fund to £300. The Trustees have indicated their intention to pass the remaining balance to the Fabric Fund over the next three years.

Charitable giving

The following donations were made to charities from agency collections:

Donations of £161 from the annual Baby Memorial Service were shared between the Cradle Charity and the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society.

The sum of £754 was transferred to the Children's Society from collections at the Christingle Services and a further £120 was donated from carol singing.

£207 was given to East Cheshire Hospice from donations at a funeral, £20 to Wellspring from harvest donations, and £57 to Christian Aid from a service at St Gabriel's.

Reserves and Investment Policies

The PCC reviewed its reserving policy in 2017. It is the policy of St George's to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months general running costs and an additional three month's salaries. At least one half of its minimum reserve should be held in Unrestricted Funds. These reserves may be invested in funds which provide some protection against loss of value due to inflation. This may take the form of capital appreciation or income which can be re-invested.

Reserves will continue to be held in the PCC's accounts with CCLA Investment Managers which is the leading fund manager for the assets of the church, charities and local authorities. It has a policy of engaging only in ethical investments and is owned by its clients – through the Boards of Finance in the case of the Church of England. The CBF Church of England Investment Fund is used which is highly diversified and balanced across many sectors of investment and is actively managed to achieve long term capital growth and steady income.

As of 31st December 2024, it was not necessary for the PCC to transfer funds from the Fabric Fund to Unrestricted Funds in order to comply with this policy.

Transfers may become necessary during 2025 if expenditure exceeds income.

It is also the policy to hold a reserve to cover the work for projects that have been identified as necessary. This reserve, which may be required at short notice, is to be held in secure funds that are not subject to capital risks. An income from these

funds while desirable is not essential. The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund is used, which holds only funds with AAA rated organisations and is managed by CCLA. However, excess funds may also be invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

The PCC has set a target minimum amount to be held in the Fabric Fund. This is calculated as a percentage of the insurance valuation of St George's Church, and the PCC make transfers from Unrestricted Funds into the Fabric Fund with the aim of reaching the target minimum within five to ten years. The current target minimum level is £142,000, and this has been exceeded for the first time in 2024.

A number of potential projects have been identified by the PCC including:

St George's Church

- Review of the lighting and sound systems in church
- Repairs to the west window
- Further investigations into the subsidence in the northeast corner of the church, and any remedial actions required
- Repointing of churchyard wall
- Maintenance of masonry at roof level
- Development of kitchen and toilet facilities, with changes to the internal porches

Parish Rooms

- Redevelopment of the kitchen

The PCC believes that, at present, there are insufficient reserves available to cover all of these projects. Consequently, individual projects will commence only when adequate finance is available.

The reserves policy for St Gabriel's church was reviewed in 2016 and was amended to match that of St George's, i.e. the equivalent of three months general running costs. Maintenance and improvements are being carried out with the help of a team of volunteers, and the reserves are considered to be adequate.

The reserves are held on deposit with the church's bankers, or with CCLA Investment Managers.

Dr Andrew Regan

16th February 2025

Approval

The annual report was approved by the Parochial Church Council on 26th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine Chapman Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light-colored rectangular background.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Date 26/3/2025

Paul Clancy, BA (Hons), ACA, MBA
19 Rosemoor Gardens
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 4RF.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts							
Donations and legacies	6.a	116,621	19,236	19,964	-	155,820	123,184
Income from charitable activities	6.b	16,439	-	-	-	16,439	17,902
Other trading activities	6.c	36,027	3,025	-	-	39,052	22,372
Investments	6.d	11,352	3,611	-	-	14,964	5,617
Other income	6.e	-	-	-	-	-	360,150
Total income		180,439	25,872	19,964	-	226,275	529,225
Payments							
Raising funds	6.f	933	-	-	-	933	1,961
Expenditure on charitable activities	6.g	143,191	13,883	20,358	-	177,432	166,242
Other expenditure		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		144,124	13,883	20,358	-	178,365	168,203
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer		36,315	11,989	(394)	-	47,910	361,022
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in	3, 4	-	40,100	-	-	40,100	9,100
Gross transfers between funds - out	3, 4	(40,000)	-	(100)	-	(40,100)	(9,100)
Other recognised gains / losses							
Gains/losses on investment assets	7.b	-	4,880	-	-	4,880	10,671
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(3,685)	56,969	(494)	-	52,790	371,694
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward	3	430,391	158,043	17,019	-	605,453	233,760
Total funds carried forward	2	426,706	215,013	16,525	-	658,243	605,453

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

Balance Sheet

	Notes	General Designated Restricted Endowment				At	At
						31/12/2024	31/12/2023
						£	£
Fixed assets							
Tangible Assets	2, 7.a	344,587	-	-	-	344,587	335,036
Investments	2, 7.b	-	100,477	-	-	100,477	95,597
		344,587	100,477	-	-	445,064	430,633
Current assets							
Debtors	2, 8	16,054	-	1,325	-	17,379	15,688
Cash At Bank And In Hand	2	71,750	114,535	16,245	-	202,530	167,537
		87,804	114,535	17,570	-	219,909	183,226
Liabilities							
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	2,9	5,685	-	1,045	-	6,730	8,405
		5,685	-	1,045	-	6,730	8,405
Net current assets less current liabilities		82,119	114,535	16,525	-	213,179	174,820
Total assets less current liabilities		426,706	215,013	16,525	-	658,243	605,453
Liabilities		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities		426,706	215,013	16,525	-	658,243	605,453
Represented by							
Unrestricted							
Unrestricted - General Fund	3	426,706	-	-	-	426,706	430,391
Designated							

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
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Designated - Choir (Legacy)	3	-	4,206	-	-	4,206	4,492	
Designated - Fabric Fund	3	-	201,417	-	-	201,417	145,278	
Designated - St Gabriel's	3	-	9,390	-	-	9,390	8,274	
Restricted								
Restricted - Choir Music	3	-	-	152	-	152	112	
Restricted - Fearn Trust Grants	3	-	-	10,251	-	10,251	10,686	
Restricted - Music Fund	3	-	-	5,822	-	5,822	5,822	
Restricted - Preservation Trust	3	-	-	300	-	300	400	
Fund Totals			426,706	215,013	16,525	-	658,243	605,453

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2024, including the notes following, was approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf by Revd. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, PCC Chair:

..... *Elaine Chegwin Hall*

Date *26.3.25*

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31st December 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, current Church Accounting Regulations and Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) together with the exemptions available to smaller charities under Section 1A. These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the value of investment assets which are shown at market value.

They include all transactions for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. They are only expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining at the end of each year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which the PCC has designated for a particular purpose, but the PCC retains the ability to use some or all of these funds for the general purposes of the PCC.

Income recognition

All income sources are accounted for gross. *Planned giving, collections and donations* are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. *Tax refunds* are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is recognised. *Grants and legacies* are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. *Dividends* are accounted for when due and payable. *Interest entitlements* are accounted for as they accrue. All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the annual report.

Expenditure recognition

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any parish share unpaid at 31st December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. All *other expenditure* is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted gross.

Governance costs include any costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and of any legal advice to the PCC on governance or constitutional matters.

Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventories which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2001 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on *consecrated and benefice buildings*, or individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2001 is written off. The parish office printer is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years. Other items of equipment with a purchase price over £1,000 used within church premises are depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
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From 2023, no depreciation is provided on *freehold buildings* as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values are so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial. It is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Resulting from regular impairment reviews, provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

The Parochial Church Council consider that there are no material uncertainties about the ability of St George's PCC to continue as a going concern.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Investments						
6440: Investments	-	100,477	-	-	100,477	95,597
Total	-	100,477	-	-	100,477	95,597
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets						
6430: Tangible fixed assets: property	342,728	-	-	-	342,728	332,626
6431: Office printer	1,859	-	-	-	1,859	2,411
Total	344,587	-	-	-	344,587	335,036
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand						
6501: Bank of Scotland current account	6,942	7,662	6,361	-	20,966	20,388
6502: NatWest current account	35,131	14,570	9,584	-	59,284	30,917
6503: Preservation Trust current account	-	-	300	-	300	400
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account	29,677	92,303	-	-	121,980	115,832
Total	71,750	114,535	16,245	-	202,530	167,537
Current Asset - Debtors						
Z05: Accounts Receivable	16,054	-	1,325	-	17,379	15,688
Total	16,054	-	1,325	-	17,379	15,688
Liability - Agency Accounts						
6699: Agency collections	-	-	1,045	-	1,045	265
Total	-	-	1,045	-	1,045	265
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year						
Z04: Accounts Payable	5,685	-	-	-	5,685	8,140
Total	5,685	-	-	-	5,685	8,140
Net total assets	426,706	215,013	16,525	-	658,243	605,453
Represented by						
General (Unrestricted)	426,706	-	-	-	426,706	430,391
Designated - Choir Legacy	-	4,206	-	-	4,206	4,492
Designated - Fabric	-	201,417	-	-	201,417	145,278
Designated - St Gabriel's	-	9,390	-	-	9,390	8,274
Restricted - Choir Music	-	-	152	-	152	112

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
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Restricted - Fearn	-	-	10,251	-	10,251	10,686
Restricted - Music	-	-	5,822	-	5,822	5,822
Restricted - Preservation	-	-	300	-	300	400
Total	426,706	215,013	16,525	-	658,243	605,453

3 Fund movement summary

Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
Choir Legacy							
Designated	4,492	-	500	-	214	-	4,206
Sub-totals	4,492	-	500	-	214	-	4,206
Choir Music							
Restricted	112	100	60	-	-	-	152
Sub-totals	112	100	60	-	-	-	152
Fabric							
Designated	145,278	21,848	10,475	40,100	4,666	-	201,417
Sub-totals	145,278	21,848	10,475	40,100	4,666	-	201,417
Fearn							
Restricted	10,686	19,864	20,298	-	-	-	10,251
Sub-totals	10,686	19,864	20,298	-	-	-	10,251
Music							
Restricted	5,822	-	-	-	-	-	5,822
Sub-totals	5,822	-	-	-	-	-	5,822
Preservation							
Restricted	400	-	-	(100)	-	-	300
Sub-totals	400	-	-	(100)	-	-	300
St Gabriel's							
Designated	8,274	4,024	2,908	-	-	-	9,390

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
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Sub-totals	8,274	4,024	2,908	-	-	-	9,390
General							
Unrestricted	430,391	180,439	144,124	(40,000)	-	-	426,706
Sub-totals	430,391	180,439	144,124	(40,000)	-	-	426,706
Totals	605,453	226,275	178,365	-	4,880	-	658,243

4 Transfers Between Funds

An amount of £40,000 has been transferred from unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund. This represents the regular transfers which the PCC makes towards the cost of larger maintenance works and the transfer of a legacy.

An amount of £100 was transferred from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund. This represents a grant made by the Preservation Trust to the PCC.

As the value of unrestricted funds was above the minimum required by our financial reserving policy, it was not necessary to transfer any funds from the Fabric Fund to unrestricted funds as at 31/12/2024 to meet the necessary minimum reserve.

5 Explanation of Funds:

Designated Funds

Designated Funds are fund set aside for a particular purpose. However, the PCC may resolve to use such funds for any other purpose.

The St Gabriel's Fund is used for all matters relating to St Gabriel's Church, and the PCC has given the St Gabriel's Committee limited financial authority over these finances.

The Fabric Fund holds monies set aside for the maintenance and repair of church buildings, including the Parish Rooms and the Curate's House. The PCC intend to make regular transfers into this fund from unrestricted income.

The Choir Legacy Fund was established in 2020 with a bequest from Frank Gee, a former choir member. It is intended to be used for the benefit of the choir.

Restricted Funds

St George's Church Preservation Trust was established under a trust deed in 1990. The objects include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church, the parish office, the parish rooms and other PCC property.

In 2024 the trustees made a grant of £100 from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund, and have stated their intention to transfer the remaining amount over the coming years.

The Preservation Trust is considered to be a connected charity, consequently the transactions and balances have been included in these accounts, but are restricted funds.

The PCC Restricted Fund represents donations given and monies raised for specific objectives.

An annual grant from the Fearn Trust of £19,864 (2023: £20,000) was received to pay for insurance for St George's Church and St Gabriel's Church, including the cost of cover against acts of terrorism.

The Music Fund holds any grant income received in respect of musical activities. No further grant was received during 2024 (2023: £0) from the Pilling Trust to support our Choral Scholars.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
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6 Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
6.a Donations and legacies						
0101 - Standing orders: Gift Aid	46,196	-	-	-	46,196	46,041
0102 - Standing orders: non-Gift Aid	2,400	-	-	-	2,400	2,890
0110 - Weekly Envelopes: Gift Aid	7,025	-	-	-	7,025	9,279
0201 - Weekly envelopes	3,016	-	-	-	3,016	1,525
0202 - Gift Aid Envelopes	2,073	-	-	-	2,073	2,056
0301 - Plate collections: GASDS	7,006	41	-	-	7,047	6,787
0302 - Plate collections: non-GASDS	15	-	-	-	15	30
0303 - Baptisms: plate collections (GASDS)	576	-	-	-	576	658
0304 - Baptisms: Gift-Aid envelopes	202	-	-	-	202	150
0305 - Funerals: plate collections (GASDS)	805	-	-	-	805	267
0306 - Weddings: plate collections (GASDS)	36	-	-	-	36	-
0307 - Funerals: gift-aid envelopes	4	-	-	-	4	-
0308 - Funerals: plate collections (non-GASDS eligible)	355	-	-	-	355	-
0501 - Donations: other, gift aided	1,191	5,000	-	-	6,191	2,634
0502 - Donations for specific projects	532	350	100	-	982	107
0503 - Donations to social fund	66	-	-	-	66	-
0520 - Donations: floodlighting, gift aided	120	-	-	-	120	110
0521 - Donations: floodlighting	10	-	-	-	10	55
0550 - Donations: other (GASDS)	1,168	-	-	-	1,168	1,407
0560 - Donations: other	3,107	-	-	-	3,107	2,484
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	18,462	27	-	-	18,489	17,345
0701 - Legacies	20,000	13,318	-	-	33,318	5,000
0802 - Non-recurring one-off grants	2,256	500	19,864	-	22,620	24,358
Donations and legacies Totals	116,621	19,236	19,964	-	155,820	123,184
6.b Income from charitable activities						
0901 - Fundraising: festivals	9,489	-	-	-	9,489	10,770

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0902 - Fundraising: other	470	-	-	-	470	1,043
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	3,932	-	-	-	3,932	3,241
1102 - DoM fees	1,138	-	-	-	1,138	1,457
1106 - Church fees - other than statutory fees for weddings and funerals	1,410	-	-	-	1,410	1,390
Income from charitable activities Totals	16,439	-	-	-	16,439	17,902
6.c Other trading activities						
0910 - Sales of goods, etc	160	-	-	-	160	-
1240 - Parish Room lettings	10,477	-	-	-	10,477	10,351
1241 - Church letting	22,344	3,025	-	-	25,369	7,454
1250 - Magazine income - advertising	2,175	-	-	-	2,175	3,585
1260 - Parish magazine sales	871	-	-	-	871	981
Other trading activities Totals	36,027	3,025	-	-	39,052	22,372
6.d Investments						
1020 - Bank and building society interest	3,158	3,611	-	-	6,770	5,617
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings	8,194	-	-	-	8,194	-
Investments Totals	11,352	3,611	-	-	14,964	5,617
6.e Other income						
1310 - Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	167
1320 - Surplus - sales of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	359,983
Other income Totals	-	-	-	-	-	360,150
Receipts Grand totals	180,439	25,872	19,964	-	226,275	529,225

EXPENDITURE ON:

6.f Raising funds

1720 - Costs of printing envelopes	161	-	-	-	161	140
1730 - Costs of festivals & other events	773	-	-	-	773	1,821
Raising funds Totals	933	-	-	-	933	1,961

6.g Expenditure on charitable activities

1840 - Giving - local relief	90	-	-	-	90	-
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	75,344	-	-	-	75,344	71,757
2001 - Assistant staff costs	12,966	-	-	-	12,966	11,229
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	2,075	-	-	-	2,075	1,168
2120 - Council tax - vicarage	3,846	-	-	-	3,846	3,687

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2130 - Curate's house maintenance	400	-	-	-	400	56
2131 - Curate's house - insurance	398	-	-	-	398	486
2132 - Curate's house - electricity and gas	273	-	-	-	273	(393)
2140 - Water - vicarage	646	-	-	-	646	839
2145 - Water - curate's house	-	-	-	-	-	(180)
2150 - Vicarage telephone and internet	495	-	-	-	495	425
2301 - Church running - insurance	-	-	20,298	-	20,298	20,320
2310 - Church office - telephone	643	-	-	-	643	570
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	874	-	-	-	874	1,512
2321 - Other music costs	2,617	700	60	-	3,377	2,750
2330 - Church maintenance	3,859	7,267	-	-	11,126	3,051
2340 - Upkeep of services	2,151	-	-	-	2,151	1,973
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	1,382	234	-	-	1,616	3,667
2360 - Administration	2,786	-	-	-	2,786	2,222
2401 - Church running - electricity	7,199	1,667	-	-	8,866	9,279
2410 - Church running - gas	17,987	-	-	-	17,987	23,212
2420 - Church running - water	234	176	-	-	410	653
2501 - Magazine expenses	2,502	-	-	-	2,502	2,090
2520 - Parish Room running - consumables	543	-	-	-	543	375
2530 - Parish Room running - electricity	300	-	-	-	300	300
2540 - Parish Room running - gas	2,678	-	-	-	2,678	4,280
2560 - Parish Room running - maintenance	793	3,839	-	-	4,632	917
2830 - Hall + interior and exterior decorating	108	-	-	-	108	-
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	143,191	13,883	20,358	-	177,432	166,242
Expenditure Grand totals	144,124	13,883	20,358	-	178,365	168,203

Staff costs

	2024	2023
Wages and salaries	12,966	11,229
National Insurance	-	-
Total:	12,966	11,229

During the year the PCC employed a Director of Music and a secretary at St George's, both on a part-time basis.

Payments to PCC members

James Hibbert was a PCC member throughout 2023 and in 2024 until 25th September 2024. In 2024 the PCC paid him a salary as the Director of Music (including payment for weddings and funerals) of £8,071 (2023: £7,121) and paid £160 (2023: £280) towards his professional development.

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7 Fixed Assets

7.a <i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	Freehold land and buildings 30 Maple Close £	Office printer £
Cost or valuation		
At 01/01/2024	332,626	2,760
Additions	10,102	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31/12/2024	342,728	1,859
Depreciation		
At 01/01/2024	-	(349)
Charge for year	-	(552)
at 31/12/2024	-	(901)
Net Book Value		
At 31/12/2023	332,626	2,411
At 31/12/2024	342,728	1,859

The freehold land and buildings at the beginning of the year comprised the curate's house at 30 Maple Close, Stockport, purchased on 29th June 2023 for £316,798 plus costs of surveys and capitalised improvements, totalling £332,626 up to 31st December 2023. Further capitalised improvements totalling £10,102 were made to the property in 2024. This property is not being depreciated (see Assets in Note 1 above).

Those meeting rooms owned by the PCC are integral parts of the school premises and were donated by the Founder in 1901. As such the rooms are deemed to have no value for the purposes of these accounts.

The copier/printer in the parish office was purchased on 15th May 2023 at a cost of £2,760, and is being depreciated linearly over five years.

7.b *Investment assets*

	2024			2023	
	Designated Choir legacy £	Designated Fabric Fund £	Designated Total £	All Funds £	All Funds £
Movements in the year:					
Opening market value	4,492	91,105	95,597	95,597	84,926
Purchases at cost, less disposals at carrying value	(500)	500	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on disposals and annual revaluation	214	4,666	4,880	4,880	10,671
Closing market value	4,206	96,271	100,477	100,477	95,597

No investment assets were held in Unrestricted Funds or in Restricted Funds.

Holdings at 31 December in CBF Church of England Investment Fund Accumulation Units:

	2024	2023
Choir legacy	97.02	75.23
Fabric Fund	1533.90	1525.69
Total	1600.92	1600.92

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8 Debtors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Income tax recoverable	13,338	-	13,338	12,336
Prepayments and accrued income	2,716	1,325	4,041	3,353
Other debtors	-	-	-	-
Total	16,054	1,325	17,379	15,688

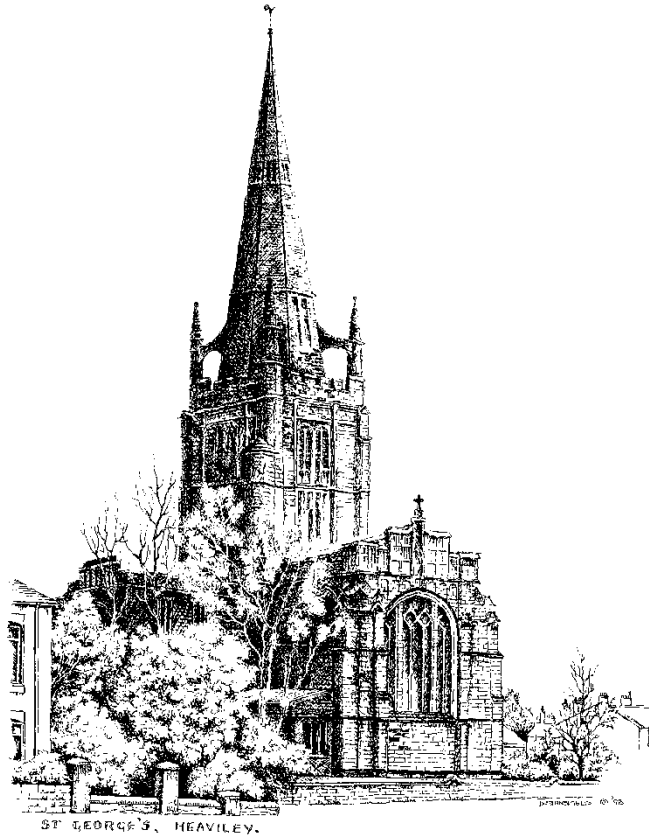
9 Creditors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year				
Accruals for utilities and other costs	5,285	-	5,285	5,902
Creditors for goods and services	400	-	400	2,239
Agency accounts	-	1,045	1,045	265
Total	5,685	1,045	6,730	8,405

Accounts

The Parish Church of St. George, Stockport.

REPORT and ACCOUNTS
of the
Parochial Church Council



presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 21st April 2024

Annual Report for 2023

Administrative Information

The Parish of Stockport St George is located on Buxton Road, Heaviley, and the daughter church of St Gabriel is located at Clover Avenue, Adswood.

The parish is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England.

PCC members who served during 2023 with future retirement dates in brackets are:

From January to May 2023

<i>Vicar:</i>	Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall Chair	
<i>Associate Priest</i>	Revd Dr Jenny McKay	<i>(Minister in secular employment)</i>
<i>Readers</i>	Mr Peter Hall	<i>(Also Deanery and Diocesan Synod)</i>
<i>Reader Representative</i>	Mrs Rita Waters	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Andrew Regan Mrs Hazel Jenkins	<i>(also Treasurer)</i>
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Mr David Foulkes Mr Ian Roberts Mr John Sutcliffe	
<i>Elected members:</i>		
Mr Tommy Bowden	(2025)	
Mrs Sue Burt	(2025)	<i>Assistant PCC Secretary</i>
Mrs Lois Kelly	(2025)	<i>PCC Secretary</i>
Mr Philip Warner	(2025)	
Mrs Penny Bisby	(2024)	
Mrs Janet Neilson	(2024)	
Mrs Morag Ranson	(2024)	
Mr William Hesson	(2024)	<i>Deputy Warden</i>
Mrs Louise Clark	(2023)	
Mrs Sue Cordingly	(2023)	
Mr John Hardy	(2023)	<i>Deputy Warden</i>
<i>Co-opted Members</i>		
Mr Peter Smith		
Mr James Hibbert		<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>

PCC Members From May 2023

Vicar: Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall Chair
Associate Priest Revd Dr Jenny McKay (*Minister in secular employment*)

Readers Mr Peter Hall (*Also Deanery Synod*)
Mrs Rita Waters (*Also Deanery Synod*)

Churchwardens Andrew Regan (*Also Treasurer*)
Mrs Hazel Jenkins

Deanery Synod Officer Mrs Sue Cordingly (2026) *Assistant Safeguarding Officer*
Mr Ian Roberts (*to November 2023*)

Elected members:

Mrs Sheila Daly (2026)
Mrs Marion McCall (2026)
Mrs Jennie Vandyes (2026)
Mr James Hibbert (2026) *Safeguarding Officer*
Mr Tommy Bowden (2025)
Mrs Sue Burt (2025) *Deputy Warden Assistant PCC Secretary*
Mrs Lois Kelly (2025) *PCC Secretary*
Mr Philip Warner (2025)
Mrs Penny Bisby (2024)
Mrs Janet Neilson (2024)
Mrs Morag Ranson (2024)
Mr William Hesson (2024)

Co-opted Members Mr John Hardy *Deputy Warden*

Independent Examiner: Mr Paul Clancy

Structure and Governance

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission, number 1134170.

This report covers the activities of the two churches and of St George's Church Stockport Preservation Trust. The Trust was constituted under a trust deed dated 1st August 1990. While legally a separate charity, the Trust is regarded by the Diocesan Authorities as a connected charity, consequently its transactions and dealings are included in the accounts of the PCC.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All members of the two churches are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This fulfils our public benefit requirement.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees and project groups, which meet between meetings of the PCC.

The project groups in 2023 were for the Christmas Tree Festival, the Grapevine editorial group and the Inclusion Group

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

The Preservation Trust

The objectives of the Preservation Trust include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church and buildings. The Trustees may also finance other work connected with the voluntary aided school, youth work in the parish, or as agreed by the trustees.

The full PCC met 6 times during 2023 with an average level of attendance of 64%.

Achievements and Performance

The Electoral Roll total for St. George, Stockport PCC was 171 at the end of 2022.

- Marion McCall, Sheila Daly and Jennie Vandyes were elected to the PCC for the first time.
- James Hibbert was re-elected onto the PCC and John Hardy was co-opted.
- Peter Hall, Ian Roberts, Sue Cordingly and Rita Waters were elected to serve on the Deanery Synod.
- A faculty was obtained to install handrails on the steps to the North Porch, which were then installed.
- The PCC approved the appointment of Catherine Otley as Parish Secretary
- The PCC authorised celebrations for the Coronation in May.
- The PCC authorised the purchase of 30, Maple Close to replace 40, Beechfield Road as a curate's house and subsequent improvements to the property. This included installing double glazing; improving the loft insulation to meet current legislation; installing cavity wall insulation and decorating.
- The PCC applied for and were granted a Warm Spaces grant.
- The PCC approved the purchase of a new photocopier.
- A new Drainage Deed of Easement was signed to enable the developers to sell the final flat in the "Old Vicarage"

Church Attendance

The average weekly attendance, at church, for St. George's was:

NB last year's figures in italics

Choral Evensong	33.0	<i>27.6</i>
Early Communion	12.0	<i>13.8</i>
Parish Communion	88.2	<i>78.2</i>
Praise & Play	28.5	<i>26.8</i>
Wednesday Communion	17.8	<i>15.1</i>
Wednesday MP	9.1	<i>6.8</i>

Baptism Assistants Team

This year has once again been quite busy for baptisms. We have had 24 in total including 4 adults with 3 immersions and one set of twins.

The baptism team are always pleased to welcome the families into church. It is very rewarding to be of help to the clergy on these special occasions.

Sadly, this year we have lost Peter Pilbeam one of the baptism team's founder members. He is sadly missed both as a friend and colleague.

Holy baptism is a joyful celebration service for families. In 2024 we shall continue to welcome everyone into our lovely church.

Brenda Swindells

Bell Ringers

It is pleasing to report, as previously, that Sunday service ringing and practices have been maintained with very few cancellations. A good standard of ringing is being achieved, and that for Sunday services is something of which we can be justly proud.

Ringing for the coronation of HM King Charles III on 6th May was a particularly special occasion. Details of the ringing and those who took part were carefully recorded in our tower log, which in years to come will be an important historic document.

Three new learners are receiving tuition and are progressing encouragingly. We hope that they will soon be able to become full members of the band.

We were able to marshal two visits up the tower on Heritage Day, for which the weather was gratefully ideal. Thanks to all who assisted.

There was only one wedding last year for which bells were requested. We have rung for one wedding so far this year; there are further weddings on the list for which we await confirmation if bells will be required.

I continue to be extremely grateful for the commitment and support of all the band, for which they have my sincere thanks.

Andrew Mayes – Ringing Master

Choir

St. George's Church Choir

Building on the successes of the previous year, 2023 was another excellent year for St. George's Church Choir.

As well as singing for the usual schedule of Services and rehearsals there have been a number of notable occasions throughout the year, and some of these are listed below.

Epiphany Carol Service 2023

As always, the first major service of the year was the Epiphany Carol Service, a relatively recent addition to our list of annual Services, this continues to be a well-received Service, contrasting nicely with the scale and grandeur of the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols a few weeks beforehand.

Spring Cathedral Tour 2023

In March 2023 the choir travelled to Lichfield Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong for their Spring Tour. This was our second visit to the Cathedral in 12 months, and we were invited back again for a further visit in the future.

Coronation Weekend (Sunday 7th May 2023)

On Sunday 7th May the choir sang at both the morning Service and afternoon Café Church to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. It was a memorable occasion for all involved! In preparation for the festivities the choir learnt a number of big choral anthems including Zadok the Priest – Handel, I was glad – Parry, and a newly written anthem commissioned by the RSCM for the occasion called The mountain's shall bring peace – Forbes L'Estrange. Thanks must go to David Cavendish for playing the organ at the morning service.

Summer Cathedral Tour 2023

August saw the choir make the very short journey over the Diocesan boundary to Manchester Cathedral for their 2023 Summer Tour. The choir sang for three services on the last weekend in August, and received a very warm welcome from the Clergy and Congregation at the Cathedral. We have since been invited back on a future date. It is important to note that this was the first time that many of our Junior Choristers joined the Adults for a Cathedral visit, and this was noted during the Sermon at Evensong on the Sunday evening by Canon Nigel Ashworth who preached on the importance of youngsters in music and within Parish life.

Wedding of David Bird & Lauren Bird

On Saturday 2nd September the choir sang for Lauren and David's Wedding at St. George's. This was the first that the choir had sung for the wedding of a choir member for many years, and a lot of hard work went into learning the music for

the day to make it even more special. It was a wonderful occasion for everyone involved! Congratulations to Lauren and David!

Visit to St. Oswald's Church, Malpas

On Sunday 1st October members of the choir and ministry team visited St. Oswald's Church, Malpas, where a former Curate of St. George's, Revd Dr Janine Arnott is now Rector, to sing for their monthly Choral Evensong. We received a very warm welcome, and the Service was a great success.

RSCM Chester Area Festival 2023 & National Celebration Day

On Saturday 14th October 2023 members of St. George's Choir attended the Royal School of Church Music's National Celebration Day at Chester Cathedral to sing alongside the Cathedral Choir and Parish Choirs from around the Country. It was a real joy to be able to take some of our Junior Choristers to sing Choral Evensong at the Cathedral, and for them to experience singing with the Cathedral Choir.

Advent & Christmas 2023

As the festive season approached the Choir prepared for a number of important services and events. In addition to the regular pattern of Services the Choir provided music for Carol Singing at the Christmas Tree Festival, The Advent Carol Service, and the popular Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 17th December 2023.

The choir term ended with the Junior Choir singing for the three Christingle Services, and the Adults singing for Christmas Eve Midnight Communion and Christmas Day Service.

Music Department

My thanks to my friend and colleague Roger Briscoe for his work as Associate Director of Music. His support in accompanying the choir for rehearsals and Services each week is very much appreciated. Roger travels a great distance from home to St. George's, and this level of commitment to the choir and wider musical life of the Church is to be commended! His musicianship remains at the highest of standards, and we are very lucky to have someone with such a wealth of experience carrying out the role of Associate Director of Music. The work that Roger does often goes unnoticed to all but those attending the weekly adults' choir practice. If you want to see a really experienced professional at work I suggest coming along and watch how he accompanies a rehearsal with such skill. Thank you, Roger, for all of your work in 2023, particularly at weekly choir practices, monthly Choral Evensongs, and on Choir Tours.

Tom Glover joined us in August 2023, just in time for the choir's summer tour to Manchester Cathedral – *excellent timing on his part* – and has become a really

valuable asset to the musical life of St. George's. As an experienced organist Tom has played in some very illustrious places over recent years, and his arrival at St. George's during 2023 has been a blessing to us all. His accompaniment of the choir at rehearsals and Services has been wonderfully received, and the quality of his organ voluntaries week by week has been exceptional. The time and effort Tom puts in behind the scenes is remarkable – often giving up his lunch hour at work several times during the week to come to church and practice on the organ.

I thoroughly enjoy being able to share playing and conducting duties with Tom each Sunday. Thank you, Tom!

The working relationship, and friendship, that has built up between, myself Roger and Tom over the last couple of months has been a real joy to behold. I couldn't wish to have two better people to help me lead and direct the music at St. George's. Long may it continue!

As ever, thanks must go to Hannah Whitehouse for her support at Junior Choir rehearsals, and during Services. Hannah's work with the Junior Choristers behind the scenes is very much appreciated. Her experience as a teacher is a huge bonus to the success of the Junior Choir, allowing me to focus on music with the children. Not only does Hannah help in training the Junior Choristers but she goes above and beyond the call of duty to organise various trips out and social events for the Children throughout the year. I'm extremely grateful to her for her many hours of voluntary support to the Junior Choir, particularly in her work on the Voice for Life awards scheme.

RSCM Voice for Life Scheme

We continue to operate our internal ribbons programme using the Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life resources. During 2023 a number of the 2022 intake of Junior Choristers received their surplices at points throughout the year, signalling an end to their probationary periods.

Some children worked towards their Voice for Life light blue and dark blue awards. At several points throughout the year Hannah Whitehouse ran workshops with the children to work on musical theory and understanding. These sessions are vital in helping the children work towards completing each stage of the VfL process.

Head Chorister

Maddie Wilson was admitted as Head Chorister in November 2023. Maddie is our longest serving Junior Chorister (of the present era). She is a real asset to the choir, and her promotion to Head Chorister is well deserved!

Membership

2023 was a very rewarding year for St. George's Choir. During the year the Choir's membership increased significantly with new members joining the Junior Choir and Adults. As of the end of 2023 we had a total of 50 choir members, up from 38 members at the end of the previous year. Whilst the increase in membership is a wonderful thing, we continued to suffer from a lack of robes for all of the new adults and children who have joined the choir. A donation from a choir parent enabled us to buy some new Cassocks from Ormsby of Scarisbrick – the firm that makes our cassocks and surplices. In addition, we've been very fortunate to have received some second-hand choir robes from a number of churches across the North West, including St Paul's, Sale, St. John's Altrincham (Closed), and Edenfield Parish Church, near Ramsbottom.

I am grateful to the overwhelming support of our Vicar, Elaine, and the wider Ministry Team in enabling the choir to achieve so much over the last year. Some churches aren't so lucky to have such a great team.

James Hibbert

Director of Music

Christmas Tree Festival

When planning for the 2023 Christmas Tree Festival, we took two very important decisions. Firstly due to poor economic climate we would not raise any of our prices and secondly that we would like Father Christmas to visit on both Saturday and Sunday. Father Christmas was very happy to oblige and met with children both morning and afternoon each day! Our decision to freeze prices certainly paid off as we returned a record profit of around £9,000.

As a team we were delighted to welcome new exhibitors as well as many returnees, some after a longish 'Covid' gap. As ever the standard of decorations and the ingenuity of people was great to see and drew many comments of admiration. We welcomed both children and adult choirs to entertain everyone and the Karela School of Dancing wowed us with their show on Saturday.

My thanks go to all of the team and everyone who helped, but particular thanks must go to Peter Smith and his team for presiding over an incredibly busy café. There was much late night baking happening in several kitchens as we tried to keep up a constant supply of cakes. Thanks also to Pat Rigley who managed a splendid raffle which brought in over £1,000 and to Andrea Millington who very efficiently took over the role of liaising with the schools for visits and singing.

During the five days of the Festival we had over 4000 visitors including the visiting schools and youth organisations. This was up by a couple of hundred on last year

and interestingly visitor numbers for Sunday have definitely increased over the last two years. So, here's to the 2024 Festival!

Hazel Jenkins

Garden Gnomes

As workers in the outdoors, gardeners are accustomed to variations in weather conditions during the various seasons. By dressing appropriately, we can usually find suitable jobs to do, whatever the weather.

However, over the last twelve months we seem to have had more 'washout' days than I can remember. We have also experienced very windy conditions with large amounts of twigs and branches being scattered around the grounds. We are hoping Mother Nature will be kinder to us this coming year.

One bonus this year was the completion of the building work on the former vicarage site, allowing us to regain clear access to the roadway and paving, which has made tidying up a bit easier.

This time last year we were expecting to have to use professional help again to prune the trees in the North Avenue. However, we have been able to control growth at the lower levels ourselves, and defer higher level work by tree specialists for the time being.

Planting and maintaining the various flower beds continues to be a fulfilling part of our regular work. The new bed at the east end of the grounds, which was planted to celebrate the church's 125th Anniversary, has been retained. It was filled with bedding plants in the earlier part of the year, which gave a welcome splash of colour to the area. However, for the longer term it was decided a rose garden would be more manageable and, thanks to donations from various sources, that change-over has been implemented.

We would like to record our appreciation to all who have provided plants, bulbs and monetary gifts to help us in maintaining variety in the garden areas.

The more mundane, but equally important, general maintenance tasks of clearing autumnal leaves, tree debris and general litter, plus the ongoing battle with moss and weeds on the gravel paths, keep us busy.

We endeavour to keep the Remembrance Garden paving area clean and weed free, but, as noted in last year's report, in reality it needs repaving. It is the part of the gardens that church members and visitors notice when entering our building.

One major task requiring action is to renovate the compost heap arrangements which have been overloaded and will require significant effort to restore.

Over recent times, our team numbers have been reduced as former members have had to retire, and our resources have become stretched. We have been pleased to have Anoosh and Nazanin join with us on Tuesday mornings, but additional help would be appreciated as we move into the growing season.

We meet up between 9.30am and 12.30pm, at whatever times suit people's personal circumstances. Every little helps! We do allow ourselves a tea/coffee break around 11am, to chat and catch up on news.

If you are interested, please contact Walter Stead (0161 430 2449) or speak to any other team member. You will be made very welcome, as together we endeavour to present to visitors and passers-by the message that our church is a place that is cared for, and cares for all.

Walter Stead – Novice Gnome

Grapevine

The magazine is published in 10 monthly issues per year except for July/August and December/January when a combined issue is published. The monthly magazine is a 24–page full colour issue including the December/January issue, while the July/August issue was expanded to a 28–page issue. During 2023 the magazine has published a range of articles related to our Christian mission, with some of the highlights including articles on Christian worship in Ukraine, Holocaust Memorial Day, the Bishops' visitation to the Stockport Deanery accompanied by the Melanesian Brothers from the Solomon Isles, and on life as a Reader in the Church of England. Chris Dawson has provided a series of insightful and reflective pieces on meditation and prayer. We have also introduced more regular prayers as a feature of the magazine and the Storytime feature has a Christian theme.

The magazine continues to include regular contributions from the Garden Gnomes, Praise and Play, the Mothers' Union, and the Sunday Clubs as well as the monthly recipe provided by Pamela Ferguson. Printing in full colour has provided opportunities to include attractive photo stories. These have included photo stories on messy church, baptism and confirmation, the afternoon tea for the Coronation of King Charles III, Lauren and David Bird's wedding, and the Sunday Clubs work on God's creation for the Christmas Tree Festival. The December/January edition included a centre page spread of 12 of the best photos from the year. The magazine incorporates photos from contributors as well as using copyright free photos from the Unsplash website but with a clear acknowledgement of the photographers. The magazine has also included more regular features on environmental issues as part of our Eco Church mission. We have also introduced a regular 'What am I' challenge.

During 2023 we sadly included obituaries for Frances Farrar, Peter Pilbeam, Margaret Sharrard, Alice Ramsbottom, Stan Berry, Olwen Garrido, Jean Norton, and Kathleen Heaword.

The magazine committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month ahead of the publication of the magazine at the beginning of each month. Roles have shifted with some stepping down and others taking on these roles. We acknowledge the many years of service and extend grateful thanks to Judith Swift for taking receipt of the magazines each month and for delivering them to households across our community. We thank Kate Stephenson for adopting the duty of taking receipt of the magazines and Carol Condliffe for organising their postal delivery. We thank Angela Foulkes for her work with Andrew Regan undertaking final proofing of the magazine text ahead of the publication. We are also grateful to Olwen Smith, Carol Condliffe, and Rosie Stead for their work in hand delivering copies of the magazine, which extends its reach into our community.

Andy Clark

Handbell Ringers

The handbell ringers stopped meeting regularly during the initial stages of the first COVID-19 lockdown. Following easing of restrictions some of the participants moved away and were not able to attend regular practice. As a result, we have not been able to organise a regular team of ringers for some years. In 2023 we have managed to organise two events. The handbells were displayed at the Heritage Day giving visitors the opportunity to 'have a go'. This garnered interest from adults and children alike with younger visitors particularly enjoying the challenge of playing the biggest bells. In December we managed to assemble a team of 12 to play at the Nine Lessons and Carols service. We played an arrangement of the Carol of the Bells, which was very well received. Going forward we are looking to assemble a team to play at events and special services in the future.

Andy Clark

Lent Breakfasts

Once again we ran five consecutive sessions on Saturday mornings, starting on 25 February and ending on 25 March. As usual, breakfast began at 9.30am and the talks at 10.0am followed by questions. We finished at 11.00am. Each session began and ended with a short prayer.

This year's subject was Exploring Mental Health and it proved a popular one. The atmosphere in which these sessions took place was notably calm, sympathetic and supportive. I have put attendance figures at the end of my summary of each talk.

In the first session Retired Consultant Psychiatrist Bob Baldwin talked to us about Mental Health and the NHS from a doctor's perspective. He gave an overview of mental health and illness. Our answers to a quiz he had given us acted as the basis for this overview. He emphasised that mental well-being is on a continuum for all of us. (21)

On 4 March, Marion McCall, our former Parish Secretary, spoke about Finding Hope in a Troubled World – for ourselves and for others. In a moving presentation, Marion spoke from her own experience of recovering from depression and things in her life falling apart. (23)

Anne Rodger of Rev320 (a reference to the book of Revelation 3:20) talked to us on 11 March. She told of how she found herself called to leave her conventional job and open a charity shop drop-in in Stockport. Somewhere where people can talk and be listened to. (19)

Our last speaker, on 18 March, was Linda Buckley, Reader at St. Matthew's Stretton and Papyrus Champion. She gave a presentation called SPARK on the work of Papyrus in suicide prevention amongst young people. SPARK stands for Suicide Prevention through Awareness, Resources and Knowledge. (18)

On 25 March we held our usual reflection and discussion session under the title What Have We Discovered? Not only did we discuss what had experienced, but also what we might do more effectively as a church. A summary of our observations and suggestions was circulated following this session.(14)

A huge 'thank you' to all our speakers, to Peter Smith and his team for setting up and providing breakfast and to Marion McCall, Sue Cordingley and Morag Ranson for their support in organising the Lent Prayer Breakfasts.

Chris Dawson

Linen Guild

The small group have continued to care for all the white linen used during the various services. We were very saddened to lose our friend Jose and miss her very much. She was a great perfectionist. We now welcome Kate Stephenson on to the team.

Pat Rigley

Messy Church Bake Off

Thank you, God for giving us food (and elasticated waistbands)!

Messy Church Bake Off, requires at least two portions of whatever is being made; one that is prepared earlier and one for the actual service.

There are times, especially when using yeast, that even more samples in various states of rising, litter the Vicarage kitchen out of sight of the camera. My trusty assistant, Peter passes then to me when needed and being more than happy to lick the bowl, especially if chocolate has been involved.

Two recipes come to mind as being particularly successful one being the mini Christmas Crumble Cakes which sold well at the Christmas tree Festival and the gluten free lemon meringue cupcakes which someone described as follows, “ I’m pleased to say that your recent batch of Lemon cupcakes have been awarded the highest level of merit on offer by yours truly! I don’t think anyone has baked anything as good since Henry VIII founded the Church of England. “High praise indeed!

The main thing to glean from this is that I am always on the look out to get the various batches out to people to eat so the ministry team, clergy chapter and other events are likely to have been the recipients of my batch cooking!

Jesus in particular and the Christian faith in general features prominently in these services so the baking is only part of it.

Whilst it was initially devised as a Childrens’ service, it has been a delight to welcome so many adults who have come to join in. Thank you for doing that.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Messy Church for Adults

Why should children have all the fun? It was decided to hold a Messy Church for adults so they could take time out to be creative and to reflect upon the reason for the season.

Messy Church Easter for Adults

Quite a large crowd of men and women gathered in the parish rooms to make friendship bracelets, simnel cakes, flatbread, Easter cards and people moved around from one table to access other crafts. There was a real buzz in the air, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Messy Church Christmas for Adults

We tried out a Christmas Messy Church, but we couldn’t be in the parish rooms as they were being used by another group. We had the heating on and set up at the back of the church to make floral displays (one person made a Christmas tree), chocolates and decorations. Again, a number of people came along and had a good time.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union have had a very varied programme during 2023. Our speakers included, 'Chuckle with Chutney' with Melanie Latham, Julia Maunder spoke about 'Independent Options', Angela Foulkes on 'Ear Friendly', 'Virtual Babies' were brought to us by Helen Harrison, an MU member from Congleton. For Easter Kim Regan gave a multimedia presentation entitled 'God of majesty, suffering and Joy'. 'Steady in Stockport' provided information on how we can stay safe at home and what facilities are available to us. We had an afternoon tea, all provided by local shops, a communion service and two new members were enrolled, Angela Foulkes and Hazel Jenkins.

A lunch at The Deanwater was enjoyed by members and guests. Catherine Brown demonstrated flowers with a Christmas theme. Our December meeting celebrated Christmas with Nine Lessons and Carols, readings by the Vicar and Rev Jenny and music provided by James with carols from famous cathedrals.

During the year we have lost three very dear friends and long-standing members, Margaret Sharrard, Olwen Garrido and Jose Westwood, their support and advice is greatly missed. In memory of all recently departed members we have received donations, and these have been used to buy rose bushes for the church garden and then we are to give Bibles to those couples married in church and small books of prayers for those children baptised at St. George's.

During the year we have collected items for the 'Bags of Education' project run in conjunction with the Diocese when we provided items such as pens, crayons exercise books for children who have to provide their own, four bags were sent off.

We are a friendly group meeting in the afternoon on the second Monday of the month and would welcome visitors and new members.

Pat Rigley

Praise And Play

Praise and Play continued to meet on Tuesday mornings between 10 and 11 during term time in the Parish Room. This has proved to be much more comfortable than when we met in church as it is much warmer and there is more room for the children to play.

The numbers attending Praise and Play has been fairly stable throughout the year, with between 10 and 16 children each week, plus their parents and carers. At the end of the summer term 3 children left to start school, nursery or pre-school and it was lovely to welcome new members to the Praise and Play family during the autumn term. It is a privilege to watch the children grow, becoming more mobile in some cases and other children becoming more confident over time.

For a few weeks during the first half of the Autumn Term Praise and Play had to relocate to the back of church whilst the Parish Room was out of action due to problems with dry rot. Most of the children and their parents/ carers coped with the change, however everyone was pleased when we were able to move back to the Parish Room after the October half-term break.

During September Marion Johnson had to stand down from helping with the refreshments due to ill health. Thank you Marion for all the years you have helped at Praise and Play.

In the Autumn Term there were a number of weeks when Sue Burt and Tracey Bennett were the only two leaders at Praise and Play as Lois was on holiday. Praise and Play has been a valuable part of the ministry at St. George's since it was started by Libby in the early 2000's and unless new people volunteer Praise and Play may have to close due to lack of leaders. This would be a pity as there is demand in the community.

Lois Kelly

Prayer Chain

This past year has been a busy one.

We have prayed for many people with many different conditions and noted some remarkable recoveries.

Some people have experienced the comfort of the healing prayers whilst crossing the threshold. Their families have been grateful for these.

Of course, none of this comes from us but from the Great Healer, our Lord Jesus.

Sadly, two of our members passed away this year – Josie Westwood and Stan Berry. They were stalwarts of our team.

Happily, we have welcomed new members to our prayer chain team – Dr Jenny McKay, Sue Cordingley and Marion.

I wish to thank all the members of the prayer chain for their constancy and commitment to this work.

We would love to welcome new members who have a few minutes each day to remember those on the list.

Never underestimate the power of prayer.

In gratitude

Phoebe MacLeod

Singing Group

Despite some initial interest in restarting the Singing Group during 2023, the group weren't able to provide enough singers to perform as a standalone group at specific evening Services during the latter part of 2023 – these being the Harvest evening Service at St. Gabriel's in October, the Remembrance Sunday Taizé Service at St. George's in November, and the Churches Together Carol Service at St. Gabriel's during December. A conversation is ongoing about the provision for the Singing Group to sing during Services, but whilst the number of participants remain low it isn't easy to plan occasions for the Singing Group to sing in the future without a significant increase in membership, and a regular pattern of rehearsals.

James Hibbert

Director of Music

Storytime

We managed the first ten months of the year and some of the stories had been included in the magazine. In November, we simply ran out of time, and no one noticed that Storytime hadn't taken place. December was the same, so it was decided that we'd lay it to rest.

It had been a useful way of connecting with children and adults over lockdown and we'd received some very helpful and positive comments over that time.

It took such a lot of preparation each month to produce something, and it may be that we do occasional Storytimes or stories for the magazine but we'll be leaving it for the present. Thanks for your support.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

St Gabriel's

Following a flood at St Gabriel's, the building was out of action for the early part of the year. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was kindly hosted by Davenport Methodists whilst restoration work was on going which included the levelling, stripping and resealing of the floor.

We were able to get in to use it for our beloved Frances Farrar's Memorial service in April. It was a service like no other, as it lasted three hours. Bunting made from her old hats festooned the ceiling and a model "Fairy Liquid" complete with wings, gave testament to Frances treading the boards at the Gang Show. It was packed.

Her sons did her proud in organisation, catering and hospitality. Each attendee was encouraged to take a bobble hat which had the legend: "Fran 1932 – 2023.

Gone to be a sunbeam". We borrowed the Fairy Liquid pinny to use as part of the Christmas Tree Festival display later on in the year at St George's.

We were able to gather for the Pentecost breakfast in June, the Harvest service in October and a Community Christmas Carol service in December. Our friends from the Churches Together joined us in worship on these services along with shared services at Davenport Methodist, singing Easter hymns outside the Community Centre in Adswold and the ever popular Carols around the Tree on the green near Davenport station.

Thanks for those who have been praying around the future of St Gabriel's as your prayers seems to have been answered, We were approached by a house church who had outgrown their premises and were looking for somewhere with a bit more space.

After checking the usual legal and safeguarding requirements, we were pleased to welcome Ebenezer Fellowship to St Gabriels'. They use the premises on Saturdays and Sundays, and we are delighted to have them with us. Due to a local church having the same name, they are now called Stockport Pentecostal Church.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Sunday Clubs

Sunday Clubs have continued to operate two groups this year. The pre-school / infants group leave during the first hymn and use the back of the parish room. The choristers leave after the Gloria and occupy the front of the room. It can be distracting to be in the same room, but we do not currently have enough staff to use two rooms. The timing for the older group is quite tight; they are not always able to complete an activity to back up the bible story and discussion. It is however preferable to them having no session at all, as the youngsters contribute well and enjoy Sunday Club.

As with other groups, Sunday Clubs were unable to use the Parish rooms whilst they were due to emergency building work in the autumn. As there was short notice the first week we held an outdoor session in the church gardens where we explored and observed nature. This proved to be an exciting and extremely positive experience for everyone, and we created a photo story for the Grapevine magazine. Despite having such a small space, we discovered a wide variety of flora and fauna using magnifiers and field glasses. In the following weeks we considered these gifts from God and the importance of the natural world, including the importance of pollinators, fungi, and lichen. This fitted well with the Church working towards A Roche Eco Church status and inspired a theme for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival where the children made decorations depicting

butterflies, mushrooms, lichen and moss. Our creations were then re-used as we were invited to decorate a Christmas tree at Lyme Park.

There is a wide age span within the groups, some of our older children are now in year 6 and 7 and we have some pre-school regulars who could benefit from joining in. To do this we would need to split into three groups but we do not have the staff. Ideally we need two to three further Leaders and another two Assistant Leaders (helpers). The commitment for Leaders is about 30-40 minutes to prepare a session using the published lectionary around once a month; helpers don't need to prepare, just turn up when it's their session.

Louise Clark

Telephone Buddies

This continues on an informal basis with people still keeping in touch with others.

This might well be extended usefully in the coming year so that everyone knows that they are being thought about and included in parish life.

Happy to hear from anyone who might be prepared to coordinate this as it proved to be a real life-line for those who might be feeling isolated.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Associate Minister's Report

I have now been at St George's Stockport for over one year now. The time has flown and I feel thoroughly at home in this lovely parish. My working agreement is for two Sundays per month with some flexibility. I have led, presided and preached predominantly at the 8.00am and 10.15am services and have also taken nine baptisms, one of them being three at once!

I co-hosted a 5 week "Contentious Christianity" on-line series on Zoom during Lent with Chris Dawson. We had a great selection of talks and these are available to watch on YouTube. Our speakers were most engaging, especially local speaker, Andrew Graystone, who knew many people associated with St George's from his days in Adswold and talked about small acts of kindness which can lead to real change in communities.

[YouTube links for Contentious Christianity Series Lent 2023](#)

Do Animals go to Heaven? Speaker: Rev'd Dr Jenny McKay

<https://youtu.be/fE4BWbXvJR8>

When is it Right to Protest? Speaker: Rev'd Mark Coleman

<https://youtu.be/vn9pkL5swxs>

How to be an Every Day Activist. Speaker: Mr. Andrew Graystone

<https://youtu.be/jqgMZsAs28E>

Euthanasia and Christianity. Speaker: Rev'd Professor Peter Selby

<https://youtu.be/rR-xx9P6qzI>

Artificial Intelligence and Christianity. Speaker: Rev'd Dr Tim Bull

<https://youtu.be/y5tPJiGq2Qo>

It was a pleasure to design the Good Friday afternoon service this year which was based on a service written by the Iona Community. A mixture of traditional and modern perspectives, it received very good feedback.

A lovely surprise, the equivalent of two weekdays annually, to be in the parish, was made available to me though my secular employment and thanks to this, I was able to participate in the Christmas Tree Festival (I loved the RSPCA Tree!), and to lead the Nine Lessons and Carols for the Mothers' Union this December. I led my first Christingle this December as well, and it was marvellous to see such a large congregation of over 300 adults and children participating in the Christingle story.

We held an afternoon Animal Blessing Service in July and a wide array of mainly dogs, a few cats and a very large, now sadly deceased golden hamster, Norris, attended for their blessings. Another Animal Blessing Service will be held in the Morning Service slot in June 2024.

Our first ever Reflective Service began on Sunday 25th June at 12 noon after the morning service. I was pleased by the positive response where we could carve out a short time of reflection and silence contemplating Psalms, Bible passages and sacred music. Special thanks to Chris Dawson and Sue Cordingley for all their help and active leading of our sessions on a monthly basis. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with Chris and Sue on our monthly Reflective Half Hours in church after the 10.15 service and to have a half day introductory session on Meditation in early summer, venue yet to be decided!

I continue to be a Minister in Secular Employment (MSE) in my IDEXX Laboratory workplace. Physical presence on site has continued to decrease following COVID, although I am on site every other month wearing my clerical collar most days. The focus there is my veterinary work, and to continue to provide a visible presence of the Christian faith in a diverse, multicultural workplace. An important part of my

role as MSE is to build relationships and trust with those who have felt let down by church.

Social media as The Reverend Vet continues well with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok presence and group of 250 followers who participate in a Facebook Pet Prayer group. The main platform is Facebook which currently has increased to 8400 followers. Many followers say they appreciate the daily reflections, poems, animal facts etc, especially where unable to attend church due to physical disability or lack of inclination/confidence to broach the physical threshold of church. A large proportion are also exploring faith and it is both exciting and humbling to learn of people who have started attending their own local churches (even as far away as New Zealand).

My Podcast series “Believe it or Not” where I discuss faith, environmental, animal issues with a different guest each month, is expanding and is available on Spotify.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4bKDAIZMW2gmLI5HkuWBJZ?si=-doeJvm2TJOAUn62aNXHAQ>

Hopefully, there will be more radio broadcasts and building up further presence on Thought for the Day, Radio Ulster to spread the good news to those of all faith and none. I also do occasional broadcasts on Radio Manchester and Radio London. I look forward to attracting further followers to expand my virtual ministry, and to continue to explore ways of ministry and discipleship to diverse communities in Stockport, with the other members of the Ministry Team.

St George’s has a rich musical tradition and I could not have been welcomed into the choir more kindly by James and the fellow choir members. I was thrilled to join the choir as a soprano on the March visit to Lichfield Cathedral, to be invited to Cantor at one Choral Evensong and sing in the choir at some other services, including two weddings. I look forward to an opportunity to Cantor again with a guest choir in June 2024 and to join the St George’s choir for one day on their Summer Tour to Blackburn Cathedral.

Thank you to everyone, especially Elaine, for all the help and support. You make it a joy and privilege!!

Jenny McKay

Report from the Vicar 2023

It has been a busy year which felt as if it has flown by. I must have met hundreds of people, planned and delivered hours of services and spent many more hours “enjoying” the overwhelming administration needs of a lively and vibrant parish.

Writing some of the reports within the main report has reminded me of the connections we’ve made, in person and online. It has been fabulous to link with so many new people in our church and wider community. It has been a real privilege to worship alongside those from different countries, backgrounds and cultures and to see them grow in the love of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Sam came in January to baptise or confirm 13 people, 3 of who attended St Alban’s Offerton but who were prepared for Confirmation by me. It was a wonderfully happy occasion for all concerned.

We continued to baptise people throughout the year, some by full immersion, and journeyed with other adults and children who were enquiring about their faith.

We had two joyous weddings, which have been written about elsewhere, and several more were booked in for 2024.

We had an unusually high number of funerals and separate burials of ashes (36 in total). Several of them were church family members which made it ever more poignant as we all shared in a time of grief at the many services throughout the year.

I applied for a grant for our Warm Spaces initiative which was held in the parish rooms over the winter. £1,000 was a welcome addition and enabled us to fund soup, bread and crafts although it has to be said that most people were happy to donate their delicious homemade soup and bread. With the Bishop’s permission we also held Morning Prayer and Wednesday Communion in the parish rooms giving it an intimate and slightly more informal feel and gave people an opportunity to linger and chat after the service.

With our Deanery licensed ministers and ministers in training, we attended an away day at Foxhill and explored the theme of “The Place of Psalms in everyday Christian Life”. This theme continued in a poetry workshop for the Deanery at St Albans and through music at a service at St George’s

This work on the psalms became a useful platform to begin a Time of Reflection which was led by Jenny McKay and Chris Dawson and which has further evolved into a very helpful time to pause, consider and pray once a month at 12 noon in the chapel area.

As noted elsewhere we held special services to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles and enjoyed an afternoon tea with Songs of Praise as part of our

emerging Café Church programme which so far in 2023 has included the Place of Psalms in everyday Christian Life through music in September and an evocative Taizé service in November.

It was the 60th anniversary of Self Supporting Ministers in June and so some of us went to Chester Cathedral for the special service which Jenny (our own SSM) took part.

Also in June, it was also the final Archdeacon's visitation service for Ian Bishop before he moved to Norwich Diocese to become the Bishop of Thetford. The service went like clockwork, thanks to the wonderful assistance from several people at St George's that evening.

It was my 25th anniversary of ordination in July and I was delighted to welcome my friend and former colleague, Linda Buckley, who kindly came to preach. She also led sessions about her work with Papyrus for our Lent Breakfast and for our Deanery Clergy Chapter.

We tried out a short time of lunchtime prayers. There seemed some appetite for this in the beginning but there were occasions when no one turned up apart from the leader so we've let that rest for the moment.

We are invited to the Renew Stockport first Friday prayers which take place at Stockport Baptist Church. There are more than 20 churches involved. Although it's an early start, I have found it to be a real time of blessing and fellowship as we gather for an hour from 8.00am to 9.00am to pray for our town.

Several of those churches took part in an interactive nativity service starting at St Mary's in the Marketplace. We were invited to dress up to help tell the story as we moved around the town centre. I soon discovered that not everyone had received (or decided to follow) the memo, so I was the only sheep present but was grateful for the two shepherds in the shape of Sue Cordingley and Hazel Jenkins who came equipped with their tea towels on their heads for authenticity.

Singing has been a big part of this year, not only in services in church, but out in the community. On Palm Sunday in Adswold we sang outside the community centre and sang Carols around the Tree near Davenport Station, both with the Churches Together. In addition to that, we sang around the parish for the Children's Society at Christmas and also sang at the four Residential Care and Nursing Homes we have been visiting in the parish as part of communion services there.

We now have an augmented Ministry Team and we welcomed Andrea Millington and Alan Brown to join us. They make up a wonderful group of people. It is nothing short of a delight to be with them, and their vision, their sense of humour,

their care of each other and their willingness to eat my cakes is overwhelming. So much goes on behind the scenes and it is this team who make much of it happen. Please pray for them as they minister to you and to each other.

Finally in a litany of so many valuable and precious occasions, events, services and happenings that I could write about, I just want to mention one in particular.

Thanks to the kind donations of a few people, we enabled our Christian brothers and sisters from Iran to prepare a traditional meal in the parish room kitchen. This was greeted with delight as, due to their present circumstances they were deprived of kitchen facilities.

The preparation went on all afternoon and the resulting food was a feast for the senses. Starters, main meal – meat and vegetarian, desert and hot drink for free although donations were gratefully accepted to go towards a planned trip out.

The food was delicious and, as we sat back to chat, the background music, playing on someone's phone was turned up and, one by one those from the Iranian community got up and danced. The joy and freedom in that dancing was palpable and there were a number of us smiling through the tears that sprung up as we witnessed something really special happening.

Let's keep dancing and witnessing and wondering for the Lord Jesus so that our smiles become infectious, so that people will want to join in and that we will share in the wonderment of being a follower of Christ.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

With every blessing Elaine.

Elaine

Financial Review for 2023

The PCC recorded an increase in funds of £371,694 over the year. PCC unrestricted funds grew by £353,428. The Fabric Fund increased by £19,370 and St Gabriel's funds reduced by £315. The Choir Legacy fund increased by £31. The Fearn fund reduced by £319, the Preservation Trust by £100 and the Music Fund by £400.

St George's unrestricted funds

St George's unrestricted funds showed a surplus of £353,428, compared with a surplus of £1,861 last year. This was after transferring an amount of £8,000 from unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund, and was entirely due to the sale of the curate's house 40 Beechfield Road, which resulted in a surplus above book value (shown as "Other income") of £359,983. Removing the effect of this sale would result in a net income before transfer to the Fabric Fund of £1,445, and a deficit after transfer of £6,555.

Overall income to unrestricted funds increased by £354,826 to £503,849, however, without the effect of the sale of Beechfield Road this would have been a decrease of £5,697. Total voluntary income, excluding legacies and grants, decreased by £1,436 to £93,653. Most of our regular giving scheme members continued or increased their support. Income received from letting the church and parish rooms decreased by £1,967 to £16,071, mainly because of fewer events in church. Net income from fundraising events was £9,992, as a result of a very successful Christmas Tree Festival. This was a little lower than last year (£11,489) when we also held the 125th Anniversary Festival. Net income from Grapevine magazine was £2,476, an increase of £408 over last year. Grants totalling £2,582 were received, including £2,000 for two warm spaces grants received in the same financial year.

Overall expenditure increased by £1,719 to £142,421. Parish share costs increased by £2,246 to £71,757. Church running costs increased by £8,698 to £32,337, which was entirely caused by increased energy costs and was also despite a significant reduction in energy usage. Expenditure on church maintenance changed very little at £627. Upkeep of services, including music and organ costs, was almost unchanged at £5,335. Expenditure on the Parish Rooms increased by £1,648 to £5,872, with gas heating (£4,280) being by far the major cost.

Following the sale of the curate's house at 40, Beechfield Road for £394,983 in April, a replacement house at 30 Maple Close was purchased for £316,798 at the

end of June. Several improvements are being made to the property in order to prepare it for rental, and the total cost up to 31st December 2023 (including the initial purchase) is £332,626, which now appears as an addition to tangible fixed assets.

The lease of our copier/printer came to an end in April, and a refurbished model has been purchased (rather than leased) at a cost of £2,760. This printer is also a new addition to tangible fixed assets and will be depreciated over five years.

A transfer of £8,000 was made from St George's unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund, this representing most of the net income from the Christmas Tree Festival. It was not necessary to transfer back any funds in order to comply with our financial reserving policy, however this was only possible because of the surplus resulting from the sale of 40 Beechfield Road.

Designated Funds

St Gabriel's funds

There was a deficit of £315 for the year, which is a reduction on the deficit of £1,442 last year. Income for the year increased by £1,673 to £2,339 mainly because of new rental income from the regular use by a local worship group. Total expenditure increased by £546 with the increased use of the church, to £2,654, which included £1,200 for professional upkeep of the churchyard. The reserves available to the church now stand at £8,274.

Fabric Fund

This fund was established in 2017 and received a further grant of £100 from the St George's Preservation Trust. Interest received on investments was £1,261, and there was an increase in the value of the investments of £10,141, compared with a decrease of £8,081 in 2022. There was a transfer of £8,000 into the fund from Unrestricted Funds. A grant of £1,776 was received from the Ironmongers' Company, which was used for the installation of handrails to the north porch. The fund currently stands at £145,278, representing an increase for the year of £19,370.

Choir Legacy Fund

This fund was established in 2020 with a £5,000 bequest from Frank Gee, a former chorister. After expenditure of £500 to support the choir and revaluation gains of £531, the fund stands at £4,492.

St George's restricted funds

The PCC is grateful for the continuing support of the Fearn Trust, which provided a grant of £20,000 to be used towards the cost of insuring both St George's and St Gabriel's churches.

Music Fund

This fund was established to receive grants for musical activities. In 2023 income received was nil, and payments totalling £400 were made to support our choral scholars. The fund has a balance of £5,822.

Choir Music Fund

This fund may be used to cover the cost of the replacement of choir music and has a balance of £112.

St George's Preservation Trust

Full accounts for the Trust are available on application. Income for the year was nil.

Expenditure this year comprised a grant to the Fabric Fund of £100, which has reduced the balance within the fund to £400. The Trustees have indicated their intention to pass the remaining balance to the Fabric Fund over the next four years.

Charitable giving

The following donations were made to charities from agency collections:

Donations of £142 from the annual Baby Memorial Service were shared between the Cradle Charity and the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society.

The collection of £284 at the Archdeacon's visitation service was given to Transforming Lives Together.

The sum of £986 was transferred to the Children's Society, from collections at the Christingle Services and carol singing.

Reserves and Investment Policies

The PCC reviewed its reserving policy in 2017. It is the policy of St George's to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months general running costs and an additional three month's salaries. At least one half of its minimum reserve should be held in Unrestricted Funds. These reserves may be invested in funds which provide some protection against loss of value due to inflation. This may take the form of capital appreciation or income which can be re-invested.

Reserves will continue to be held in the PCC's accounts with CCLA Investment Managers which is the leading fund manager for the assets of the church, charities and local authorities. It has a policy of engaging only in ethical investments and is owned by its clients – through the Boards of Finance in the case of the Church of England. The CBF Church of England Investment Fund is used which is highly diversified and balanced across many sectors of investment and is actively managed to achieve long term capital growth and steady income.

As at 31 December 2023 it was not necessary for the PCC to transfer funds from the Fabric Fund to Unrestricted Funds in order to comply with this policy. Transfers may become necessary during 2024 if expenditure exceeds income.

It is also the policy to hold a reserve to cover the work for projects that have been identified as necessary. This reserve, which may be required at short notice, is to be held in secure funds that are not subject to capital risks. An income from these funds while desirable is not essential. The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund is used, which holds only funds with AAA rated organisations and is managed by CCLA. However, excess funds may also be invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

The PCC has set a target minimum amount to be held in the Fabric Fund. This is calculated as a percentage of the insurance valuation of St George's Church, and the PCC make transfers from Unrestricted Funds into the Fabric Fund with the aim of reaching the target minimum within five to ten years. The current target minimum level is £142,000

A number of potential projects have been identified by the PCC including:

St George's Church

- Review of the lighting and sound systems in church
- Repairs to the west window
- Further investigations into the subsidence in the north east corner of the church, and any remedial actions required
- Repointing of churchyard wall
- Maintenance of masonry at roof level
- Development of kitchen and toilet facilities, with changes to the internal porches

Parish Rooms

- Redevelopment of the kitchen

The PCC believes that, at present, there are insufficient reserves available to cover all of these projects. Consequently, individual projects will commence only when adequate finance is available.

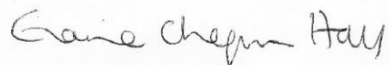
The reserves policy for St Gabriel's church was reviewed in 2016 and was amended to match that of St George's, i.e. the equivalent of three months general running costs. No major projects are envisaged in the near future, and the reserves are considered to be adequate.

The reserves are held on deposit with the church's bankers, or with CCLA Investment Managers.

Dr Andrew Regan
18th February 2024

Approval

The annual report was approved by the Parochial Church Council on 2nd April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gaine Chapman Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular background.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date 16-04-2024

Paul Clancy, BA (Hons), ACA, MBA
19 Rosemoor Gardens
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 4RF.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	6.a	101,235	1,949	20,000	-	123,184	130,849
Income from charitable activities	6.b	17,902	-	-	-	17,902	20,471
Other trading activities	6.c	20,637	1,734	-	-	22,372	22,756
Investments	6.d	4,092	1,525	-	-	5,617	885
Other income	6.e	359,983	167	-	-	360,150	-
Total income		503,849	5,376	20,000	-	529,225	174,961
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6.f	1,961	-	-	-	1,961	5,460
Expenditure on charitable activities	6.g	140,460	5,062	20,720	-	166,242	162,075
Other expenditure		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		142,421	5,062	20,720	-	168,203	167,535
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer		361,428	313	(720)	-	361,022	7,426
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in	3, 4	-	9,100	-	-	9,100	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	3, 4	(8,000)	(1,000)	(100)	-	(9,100)	-
Other recognised gains / losses							
Gains/losses on investment assets	7.b	-	10,671	-	-	10,671	(8,571)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		353,428	19,085	(820)	-	371,694	(1,145)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward	3	76,963	138,959	17,838	-	233,760	234,905
Total funds carried forward	2	430,391	158,043	17,019	-	605,453	233,760

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

Balance Sheet

	Notes	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/12/2023 £	At 31/12/2022 £
Fixed assets							
Tangible Assets	2, 7.a	335,036	-	-	-	335,036	35,000
Investments	2, 7.b	-	95,597	-	-	95,597	84,926
		335,036	95,597	-	-	430,633	119,926
Current assets							
Debtors	2, 8	14,508	-	1,180	-	15,688	16,632
Cash At Bank And In Hand	2	88,987	62,446	16,104	-	167,537	107,234
		103,495	62,446	17,284	-	183,226	123,865
Liabilities							
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	2, 9	8,140	-	265	-	8,405	10,031
		8,140	-	265	-	8,405	10,031
Net current assets less current liabilities							
		95,355	62,446	17,019	-	174,820	113,834
Total assets less current liabilities							
		430,391	158,043	17,019	-	605,453	233,760
Liabilities							
		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities							
		430,391	158,043	17,019	-	605,453	233,760

Represented by

Unrestricted

Unrestricted - General Fund	3	430,391	-	-	-	430,391	76,963
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Designated

Designated - Choir (Legacy)	3	-	4,492	-	-	4,492	4,461
Designated - Fabric Fund	3	-	145,278	-	-	145,278	125,908
Designated - St Gabriel's	3	-	8,274	-	-	8,274	8,589

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

Restricted

Restricted - Choir Music	3	-	-	112	-	112	112
Restricted - Fearn Trust Grants	3	-	-	10,686	-	10,686	11,005
Restricted - Music Fund	3	-	-	5,822	-	5,822	6,222
Restricted - Preservation Trust	3	-	-	400	-	400	500
Fund Totals				430,391		158,043	17,019
						-	605,453
							233,760

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2023, including the notes following, was approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf by Revd. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, PCC Chairman:

..... *Elaine Chegwin Hall*

Date *13/3/24*

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31st December 2023

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, current Church Accounting Regulations and Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) together with the exemptions available to smaller charities under Section 1A. These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the value of investment assets which are shown at market value.

They include all transactions for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. They are only expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining at the end of each year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which the PCC has designated for a particular purpose, but the PCC retains the ability to use some or all of these funds for the general purposes of the PCC.

Income recognition

All income sources are accounted for gross. *Planned giving, collections and donations* are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. *Tax refunds* are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is recognised. *Grants and legacies* are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. *Dividends* are accounted for when due and payable. *Interest entitlements* are accounted for as they accrue. All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the annual report.

Expenditure recognition

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any parish share unpaid at 31st December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. All *other expenditure* is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted gross.

Governance costs include any costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and of any legal advice to the PCC on governance or constitutional matters.

Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventories which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2001 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on *consecrated and benefice buildings*, or individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2001 is written off. The parish office printer is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years. Other items of equipment with a purchase price over £1,000 used within church premises are depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

From 2023, no depreciation is provided on *freehold buildings* as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values are so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial. It is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Resulting from regular impairment reviews, provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

The Parochial Church Council consider that there are no material uncertainties about the ability of St George's PCC to continue as a going concern.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Investments						
6440: Investments	-	95,597	-	-	95,597	84,926
Total	-	95,597	-	-	95,597	84,926
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets						
6430: Tangible fixed assets: property	332,626	-	-	-	332,626	35,000
6431: Office printer	2,411	-	-	-	2,411	-
Total	335,036	-	-	-	335,036	35,000
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand						
6501: Bank of Scotland current account	1,645	5,749	12,994	-	20,388	23,402
6502: NatWest current account	20,202	8,005	2,711	-	30,917	22,746
6503: Preservation Trust current account	-	-	400	-	400	500
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account	67,140	48,692	-	-	115,832	60,586
Total	88,987	62,446	16,104	-	167,537	107,234
Current Asset - Debtors						
Z05: Accounts Receivable	14,508	-	1,180	-	15,688	16,632
Total	14,508	-	1,180	-	15,688	16,632
Liability - Agency Accounts						
6699: Agency collections	-	-	265	-	265	902
Total	-	-	265	-	265	902
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year						
Z04: Accounts Payable	8,140	-	-	-	8,140	9,129
Total	8,140	-	-	-	8,140	9,129
Net total assets	430,391	158,043	17,019	-	605,453	233,760
Represented by						
General (Unrestricted)	430,391	-	-	-	430,391	76,963
Designated - Choir Legacy	-	4,492	-	-	4,492	4,461
Designated - Fabric	-	145,278	-	-	145,278	125,908
Designated - St Gabriel's	-	8,274	-	-	8,274	8,589
Restricted - Choir Music	-	-	112	-	112	112
Restricted - Fearn	-	-	10,686	-	10,686	11,005
Restricted - Music	-	-	5,822	-	5,822	6,222

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

Restricted - Preservation	-	-	400	-	400	500
Total	430,391	158,043	17,019	-	605,453	233,760

3 Fund movement summary

Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
Choir Legacy							
Designated	4,461	-	500	-	531	-	4,492
Sub-totals	4,461	-	500	-	531	-	4,492
Choir Music							
Restricted	112	-	-	-	-	-	112
Sub-totals	112	-	-	-	-	-	112
Fabric							
Designated	125,908	3,037	1,908	8,100	10,141	-	145,278
Sub-totals	125,908	3,037	1,908	8,100	10,141	-	145,278
Fearn							
Restricted	11,005	20,000	20,320	-	-	-	10,686
Sub-totals	11,005	20,000	20,320	-	-	-	10,686
Music							
Restricted	6,222	-	400	-	-	-	5,822
Sub-totals	6,222	-	400	-	-	-	5,822
Preservation							
Restricted	500	-	-	(100)	-	-	400
Sub-totals	500	-	-	(100)	-	-	400
St Gabriel's							
Designated	8,589	2,339	2,654	-	-	-	8,274
Sub-totals	8,589	2,339	2,654	-	-	-	8,274
General							
Unrestricted	76,963	503,849	142,421	(8,000)	-	-	430,391

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

Sub-totals	76,963	503,849	142,421	(8,000)	-	-	430,391
Totals	233,760	529,225	168,203	-	10,671	-	605,453

4 Transfers Between Funds

An amount of £8,000 has been transferred from unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund. This represents the regular transfers which the PCC makes towards the cost of larger maintenance works.

An amount of £100 was transferred from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund. This represents a grant made by the Preservation Trust to the PCC.

As the value of unrestricted funds was above the minimum required by our financial reserving policy, it was not necessary to transfer any funds from the Fabric Fund to unrestricted funds as at 31/12/23 to meet the necessary minimum reserve.

5 Explanation of Funds:

Designated Funds

Designated Funds are fund set aside for a particular purpose. However, the PCC may resolve to use such funds for any other purpose.

The St Gabriel's Fund is used for all matters relating to St Gabriel's Church, and the PCC has given the St Gabriel's Committee limited financial authority over these finances.

The Fabric Fund holds monies set aside for the maintenance and repair of church buildings, including the Parish Rooms and the Curate's House. The PCC intend to make regular transfers into this fund from unrestricted income.

The Choir Legacy Fund was established in 2020 with a bequest from Frank Gee, a former choir member. It is intended to be used for the benefit of the choir.

Restricted Funds

St George's Church Preservation Trust was established under a trust deed in 1990. The objects include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church, the parish office, the parish rooms and other PCC property.

In 2022 the trustees made a grant of £100 from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund, and have stated their intention to transfer the remaining amount over the coming years.

The Preservation Trust is considered to be a connected charity, consequently the transactions and balances have been included in these accounts, but are restricted funds.

The PCC Restricted Fund represents donations given and monies raised for specific objectives.

An annual grant from the Fearn Trust of £20,000 (2022: £20,000) was received towards the cost of insuring St George's Church and St Gabriel's Church.

The Music Fund holds any grant income received in respect of musical activities. No further grant was received during 2023 (2022: £0) from the Pilling Trust to support our Choral Scholars.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

6 Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
6.a Donations and legacies						
0101 - Standing orders: Gift Aid	46,041	-	-	-	46,041	47,595
0102 - Standing orders: non-Gift Aid	2,890	-	-	-	2,890	2,100
0110 - Weekly Envelopes: Gift Aid	9,279	-	-	-	9,279	9,136
0201 - Weekly envelopes	1,525	-	-	-	1,525	1,480
0202 - Gift Aid Envelopes	2,056	-	-	-	2,056	2,316
0301 - Plate collections: GASDS	6,622	166	-	-	6,787	6,413
0302 - Plate collections: non-GASDS	30	-	-	-	30	-
0303 - Baptisms: plate collections (GASDS)	658	-	-	-	658	847
0304 - Baptisms: Gift-Aid envelopes	150	-	-	-	150	553
0305 - Funerals: plate collections (GASDS)	267	-	-	-	267	69
0306 - Weddings: plate collections (GASDS)	-	-	-	-	-	127
0307 - Funerals: gift-aid envelopes	-	-	-	-	-	10
0501 - Donations: other, gift aided	2,634	-	-	-	2,634	1,429
0502 - Donations for specific projects	107	-	-	-	107	-
0520 - Donations: floodlighting, gift aided	110	-	-	-	110	220
0521 - Donations: floodlighting	55	-	-	-	55	40
0550 - Donations: other (GASDS)	1,407	-	-	-	1,407	-
0560 - Donations: other	2,484	-	-	-	2,484	6,570
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	17,337	8	-	-	17,345	17,107
0701 - Legacies	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	1,723
0802 - Non-recurring one-off grants	2,582	1,776	20,000	-	24,358	33,115
Donations and legacies Totals	101,235	1,949	20,000	-	123,184	130,849
6.b Income from charitable activities						
0901 - Fundraising: festivals	10,770	-	-	-	10,770	16,738
0902 - Fundraising: other	1,043	-	-	-	1,043	-
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	3,241	-	-	-	3,241	3,733
1102 - DoM fees	1,457	-	-	-	1,457	-
1106 - Church fees - other than statutory fees for weddings and funerals	1,390	-	-	-	1,390	-

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

Income from charitable activities Totals	17,902	-	-	-	17,902	20,471
6.c Other trading activities						
1220 - Bookstall sales - fund raising	-	-	-	-	-	21
1240 - Parish Room lettings	10,351	-	-	-	10,351	10,878
1241 - Church letting	5,720	1,734	-	-	7,454	7,502
1250 - Magazine income - advertising	3,585	-	-	-	3,585	3,133
1260 - Parish magazine sales	981	-	-	-	981	1,222
Other trading activities Totals	20,637	1,734	-	-	22,372	22,756
6.d Investments						
1020 - Bank and building society interest	4,092	1,525	-	-	5,617	876
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings	-	-	-	-	-	9
Investments Totals	4,092	1,525	-	-	5,617	885
6.e Other income						
1310 - Insurance claims	-	167	-	-	167	-
1320 - Surplus - sales of fixed assets	359,983	-	-	-	359,983	-
Other income Totals	359,983	167	-	-	360,150	-
Income and endowments Grand totals	503,849	5,376	20,000	-	529,225	174,961

EXPENDITURE ON:

6.f Raising funds

1720 - Costs of printing envelopes	140	-	-	-	140	211
1730 - Costs of festivals & other events	1,821	-	-	-	1,821	5,249
Raising funds Totals	1,961	-	-	-	1,961	5,460

6.g Expenditure on charitable activities

1850 - Home mission	-	-	-	-	-	726
1870 - Secular charities	-	-	-	-	-	30
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	71,757	-	-	-	71,757	69,666
2001 - Assistant staff costs	11,229	-	-	-	11,229	11,381
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	1,168	-	-	-	1,168	2,372
2120 - Council tax - vicarage	3,687	-	-	-	3,687	3,537
2121 - Council tax - curate's house	-	-	-	-	-	819
2130 - Curate's house expenses	56	-	-	-	56	-
2131 - Curate's house - insurance	486	-	-	-	486	795
2132 - Curate's house - electricity and gas	(393)	-	-	-	(393)	703
2140 - Water - vicarage	839	-	-	-	839	702
2145 - Water - curate's house	(180)	-	-	-	(180)	610

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

2150 - Vicarage telephone and internet	425	-	-	-	425	-
2201 - Parish training and mission	-	-	-	-	-	37
2301 - Church running - insurance	-	-	20,320	-	20,320	21,062
2310 - Church office - telephone	570	-	-	-	570	-
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	1,512	-	-	-	1,512	41
2321 - Other music costs	1,850	500	400	-	2,750	3,840
2330 - Church maintenance	627	2,424	-	-	3,051	2,311
2340 - Upkeep of services	1,973	-	-	-	1,973	3,077
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	2,335	1,332	-	-	3,667	5,265
2360 - Administration	2,222	-	-	-	2,222	3,838
2401 - Church running - electricity	8,775	504	-	-	9,279	6,505
2410 - Church running - gas	23,212	-	-	-	23,212	17,008
2420 - Church running - water	350	302	-	-	653	525
2501 - Magazine expenses	2,090	-	-	-	2,090	2,287
2520 - Parish Room running - consumables	375	-	-	-	375	353
2530 - Parish Room running - electricity	300	-	-	-	300	300
2540 - Parish Room running - gas	4,280	-	-	-	4,280	2,785
2560 - Parish Room running - maintenance	917	-	-	-	917	786
2602 - Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-	714
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	140,460	5,062	20,720	-	166,242	162,075
Expenditure Grand totals	142,421	5,062	20,720	-	168,203	167,535

Note: Amounts collected from the St Gabriel's congregation, including planned giving, are shown under Plate collections (Designated Funds). This is necessary to ensure confidentiality given the small number of donors in some categories.

Staff costs

	2023	2022
Wages and salaries	11,229	11,378
National Insurance	-	3
Total:	11,229	11,381

During the year the PCC employed a Director of Music and a secretary at St George's, both on a part-time basis.

Payments to PCC members

James Hibbert was a PCC member throughout 2022 and 2023. In 2023 the PCC paid him a salary as the Director of Music (including payment for weddings and funerals) of £7,121 (2022: £6,842) and paid £280 (2022: £280) towards his professional development.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport
Charity number 1134170

7 Fixed Assets

7.a <i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	Freehold land and buildings		Office printer
	Beechfield Rd	Maple Close	
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 01/01/2023	52,000	-	-
Additions	-	332,626	2,760
Disposals	(35,000)	-	-
At 31/12/2023	-	332,626	2,760
Depreciation			
At 01/01/2023	17,000	-	-
Charge for year	-	-	(349)
at 31/12/2023	17,000	-	(349)
Net Book Value			
At 31/12/2022	35,000	-	-
At 31/12/2023	-	332,626	2,411

The freehold land and buildings at the beginning of the year comprised the curate's house at 40 Beechfield Road, Stockport. The house was purchased in 1988 at a cost, after refurbishing, of £52,000. The building was being depreciated at £500 per annum from 2003, on the basis of its expected useful life of 50 years, and was sold on 13th April 2023 for net proceeds of £394,983. It was then replaced by the purchase of the property at 30 Maple Close, Stockport on 29th June 2023 for £316,798 plus costs of surveys and capitalised improvements, totalling £332,626 up to 31st December 2023. This property is not being depreciated (see Assets in Note 1 above).

Those meeting rooms owned by the PCC are integral parts of the school premises and were donated by the Founder in 1901. As such the rooms are deemed to have no value for the purposes of these accounts.

The rented copier/printer in the parish office was replaced by a purchased machine on 15th May 2023 at a cost of £2,760, which is being depreciated linearly over five years.

7.b *Investment assets*

Movements in the year:	2023			2022	
	Designated Choir legacy	Designated Fabric Fund	Designated Total	All Funds	All Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening market value	4,461	80,464	84,926	84,926	93,497
Purchases at cost, less disposals at carrying value	(500)	500	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on disposals and annual revaluation	531	10,141	10,671	10,671	(8,571)
Closing market value	4,492	91,105	95,597	95,597	84,926

No investment assets were held in Unrestricted Funds or in Restricted Funds.

Holdings at 31 December in CBF Church of England Investment Fund Accumulation Units:

	2023	2022
Choir legacy	75.23	84.10
Fabric Fund	1525.69	1516.82
Total	1600.92	1600.92

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8 Debtors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Income tax recoverable	12,336	-	12,336	12,215
Prepayments and accrued income	2,173	1,180	3,353	2,356
Other debtors	-	-	-	2,061
Total	14,508	1,180	15,688	16,632

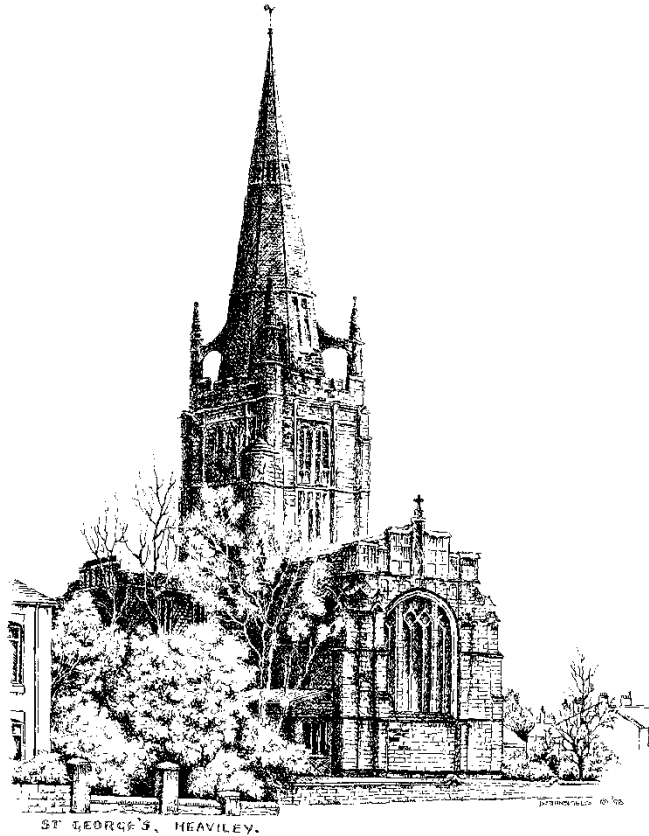
9 Creditors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year				
Accruals for utilities and other costs	5,902	-	5,902	8,971
Creditors for goods and services	2,239	-	2,239	1,060
Agency accounts	-	265	265	-
Total	8,140	265	8,405	10,031

Agency accounts contain monies to be transferred to external agencies, e.g. collections for charities, payments received for statutory DBF fees, etc.

The Parish Church of St. George, Stockport.

REPORT and ACCOUNTS
of the
Parochial Church Council



presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 21st April 2024

Annual Report for 2023

Administrative Information

The Parish of Stockport St George is located on Buxton Road, Heaviley, and the daughter church of St Gabriel is located at Clover Avenue, Adswood. The parish is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England.

PCC members who served during 2023 with future retirement dates in brackets are:

From January to May 2023

<i>Vicar:</i>	Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall Chair	
<i>Associate Priest</i>	Revd Dr Jenny McKay	<i>(Minister in secular employment)</i>
<i>Readers</i>	Mr Peter Hall	<i>(Also Deanery and Diocesan Synod)</i>
<i>Reader Representative</i>	Mrs Rita Waters	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Andrew Regan Mrs Hazel Jenkins	<i>(also Treasurer)</i>
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Mr David Foulkes Mr Ian Roberts Mr John Sutcliffe	
<i>Elected members:</i>		
Mr Tommy Bowden	(2025)	
Mrs Sue Burt	(2025)	<i>Assistant PCC Secretary</i>
Mrs Lois Kelly	(2025)	<i>PCC Secretary</i>
Mr Philip Warner	(2025)	
Mrs Penny Bisby	(2024)	
Mrs Janet Neilson	(2024)	
Mrs Morag Ranson	(2024)	
Mr William Hesson	(2024)	<i>Deputy Warden</i>
Mrs Louise Clark	(2023)	
Mrs Sue Cordingly	(2023)	
Mr John Hardy	(2023)	<i>Deputy Warden</i>
<i>Co-opted Members</i>		
Mr Peter Smith		
Mr James Hibbert		<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>

PCC Members From May 2023

Vicar: Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall Chair
Associate Priest Revd Dr Jenny McKay (*Minister in secular employment*)

Readers Mr Peter Hall (*Also Deanery Synod*)
Mrs Rita Waters (*Also Deanery Synod*)

Churchwardens Andrew Regan (*Also Treasurer*)
Mrs Hazel Jenkins

Deanery Synod Officer Mrs Sue Cordingly (2026) *Assistant Safeguarding Officer*
Mr Ian Roberts (*to November 2023*)

Elected members:

Mrs Sheila Daly (2026)
Mrs Marion McCall (2026)
Mrs Jennie Vandyes (2026)
Mr James Hibbert (2026) *Safeguarding Officer*
Mr Tommy Bowden (2025)
Mrs Sue Burt (2025) *Deputy Warden Assistant PCC Secretary*
Mrs Lois Kelly (2025) *PCC Secretary*
Mr Philip Warner (2025)
Mrs Penny Bisby (2024)
Mrs Janet Neilson (2024)
Mrs Morag Ranson (2024)
Mr William Hesson (2024)

Co-opted Members Mr John Hardy *Deputy Warden*

Independent Examiner: Mr Paul Clancy

Structure and Governance

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission, number 1134170.

This report covers the activities of the two churches and of St George's Church Stockport Preservation Trust. The Trust was constituted under a trust deed dated 1st August 1990. While legally a separate charity, the Trust is regarded by the Diocesan Authorities as a connected charity, consequently its transactions and dealings are included in the accounts of the PCC.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All members of the two churches are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This fulfils our public benefit requirement.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees and project groups, which meet between meetings of the PCC.

The project groups in 2023 were for the Christmas Tree Festival, the Grapevine editorial group and the Inclusion Group

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

The Preservation Trust

The objectives of the Preservation Trust include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church and buildings. The Trustees may also finance other work connected with the voluntary aided school, youth work in the parish, or as agreed by the trustees.

The full PCC met 6 times during 2023 with an average level of attendance of 64%.

Achievements and Performance

The Electoral Roll total for St. George, Stockport PCC was 171 at the end of 2022.

- Marion McCall, Sheila Daly and Jennie Vandyes were elected to the PCC for the first time.
- James Hibbert was re-elected onto the PCC and John Hardy was co-opted.
- Peter Hall, Ian Roberts, Sue Cordingly and Rita Waters were elected to serve on the Deanery Synod.
- A faculty was obtained to install handrails on the steps to the North Porch, which were then installed.
- The PCC approved the appointment of Catherine Otley as Parish Secretary
- The PCC authorised celebrations for the Coronation in May.
- The PCC authorised the purchase of 30, Maple Close to replace 40, Beechfield Road as a curate's house and subsequent improvements to the property. This included installing double glazing; improving the loft insulation to meet current legislation; installing cavity wall insulation and decorating.
- The PCC applied for and were granted a Warm Spaces grant.
- The PCC approved the purchase of a new photocopier.
- A new Drainage Deed of Easement was signed to enable the developers to sell the final flat in the "Old Vicarage"

Church Attendance

The average weekly attendance, at church, for St. George's was:

NB last year's figures in italics

Choral Evensong	33.0	<i>27.6</i>
Early Communion	12.0	<i>13.8</i>
Parish Communion	88.2	<i>78.2</i>
Praise & Play	28.5	<i>26.8</i>
Wednesday Communion	17.8	<i>15.1</i>
Wednesday MP	9.1	<i>6.8</i>

Baptism Assistants Team

This year has once again been quite busy for baptisms. We have had 24 in total including 4 adults with 3 immersions and one set of twins.

The baptism team are always pleased to welcome the families into church. It is very rewarding to be of help to the clergy on these special occasions.

Sadly, this year we have lost Peter Pilbeam one of the baptism team's founder members. He is sadly missed both as a friend and colleague.

Holy baptism is a joyful celebration service for families. In 2024 we shall continue to welcome everyone into our lovely church.

Brenda Swindells

Bell Ringers

It is pleasing to report, as previously, that Sunday service ringing and practices have been maintained with very few cancellations. A good standard of ringing is being achieved, and that for Sunday services is something of which we can be justly proud.

Ringing for the coronation of HM King Charles III on 6th May was a particularly special occasion. Details of the ringing and those who took part were carefully recorded in our tower log, which in years to come will be an important historic document.

Three new learners are receiving tuition and are progressing encouragingly. We hope that they will soon be able to become full members of the band.

We were able to marshal two visits up the tower on Heritage Day, for which the weather was gratefully ideal. Thanks to all who assisted.

There was only one wedding last year for which bells were requested. We have rung for one wedding so far this year; there are further weddings on the list for which we await confirmation if bells will be required.

I continue to be extremely grateful for the commitment and support of all the band, for which they have my sincere thanks.

Andrew Mayes – Ringing Master

Choir

St. George's Church Choir

Building on the successes of the previous year, 2023 was another excellent year for St. George's Church Choir.

As well as singing for the usual schedule of Services and rehearsals there have been a number of notable occasions throughout the year, and some of these are listed below.

Epiphany Carol Service 2023

As always, the first major service of the year was the Epiphany Carol Service, a relatively recent addition to our list of annual Services, this continues to be a well-received Service, contrasting nicely with the scale and grandeur of the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols a few weeks beforehand.

Spring Cathedral Tour 2023

In March 2023 the choir travelled to Lichfield Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong for their Spring Tour. This was our second visit to the Cathedral in 12 months, and we were invited back again for a further visit in the future.

Coronation Weekend (Sunday 7th May 2023)

On Sunday 7th May the choir sang at both the morning Service and afternoon Café Church to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. It was a memorable occasion for all involved! In preparation for the festivities the choir learnt a number of big choral anthems including Zadok the Priest – Handel, I was glad – Parry, and a newly written anthem commissioned by the RSCM for the occasion called The mountain's shall bring peace – Forbes L'Estrange. Thanks must go to David Cavendish for playing the organ at the morning service.

Summer Cathedral Tour 2023

August saw the choir make the very short journey over the Diocesan boundary to Manchester Cathedral for their 2023 Summer Tour. The choir sang for three services on the last weekend in August, and received a very warm welcome from the Clergy and Congregation at the Cathedral. We have since been invited back on a future date. It is important to note that this was the first time that many of our Junior Choristers joined the Adults for a Cathedral visit, and this was noted during the Sermon at Evensong on the Sunday evening by Canon Nigel Ashworth who preached on the importance of youngsters in music and within Parish life.

Wedding of David Bird & Lauren Bird

On Saturday 2nd September the choir sang for Lauren and David's Wedding at St. George's. This was the first that the choir had sung for the wedding of a choir member for many years, and a lot of hard work went into learning the music for

the day to make it even more special. It was a wonderful occasion for everyone involved! Congratulations to Lauren and David!

Visit to St. Oswald's Church, Malpas

On Sunday 1st October members of the choir and ministry team visited St. Oswald's Church, Malpas, where a former Curate of St. George's, Revd Dr Janine Arnott is now Rector, to sing for their monthly Choral Evensong. We received a very warm welcome, and the Service was a great success.

RSCM Chester Area Festival 2023 & National Celebration Day

On Saturday 14th October 2023 members of St. George's Choir attended the Royal School of Church Music's National Celebration Day at Chester Cathedral to sing alongside the Cathedral Choir and Parish Choirs from around the Country. It was a real joy to be able to take some of our Junior Choristers to sing Choral Evensong at the Cathedral, and for them to experience singing with the Cathedral Choir.

Advent & Christmas 2023

As the festive season approached the Choir prepared for a number of important services and events. In addition to the regular pattern of Services the Choir provided music for Carol Singing at the Christmas Tree Festival, The Advent Carol Service, and the popular Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 17th December 2023.

The choir term ended with the Junior Choir singing for the three Christingle Services, and the Adults singing for Christmas Eve Midnight Communion and Christmas Day Service.

Music Department

My thanks to my friend and colleague Roger Briscoe for his work as Associate Director of Music. His support in accompanying the choir for rehearsals and Services each week is very much appreciated. Roger travels a great distance from home to St. George's, and this level of commitment to the choir and wider musical life of the Church is to be commended! His musicianship remains at the highest of standards, and we are very lucky to have someone with such a wealth of experience carrying out the role of Associate Director of Music. The work that Roger does often goes unnoticed to all but those attending the weekly adults' choir practice. If you want to see a really experienced professional at work I suggest coming along and watch how he accompanies a rehearsal with such skill. Thank you, Roger, for all of your work in 2023, particularly at weekly choir practices, monthly Choral Evensongs, and on Choir Tours.

Tom Glover joined us in August 2023, just in time for the choir's summer tour to Manchester Cathedral – *excellent timing on his part* – and has become a really

valuable asset to the musical life of St. George's. As an experienced organist Tom has played in some very illustrious places over recent years, and his arrival at St. George's during 2023 has been a blessing to us all. His accompaniment of the choir at rehearsals and Services has been wonderfully received, and the quality of his organ voluntaries week by week has been exceptional. The time and effort Tom puts in behind the scenes is remarkable – often giving up his lunch hour at work several times during the week to come to church and practice on the organ.

I thoroughly enjoy being able to share playing and conducting duties with Tom each Sunday. Thank you, Tom!

The working relationship, and friendship, that has built up between, myself Roger and Tom over the last couple of months has been a real joy to behold. I couldn't wish to have two better people to help me lead and direct the music at St. George's. Long may it continue!

As ever, thanks must go to Hannah Whitehouse for her support at Junior Choir rehearsals, and during Services. Hannah's work with the Junior Choristers behind the scenes is very much appreciated. Her experience as a teacher is a huge bonus to the success of the Junior Choir, allowing me to focus on music with the children. Not only does Hannah help in training the Junior Choristers but she goes above and beyond the call of duty to organise various trips out and social events for the Children throughout the year. I'm extremely grateful to her for her many hours of voluntary support to the Junior Choir, particularly in her work on the Voice for Life awards scheme.

RSCM Voice for Life Scheme

We continue to operate our internal ribbons programme using the Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life resources. During 2023 a number of the 2022 intake of Junior Choristers received their surplices at points throughout the year, signalling an end to their probationary periods.

Some children worked towards their Voice for Life light blue and dark blue awards. At several points throughout the year Hannah Whitehouse ran workshops with the children to work on musical theory and understanding. These sessions are vital in helping the children work towards completing each stage of the VfL process.

Head Chorister

Maddie Wilson was admitted as Head Chorister in November 2023. Maddie is our longest serving Junior Chorister (of the present era). She is a real asset to the choir, and her promotion to Head Chorister is well deserved!

Membership

2023 was a very rewarding year for St. George's Choir. During the year the Choir's membership increased significantly with new members joining the Junior Choir and Adults. As of the end of 2023 we had a total of 50 choir members, up from 38 members at the end of the previous year. Whilst the increase in membership is a wonderful thing, we continued to suffer from a lack of robes for all of the new adults and children who have joined the choir. A donation from a choir parent enabled us to buy some new Cassocks from Ormsby of Scarisbrick – the firm that makes our cassocks and surplices. In addition, we've been very fortunate to have received some second-hand choir robes from a number of churches across the North West, including St Paul's, Sale, St. John's Altrincham (Closed), and Edenfield Parish Church, near Ramsbottom.

I am grateful to the overwhelming support of our Vicar, Elaine, and the wider Ministry Team in enabling the choir to achieve so much over the last year. Some churches aren't so lucky to have such a great team.

James Hibbert

Director of Music

Christmas Tree Festival

When planning for the 2023 Christmas Tree Festival, we took two very important decisions. Firstly due to poor economic climate we would not raise any of our prices and secondly that we would like Father Christmas to visit on both Saturday and Sunday. Father Christmas was very happy to oblige and met with children both morning and afternoon each day! Our decision to freeze prices certainly paid off as we returned a record profit of around £9,000.

As a team we were delighted to welcome new exhibitors as well as many returnees, some after a longish 'Covid' gap. As ever the standard of decorations and the ingenuity of people was great to see and drew many comments of admiration. We welcomed both children and adult choirs to entertain everyone and the Karela School of Dancing wowed us with their show on Saturday.

My thanks go to all of the team and everyone who helped, but particular thanks must go to Peter Smith and his team for presiding over an incredibly busy café. There was much late night baking happening in several kitchens as we tried to keep up a constant supply of cakes. Thanks also to Pat Rigley who managed a splendid raffle which brought in over £1,000 and to Andrea Millington who very efficiently took over the role of liaising with the schools for visits and singing.

During the five days of the Festival we had over 4000 visitors including the visiting schools and youth organisations. This was up by a couple of hundred on last year

and interestingly visitor numbers for Sunday have definitely increased over the last two years. So, here's to the 2024 Festival!

Hazel Jenkins

Garden Gnomes

As workers in the outdoors, gardeners are accustomed to variations in weather conditions during the various seasons. By dressing appropriately, we can usually find suitable jobs to do, whatever the weather.

However, over the last twelve months we seem to have had more 'washout' days than I can remember. We have also experienced very windy conditions with large amounts of twigs and branches being scattered around the grounds. We are hoping Mother Nature will be kinder to us this coming year.

One bonus this year was the completion of the building work on the former vicarage site, allowing us to regain clear access to the roadway and paving, which has made tidying up a bit easier.

This time last year we were expecting to have to use professional help again to prune the trees in the North Avenue. However, we have been able to control growth at the lower levels ourselves, and defer higher level work by tree specialists for the time being.

Planting and maintaining the various flower beds continues to be a fulfilling part of our regular work. The new bed at the east end of the grounds, which was planted to celebrate the church's 125th Anniversary, has been retained. It was filled with bedding plants in the earlier part of the year, which gave a welcome splash of colour to the area. However, for the longer term it was decided a rose garden would be more manageable and, thanks to donations from various sources, that change-over has been implemented.

We would like to record our appreciation to all who have provided plants, bulbs and monetary gifts to help us in maintaining variety in the garden areas.

The more mundane, but equally important, general maintenance tasks of clearing autumnal leaves, tree debris and general litter, plus the ongoing battle with moss and weeds on the gravel paths, keep us busy.

We endeavour to keep the Remembrance Garden paving area clean and weed free, but, as noted in last year's report, in reality it needs repaving. It is the part of the gardens that church members and visitors notice when entering our building.

One major task requiring action is to renovate the compost heap arrangements which have been overloaded and will require significant effort to restore.

Over recent times, our team numbers have been reduced as former members have had to retire, and our resources have become stretched. We have been pleased to have Anoosh and Nazanin join with us on Tuesday mornings, but additional help would be appreciated as we move into the growing season.

We meet up between 9.30am and 12.30pm, at whatever times suit people's personal circumstances. Every little helps! We do allow ourselves a tea/coffee break around 11am, to chat and catch up on news.

If you are interested, please contact Walter Stead (0161 430 2449) or speak to any other team member. You will be made very welcome, as together we endeavour to present to visitors and passers-by the message that our church is a place that is cared for, and cares for all.

Walter Stead – Novice Gnome

Grapevine

The magazine is published in 10 monthly issues per year except for July/August and December/January when a combined issue is published. The monthly magazine is a 24–page full colour issue including the December/January issue, while the July/August issue was expanded to a 28–page issue. During 2023 the magazine has published a range of articles related to our Christian mission, with some of the highlights including articles on Christian worship in Ukraine, Holocaust Memorial Day, the Bishops' visitation to the Stockport Deanery accompanied by the Melanesian Brothers from the Solomon Isles, and on life as a Reader in the Church of England. Chris Dawson has provided a series of insightful and reflective pieces on meditation and prayer. We have also introduced more regular prayers as a feature of the magazine and the Storytime feature has a Christian theme.

The magazine continues to include regular contributions from the Garden Gnomes, Praise and Play, the Mothers' Union, and the Sunday Clubs as well as the monthly recipe provided by Pamela Ferguson. Printing in full colour has provided opportunities to include attractive photo stories. These have included photo stories on messy church, baptism and confirmation, the afternoon tea for the Coronation of King Charles III, Lauren and David Bird's wedding, and the Sunday Clubs work on God's creation for the Christmas Tree Festival. The December/January edition included a centre page spread of 12 of the best photos from the year. The magazine incorporates photos from contributors as well as using copyright free photos from the Unsplash website but with a clear acknowledgement of the photographers. The magazine has also included more regular features on environmental issues as part of our Eco Church mission. We have also introduced a regular 'What am I' challenge.

During 2023 we sadly included obituaries for Frances Farrar, Peter Pilbeam, Margaret Sharrard, Alice Ramsbottom, Stan Berry, Olwen Garrido, Jean Norton, and Kathleen Heaword.

The magazine committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month ahead of the publication of the magazine at the beginning of each month. Roles have shifted with some stepping down and others taking on these roles. We acknowledge the many years of service and extend grateful thanks to Judith Swift for taking receipt of the magazines each month and for delivering them to households across our community. We thank Kate Stephenson for adopting the duty of taking receipt of the magazines and Carol Condliffe for organising their postal delivery. We thank Angela Foulkes for her work with Andrew Regan undertaking final proofing of the magazine text ahead of the publication. We are also grateful to Olwen Smith, Carol Condliffe, and Rosie Stead for their work in hand delivering copies of the magazine, which extends its reach into our community.

Andy Clark

Handbell Ringers

The handbell ringers stopped meeting regularly during the initial stages of the first COVID-19 lockdown. Following easing of restrictions some of the participants moved away and were not able to attend regular practice. As a result, we have not been able to organise a regular team of ringers for some years. In 2023 we have managed to organise two events. The handbells were displayed at the Heritage Day giving visitors the opportunity to 'have a go'. This garnered interest from adults and children alike with younger visitors particularly enjoying the challenge of playing the biggest bells. In December we managed to assemble a team of 12 to play at the Nine Lessons and Carols service. We played an arrangement of the Carol of the Bells, which was very well received. Going forward we are looking to assemble a team to play at events and special services in the future.

Andy Clark

Lent Breakfasts

Once again we ran five consecutive sessions on Saturday mornings, starting on 25 February and ending on 25 March. As usual, breakfast began at 9.30am and the talks at 10.0am followed by questions. We finished at 11.00am. Each session began and ended with a short prayer.

This year's subject was Exploring Mental Health and it proved a popular one. The atmosphere in which these sessions took place was notably calm, sympathetic and supportive. I have put attendance figures at the end of my summary of each talk.

In the first session Retired Consultant Psychiatrist Bob Baldwin talked to us about Mental Health and the NHS from a doctor's perspective. He gave an overview of mental health and illness. Our answers to a quiz he had given us acted as the basis for this overview. He emphasised that mental well-being is on a continuum for all of us. (21)

On 4 March, Marion McCall, our former Parish Secretary, spoke about Finding Hope in a Troubled World – for ourselves and for others. In a moving presentation, Marion spoke from her own experience of recovering from depression and things in her life falling apart. (23)

Anne Rodger of Rev320 (a reference to the book of Revelation 3:20) talked to us on 11 March. She told of how she found herself called to leave her conventional job and open a charity shop drop-in in Stockport. Somewhere where people can talk and be listened to. (19)

Our last speaker, on 18 March, was Linda Buckley, Reader at St. Matthew's Stretton and Papyrus Champion. She gave a presentation called SPARK on the work of Papyrus in suicide prevention amongst young people. SPARK stands for Suicide Prevention through Awareness, Resources and Knowledge. (18)

On 25 March we held our usual reflection and discussion session under the title What Have We Discovered? Not only did we discuss what had experienced, but also what we might do more effectively as a church. A summary of our observations and suggestions was circulated following this session.(14)

A huge 'thank you' to all our speakers, to Peter Smith and his team for setting up and providing breakfast and to Marion McCall, Sue Cordingley and Morag Ranson for their support in organising the Lent Prayer Breakfasts.

Chris Dawson

Linen Guild

The small group have continued to care for all the white linen used during the various services. We were very saddened to lose our friend Jose and miss her very much. She was a great perfectionist. We now welcome Kate Stephenson on to the team.

Pat Rigley

Messy Church Bake Off

Thank you, God for giving us food (and elasticated waistbands)!

Messy Church Bake Off, requires at least two portions of whatever is being made; one that is prepared earlier and one for the actual service.

There are times, especially when using yeast, that even more samples in various states of rising, litter the Vicarage kitchen out of sight of the camera. My trusty assistant, Peter passes then to me when needed and being more than happy to lick the bowl, especially if chocolate has been involved.

Two recipes come to mind as being particularly successful one being the mini Christmas Crumble Cakes which sold well at the Christmas tree Festival and the gluten free lemon meringue cupcakes which someone described as follows, “ I’m pleased to say that your recent batch of Lemon cupcakes have been awarded the highest level of merit on offer by yours truly! I don’t think anyone has baked anything as good since Henry VIII founded the Church of England. “High praise indeed!

The main thing to glean from this is that I am always on the look out to get the various batches out to people to eat so the ministry team, clergy chapter and other events are likely to have been the recipients of my batch cooking!

Jesus in particular and the Christian faith in general features prominently in these services so the baking is only part of it.

Whilst it was initially devised as a Childrens’ service, it has been a delight to welcome so many adults who have come to join in. Thank you for doing that.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Messy Church for Adults

Why should children have all the fun? It was decided to hold a Messy Church for adults so they could take time out to be creative and to reflect upon the reason for the season.

Messy Church Easter for Adults

Quite a large crowd of men and women gathered in the parish rooms to make friendship bracelets, simnel cakes, flatbread, Easter cards and people moved around from one table to access other crafts. There was a real buzz in the air, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Messy Church Christmas for Adults

We tried out a Christmas Messy Church, but we couldn’t be in the parish rooms as they were being used by another group. We had the heating on and set up at the back of the church to make floral displays (one person made a Christmas tree), chocolates and decorations. Again, a number of people came along and had a good time.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union have had a very varied programme during 2023. Our speakers included, 'Chuckle with Chutney' with Melanie Latham, Julia Maunder spoke about 'Independent Options', Angela Foulkes on 'Ear Friendly', 'Virtual Babies' were brought to us by Helen Harrison, an MU member from Congleton. For Easter Kim Regan gave a multimedia presentation entitled 'God of majesty, suffering and Joy'. 'Steady in Stockport' provided information on how we can stay safe at home and what facilities are available to us. We had an afternoon tea, all provided by local shops, a communion service and two new members were enrolled, Angela Foulkes and Hazel Jenkins.

A lunch at The Deanwater was enjoyed by members and guests. Catherine Brown demonstrated flowers with a Christmas theme. Our December meeting celebrated Christmas with Nine Lessons and Carols, readings by the Vicar and Rev Jenny and music provided by James with carols from famous cathedrals.

During the year we have lost three very dear friends and long-standing members, Margaret Sharrard, Olwen Garrido and Jose Westwood, their support and advice is greatly missed. In memory of all recently departed members we have received donations, and these have been used to buy rose bushes for the church garden and then we are to give Bibles to those couples married in church and small books of prayers for those children baptised at St. George's.

During the year we have collected items for the 'Bags of Education' project run in conjunction with the Diocese when we provided items such as pens, crayons exercise books for children who have to provide their own, four bags were sent off.

We are a friendly group meeting in the afternoon on the second Monday of the month and would welcome visitors and new members.

Pat Rigley

Praise And Play

Praise and Play continued to meet on Tuesday mornings between 10 and 11 during term time in the Parish Room. This has proved to be much more comfortable than when we met in church as it is much warmer and there is more room for the children to play.

The numbers attending Praise and Play has been fairly stable throughout the year, with between 10 and 16 children each week, plus their parents and carers. At the end of the summer term 3 children left to start school, nursery or pre-school and it was lovely to welcome new members to the Praise and Play family during the autumn term. It is a privilege to watch the children grow, becoming more mobile in some cases and other children becoming more confident over time.

For a few weeks during the first half of the Autumn Term Praise and Play had to relocate to the back of church whilst the Parish Room was out of action due to problems with dry rot. Most of the children and their parents/ carers coped with the change, however everyone was pleased when we were able to move back to the Parish Room after the October half-term break.

During September Marion Johnson had to stand down from helping with the refreshments due to ill health. Thank you Marion for all the years you have helped at Praise and Play.

In the Autumn Term there were a number of weeks when Sue Burt and Tracey Bennett were the only two leaders at Praise and Play as Lois was on holiday. Praise and Play has been a valuable part of the ministry at St. George's since it was started by Libby in the early 2000's and unless new people volunteer Praise and Play may have to close due to lack of leaders. This would be a pity as there is demand in the community.

Lois Kelly

Prayer Chain

This past year has been a busy one.

We have prayed for many people with many different conditions and noted some remarkable recoveries.

Some people have experienced the comfort of the healing prayers whilst crossing the threshold. Their families have been grateful for these.

Of course, none of this comes from us but from the Great Healer, our Lord Jesus.

Sadly, two of our members passed away this year – Josie Westwood and Stan Berry. They were stalwarts of our team.

Happily, we have welcomed new members to our prayer chain team – Dr Jenny McKay, Sue Cordingley and Marion.

I wish to thank all the members of the prayer chain for their constancy and commitment to this work.

We would love to welcome new members who have a few minutes each day to remember those on the list.

Never underestimate the power of prayer.

In gratitude

Phoebe MacLeod

Singing Group

Despite some initial interest in restarting the Singing Group during 2023, the group weren't able to provide enough singers to perform as a standalone group at specific evening Services during the latter part of 2023 – these being the Harvest evening Service at St. Gabriel's in October, the Remembrance Sunday Taizé Service at St. George's in November, and the Churches Together Carol Service at St. Gabriel's during December. A conversation is ongoing about the provision for the Singing Group to sing during Services, but whilst the number of participants remain low it isn't easy to plan occasions for the Singing Group to sing in the future without a significant increase in membership, and a regular pattern of rehearsals.

James Hibbert

Director of Music

Storytime

We managed the first ten months of the year and some of the stories had been included in the magazine. In November, we simply ran out of time, and no one noticed that Storytime hadn't taken place. December was the same, so it was decided that we'd lay it to rest.

It had been a useful way of connecting with children and adults over lockdown and we'd received some very helpful and positive comments over that time.

It took such a lot of preparation each month to produce something, and it may be that we do occasional Storytimes or stories for the magazine but we'll be leaving it for the present. Thanks for your support.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

St Gabriel's

Following a flood at St Gabriel's, the building was out of action for the early part of the year. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was kindly hosted by Davenport Methodists whilst restoration work was on going which included the levelling, stripping and resealing of the floor.

We were able to get in to use it for our beloved Frances Farrar's Memorial service in April. It was a service like no other, as it lasted three hours. Bunting made from her old hats festooned the ceiling and a model "Fairy Liquid" complete with wings, gave testament to Frances treading the boards at the Gang Show. It was packed.

Her sons did her proud in organisation, catering and hospitality. Each attendee was encouraged to take a bobble hat which had the legend: "Fran 1932 – 2023.

Gone to be a sunbeam". We borrowed the Fairy Liquid pinny to use as part of the Christmas Tree Festival display later on in the year at St George's.

We were able to gather for the Pentecost breakfast in June, the Harvest service in October and a Community Christmas Carol service in December. Our friends from the Churches Together joined us in worship on these services along with shared services at Davenport Methodist, singing Easter hymns outside the Community Centre in Adswold and the ever popular Carols around the Tree on the green near Davenport station.

Thanks for those who have been praying around the future of St Gabriel's as your prayers seems to have been answered, We were approached by a house church who had outgrown their premises and were looking for somewhere with a bit more space.

After checking the usual legal and safeguarding requirements, we were pleased to welcome Ebenezer Fellowship to St Gabriels'. They use the premises on Saturdays and Sundays, and we are delighted to have them with us. Due to a local church having the same name, they are now called Stockport Pentecostal Church.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Sunday Clubs

Sunday Clubs have continued to operate two groups this year. The pre-school / infants group leave during the first hymn and use the back of the parish room. The choristers leave after the Gloria and occupy the front of the room. It can be distracting to be in the same room, but we do not currently have enough staff to use two rooms. The timing for the older group is quite tight; they are not always able to complete an activity to back up the bible story and discussion. It is however preferable to them having no session at all, as the youngsters contribute well and enjoy Sunday Club.

As with other groups, Sunday Clubs were unable to use the Parish rooms whilst they were due to emergency building work in the autumn. As there was short notice the first week we held an outdoor session in the church gardens where we explored and observed nature. This proved to be an exciting and extremely positive experience for everyone, and we created a photo story for the Grapevine magazine. Despite having such a small space, we discovered a wide variety of flora and fauna using magnifiers and field glasses. In the following weeks we considered these gifts from God and the importance of the natural world, including the importance of pollinators, fungi, and lichen. This fitted well with the Church working towards A Roche Eco Church status and inspired a theme for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival where the children made decorations depicting

butterflies, mushrooms, lichen and moss. Our creations were then re-used as we were invited to decorate a Christmas tree at Lyme Park.

There is a wide age span within the groups, some of our older children are now in year 6 and 7 and we have some pre-school regulars who could benefit from joining in. To do this we would need to split into three groups but we do not have the staff. Ideally we need two to three further Leaders and another two Assistant Leaders (helpers). The commitment for Leaders is about 30-40 minutes to prepare a session using the published lectionary around once a month; helpers don't need to prepare, just turn up when it's their session.

Louise Clark

Telephone Buddies

This continues on an informal basis with people still keeping in touch with others.

This might well be extended usefully in the coming year so that everyone knows that they are being thought about and included in parish life.

Happy to hear from anyone who might be prepared to coordinate this as it proved to be a real life-line for those who might be feeling isolated.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

Associate Minister's Report

I have now been at St George's Stockport for over one year now. The time has flown and I feel thoroughly at home in this lovely parish. My working agreement is for two Sundays per month with some flexibility. I have led, presided and preached predominantly at the 8.00am and 10.15am services and have also taken nine baptisms, one of them being three at once!

I co-hosted a 5 week "Contentious Christianity" on-line series on Zoom during Lent with Chris Dawson. We had a great selection of talks and these are available to watch on YouTube. Our speakers were most engaging, especially local speaker, Andrew Graystone, who knew many people associated with St George's from his days in Adswold and talked about small acts of kindness which can lead to real change in communities.

[YouTube links for Contentious Christianity Series Lent 2023](#)

Do Animals go to Heaven? Speaker: Rev'd Dr Jenny McKay

<https://youtu.be/fE4BWbXvJR8>

When is it Right to Protest? Speaker: Rev'd Mark Coleman

<https://youtu.be/vn9pkL5swxs>

How to be an Every Day Activist. Speaker: Mr. Andrew Graystone

<https://youtu.be/jqgMZsAs28E>

Euthanasia and Christianity. Speaker: Rev'd Professor Peter Selby

<https://youtu.be/rR-xx9P6qzI>

Artificial Intelligence and Christianity. Speaker: Rev'd Dr Tim Bull

<https://youtu.be/y5tPJiGq2Qo>

It was a pleasure to design the Good Friday afternoon service this year which was based on a service written by the Iona Community. A mixture of traditional and modern perspectives, it received very good feedback.

A lovely surprise, the equivalent of two weekdays annually, to be in the parish, was made available to me though my secular employment and thanks to this, I was able to participate in the Christmas Tree Festival (I loved the RSPCA Tree!), and to lead the Nine Lessons and Carols for the Mothers' Union this December. I led my first Christingle this December as well, and it was marvellous to see such a large congregation of over 300 adults and children participating in the Christingle story.

We held an afternoon Animal Blessing Service in July and a wide array of mainly dogs, a few cats and a very large, now sadly deceased golden hamster, Norris, attended for their blessings. Another Animal Blessing Service will be held in the Morning Service slot in June 2024.

Our first ever Reflective Service began on Sunday 25th June at 12 noon after the morning service. I was pleased by the positive response where we could carve out a short time of reflection and silence contemplating Psalms, Bible passages and sacred music. Special thanks to Chris Dawson and Sue Cordingley for all their help and active leading of our sessions on a monthly basis. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with Chris and Sue on our monthly Reflective Half Hours in church after the 10.15 service and to have a half day introductory session on Meditation in early summer, venue yet to be decided!

I continue to be a Minister in Secular Employment (MSE) in my IDEXX Laboratory workplace. Physical presence on site has continued to decrease following COVID, although I am on site every other month wearing my clerical collar most days. The focus there is my veterinary work, and to continue to provide a visible presence of the Christian faith in a diverse, multicultural workplace. An important part of my

role as MSE is to build relationships and trust with those who have felt let down by church.

Social media as The Reverend Vet continues well with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok presence and group of 250 followers who participate in a Facebook Pet Prayer group. The main platform is Facebook which currently has increased to 8400 followers. Many followers say they appreciate the daily reflections, poems, animal facts etc, especially where unable to attend church due to physical disability or lack of inclination/confidence to broach the physical threshold of church. A large proportion are also exploring faith and it is both exciting and humbling to learn of people who have started attending their own local churches (even as far away as New Zealand).

My Podcast series “Believe it or Not” where I discuss faith, environmental, animal issues with a different guest each month, is expanding and is available on Spotify.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4bKDAIZMW2gmLI5HkuWBJZ?si=-doeJvm2TJOAUn62aNXHAQ>

Hopefully, there will be more radio broadcasts and building up further presence on Thought for the Day, Radio Ulster to spread the good news to those of all faith and none. I also do occasional broadcasts on Radio Manchester and Radio London. I look forward to attracting further followers to expand my virtual ministry, and to continue to explore ways of ministry and discipleship to diverse communities in Stockport, with the other members of the Ministry Team.

St George’s has a rich musical tradition and I could not have been welcomed into the choir more kindly by James and the fellow choir members. I was thrilled to join the choir as a soprano on the March visit to Lichfield Cathedral, to be invited to Cantor at one Choral Evensong and sing in the choir at some other services, including two weddings. I look forward to an opportunity to Cantor again with a guest choir in June 2024 and to join the St George’s choir for one day on their Summer Tour to Blackburn Cathedral.

Thank you to everyone, especially Elaine, for all the help and support. You make it a joy and privilege!!

Jenny McKay

Report from the Vicar 2023

It has been a busy year which felt as if it has flown by. I must have met hundreds of people, planned and delivered hours of services and spent many more hours “enjoying” the overwhelming administration needs of a lively and vibrant parish.

Writing some of the reports within the main report has reminded me of the connections we’ve made, in person and online. It has been fabulous to link with so many new people in our church and wider community. It has been a real privilege to worship alongside those from different countries, backgrounds and cultures and to see them grow in the love of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Sam came in January to baptise or confirm 13 people, 3 of who attended St Alban’s Offerton but who were prepared for Confirmation by me. It was a wonderfully happy occasion for all concerned.

We continued to baptise people throughout the year, some by full immersion, and journeyed with other adults and children who were enquiring about their faith.

We had two joyous weddings, which have been written about elsewhere, and several more were booked in for 2024.

We had an unusually high number of funerals and separate burials of ashes (36 in total). Several of them were church family members which made it ever more poignant as we all shared in a time of grief at the many services throughout the year.

I applied for a grant for our Warm Spaces initiative which was held in the parish rooms over the winter. £1,000 was a welcome addition and enabled us to fund soup, bread and crafts although it has to be said that most people were happy to donate their delicious homemade soup and bread. With the Bishop’s permission we also held Morning Prayer and Wednesday Communion in the parish rooms giving it an intimate and slightly more informal feel and gave people an opportunity to linger and chat after the service.

With our Deanery licensed ministers and ministers in training, we attended an away day at Foxhill and explored the theme of “The Place of Psalms in everyday Christian Life”. This theme continued in a poetry workshop for the Deanery at St Albans and though music at a service at St George’s

This work on the psalms became a useful platform to begin a Time of Reflection which was led by Jenny McKay and Chris Dawson and which has further evolved into a very helpful time to pause, consider and pray once a month at 12 noon in the chapel area.

As noted elsewhere we held special services to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles and enjoyed an afternoon tea with Songs of Praise as part of our

emerging Café Church programme which so far in 2023 has included the Place of Psalms in everyday Christian Life through music in September and an evocative Taizé service in November.

It was the 60th anniversary of Self Supporting Ministers in June and so some of us went to Chester Cathedral for the special service which Jenny (our own SSM) took part.

Also in June, it was also the final Archdeacon's visitation service for Ian Bishop before he moved to Norwich Diocese to become the Bishop of Thetford. The service went like clockwork, thanks to the wonderful assistance from several people at St George's that evening.

It was my 25th anniversary of ordination in July and I was delighted to welcome my friend and former colleague, Linda Buckley, who kindly came to preach. She also led sessions about her work with Papyrus for our Lent Breakfast and for our Deanery Clergy Chapter.

We tried out a short time of lunchtime prayers. There seemed some appetite for this in the beginning but there were occasions when no one turned up apart from the leader so we've let that rest for the moment.

We are invited to the Renew Stockport first Friday prayers which take place at Stockport Baptist Church. There are more than 20 churches involved. Although it's an early start, I have found it to be a real time of blessing and fellowship as we gather for an hour from 8.00am to 9.00am to pray for our town.

Several of those churches took part in an interactive nativity service starting at St Mary's in the Marketplace. We were invited to dress up to help tell the story as we moved around the town centre. I soon discovered that not everyone had received (or decided to follow) the memo, so I was the only sheep present but was grateful for the two shepherds in the shape of Sue Cordingley and Hazel Jenkins who came equipped with their tea towels on their heads for authenticity.

Singing has been a big part of this year, not only in services in church, but out in the community. On Palm Sunday in Adswold we sang outside the community centre and sang Carols around the Tree near Davenport Station, both with the Churches Together. In addition to that, we sang around the parish for the Children's Society at Christmas and also sang at the four Residential Care and Nursing Homes we have been visiting in the parish as part of communion services there.

We now have an augmented Ministry Team and we welcomed Andrea Millington and Alan Brown to join us. They make up a wonderful group of people. It is nothing short of a delight to be with them, and their vision, their sense of humour,

their care of each other and their willingness to eat my cakes is overwhelming. So much goes on behind the scenes and it is this team who make much of it happen. Please pray for them as they minister to you and to each other.

Finally in a litany of so many valuable and precious occasions, events, services and happenings that I could write about, I just want to mention one in particular.

Thanks to the kind donations of a few people, we enabled our Christian brothers and sisters from Iran to prepare a traditional meal in the parish room kitchen. This was greeted with delight as, due to their present circumstances they were deprived of kitchen facilities.

The preparation went on all afternoon and the resulting food was a feast for the senses. Starters, main meal – meat and vegetarian, desert and hot drink for free although donations were gratefully accepted to go towards a planned trip out.

The food was delicious and, as we sat back to chat, the background music, playing on someone's phone was turned up and, one by one those from the Iranian community got up and danced. The joy and freedom in that dancing was palpable and there were a number of us smiling through the tears that sprung up as we witnessed something really special happening.

Let's keep dancing and witnessing and wondering for the Lord Jesus so that our smiles become infectious, so that people will want to join in and that we will share in the wonderment of being a follower of Christ.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

With every blessing Elaine.

Elaine

Financial Review for 2023

The PCC recorded an increase in funds of £371,694 over the year. PCC unrestricted funds grew by £353,428. The Fabric Fund increased by £19,370 and St Gabriel's funds reduced by £315. The Choir Legacy fund increased by £31. The Fearn fund reduced by £319, the Preservation Trust by £100 and the Music Fund by £400.

St George's unrestricted funds

St George's unrestricted funds showed a surplus of £353,428, compared with a surplus of £1,861 last year. This was after transferring an amount of £8,000 from unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund, and was entirely due to the sale of the curate's house 40 Beechfield Road, which resulted in a surplus above book value (shown as "Other income") of £359,983. Removing the effect of this sale would result in a net income before transfer to the Fabric Fund of £1,445, and a deficit after transfer of £6,555.

Overall income to unrestricted funds increased by £354,826 to £503,849, however, without the effect of the sale of Beechfield Road this would have been a decrease of £5,697. Total voluntary income, excluding legacies and grants, decreased by £1,436 to £93,653. Most of our regular giving scheme members continued or increased their support. Income received from letting the church and parish rooms decreased by £1,967 to £16,071, mainly because of fewer events in church. Net income from fundraising events was £9,992, as a result of a very successful Christmas Tree Festival. This was a little lower than last year (£11,489) when we also held the 125th Anniversary Festival. Net income from Grapevine magazine was £2,476, an increase of £408 over last year. Grants totalling £2,582 were received, including £2,000 for two warm spaces grants received in the same financial year.

Overall expenditure increased by £1,719 to £142,421. Parish share costs increased by £2,246 to £71,757. Church running costs increased by £8,698 to £32,337, which was entirely caused by increased energy costs and was also despite a significant reduction in energy usage. Expenditure on church maintenance changed very little at £627. Upkeep of services, including music and organ costs, was almost unchanged at £5,335. Expenditure on the Parish Rooms increased by £1,648 to £5,872, with gas heating (£4,280) being by far the major cost.

Following the sale of the curate's house at 40, Beechfield Road for £394,983 in April, a replacement house at 30 Maple Close was purchased for £316,798 at the

end of June. Several improvements are being made to the property in order to prepare it for rental, and the total cost up to 31st December 2023 (including the initial purchase) is £332,626, which now appears as an addition to tangible fixed assets.

The lease of our copier/printer came to an end in April, and a refurbished model has been purchased (rather than leased) at a cost of £2,760. This printer is also a new addition to tangible fixed assets and will be depreciated over five years.

A transfer of £8,000 was made from St George's unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund, this representing most of the net income from the Christmas Tree Festival. It was not necessary to transfer back any funds in order to comply with our financial reserving policy, however this was only possible because of the surplus resulting from the sale of 40 Beechfield Road.

Designated Funds

St Gabriel's funds

There was a deficit of £315 for the year, which is a reduction on the deficit of £1,442 last year. Income for the year increased by £1,673 to £2,339 mainly because of new rental income from the regular use by a local worship group. Total expenditure increased by £546 with the increased use of the church, to £2,654, which included £1,200 for professional upkeep of the churchyard. The reserves available to the church now stand at £8,274.

Fabric Fund

This fund was established in 2017 and received a further grant of £100 from the St George's Preservation Trust. Interest received on investments was £1,261, and there was an increase in the value of the investments of £10,141, compared with a decrease of £8,081 in 2022. There was a transfer of £8,000 into the fund from Unrestricted Funds. A grant of £1,776 was received from the Ironmongers' Company, which was used for the installation of handrails to the north porch. The fund currently stands at £145,278, representing an increase for the year of £19,370.

Choir Legacy Fund

This fund was established in 2020 with a £5,000 bequest from Frank Gee, a former chorister. After expenditure of £500 to support the choir and revaluation gains of £531, the fund stands at £4,492.

St George's restricted funds

The PCC is grateful for the continuing support of the Fearn Trust, which provided a grant of £20,000 to be used towards the cost of insuring both St George's and St Gabriel's churches.

Music Fund

This fund was established to receive grants for musical activities. In 2023 income received was nil, and payments totalling £400 were made to support our choral scholars. The fund has a balance of £5,822.

Choir Music Fund

This fund may be used to cover the cost of the replacement of choir music and has a balance of £112.

St George's Preservation Trust

Full accounts for the Trust are available on application. Income for the year was nil.

Expenditure this year comprised a grant to the Fabric Fund of £100, which has reduced the balance within the fund to £400. The Trustees have indicated their intention to pass the remaining balance to the Fabric Fund over the next four years.

Charitable giving

The following donations were made to charities from agency collections:

Donations of £142 from the annual Baby Memorial Service were shared between the Cradle Charity and the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society.

The collection of £284 at the Archdeacon's visitation service was given to Transforming Lives Together.

The sum of £986 was transferred to the Children's Society, from collections at the Christingle Services and carol singing.

Reserves and Investment Policies

The PCC reviewed its reserving policy in 2017. It is the policy of St George's to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months general running costs and an additional three month's salaries. At least one half of its minimum reserve should be held in Unrestricted Funds. These reserves may be invested in funds which provide some protection against loss of value due to inflation. This may take the form of capital appreciation or income which can be re-invested.

Reserves will continue to be held in the PCC's accounts with CCLA Investment Managers which is the leading fund manager for the assets of the church, charities and local authorities. It has a policy of engaging only in ethical investments and is owned by its clients – through the Boards of Finance in the case of the Church of England. The CBF Church of England Investment Fund is used which is highly diversified and balanced across many sectors of investment and is actively managed to achieve long term capital growth and steady income.

As at 31 December 2023 it was not necessary for the PCC to transfer funds from the Fabric Fund to Unrestricted Funds in order to comply with this policy. Transfers may become necessary during 2024 if expenditure exceeds income.

It is also the policy to hold a reserve to cover the work for projects that have been identified as necessary. This reserve, which may be required at short notice, is to be held in secure funds that are not subject to capital risks. An income from these funds while desirable is not essential. The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund is used, which holds only funds with AAA rated organisations and is managed by CCLA. However, excess funds may also be invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

The PCC has set a target minimum amount to be held in the Fabric Fund. This is calculated as a percentage of the insurance valuation of St George's Church, and the PCC make transfers from Unrestricted Funds into the Fabric Fund with the aim of reaching the target minimum within five to ten years. The current target minimum level is £142,000

A number of potential projects have been identified by the PCC including:

St George's Church

- Review of the lighting and sound systems in church
- Repairs to the west window
- Further investigations into the subsidence in the north east corner of the church, and any remedial actions required
- Repointing of churchyard wall
- Maintenance of masonry at roof level
- Development of kitchen and toilet facilities, with changes to the internal porches

Parish Rooms

- Redevelopment of the kitchen

The PCC believes that, at present, there are insufficient reserves available to cover all of these projects. Consequently, individual projects will commence only when adequate finance is available.

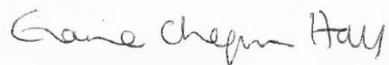
The reserves policy for St Gabriel's church was reviewed in 2016 and was amended to match that of St George's, i.e. the equivalent of three months general running costs. No major projects are envisaged in the near future, and the reserves are considered to be adequate.

The reserves are held on deposit with the church's bankers, or with CCLA Investment Managers.

Dr Andrew Regan
18th February 2024

Approval

The annual report was approved by the Parochial Church Council on 2nd April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gaine Chapman Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light-colored rectangular background.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



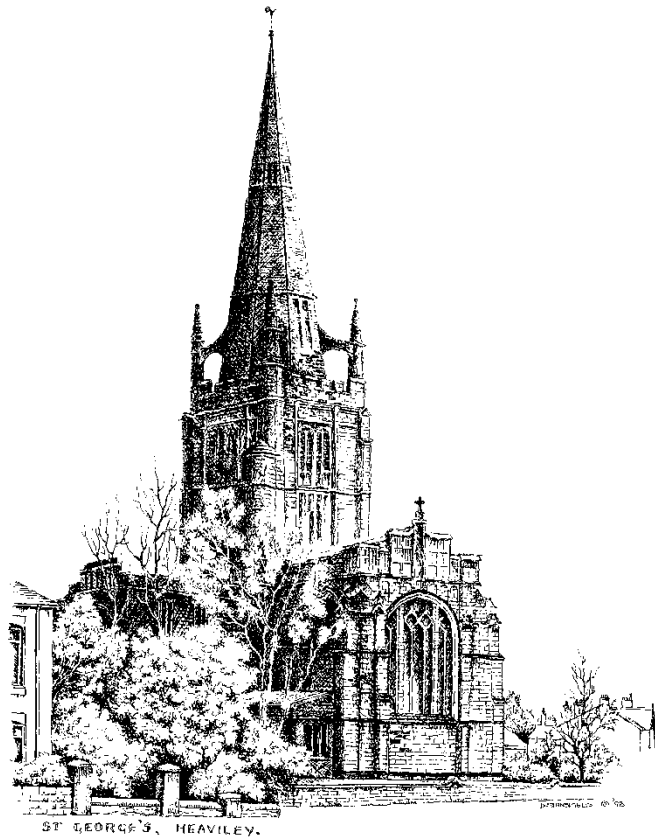
Date 16-04-2024

Paul Clancy, BA (Hons), ACA, MBA
19 Rosemoor Gardens
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 4RF.

Accounts

The Parish Church of St. George, Stockport.

**REPORT and ACCOUNTS
of the
Parochial Church Council**



**presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

23rd April 2023

Annual Report for 2022

Administrative Information

The Parish of Stockport St George is located on Buxton Road, Heaviley, and the daughter church of St Gabriel is located at Clover Avenue, Adswood.

The parish is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England.

PCC members who served during 2022, with future retirement dates in brackets after each name, are:

<i>Vicar:</i>	Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall	Chair
<i>Associate Priest</i>	Revd Dr Jenny McKay (Minister in secular employment)	from October 2022
<i>Assistant Curate</i>	Revd Dr Janine Arnott	to May 2022
<i>Reader Representative:</i>	Mrs Rita Waters	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Dr Andrew Regan Mrs Hazel Jenkins	
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Mr David Foulkes Mr John Sutcliffe Mr Peter Hall Mr Ian Roberts	
<i>Elected members:</i>	Mr Tommy Bowden Mrs Sue Burt Mrs Lois Kelly Mr Philip Warner Mrs Penny Bisby Mrs Janet Neilson Mrs Morag Ranson Mrs Louise Clark Mrs Sue Cordingley	(2025) (2025) (2025) <i>PCC Secretary</i> (2025) (2024) (2024) (2024) (2023) (2023)
<i>Deputy Churchwardens</i>	Mr John Hardy Mr Will Hesson	(2023) (2024)
<i>Co-opted members</i>	Mr Peter Smith Mr James Hibbert	<i>Safeguarding officer</i>

Independent Examiner. Mr Paul Clancy

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission, number 1134170.

This report covers the activities of the two churches and of St George's Church Stockport Preservation Trust. The Trust was constituted under a trust deed dated 1st August 1990. While legally a separate charity, the Trust is regarded by the Diocesan Authorities as a connected charity, consequently its transactions and dealings are included in the accounts of the PCC.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All members of the two churches are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This fulfils our public benefit requirement.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees and project groups, which meet between meetings of the PCC.

The project groups in 2022 were for the 125 anniversary celebrations; the Platinum Jubilee celebration; the Christmas Tree Festival and the Grapevine editorial group.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

The Preservation Trust

The objectives of the Preservation Trust include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church and buildings. The Trustees may also finance other work connected with the voluntary aided school, youth work in the parish, or as agreed by the trustees.

The full PCC met 6 times during 2022 with an average level of attendance of 67%.

Achievements and performance

- Philip Warner and Lois Kelly were elected on to the PCC for the first time; Lois Kelly was also elected as PCC secretary.
- The PCC authorised the 125 Anniversary celebrations.
- A faculty was obtained to install microphones to be suspended above the choir stalls in the chancel to replace the standing microphones.
- The PCC authorised the sale of 40, Beechfield Road and has agreed they will buy a replacement for it.
- The PCC applied for and were granted a Warm Spaces grant.

Lois Kelly (PCC Secretary)

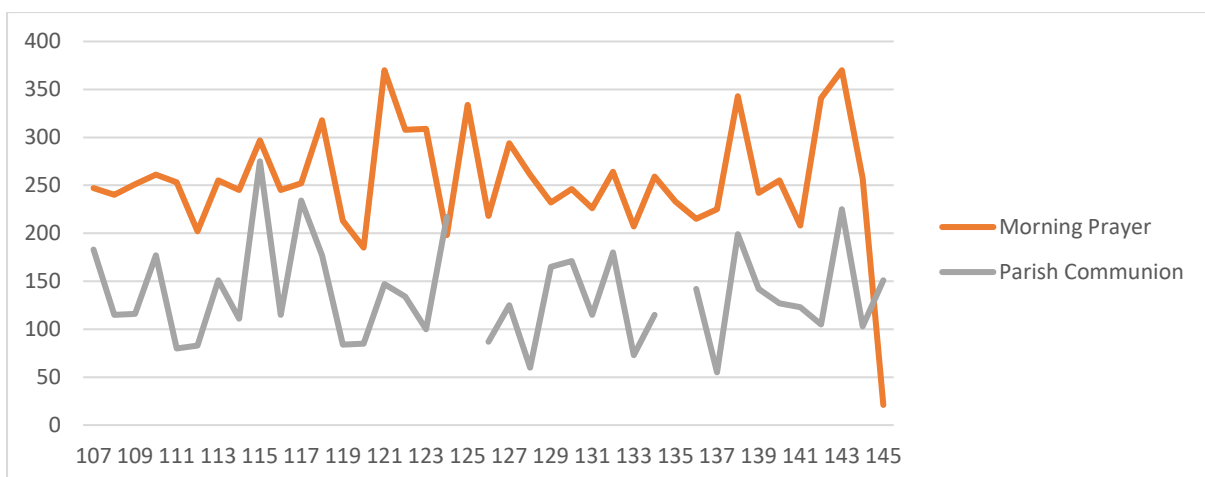
Church attendance

The Electoral Roll total for St. George, Stockport PCC was 188 at the end of 2022.

The average weekly attendance, at church, for St. George's was:

Choral Evensong	27.6
Early Communion	13.8
Parish Communion	78.2
Praise & Play	26.8
Wednesday Communion	15.1
Wednesday MP	6.8

Our online profile (number of views) in 2022 is shown below.



Baptism Assistants Team

We have had a busy year with 2 adults and 34 children (including 4 sets of twins!) being baptised.

We are a group of 11 volunteers who support the clergy and the baptism families during the service.

It is a very rewarding ministry and we have found members of the congregation who were present at a baptism, ask to come back to St George's for the baptism of their own child because they had such a warm welcome.

Bell Ringers

It has been a relief to have our first full year of ringing without any Covid restrictions. Sunday service ringing and practices have been maintained with very few occasions when cancellation has been necessary owing to lack of numbers. A good standard of ringing as been maintained, and it has been encouraging to learn and ring some additional methods that are new to us. Chris Hopper's move to rural Staffordshire has sadly depleted the band; his commitment and regular attendance was much appreciated over a significant number of years.

Very importantly, we rang the bells on all the appropriate designated occasions at the time of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of HM King Charles III. Details of the ringing and those taking part has been recorded in our tower log.

There will be another occasion for special ringing at the time of King Charles's coronation in May, and the necessary arrangements will be made for this.

It was good to be contacted in October by someone wishing to learn to ring, and Andrew Tyler and I spent some time on tuition. Unfortunately, as is increasingly the case, the learner stopped coming after only a few weeks. We couldn't help but consider that the weight and nature of our bells had something to do with this – they are difficult bells on which both to teach and learn. Nevertheless, I have been alerted to a possible enquiry from further interested parties that will be followed up.

As noted in my previous report, the lack of learners is a problem facing many bands. Covid hasn't helped, but the future of regular ringing at St George's could well be in danger in the not too distant future if more ringers, either those we are able to teach, or (as has been the case with a significant number of the present band) move into the area and join us!

I continue to be especially grateful for the commitment and support of all the band, for which they have my sincere thanks.

Andrew Mayes – Ringing Master

Choir

It is my firm belief that 2022 was one of the most profoundly important years in the life of St. George's Church for many years.

We celebrated many great occasions during the 12 month period along with some of the most historic and sombre occasions in recent memory. Music, as has been the tradition at St. George's, has played a key part in marking the majority of these significant occasions in the life of the Church.

The Choir's year started in January 2022 with a successful Epiphany Carol Service.

125th Anniversary Service

In February 2022 the Church celebrated its 125th Anniversary in the presence of the Bishop of Chester, with the Choir performing Hubert Parry's momentous anthem 'I was glad' to open the 125th Anniversary Service.

Spring Cathedral Tour 2022

On Saturday 5th March 2022 the choir visited Lichfield Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong for their Spring Tour. Another successful Cathedral Visit!

Platinum Jubilee

Sunday 5th June 2022 saw the whole country come together to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. The choir provided music for both the morning and evening Services that day as we marked such an important occasion in the life of the Monarch.

Elaine's 25th Anniversary of Ordination

On Sunday 26th June 2022 we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Elaine's Ordination at the 10.15am Parish Communion. A good turnout from the choir helped with the leading of the singing at the service as we sang some of Elaine's favourite hymns.

Summer Cathedral Tour 2022

August saw the choir visit Sheffield Cathedral for their 2022 Summer Tour. The choir sang for three services over the weekend of Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th August, and received a very warm welcome from the Dean & Chapter of the Cathedral. We have since been invited back on a future date. The Dean was particularly complimentary about our choice of Communion Setting, the Canterbury Service by Steve Barker, a friend of the Director of Music.

The Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On Thursday 8th September the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was

announced, and the country entered a period of National Mourning. Between the Friday morning and Sunday Evening choral and organ music was provided for a total of 5 choral services in 3 days. It's important to note here, for posterity, that the choir's adaptability and professionalism was truly impressive, and the period of National Mourning will forever remain in my memory.

This period culminated on Sunday 18th September with the choir being invited to sing at the Civic Service, led by the Bishop of Stockport, at St. Mary's in the Marketplace on the eve of the State Funeral, and in the presence of The Mayor and Deputy Lord Lieutenant.

Autumn 2022 Recruitment drive

(Junior Choir)

In late September/early October the choir set out on a recruitment drive to increase the number of under 16s in the choir. At that stage we had just one treble.

We contacted local schools and asked them to distribute a flyer with details of a revamped Junior Choir format, and the results were absolutely wonderful. We welcomed an initial intake of 9 new choristers to the choir in early October. By spring 2023 the group had increased to 14 children in the Junior Choir.

John Roff's 50th Anniversary of Ordination & Welcoming Jenny McKay.

On Sunday 2nd October the choir provided music for the 10:15am Parish Communion Service to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of our former Vicar, John Roff. The new junior choristers sang with the choir for the first time.

On the evening of the 2nd of October 2022, the choir also sang at the service to welcome Rev Dr Jenny McKay to St. George's. Members of Jenny's former congregation remarked how wonderful the music was.

Choir Dinner 2022

On Saturday 15th October the choir held a black-tie dinner for members at The Joshua Bradley in Gee Cross. This used to be an annual event however it had fallen by the wayside over previous years. Thanks must go to Lauren Bird for her excellent organisation of the event. Speeches were made by The Vicar, The Director of Music, and the Hon. Secretary, Eliza Spencer.

RSCM Chester Area Festival 2022

On Saturday 29th October 2022 members of St. George's Choir attended the Royal School of Church Music Chester Area Festival to sing alongside parish choirs from around the Diocese. It was a real joy to be able to take some of our new junior choristers to sing Choral Evensong at the Cathedral.

Tocatta and Songs Concert

On Saturday 12th November Roger Briscoe and soloists put together a concert in Church to raise funds for the choir. The concert was extremely well attended, and a great evening of music was presented to the very appreciative audience.

Advent & Christmas 2022

As the festive season approached the choir prepared for a number of important services and events. In addition to the regular pattern of services the choir provided music for carol singing at the Christmas Tree Festival, The Advent Carol Service, the Christmas Carol Service at St. Gabriel's, Adswold, and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, in the presence of the Bishop of Stockport on Sunday 18th December 2022. Following the service, we had an official choir photograph taken with the Bishop, Clergy, Readers and the Church Wardens.

The choir term ended with the Junior Choir singing for the three Christingle Services, and the Adults singing for Christmas Eve Midnight Communion and Christmas Day Service.

Music Department

Thanks must go to my friend and colleague Roger Briscoe for his continued work in supporting me with the running and training of the choir. To have a musician with such a wealth of experience assisting me is a real blessing. Roger's skill as an organist makes my job a lot easier, and his support is very much appreciated. In 2022 Roger celebrated 50 years since the start of his association with St. George's, and I know he feels at home at St. George's.

Hannah Whitehouse must also receive an honourable mention. Hannah's support at Junior Choir rehearsals is very much appreciated. Her experience as a teacher is a huge bonus to the success of the Junior Choir, allowing me to focus on music with the children. I'm extremely grateful to her for her many hours of voluntary support.

Thanks also to David Cavendish for his occasional support in accompanying the choir for anthems throughout the year. David's skill as an accompanist is clear to see, and I'm grateful to him for playing for the choir on Sunday mornings when required.

In conclusion, 2022 was a very rewarding year for St. George's Choir. During the year the choir's membership increased significantly with new members joining the Junior Choir and adults. At the end of 2022 the choir had 38 members on the books, with a number of guests occasionally joining us for bigger services from other local choirs.

James Hibbert Organist & Director of Music

Christmas Tree Festival

It was wonderful to return to a full throttle Christmas Tree Festival in 2022. We used lessons learned from our cautious re-opening in 2021 and enjoyed an altered layout with a more generous seating area for the café which also meant less furniture removal when we welcomed visiting choirs and the Karela dancing school.

We had 70 trees filling the church and as ever marvelled at the ingenuity and imagination of those putting up their trees. Trees were from local schools and businesses, church groups (both St. George's and other churches) and charities, art groups and choirs. The variety was fabulous.

A very conscious decision was made to keep the prices at pre-Covid levels as many families were struggling especially as Christmas approached and this proved a sensible decision as we had around 2000 adult visitors and 1000 children. Father Christmas managed to pop in again on the Saturday which delighted all the children, and we were delighted to welcome the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Stockport on the Friday.

Whilst the main aim is to welcome people into the church and ensure that they feel comfortable in the surroundings as well as providing literature in the form of the prayer trail, it was gratifying to finish with a profit of £8300. Much of this was due to the hard work of the raffle donors and ticket sellers and all the people who provided cakes and worked so hard in the café.

Our only request for 2023 is that we need more help on a day-by-day basis to ensure that everything is well staffed without depending on the same people all the time.

Hazel Jenkins

Garden Gnomes

The Gardening Team (aka: 'Gnomes') continue in our tasks of maintaining the gardens and the church surrounds in a tidy and attractive condition.

This last year, the weather has been significantly wetter than normal, particularly in autumn and winter, restricting our activities to a degree.

Our work on the North Avenue has continued to be affected by the building project on the former Vicarage site. The area opposite the North Porch, and the roadway, will require significant restoration work by the contractors as completion approaches.

Some of this area could perhaps be used as a wildflower/wilding area.

The trees in the South Avenue responded well to the hard pruning carried out in February. Similar work on the North Avenue trees can probably be deferred to autumn 2023, with some low-level work being carried out by the gardening team in the meantime.

As part of the church 125th Anniversary celebrations, a garden bed was laid out with a floral '125' display on the area alongside the A6. We felt it provided a welcome splash of colour to the area and we intend to retain it with a variety of suitable plants throughout the coming year.

Planting and tending flowers and pruning shrubbery in the Garden of Remembrance and other flower beds keeps us busy. With regard to the former area, some thought should be given to repairing/replacing the paving, which is showing its age.

We would like to thank all those people who have contributed bulbs, plants or money, to help us maintain a colourful display around our church. Any monetary donations for the new '125' bed would be particularly welcome.

The more mundane, but essential, tasks of collecting up autumn leaves (in large quantities), weeding and removing moss from the pathways (a 'Forth Bridge type of job), clearing drains and keeping the area free of litter are all part of our regular workload. There is always plenty to do on a Tuesday morning.

We are pleased that Cat Hayden has joined our team, and any other volunteers will also be made very welcome. We meet on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am onwards, up to about 12.30pm, but individual's times are flexible. We also take a welcome break for tea/coffee and biscuits and time for a chat, at about 11 am.

You don't have to be an experienced gardener to contribute to our activities; just come along and share in the experience of making our church and its surroundings attractive and cared for to all who pass by.

Walter Stead - Novice Gnome

Grapevine

Last year, 2022, was an eventful time in the life of the church magazine, Grapevine. Firstly, it reverted from the full colour, digital version, produced in order to weather the pandemic, to a full colour, paper copy in February 2022. This was not only to the delight of many readers who had not got the technology to access the digital version, but also to our printer, Kevin. Due to the risk of cross infection from handling and delivering paper copy, he had lost a great many customers who had sought other means of communication.

Our print run has reduced as several subscribers wish to stay with the digital version, preferring a paperless copy, but also a significant saving for them in postal charges. Judith Swift, Olwen Smith and I hand deliver many paper copies locally, and Judith not only takes delivery of the magazines from the printer each month, but also deals with the posted copies.

Then, our esteemed editor, Richard Parr, announced that he would be retiring from the post and moving to Southwest Wales in the summer, to be near his family. Richard had been assistant editor, supporting Mark Lane, before finally agreeing to be editor, posts he held for eight years. He provided thought provoking editorials every month, nursed the magazine through the pandemic along with the technological skills of Andrew Regan and saw the magazine return to its former smart, full colour paper editions.

Following Richard 's departure in June 2022, we held our first face to face team meeting in July, in the Vestry, since February 2020. A cross section of 15 of the congregation was invited to attend, and many turned up! The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the way forward without an editor, as no-one had volunteered. After a lot of soul searching, Andy Clark nobly stepped up to offer help to Andrew Regan in accepting contributions, provided with a word count, and deciding on layout. Andrew created an email address to which all contributions should now be sent, which will go to both Andrew and Andy – magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk

It was decided that the magazine would survive without a regular editor, but that a guest editor would be invited to contribute occasionally. Chris Dawson accepted that proposal and has already contributed. Another suggestion was that there should be something for younger readers and Nicola is providing occasional stories suitable for children.

Of the 24 pages, 12 are taken up with regular features. The Garden Gnomes submit an article every other month, Pamela Ferguson provides a recipe, or two, each month and the rest of the magazine is filled with contributions from our readership, for which we are always grateful, especially if accompanied by colourful photos. Special events such as the 125th Anniversary celebrations and the death of The Queen, Elizabeth II, have been covered extensively in the magazine in 2022.

We can also draw on material from Parish Pump, an organisation to which we subscribe, that provides a monthly selection of graphics, news stories, children's pages, reviews, jokes, poems and prayers. The 'Mouse Makes' page and the puzzle page are from Parish Pump.

The magazine is managing to maintain a profit, mostly through advertising revenue and subscriptions. Our 15 advertisers remained loyal to us during the pandemic, paying a retaining fee. In May 2022 advertisers were asked if they would like to appear in the leaflet being produced for the 125th Anniversary celebrations, they readily agreed and paid willingly. We are grateful for their continued support.

But the magazine could not exist without the wizardry of Andrew Regan and his amazing computer skills. He converts our efforts into the sleek, compilation that is produced each month, whilst juggling his other tasks – church warden, Treasurer, full time lecturing job at Manchester University – and he has the patience of Job – except when it comes to late copy, which involves a great deal of extra work, on top of the hours it has already taken him to compile the magazine. Copy dates are printed on the back page and should be adhered to.

Special thanks go to two other unsung persons – our regular proofreader, Angela Foulkes, who spends hours on the phone with Andrew, going through the magazine in minute detail before it is sent to the printer, Kevin, of Frank Aspinall's. He produces the polished magazine that is the envy of many other churches and considered the best in the Diocese by a former Bishop of Chester. We hope that we are maintaining the standard that both Mark Lane and Richard Parr set, and we hope our readership appreciates the Grapevine team's efforts.

Rosie Stead

Handbell Ringers

The Handbell ringers have not met in 2022,

Lent Breakfasts

This year's topic was Embracing Our Environment. Once again, we ran a series of five Saturday morning sessions from 5 March to 2 April. This enabled us to consider the challenges that such a subject brings from a number of viewpoints.

Janine Arnott set us off on our journey with the topic, Church and the Environment. As our Curate she had already gathered a group to consider St. George's possible response to the environmental crisis. She talked about eco-church, which is an umbrella term for an approach to church that recognises and promotes the role of the church in environmental issues. She suggested possible initiatives we could take, including working towards an A Rocha bronze award. We also considered what attitude and action scripture encourages us to take towards our environment.

On 12 March Grahame Buss, an Extinction Rebellion activist came to talk to us about Our Climate & Ecological Emergency. He had a unique perspective, having been a Principal Scientist at Shell before becoming a climate activist. Extinction Rebellion (XR) welcomes everyone and anyone who shares their concerns and principles. It's a decentralised organisation with local, autonomous groups and does not believe in apportioning blame, or in using violence.

Andy Clark talked to us on 19 March. As well as being a member of St. George's, Andy is a Lecturer in Environmental Science at Salford University. The title of his session was Tending the Garden – Food Sustainability. As well as galvanising us to understand the pressure on the world's food supply that climate change poses, Andy reminded us of the pressure on the environment that the clothing industry brings. Don't just cut down on your food waste, cut down on new clothes. Wear the ones you've got and buy second hand!

Friends of the Earth is a well-known environmental charity and Pete Abel, from Manchester came to talk about their work on 26 March. FoE has been going for a long time and it was good to hear of their continuing work and agitation on so many issues that arise from our exploiting the earth and its resources.

On Saturday 2 April we ended our Lenten series with what has now become a familiar session: What Have We Discovered? Grahame Buss had asked to return for this session and joined in with group discussions. Andy Clark had a series of questions and co-ordinated the responses. These answers will help in our creating an environmental action plan for St. George's.

A big 'thank you' to all our speakers, to all who attended the talks and especially to Peter Smith and his team for providing breakfast.

Chris Dawson

Linen Guild

The Linen guild continue to upkeep all the linen for the services in church and thank you to all the members of the group.

Pat Rigley

Messy Church Bake Off

Being able to juggle baking (not literally) whilst at the same time talking about Jesus has become a delightful challenge especially when it is live streamed, which is most all of the time. On occasions due to diary clashes, the baking is recorded but the cooking is all done in one take, so all the mistakes are there for everyone to see.

The initial idea for this was to offer something for children but it has become increasingly evident that there is a growing adult following (including the Archdeacon of Macclesfield).

The recipes are generally easy to do and don't need any flash equipment or ingredients. I have learned a lot about preparation, timing and delivery and, occasionally things come together as I expect.

I have covered major festivals, scriptural narratives and general Christian themes whilst making three Kings cake for Epiphany, Bara Brith for St David's Day, Valentine's Chocolate heart cake and the Queen's favourite, chocolate biscuit cake.

A la Blue Peter, I have to make at least one extra cake so I can say, "Here's one I prepared earlier" to decorate it when it's cool.

It's a monthly online service to which everyone is welcome.

Elaine

Mothers' Union

We have met during the year and had a very varied programme. We started in January with an afternoon tea with a difference, our tea was provided by The Damson Tree and packed into a box for each of us giving a selection of sandwiches, scone with jam and cream and cake. Then we had a very happy afternoon playing Beetle, the drawings were hilarious and not many resembled beetles. We were then serenaded by Gerard accompanied by Glenys. Curate Janine shared with us her experiences on her trip to the Holy Land as a run up to Easter. In June we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, most of us remembering the Coronation viewed on a 9-inch black and white TV screen with the rain pouring down. July saw us invade the Deanwater Hotel along with many guests for a lunch which was enjoyed by everyone. In September Vicar Elaine led a communion service and enrolled new members and celebrated 40- and 55-year memberships. Judy Clark told about the Lyme Hall and the Legh family. A very entertaining afternoon was led by our Rosie Stead as she showed how to make our own crackers, we were very poor students and didn't listen to instructions but amid much laughter and frivolity we did all produce 2 crackers! each. The year was concluded by two members leading us in our Advent service.

On a sad note, we have lost 3 members during the year, Gaynor Cartwright, Jean Martin and Margaret Jeffrey and we give thanks for their support over the years.

We should also like to put on record thanks for the continued help we receive in the setting up and clearing away so we can continue to meet.

Pat Rigley

Praise And Play

2022 was a year of consolidation for praise and play. Over the year we have greeted several families who have had their children christened at St. George's. Some have stayed for a few weeks and others have stayed for longer. It is always lovely to be able to welcome these families into the St. George's family.

For the 125 Anniversary we looked at the 23rd Psalm and our display took the theme "He spreads a table for me in the sight of my enemies". The children were all given a knitted sheep as a souvenir of the festival. At the end of the summer term, we said goodbye to a number of the children who were starting school or nursery. We also said goodbye to Morag Ranson during the summer term. Thank you, Morag, for your support and ministry with us over the years.

In September we discussed moving Praise and Play from the back of church to the Parish Room as the Out of School Club closed over the summer, which meant that it was available on Tuesday mornings. We moved to the Parish Room after the half term break. This is a much more suitable space for Praise and Play. We no longer have to be worried about children falling on the stone floor or climbing on the font, and the toilets are much more accessible. The children have more space to play, and we can have a greater range of activities for them. Parents and carers have more opportunity to chat together.

The team of leaders and helpers at Praise and Play is now down to a dedicated core of four and we desperately need more help. Should any of the current leaders leave for any reason it will be very difficult to continue to staff Praise and Play. Please do consider volunteering your time to welcome the children, their parents and carers into St. George's family.

Lois Kelly

Prayer Chain

Our team of 9 links in the prayer chain have worked diligently over the past 12 months. We respond to requests (mostly anonymous) for prayers for loved ones.

There have been some sad stories but also some uplifting.

What I realise is that not everyone is 'cured'. In fact, very few but many are healed at some subtle level and that is so reassuring.

As the Lord said, 'Wherever 2 or 3 are gathered in My name, there I am also'.

As I believe, never underestimate the power of prayer. Sometimes that's all we have left.

Phoebe MacLeod

Storytime

Storytime with Nicola occurs once a month, at 5pm on the first Sunday of the month. Through the telling of short stories aimed at children aged 4-11, we tackle issues as wide-ranging as depression after the loss of a grandparent to a retelling of The Lost Sheep. Storytime with Nicola attracts upwards of between 100 and 400 views and has three regular writing contributors: Rev Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, Nicola Pennicott-Hall and Rev Dr Janine Arnott.

Nicola Pennicott-Hall

St Gabriel's

St Gabriel's has been used as a festival church throughout the year. We held the week of Prayer for Christian Unity there in January, the Pentecost breakfast in June when we welcomed Revd Mike Newman from St Cuthbert's in Cheadle. We held a Harvest service in October and a Community Christmas Carol service in December. We invite our friends from the Churches Together and it is a joy to share in worship together.

There isn't a regular congregation as many have left due to frailty, illness, moving away or they have died so the PCC has been in discussion to discern what might be the best way forward for the shape of ministry and for the building itself. Please do hold the situation in prayer.

Sunday Clubs

During the first part of the year, we continued to offer a basic story and craft session in the children's corner at the back of church during the Sunday 10:15am service to any young attendee present. The team was planning on resuming holding Sunday Clubs in the Parish Rooms when we had a sudden influx of young people due to the successful recruitment of several new choristers and the wish of the Director of Music for them to take part.

After some experimentation in the coffee area with the older group Sunday Clubs has returned to the larger parish room during term time. The pre-school / infants group leave during the first hymn and use the back of the room with the choristers joining after the Gloria and occupying the front area of the room. The

timings mean that we can offer a bible story and discussion or activity to the older group and the younger group can usually also fit in a song or game.

The current arrangement works well with the current staffing levels although with two leaders also being members of the choir, we would welcome anyone else who would be interested in joining the team. We are actively seeking new Assistant Leaders (helpers) as we didn't have any which meant that staff were on the rota much more frequently in order to cover both roles. So far we have two new Assistants and would ideally like at least two more. The Assistant's is a straightforward role as an extra adult helping the leader. There's no preparation needed, just turn up when it's your turn.

Following the closure of the before and after school club we were delighted to have access to a range of craft equipment and materials which the club left behind as a donation to the church. To offer more and different experiences it was agreed that we should obtain a new portable projector with more current connectors and that has recently been purchased. We also have the use of WiFi if required via the Church's dongle. As the service is live streamed, it is possible for the Leader to keep an eye on the progress of the service via the live stream and return to church at exactly the right time.

The high point of the past year however must be the return of the Sunday Clubs Christmas party. As always, the leaders and helpers were almost more excited than the children, but the Playmobil nativity story was much admired, and the games and goody bags went down a storm.

Telephone Buddies

Whilst the formal structure of the Telephone Buddies has evolved into something a bit more flexible, there are still those who faithfully keep in touch with their nominated link people on a regular basis.

This ensures that the wider congregation continue to feel included in the church family.

Associate Minister's Report

I was very pleased to be licensed to St. George's, Stockport on 27th September 2022 and to attend my Welcome Service on 2nd October 2022. I am enjoying the experience immensely of working in your friendly city church, with a wonderful musical tradition, after 20 years in my rural parish church in Great Budworth.

My working agreement is for two Sundays per month with some flexibility in there as we know how busy Christmas and Easter can be! I have led and preached predominantly at the 8.00am and 10.15am services and contribute to the livestreaming of Morning Prayer and have recently submitted one item for Storytime.

I look forward to being involved in further services in the coming year. I am also planning a 5 week "Contentious Christianity" on-line series which will be run on the five Tuesdays before Easter. The equivalent of two weekdays annually, to be in the parish is now available to me and suitable events to attend will be chosen.

I continue to be a Minister in Secular Employment in my IDEXX Laboratory workplace. Social media as The Reverend Vet continues well with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok presence. The main platform is Facebook which currently has 4925 followers. Many followers say they appreciate the daily reflections, poems, animal facts etc, especially where unable to attend church due to physical disability. A large proportion are also exploring faith. It is exciting to reach out to people that the physical church cannot reach.

My Podcast series "Believe it or Not" is expanding and is available on Spotify. I look forward to attracting further followers and exploring ways of interaction with the streaming available at Stockport.

Jenny McKay

Report from the Vicar 2022

Our 125th anniversary set the scene for many of our activities and services this year. At the outset, can I convey my grateful thanks to all those who worked so hard with the preparation and delivery of all those special occasions which meant so much to our church and wider community.

In January, we were delighted to welcome Rupert Battersby who shared some fascinating insights into the Battersby Family who owned the hat works in Offerton and in the North of France. It was a humorous and insightful evening enjoyed by many.

February marked the 125th anniversary of the consecration of St George's and we were delighted to have Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Chester at this important service. We also buried a time capsule which had been carefully curated to include items relevant to today's society and included some letters written by St George's School. February also brought the annual Celebration of Baptism service.

March was taken up with Lenten journeying and a Concert from Stockport Grammar School, leading us to an April Eastertime and a wonderful gathering of people for our Drumroots workshop. The pizza was hot, plentiful and delicious afterwards!

The preparations for the Festival had been going on for some months before the event which took place from 4th to 8th May. The theme was "The Lord's my Shepherd" and we were overwhelmed by the many beautiful and creative contributions. The banners, made by St George's school, set the scene leading to the raising of "Shawn" the sheep into the chancel area. During the week we had visits from "Inspiring Animal Therapy" who brought two of their sheep to our assembly and some smaller animals to our family day on the Saturday where we were joined by the intrepid face painters, budding potters, facilitated by Brooklyn Pottery from Shaw Heath and the amazing Messy Church Team. The Sunday Pet Service brought an extra dimension to our worship and led us to meet Revd Dr Jenny McKay, who was to become our associate minister. The day was rounded off by a wonderful afternoon tea and Songs of Praise.

Later in May, Revd Dr Janine Arnott, our curate left to pastures new to be Rector in Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton.

In June, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was commemorated throughout the country and, whilst we couldn't have our planned "Street" party due to the vagaries of the weather, we did enjoy a great afternoon with music and quizzes and a delicious treat of afternoon tea indoors in church.

The saying goes that an army marches on its stomach and we, as Jesus' army, certainly marched on ours, with the help of a fabulous and varied menu. Thanks to Peter Smith and the team for being nothing short of brilliant in catering for our needs throughout the year.

The Fleet Air Arm and HMS Glory associations made the difficult decision to disband due to the age and infirmity of some of its members. They chose St George's to lay up their standards in a poignant and moving service, which was my huge privilege to lead.

It was also my privilege to recall my ordination which had been held 25 years earlier at St George's, which was unusual in itself, as Ordinations as Deacon invariably take place in Chester Cathedral. It was a lovely and heart-warming service, and it was a true delight to have the Venerable Richard Gillings, former Archdeacon and of Macclesfield and my former parish priest from Birkenhead, who came to preach on the day. He, and his family, travelled all the way from the Boat of Garten near Inverness to be there. I was also gifted some lovely things including a spectacular new green stole depicting St George and honouring the 125th anniversary with a little sheep motif. Thank you so much.

The second half of the year was just as busy with a celebration of marriage in July, a reflective and more restful August and plans for September for a Heritage Open Day and Battle of Britain service which had to be cancelled due to the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen.

A small team of us had been prepared for such an eventuality, so as soon as the news broke, we were able to move into a planned procedure which involved setting up the church for prayer and reflection, arranging specific services, raising and lowering the Union Flag and the tolling of muffled bells alongside chimes of celebration for the proclamation.

It is important to acknowledge, at this time, all those who had been involved in the earlier preparation, and also those who enacted what was required. Thank you to James Hibbert who spent many long hours with me as we endeavoured to make the many acts of worship appropriate and relevant. Thanks also to the choir who often stepped up at a moment's notice to proclaim the Good News in song throughout this period of mourning. Thanks to the ministry team who helped to lead and facilitate acts of worship and reflection. Thanks to those who raised and lowered the flag in line with protocol and to the bellringers, under the direction of Andrew Mayes, who made this solemn and sombre occasion, fitting and respectful.

We were also asked to support the Civic service at St Mary in the Marketplace on the evening prior to the Queen's funeral. James gave up his birthday celebrations to sit with me as we put the service together and worked with the choir who accompanied us to the service which was attended by a full congregation, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor and other dignitaries. It was very well received and much appreciated.

Thanks to James for his continued diligence and enthusiasm. In addition, James has encouraged new members to join the choir including a wonderful influx of children who are thoroughly enjoying being part of our music in worship.

Revd Dr Jenny McKay was licensed as Associate Priest on 27th September and a service of welcome took place on the following Sunday followed by refreshments.

In October, we held a Harvest Service at St George's and St Gabriel's, supported the Stepping Hill Chaplaincy Team at the Baby memorial service and welcomed the Sea Cadets for their Trafalgar Day Service.

On Sunday 2nd October we welcomed back Canon John Roff, former vicar of St George's, as he celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination. A few days later, I was commissioned as Rural Dean of Stockport

Things started to increase apace again in November. The Craft fair was back in business on 11th. This was put on by local crafter, Emma Bullock, with some help and support from those at St George's.

Also, in November we held our well attended Celebration of Life service, Remembrance Sunday service, Christ the King and Advent Carol services as well as the Christmas Tree Festival. Thanks again to all of those who pulled out the stops to make this such a splendid time for the church, schools and wider community. The £8K+ financial gain was offset somewhat with the news that our energy prices were rising sharply meaning that the energy bill was around £1.5K for those few days of the Christmas Tree Festival. We know we have a challenge ahead of us in this regard, in common with so many others.

In regard to finance, we have had a number of kind donations, but we have also lost a regular income stream now that the Before and After school have ceased operating in the parish rooms. We need to think carefully and creatively how we might use this space in the future. Praise and Play have taken over the venue on Tuesday mornings and we started Warm Spaces after the Morning Prayer and Communion services on Wednesday which have also been moved to the parish rooms with the permission of the Bishop and Archdeacon. This maximises the use of the building which is already being warmed for another user and we were

successful in a bid for funding from the local council for £1K to support the Warm Spaces venture.

December brought the welcome return of many of our regular bookings and services as we moved towards Christmas which was fabulous to see so many people in church again.

It has been a really busy year but, thanks to the effort and support of so many, we have done it! We have celebrated and rejoiced, mourned and cried and have come out stronger in so many ways. *Romans 12:4-18*

Thank you, is underselling the debt of gratitude that is owed to so many over this year. It has been a joy, a privilege and delight to serve this parish alongside you.

With every blessing

Elaine

Financial Review for 2022

The PCC recorded a decrease in funds of £1,145 over the year. PCC unrestricted funds grew by £1,861. The Fabric Fund decreased by £936 and St Gabriel's funds reduced by £1,442. The Choir Legacy fund (established in 2020 from a bequest of £5,000) reduced by £990 to a balance of £4,461. The Preservation Trust funds reduced by £100, and other restricted funds increased during the year by £462.

St George's unrestricted funds

St George's unrestricted funds showed a surplus, with income and capital gains exceeding expenditure by £1,861, compared with a surplus of £2,553 last year. This surplus was after transferring an amount of £7,000 from unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund.

Overall income to unrestricted funds increased by £19,1153 to £149,563. Total voluntary income, excluding legacies and grants, increased by £4,267 to £95,089 as most of our regular giver scheme members continued with their support. Income received from letting the church and Parish Rooms increased by £5,902 to £18,038 as more activities resumed in church. Gross income from fundraising events increased by £8,402 to £16,738, mainly as a result of being able to hold both the 125th Anniversary and the Christmas Tree Festivals. Grants totalling £9,619 were received, including £8,080 from the Fearn Trust for roof repairs, and £986 from Chester Diocese towards energy bills.

Overall expenditure increased by £17,045 to £140,702. Parish share costs increased by £2,033 to £69,511. Church running costs increased by £7,618, as usage of the building increased, however church maintenance costs decreased by £1,410. Upkeep of services, including Music and organ costs, increased by £921 to £5,407. This cost of producing the magazine increased by £2,208 as we returned from digital only to printed issues. Expenditure on the Parish Rooms increased by £859 to £4,224. The cost of maintaining the curate's house decreased by £744 to £2,922, mainly from a reduction in council tax after the property became vacant in May 2022.

A transfer of £7,000 was made from St George's Unrestricted Funds to the Fabric Fund, this representing most of the net income from the Christmas Tree Festival. It was not necessary to transfer back any funds in order to comply with our financial reserving policy, in contrast to the situation in the last few years.

Designated Funds

St Gabriel's funds

There was a deficit of £1,442 for the year. Income for the year reduced by £796 to £666 including £196 voluntary giving (and associated income tax recoverable) and rental income of £342. Total expenditure reduced by £715 to £2,108, which included £195 contributed to St George's to cover its share of the Parish Share, clergy expenses, and Parish Office costs.

The reserves available to the church now stand at £8,590.

Fabric Fund

This fund was established in 2017, and received a further grant of £100 from the St George's Preservation Trust. Interest received on investments was £510, however there was a reduction in the value of the investments of £8,081, compared with a gain of £13,060 in 2021. There was a transfer into the fund from Unrestricted Funds of £7,000. Expenditure for the year was £465, for repairs to the floodlights. The fund currently stands at £125,908, representing an decrease for the year of £936.

Choir Legacy Fund

This fund was established in 2020 with a £5,000 bequest from Frank Gee, a former chorister. After capital losses of £490 and expenditure of £500 to support the choir, the fund stands at £4,461.

St George's restricted funds

The PCC is grateful for the continuing support of the Fearn Trust, which provided a grant of £20,000 to be used towards the cost of insuring both St George's and St Gabriel's churches, and additional grants of £3,496 towards roof repairs and electrical works.

Charitable funds

The collection from the St George's Day Scouts parade service, amounting to £405, was transferred to Stockport District Scouts, who chose to donate it to the DEC Humanitarian Appeal. A further £308 was transferred directly to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal from collections in church in April.

Donations of £152 from the annual Baby Memorial Service were shared between the Cradle Charity and the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society.

The sum of £726, from collections at the Christingle Services, was donated to the Children's Society this year, along with a further £150 raised from carol singing.

Music Fund

This fund was established to receive grants for musical activities. In 2022 income received was nil, and payments totalling £1,000 were made to support our choral scholars.

Choir Music Fund

This fund may be used to cover the cost of the replacement of choir music, and has a balance of £112.

St George's Preservation Trust

Full accounts for the Trust are available on application.

Income for the year was nil.

Expenditure this year comprised a grant to the Fabric Fund of £100, which has reduced the balance within the fund to £500. The Trustees have indicated their intention to pass the remaining balance to the Fabric Fund over the next five years.

Reserves and Investment Policies

The PCC reviewed its reserving policy in 2017. It is the policy of St George's to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months general running costs and an additional three month's salaries. At least one half of its minimum reserve should be held in Unrestricted Funds. These reserves may be invested in funds which provide some protection against loss of value due to inflation. This may take the form of capital appreciation or income which can be re-invested.

Reserves will continue to be held in the PCC's accounts with CCLA Investment Managers which is the leading fund manager for the assets of the church, charities and local authorities. It has a policy of engaging only in ethical investments and is owned by its clients – through the Boards of Finance in the case of the Church of England. The CBF Church of England Investment Fund is used which is highly diversified and balanced across many sectors of investment and is actively managed to achieve long term capital growth and steady income.

As at 31 December 2022 it was not necessary for the PCC to transfer funds from the Fabric Fund to Unrestricted Funds in order to comply with this policy.

Transfers may become necessary during 2023 if expenditure exceeds income.

It is also the policy to hold a reserve to cover the work for projects that have been identified as necessary. This reserve, which may be required at short notice, is to be held in secure funds that are not subject to capital risks. An income from these funds while desirable is not essential. The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund is used, which holds only funds with AAA rated organisations and is managed by

CCLA. However, excess funds may also be invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

The PCC has set a target minimum amount to be held in the Fabric Fund. This is calculated as a percentage of the insurance valuation of St George's Church, and the PCC make transfers from Unrestricted Funds into the Fabric Fund with the aim of reaching the target minimum within five to ten years. The current target minimum level is £142,000

A number of potential projects have been identified by the PCC including:

St George's Church

- Review of the lighting and sound systems in church
- Repairs to the West Window
- Further investigations into the subsidence in the north east corner of the church, and any remedial actions required
- Repainting of churchyard wall
- Maintenance of masonry at roof level
- Development of kitchen and toilet facilities, with changes to the internal porches

Parish Rooms

- Redevelopment of the kitchen

The PCC believes that, at present, there are insufficient reserves available to cover all of these projects. Consequently, individual projects will commence only when adequate finance is available.

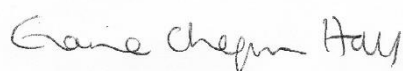
The reserves policy for St Gabriel's church was reviewed in 2016 and was amended to match that of St George's, i.e. the equivalent of three months general running costs. No major projects are envisaged in the near future, and the reserves are considered to be adequate.

The reserves are held on deposit with the church's bankers, or with CCLA Investment Managers.

Dr Andrew Regan
5th February 2023

Approval

The annual report was approved by the Parochial Church Council by email on 28th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Date 14th April 2023

Paul Clancy, BA (Hons), ACA, MBA
19 Rosemoor Gardens
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 4RF.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	2021 £
<u>Income and endowments</u>						
Donations and legacies	2.a	106,431	196	24,222	130,849	125,286
Other trading activities	2.b	34,776	342	-	35,118	20,682
Income from investments	2.c	247	638	-	885	43
Income from church activities	2.d	8,109	-	-	8,109	9,754
Total income		149,563	1,176	24,222	174,961	155,765
<u>Expenditure</u>						
Expenditure on church activities	3.a	135,242	3,073	23,760	162,075	161,580
Expenditure on raising funds	3.b	5,460	-	-	5,460	375
Total expenditure		140,702	3,073	23,760	167,535	161,955
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		8,861	(1,897)	462	7,426	(6,190)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	4.b	-	(8,571)	-	(8,571)	13,901
Net income/(expenditure)		8,861	(10,468)	462	(1,145)	7,711
Transfers between funds						
Unrestricted Fund to Fabric Fund	7.a	(7,000)	7,000		-	-
Preservation Trust to Fabric Fund	7.b		100	(100)	-	-
Net movement in funds	8,9	1,861	(3,368)	362	(1,145)	7,711
Total funds brought forward	8,9	75,102	142,327	17,476	234,905	227,007
Total funds carried forward	8,9	76,963	138,959	17,838	233,760	234,718

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

BALANCE SHEET

at 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<u>Fixed Assets</u>						
Tangible fixed assets	4.a	35,000	-	-	35,000	35,500
Investment assets	4.b	-	84,926	-	84,926	93,496
Total fixed assets		35,000	84,926	-	119,926	128,996
<u>Current Assets</u>						
Debtors	5	15,261	31	1,340	16,632	15,943
Short term deposits		12,818	47,767	-	60,585	59,799
Cash at bank and in hand		23,189	6,235	17,224	46,648	35,351
Total current assets		51,268	54,033	18,564	123,865	111,093
<u>Liabilities</u>						
Creditors	6	(9,305)	-	(726)	(10,031)	(5,371)
<i>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</i>		41,963	54,033	17,838	113,834	105,722
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		76,963	138,959	17,838	233,760	234,718
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-	-
Net Assets		76,963	138,959	17,838	233,760	234,718
<u>Funds</u>						
Unrestricted		76,963	-	-	76,963	74,915
Designated	8	-	138,959	-	138,959	142,327
Restricted	9	-	-	17,838	17,838	17,476
Total Funds		76,963	138,959	17,838	233,760	234,718

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on **15th March 2023**

and signed on its behalf by



.....
(PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages A-3 to A-9 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, current Church Accounting Regulations and Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) together with the exemptions available to smaller charities under Section 1A. These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the value of investment assets which are shown at market value.

They include all transactions for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. They are only expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining at the end of each year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated Funds are unrestricted funds which the PCC has designated for a particular purpose, but the PCC retains the ability to use some or all of these funds for the general purposes of the PCC.

Income recognition

All income sources are accounted for gross. *Planned giving, collections and donations* are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. *Tax refunds* are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is recognised. *Grants and legacies* are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. *Dividends* are accounted for when due and payable. *Interest entitlements* are accounted for as they accrue. All *other income* is recognised when it is receivable.

The value of any *voluntary help* received is not included in the accounts but is described in the annual report.

Expenditure recognition

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. All *other expenditure* is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted gross.

Governance costs include any costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and of any legal advice to the PCC on governance or constitutional matters.

Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventories which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2001 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on *consecrated and benefice buildings*, or individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2001 is written off. Other items of equipment with a purchase price over £1,000 used within church premises are depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

The Parochial Church Council consider that there are no material uncertainties about the ability of St George's PCC to continue as a going concern.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds	
				2022 £	2021 £
2 INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS					
<i>2.a Donations and legacies</i>					
Tax efficient planned giving	56,731	-	-	56,731	56,555
Other planned giving	3,580	-	-	3,580	3,133
Collections at services	10,177	157	-	10,334	9,047
Donations, appeals, etc.	7,533	-	726	8,259	6,451
Income tax recoverable	17,068	39	-	17,107	16,947
Grants	9,619	-	23,496	33,115	33,153
Legacies	1,723	-	-	1,723	-
	<u>106,431</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>24,222</u>	<u>130,849</u>	<u>125,286</u>
 <i>Note: Amounts collected from the St Gabriel's congregation, including planned giving, are shown under Collections at services (Designated Funds). This is necessary to ensure confidentiality given the small number of donors in some categories.</i>					
<i>2.b Other trading activities</i>					
Church lettings	7,160	342	-	7,502	2,539
Parish room lettings	10,878	-	-	10,878	9,807
Festivals, other fund-raising events	16,738	-	-	16,738	8,336
	<u>34,776</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,118</u>	<u>20,682</u>
<i>2.c Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest including tax recoverable	238	638	-	876	43
Rent	9	-	-	9	-
	<u>247</u>	<u>638</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>885</u>	<u>43</u>
<i>2.d Income from church activities</i>					
Bookstall	21	-	-	21	26
Magazine	4,355	-	-	4,355	2,687
Church fees for weddings and funerals	3,733	-	-	3,733	7,032
	<u>8,109</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,109</u>	<u>9,754</u>
 TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	 <u>149,563</u>	 <u>1,176</u>	 <u>24,222</u>	 <u>174,961</u>	 <u>155,765</u>

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	2021 £
3 EXPENDITURE					
3.a <i>Expenditure on church activities</i>					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Home Mission & Church Societies	-	-	726	726	430
Secular Charities	30	-	-	30	-
<i>Subtotal</i>	30	-	726	756	430
Ministry:					
Parish share & deanery expenses	69,511	155	-	69,666	68,132
Other ministry costs	6,595	16	-	6,611	7,022
Church running expenses	23,639	399	21,062	45,100	36,794
Church maintenance	691	699	921	2,311	3,847
Upkeep of services	3,077	-	-	3,077	2,042
Music and organ	2,330	500	1,051	3,881	3,835
Upkeep of churchyard	3,985	1,280	-	5,265	4,803
Magazine and bookstall	2,287	-	-	2,287	79
Parish rooms - repairs, maintenance and running costs	4,224	-	-	4,224	4,001
Curate's house - repairs, maintenance and other costs	2,922	5	-	2,927	3,768
Salaries, wages and honoraria (see note 3.c)	11,371	10	-	11,381	11,524
Major repairs/replacements	-	-	-	-	11,053
Support costs	37	-	-	37	166
Administration	3,829	9	-	3,838	4,084
Professional fees	714	-	-	714	-
<i>Total</i>	135,242	3,073	23,760	162,075	161,580
3.b <i>Expenditure on raising funds</i>					
Envelope printing	211	-	-	211	132
<i>Fund-raising trading costs</i>					
Fetes, bazaars and other fund-raising events	5,249	-	-	5,249	243
<i>Total</i>	5,460	-	-	5,460	375
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	140,702	3,073	23,760	167,535	161,955
<i>Staff costs</i>					
3.c Wages and salaries	11,368	10	-	11,378	11,512
Tax and National Insurance	3	-	-	3	11
	11,371	10	-	11,381	11,523

During the year the PCC employed a Director of Music and a secretary at St George's, both on a part-time basis.

The John Pilling Choral Scholars were funded from the Music Fund, from grants received from the Pilling Trust.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

3 EXPENDITURE(cont)

3.d Payments to PCC members

James Hibbert was a PCC member throughout 2021 and 2022. In 2022 the PCC paid him a salary as the Director of Music (including payment for weddings and funerals) of £6842 (2021: £6,868), and paid £280 (2021: £240) towards his professional development.

4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

		Freehold land and buildings	
		£	
Actual/Deemed Cost	At 01/01/22	52,000	
	Additions	-	
	At 31/12/22	<u>52,000</u>	
Depreciation	At 01/01/22	16,500	
	Charge for year	500	
	At 31/12/22	<u>17,000</u>	
Net Book Value	At 31/12/22	<u>35,000</u>	
	At 31/12/21	<u>35,500</u>	

The freehold land and buildings comprise the curate's house at 40 Beechfield Road, Stockport. The house was purchased in 1988 at a cost, after refurbishing, of £52,000. The building is being depreciated at £500 per annum from 2003 on the basis of its expected useful life of 50 years.

Those meeting rooms owned by the PCC are integral parts of the school premises and were donated by the Founder in 1901. As such the rooms are deemed to have no value for the purposes of these accounts.

4.b Investment assets

	2022			2021	
	Designated Choir legacy £	Designated Fabric Fund £	Designated Total £	All Funds £	All Funds £
Movements in the year:					
Opening market value	5,451	88,046	93,497	93,497	79,595
Purchases at cost, less disposals at carrying value	(500)	500	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on disposals and annual revaluation	(490)	(8,081)	(8,571)	(8,571)	13,901
Closing market value	4,461	80,465	84,926	84,926	93,496

No investment assets were held in Unrestricted Funds or in Restricted Funds.

Holdings at 31 December in CBF Church of England Investment Fund Accumulation Units:

	2022	2021
Choir legacy	84.10	93.33
Fabric Fund	1,516.82	1,507.59
Total	1,600.92	1,600.92

Charity number 1134170
NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022										2021	
	Unrestricted	Designated Funds				Restricted funds				All Funds		
		Choir Legacy	Fabric	St Gabriel's	Designated Total	PCC Restricted	Preservation Trust	Restricted Total				
5 DEBTORS												
Tax recoverable	12,184	-	-	31	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,439
Prepayments and accrued interest	1,016	-	-	-	-	1,340	-	-	1,340	-	-	2,212
Other debtors	2,061	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,292
Total	15,261	-	-	31	31	1,340	-	-	1,340	-	-	15,943
6 LIABILITIES:												
Amounts falling due in one year												
Creditors for goods and services	8,971	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,525
Other creditors	334	-	-	-	-	726	-	-	726	-	-	846
Total	9,305	-	-	-	-	726	-	-	726	-	-	5,371

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2022

7 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

- a An amount of £7,000 has been transferred from unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund. This represents the regular transfers which the PCC makes to cover the cost of larger maintenance works.
- b An amount of £100 was transferred from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund. This represents grants made by the Preservation Trust to the PCC.
- c As the value of unrestricted funds was above the minimum required by our financial reserving policy, it was not necessary to transfer any funds from the Fabric Fund to unrestricted funds as at 31/12/22 to meet the necessary minimum reserve.

8 DESIGNATED FUNDS

Designated Funds are fund set aside for a particular purpose. However, the PCC may resolve to use such funds for any other purpose.

The *St Gabriel's Fund* is used for all matters relating to St Gabriel's Church, and the PCC has given the St Gabriel's Committee limited financial authority over these finances.

The *Fabric Fund* holds monies set aside for the maintenance and repair of church buildings, including the Parish Rooms and the Curate's House. The PCC intend to make regular transfers into this fund from unrestricted income.

The *Choir Legacy Fund* was established in 2020 with a bequest from Frank Gee, a former choir member. It is intended to be used for the benefit of the choir.

Fund movements	Choir Legacy	Fabric Fund	St Gabriel's	Total Designated
Balance at 01/01/22	5,451	126,844	10,032	142,327
Income	-	510	666	1,176
Expenditure	(500)	(465)	(2,108)	(3,073)
Transfers between funds	-	7,100	-	7,100
Investment gains	(490)	(8,081)	-	(8,571)
Change in fund	(990)	(936)	(1,442)	(3,368)
Balance at 31/12/22	4,461	125,908	8,590	138,959
Represented by:				
Investment assets	4,461	80,464	-	84,925
Current assets	-	45,444	8,590	54,034
Total	4,461	125,908	8,590	138,959

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

9 RESTRICTED FUNDS

St George's Church Preservation Trust was established under a trust deed in 1990. The objects include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church, the parish office, the parish rooms and other PCC property.

In 2022 the trustees made a grant of £100 from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund, and have stated their intention to transfer the remaining amount over the coming years.

The Preservation Trust is considered to be a connected charity, consequently the transactions and balances have been included in these accounts, but are restricted funds.

The *PCC Restricted Fund* represents donations given and monies raised for specific objectives.

Fund movements	PCC Restricted	Preservation Trust	Total
Balance at 01/01/22	16,876	600	17,476
Income	24,222	-	24,222
Expenditure	(23,760)	-	(23,760)
Transfers between funds	-	(100)	(100)
Change in fund	462	(100)	362
Balance at 31/12/22	17,338	500	17,838
Represented by:			
Current assets	18,064	500	18,564
Current liabilities	(726)	-	(726)
Total	17,338	500	17,838

Analysis of PCC Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/01/22	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Change in fund	Balance at 31/12/22
Charitable Payments	-	726	(726)	-	-	-
Choir Music	163	-	(51)	-	(51)	112
Grants: Fearn Trust	9,492	23,496	(21,983)	-	1,513	11,005
Music	7,221	-	(1,000)	-	(1,000)	6,221
Total	16,876	24,222	(23,760)	-	462	17,338

An annual grant from the Fearn Trust of £20,000 (2021: £20,000) was received towards the cost of insuring St George's Church and St Gabriel's Church. During 2022 the Fearn Trust also gave additional grants totalling £3,496 (2021: £1,440) towards repairs to the roof of St George's Church and for electrical works.

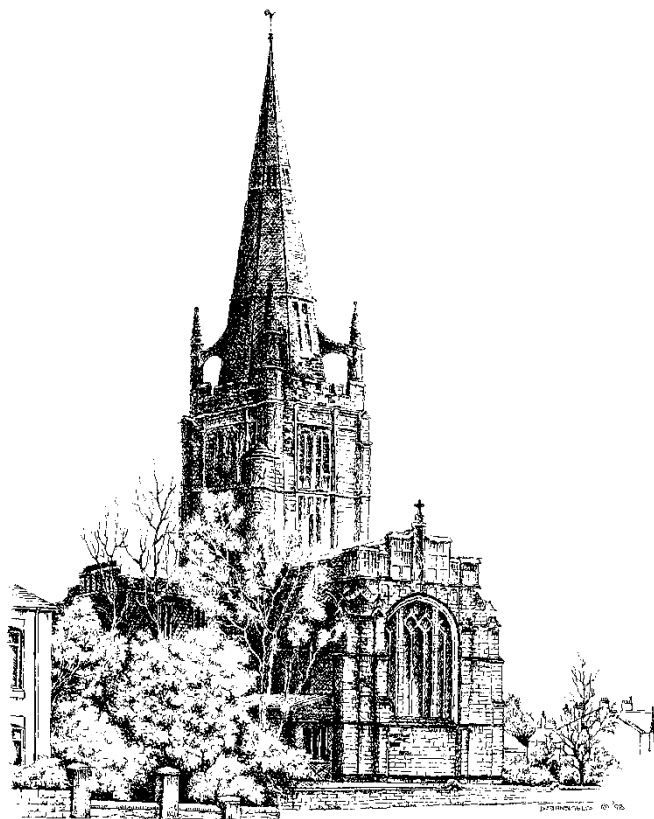
The *Music Fund* holds any grant income received in respect of musical activities.

No further grant was received during 2022 (2021: £2,000) from the Pilling Trust to support our Choral Scholars.

Accounts

The Parish Church of St. George, Stockport.

**REPORT and ACCOUNTS
of the
Parochial Church Council**



**presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

24th April 2022

ANNUAL REPORT for 2021

Administrative Information

The Parish Church of Stockport St George is located on Buxton Road, Heaviley, and the daughter church of St Gabriel is located at Clover Avenue, Adswood. The parish is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England.

PCC members who served during 2021, with future retirement dates in brackets after each name, are:

<i>Vicar</i>	Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall	Chair
<i>Assistant Curate</i>	Revd Dr Janine Arnott	
<i>Reader:</i>	Mr Peter Hall	<i>also Diocesan Synod</i>
<i>Wardens:</i>	Dr Andrew Regan Mrs Hazel Jenkins	
<i>Deanery Synod:</i>	Mr David Foulkes Mr John Sutcliffe	
<i>Diocesan Synod:</i>	Mr Ian Roberts	
<i>Elected members:</i>	Mrs Penny Bisby (2024) Mr Will Hesson (2024) Mrs Janet Neilson (2024) Mrs Morag Ranson (2024) Mrs Louise Clark (2023) Mrs Sue Cordingley (2023) Mr John Hardy (2023) Mrs Dawn Hesson (2022) Mr James Hibbert (2022) Mrs Kim Regan (2022) Ms Andrea Webb Reilly (2022) Mrs Phoebe Macleod (2021) Mr Richard Parr (2021) Mr Peter Smith (2021)	<i>Safeguarding officer</i> <i>PCC secretary</i>

Independent Examiner: Mr Paul Clancy

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission, number 1134170.

This report covers the activities of the two churches and of St George's Church Stockport Preservation Trust. The Trust was constituted under a trust deed dated 1st

August 1990. While legally a separate charity, the Trust is regarded by the Diocesan Authorities as a connected charity, consequently its transactions and dealings are included in the accounts of the PCC.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All members of the two churches are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This fulfils our public benefit requirement.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees and project groups, which meet between meetings of the PCC.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

The Preservation Trust

The objectives of the Preservation Trust include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church and buildings. The Trustees may also finance other work connected with the voluntary aided school, youth work in the parish, or as agreed by the trustees.

The full PCC met 6 times during 2021 by Zoom with an average level of attendance of 70%

Achievements and performance

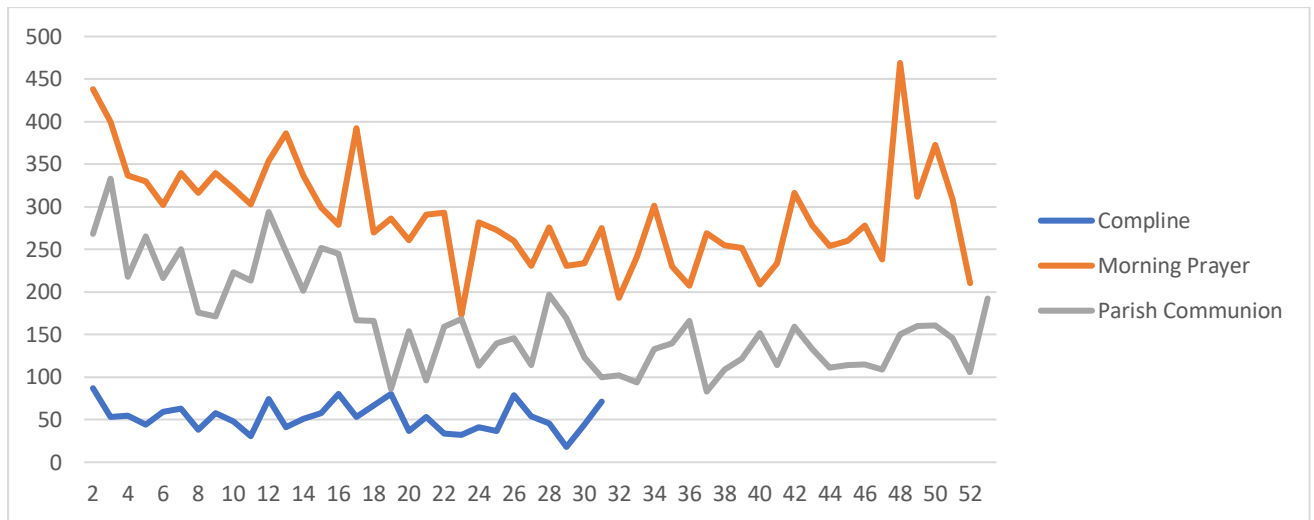
Church attendance

The Electoral Roll total for St. George, Stockport PCC was 181 in total at the end of 2021.

The average weekly attendance, at church, for St. George's was:

Choral Evensong	24.3
Early Communion	13.6
Parish Communion	63.6
Praise & Play	31.9
Wednesday Communion	13.6
Wednesday MP	6.1

Our online profile (number of views) in 2021 is shown below.



Safeguarding Report

We have been grateful to Will Hesson who has been operating as our Safeguarding Officer. He stepped down towards the end of 2021 and James Hibbert has stepped into the role.

PCC members have been consistently encouraged to engage with the Basic awareness level safeguarding training and have been provided with safeguarding information.

Safeguarding has been on every PCC and Standing Committee agenda and the safeguarding information has been read out at the PCC and APCM.

It has been stressed that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone, especially those who work with children and vulnerable adults on behalf of the Church. They are encouraged to undertake the Foundation level safeguarding training.

All certificates need to be sent to the Parish safeguarding Officer.

Safeguarding contact details are in all parish buildings.

This parish follows the parish safeguarding handbook form the Church of England.

Baptism Assistants Team

At the beginning of 2021 we were still in a national lockdown and Holy Baptism Services were suspended. Since the relaxation of the Covid rules in the spring of 2021 we were able to resume. Some catching up had to be done and numbers attending were limited. Strict safety measures had to be followed and it was a difficult period for everyone involved.

Going forward it is hoped things will return to normal now that all Covid restrictions are being lifted. Normal sounds so good. Three new members have joined the team and three existing members have left including the co-ordinator Kim Regan plus Joan Armstrong and Mavis Plummer. With the approval of all team members, it is agreed that Pat Birch, Marion Johnson and Brenda Swindells will now share the co-ordinator duties. Everything is running well with the services with no complaints from anyone. The timing of the service at 12.30pm is ideal.

A full list of members for 2022 is shown below.

Morag Ranson
Brenda Swindells
Dawn Hesson
Peter Pilbeam
Stephanie Burrows
Pat Birch

Rita Waters
Marion Johnson

Bell Ringers

Though it had been possible to ring on Christmas morning 2020, by the New Year we were in lockdown again, and all ringing was once more suspended. As restrictions gradually eased, we were able to resume ringing for service on the morning of Palm Sunday. Fortunately, since then, it has been possible to continue with service and practice ringing increasingly back to approaching normal. Our spacious ringing room and windows openable on all four sides have been an important factor in enabling this.

We rang the bells half muffled on the Sunday morning following the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and tolled a half-muffled bell on the morning of his funeral (17th April).

As the restrictions were also eased on weddings, we were additionally able to ring at eight of these for which the bells were requested.

With our usual Monday evening practices becoming somewhat intermittent, we received a complaint, not so much about the sound of the bells, but that our 9:00pm finishing time was rather late. The complaint was treated seriously, and the Vicar and I arranged to meet the complainant to explain the necessity of practices and the impracticality of starting them earlier. It was further noted that a 9:00pm finish is almost universally adopted in the majority of towers, both locally and nationally, and considered acceptable. It was stressed that we attempt to be "good neighbours" as far as the time and duration of ringing is concerned, and that the Sunday morning service and Monday evening practice ringing rarely exceeds a total of one-and-a-half hours a week. Our meeting was concluded amicably, but it is an indication of the difficulties the resumption of ringing after periods of suspension during lockdowns can present. It was, on the other hand, reassuring to receive messages from local people welcoming the sound of the bells again.

Our main concern for the future of ringing at St George's is having no new recruits. During the last two years of Covid restrictions, teaching learners would not have been practical, but attracting interest was difficult even before the pandemic. The situation is made all the more problematic by the nature of the bells themselves, which are among the heaviest in the diocese, and resultingly difficult on which to teach. Nevertheless, if ringing is to be maintained in the coming years, finding interested people (of any age) is essential, though how this can be achieved has exercised us for some time without success.

Andrew Mayes – Ringing Master

Choir

Our first major Service of the year was the Epiphany Carol Service. A much-reduced service compared to normal. This would be our last choral service for a number of weeks as acts of worship were paused again just two weeks later.

A return to virtual choir activities commenced, and the ministry team and members of the choir were involved in putting together our biggest project to date – an

entirely virtual service of Choral Evensong for Candlemas with both sung and spoken recordings being put together to form an entirely virtual service.

Once services resumed the Choir continued to provide all of the music at Services whilst government guidance restricted congregational singing during acts of worship. This allowed us to introduce some new repertoire to the congregation, some of which has continued to be used during communion services since.

A period of time around Lent and Holy Week saw a further reduction in the number of singers we were able to use during services due to restrictions being reintroduced. Some beautiful Holy Week services were put together with very limited resources. There was much positive feedback from members of the congregation during the period up until Easter, when outdoor hymn singing was permitted for the first time.

As spring progressed into summer, the Choir was able to return to something more akin to the format it was used to performing in. We continued to perform whilst being spread across the chancel and sanctuary. The number of singers now being limited to how much space we had to perform in.

Given the amount of time we had been unable to sing for as a full choir during the early part of the year we decided to forego the usual Summer break during August and continued to provide fully choral Services during this time.

On the last weekend in August the choir achieved a huge milestone. We had been invited to sing for Saturday and Sunday Services at Worcester Cathedral. This was the choir's first tour to an English Cathedral for over 30 years. A lot of organisation went into making the tour a success, and we received a framed image, and a note of thanks from the Dean and Chapter – now hanging in the Vestry.

The Autumn Term was possibly the busiest on record for the choir. As well as our regular Sunday commitments the choir sang for at least nine additional services and concerts at which the choir performed. Notable occasions included; Mattins for the Heritage Open Day, Memorial Services for Olga Jones and Michael Coupe, The RSCM Chester Area Festival at Chester Cathedral, Civic Services for the Battle of Britain memorial weekend and Royal Navy Sea Cadets, a fully-choral BCP Wedding, a concert with the Fairey Band, one of Britain's most prestigious Brass Bands, and the Diocesan Service to welcome Bishop Sam Corley to Stockport.

Considering this was such an exhaustive schedule for any Parish Church Choir, members of St. George's Choir should be proud of themselves for the standard of music they continued to provide, particularly during such a busy period.

The year ended with our first full Advent and Christmas schedule of services and events since 2019. An enjoyable evening of carol singing at the Christmas Tree festival was followed quickly by a successful Advent Carol Service, and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in the presence of the Bishop of Stockport.

Sung services for Christmas Eve Christingle Services & Midnight Communion, Christmas Day, and the Feast of St. Stephen brought a very busy, but rewarding, year to a close.

The Choir has continued an unimaginable increase in numbers during 2020. We have welcomed six new members, children and adults, who have joined the choir during the year, along with at least three returning members, along with our ever-increasing pool of occasional singers, from other choirs, who join us as and when commitments allow. A lot of choirs who have struggled to emerge from the pandemic, but these new choir members have all contributed to us growing, both numerically and in musical standards.

After a number of years in which we haven't been able to fill vacancies 2021 saw the appointment of two Pilling Trust Choral Scholars. We still have two vacancies remaining.

I continue to enjoy working with such a talented group of singers and musicians, and thank each choir member for their dedication and commitment, week in week out, in contributing to make the musical reputation of St. George's Church known throughout the local area, and beyond!

Finally, thanks must go to two former Directors of Music at St. George's, Andrew Dean and Roger Briscoe.

Andrew Dean has recently retired, after 50 years working as an organist and choir trainer. His support since 2019 has been greatly appreciated by all, and we wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement from Church music. Andrew was presented with gifts from the choir on Sunday 26th December 2021 during the morning Service.

2022 mark's 50 years since Roger Briscoe first came to St. George's for lessons with Arthur Rooke, starting to play the organ for Services shortly after, and his continued association with St. George's Church is of huge benefit to us all.

Roger has accompanied the choir and congregation at various important services during 2021, including the Choir Tour to Worcester Cathedral.

My thanks to him for his continued support.

2022 already looks to be an exciting year for the Choir, and I'm looking forward to what it brings.

James Hibbert (Director of Music)

Christianity for the Curious

The course was held over six weekly sessions by Zoom from February to March 2021. It covered the following aspects of faith:

- 1) What is the Bible?
- 2) God the Father.
- 3) God the Son.
- 4) God the Holy Spirit.
- 5) What did Jesus say and do?
- 6) What do Christians do?

Those involved found it to be a is a great Christian basics course which gave an insight into the Christian Faith and explored areas which people might not have considered.

People came from all different backgrounds and stages in their Christian faith including those who used it as a refresher course.

Christmas Tree Festival

In the summer of 2021, we started planning our Christmas Tree Festival for the week leading up to Advent Sunday. We were very conscious that we had no idea what might be happening with the Coronavirus and certainly had no inkling of Omicron. However, in all planning, the safety of our own church members and all visitors was paramount. We changed the route around church and in particular the refreshment area, allowing tables to be more widely spaced and food handling as hygienic as possible. We purchased 2,000 face masks in case people didn't bring them and we do still have a large box full in the crypt because most people were very well prepared. The number of stalls was reduced to a raffle and a 'Guess the Name of.' Entertainment was a little more limited as schools were still very constrained by what they were able to do and lastly, we had fewer trees.

However, to our complete delight it all worked amazingly well. So many people came through the door exclaiming 'Oh it's so good to be back' or 'Oh we did miss you last year'. The trees were all lovely and Nicola's Prayer Trail was particularly appreciated especially with take home booklets of the prayers used in the trail. So, many many thanks to everyone who was involved in whatever way, it really was joyous to be able to do it all again. The final icing on the cake was that we made about £7,000 profit for which we are very grateful at the end of a very challenging year for the finances.

Hazel Jenkins

Contentious Christianity

Throughout May and June, we hosted 6 online discussion sessions called Contentious Christianity. The aim of the sessions was to provide a forum to learn more about and discuss some of the issues that challenge and inspire us in the Church today. We invited guest speakers from across Chester Diocese to talk to us about issues in which they had a special interest, and we asked our guest speakers to pose some questions that would challenge us and encourage us to think more deeply about the issues. The sessions we held covered the following topics:

1. The Church and the Gender (Julie Withers and Nikki Eastwood)
2. The Church and Women (Liz Shercliff)
3. The Church and the State: Power and Politics (Ian Bishop)
4. The Church and Power (Jenny Bridgman)
5. The Church and Life (Chris Burkett)
6. The Church and Fractured Communion (Rob Munro)

Sessions were chaired by either Elaine, Janine, Peter, or Chris Dawson.

The sessions were held on Zoom. Each session opened in prayer and then the guest speaker gave a talk about their topic. Each talk lasted approximately 30 minutes. We then had the opportunity to discuss and debate some of the issues raised by our guest speakers. Sessions can be accessed via YouTube. Over 70 people requested information about the live or recorded sessions and approximately 20-30 people attended each session live.

Garden Gnomes

The effects of the Covid pandemic continued to impact on our gardening activities over the last twelve months, but as time has passed by we have been able to get back to relative normality. One big plus has been the ability to have our coffee break indoors, particularly as we have had a very wet winter period this year.

For a variety of reasons, the number of Gnomes able to attend regularly has reduced, but we have a core group of five regulars, who attend on Tuesday mornings, to carry out the tasks of planting, tending flora, weeding, pruning, collecting and composting the autumn crop of fallen leaves, and generally tidying up the church grounds.

Stan Berry has stepped down as the leader of our group, and we would like to thank him for the part he has played over many years. We are also sad to report the deaths of two stalwarts of our team, Jean Davison and Brian Walton – good friends and very knowledgeable gardeners, whose presence we miss.

As well as dealing with gardening activities, we also have a role in keeping the grounds clean and free of litter. Currently, there is no regular programme for emptying the bins at the West end of the church which we use for disposal of the waste. Without access to the waste bins in the school playground, which we have been able to use in the past, this is an ongoing problem that needs to be resolved.

We have also struggled to keep the North Avenue presentable, due to the activities of the building contractors on the former Vicarage site. Some major restoration work will be needed once activities near completion.

In the past, the gardening team were able to carry out pruning of the various trees on the church grounds, but in recent times this has become beyond our capabilities. We were able to provide advice on suitable contractors for the work, and hard pruning of the South Avenue trees was carried out in the school half term break in February 2022, together with limited pruning of a couple of larger trees which were becoming a problem. As growth on the North Avenue trees had been significantly less, work on those trees was deferred for the time being.

The pathways around the church are also reaching a point where major weed and moss treatment is necessary, together with the addition of new gravel.

We would like to express our thanks to all those who have given donations of bulbs, plants or money to help us maintain a colourful display in the church grounds.

Special thanks go to Kate Stephenson who has been the prime mover in organising the display bed in the West End garden, with its floral "125".

Finally, if any of our readers would like to spend time on a Tuesday morning, helping us in our various activities, you will be very welcome, and rewarded with coffee/tea and biscuits, and friendly chat at our midmorning break. You don't have to be especially skilled in gardening terms – there are plenty of other ways in which you can make a useful contribution to making our church grounds look attractive to church members, visitors and passers by.

Walter Stead – Novice Gnome

Grapevine

During 2021 we continued to produce a digital version of *Grapevine* with the usual 24 pages. In addition, we again published an 'extra' August edition, this time of 18 pages, in order to help our readers keep in touch with St George's during the pandemic. We were able to produce the traditional 28-page December/January edition, including the usual 2-page photographic record of the year's events.

The digital format allowed us to continue with the use of expanded colour in the magazine. We were very pleased in February 2022 to be able to return to printed copies of *Grapevine*, while also continuing to make the magazine available online in digital form. With the permission of the PCC, we have taken the decision to continue with the widespread use of colour in *Grapevine*, feeling that it greatly enhances the magazine. We have increased the cover price to £1.20 to help cover the increased cost of colour. This is the first price increase since February 2016.

The new format provides four pages in black and white to accommodate those advertisers whose adverts normally appear in black and white or have little colour. Several advertisers wished to remain in colour, and they have been included elsewhere in the magazine. I should like to thank Rosie Stead for her long-standing work in attracting advertisers and dealing with the finances, and also for the additional work involved in arranging for both colour and black and white adverts. Grateful thanks to both Rosie and Judith Swift for their work in sending out postal copies of the magazine.

As always, also, the magazine would not exist without the incredible talents and commitment of Andrew Regan, who not only takes upon himself the task of making sure that the layout of the magazine is prepared for publication, but who has had much extra work in sending out the digital editions, to the Committee, and then to all our readers and subscribers. Apart from all this, Andrew can also solve any technical issues with copy, from finding and inserting appropriate graphics, to improving the quality of photographs, and enabling all our copy to be presented as effectively as possible. How he finds time to combine all this with acting as a Church Warden and the Church Treasurer is beyond me, but he manages everything with efficiency and good humour. His sole reward is to be allowed each month to choose 'Andrew's Cartoon'!

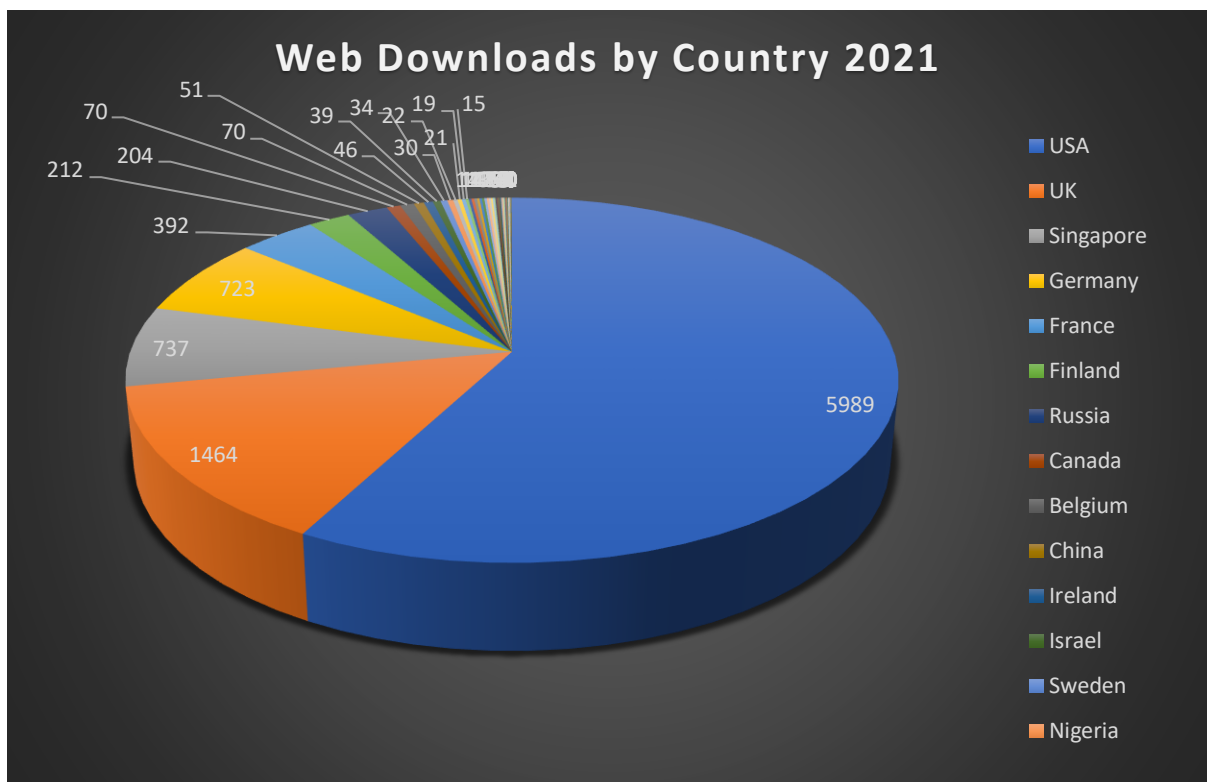
Grateful thanks and admiration again to Angela Foulkes, whose skill and diligence in proof-reading is only matched by her ability to write interesting and original articles.

I am also grateful to all our regular contributors, whose hard work enhances the magazine each month. Elaine, Rosie Stead, Pamela Ferguson, Angela Foulkes, Chris Dawson, Walter Stead and the other Garden Gnomes all faithfully produce copy, as do other talented writers. The photographers whose work graces the cover page as well as other pages, deserve special thanks, especially Andrew Regan, as well as Louise Clark and Andy Clark and Janet Neilson among others.

I should also like to thank all our faithful advertisers, particularly for their loyalty during the pandemic, including, of course, Kevin, our printer, with whom it is a pleasure to be able to work again. And of course, grateful thanks to the other *Grapevine* Committee members, whose help and advice is always valuable.

As this is likely to be my last Annual Report as Editor, I am sure that whoever replaces me will rely on the same support from dedicated and talented people that I have been lucky enough to enjoy. Thank you to everyone.

Richard Parr



Handbell Ringers

Sadly to report, the handbells have remained unring all year. In 2020 Debbie and John Heaton gave up the leadership of the group, just before Covid-19 struck. So for most of that year we were unable to gather as a group. We lost one of our regular members in 2020 reducing our numbers and then in 2021 the time certainly wasn't

right to think about searching for a new leader and reforming the group. So hopefully that is the challenge for 2022.

Hazel Jenkins

Lent Breakfasts

These were held on five Saturday mornings in Lent, beginning on the 20th February and finishing on 20 March. Being subject to the pandemic restrictions, we held the sessions on Zoom. So, it was 'bring your own breakfast'! This did not seem to discourage people from attending. For four out of the five sessions we had 20 or more participants, with 13 attending the last session.

The question, 'What has Covid done for me?' enabled us to look at the positives as well as the negatives of the pandemic. Morag Ranson led this first session in which she considered the challenges of Covid and the lockdown we were all experiencing. One of those challenges was, of course Staying Connected, which Janine Arnott addressed in the second session. Undoubtedly the pandemic and the lockdown have provided some Positives and Opportunities, which Elaine Chegwin Hall explored in the fourth session. A subject brought to the fore by the Covid experience has been the state of our mental health. Counsellor and therapist Jonathan Lloyd joined us to share some thoughts on how we can look after ourselves. The final session took the form of an open discussion under the title, 'What has Covid Taught Us?'

Thank you to all those who gave their time and energy to leading the sessions.

Chris Dawson

Linen Guild

During what has been another different and at times difficult year for many, the small group continued to look after the various items of church linen all with their own specific use in the church and services. We hope that people are pleased with the look of the seating area now we have been able to put the new cushions in place.

Pat Rigley

Messy Church Craft (January 2021 to December 2021)

Messy Church (craft) continued monthly between January 2021 and June 2021. Monthly sessions followed the lectionary readings and also special session, such as a session on the environment. As we came out of lockdown and as schools reopened and Messy Church prepared to reopen in person, it was decided to end Messy Church monthly craft sessions to focus resources on in person children's ministry. The last session took place on 3rd July and included a special montage of all the Messy Church sessions. The Messy Church online Light Party that aired in 2020 was aired again in 2021.

National Day of Reflection

On the 23rd March we, at St George's, along with the rest of the country joined in a National Day of Reflection. The day's events were:

9:30am Extended Morning Prayer (online)

10:00am to 12:30am for private prayer (in the church)

11:50am to 12:10pm for prayers and reflection (online and in church)

5:00pm St George's Church: A year in review (online)

The year in review captured the previous 12 months – 12 months of Covid lockdown and it was humbling and inspiring to see how the church had pulled together and risen to the challenges of Covid. The review can be accessed online via YouTube.

Mothers' Union

We have experienced another different year and continued to keep in touch with all the group with the regular telephone calls and cards. Over the period we have sent out in excess of 700 cards. We think that the phone calls and cards were very important in keeping the group together and all renewing their membership for 2021. We were able to start meeting in Church in September with a communion service led by the Vicar and then we had visits by Rev. Glenys and the Diocesan MU president Wendy Sykes and finally celebrated Advent with carols and readings. Unfortunately during the year two of our members have had to go to live in residential accommodation, and two have been housebound we miss them all and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Praise And Play

Praise and Play restarted in September. Following discussions in the summer the decision was taken to move Praise and Play to Tuesday mornings in term time and to relocate it to the west end of the church. This allowed the children's area to be used for play and to have craft activities across the back. The coffee area is a quiet space to have the story, songs and prayers at the end of the session. It is also more convenient for serving refreshments as these no longer need to be carried to the side chapel. Another change is that it now runs from 10:00 to 11:00. This shorter session is more manageable for the leaders.

The restart and relocation of Praise and Play also provided an opportunity to sort through the resources that had built up over the years. Toys, books and dressing up clothes that were surplus to our requirements were offered to Praise and Play members when we restarted. Some were then donated to St. George's pre-school and others were taken to charity shops.

We were pleased to see a number of carers return when we restarted, though inevitably they brought new children with them as several of the children who we had seen in March 2020 had moved on to pre-school or to primary school. We have also welcomed back young children who we previously knew as babies and toddlers.

It has also been a delight to welcome new families to the group. We regularly have between 14 and 18 children each week and between 8 and 12 adults, not including the leaders.

Janet Neilson decided that it was time to move on from leading Praise and Play. Thank you, Janet for your ministry over the years, we were sorry not to have had the chance to say a formal farewell to her. We have welcomed Rita Waters as part of the ministry team.

During the term the children were introduced to a number of Old Testament stories as well as the Nativity story, in December. We made decorations for our tree for the Christmas Tree Festival and had a visit from Father Christmas in the last session before the Christmas break.

Prayer Chain

Our prayer chain has been active right throughout the pandemic.

Powerful prayer has been said regularly for those who have requested prayers for their family, friends and/or themselves.

It has been a privilege to do this because I know that, at some level, healing has taken place, not necessarily curing.

The prayer chain consists of 12 members of the congregation and this number has been relatively constant.

We should be delighted if we could add a few more links to the chain and invite you to contact me if you wish to join us.

Information is passed from Elaine to me, usually. This is always in total confidence and we only know the person we pray for by their first name.

There are no forms to complete or money to pay. All you do is set aside time whenever you can to remember the people on the list.

Phoebe MacLeod marshyreeds@gmail.com 07828755674

Singing Group

Due to the ongoing suspension of All-age Services, the Singing Group hasn't met, and hasn't provided music for any Services during the last year.

James Hibbert

Storytime

Story time seems to be well received and averages around 40 views each time. It's been an opportunity for both Elaine and Janine to demonstrate their creative sides, with both taking turns to write a story each month. It would be helpful to have reviews from parish members who do watch it, to see if there is anything we could improve on.

Nicola Pennicott-Hall

St Gabriel's

The annual quinquennial was requested by Chester Diocese in May and was carried out by Richard Williams who was approved as the quinquennial architect at the previous PCC meeting.

A comprehensive report was made available and there are some items to action.

Aside from the financial implications of what the work is going to cost and needing to seek quotes to enable the work to go ahead, there is always the missional aspect of such a document. Reflecting on documents such as these helps us to think about how we use and maintain our buildings.

We hadn't been able to worship at St Gabriel's during the lockdown and prior to that, the congregation had diminished due to ill health, moving away or who had sadly died. We continued to keep in regular contact with the former two sections by phone, Zoom, letter and email and physical visiting when that was possible.

Much thought has been put into the way forward and conversations have been had with Revd Lynne Cullens, now Bishop of Barking, who has a particular interest in estate ministry and serves with a team of people acting on behalf of the archbishop.

We have also had a conversation with Revd Peter Frogatt who is the Director of Outreach for Chester Diocese and who worked alongside Emily Allen, the buildings missionary for the Diocese. This proved useful in considering what possibilities may be out there. They pledged their support in whatever we decide to do.

We continue to partner with the local authority as we can, and we have looked at opportunities for rental although there are a plethora of halls and community buildings in Adswold. Two other expressions of interest from uniformed organisations about using the church as their base and an organisation who runs courses for those convicted of drugs and alcohol driving offences faded into nothing.

In the past we have considered using the building to partner alongside statutory or voluntary agencies: dementia church/café, provision for those with additional need/autism, loneliness, family support, poverty and providing affordable meals for families etc. but that had stalled during lockdown.

Rockup2sing, the community choir, returned in the later part of the year on a Tuesday night.

There are lots of things that have been considered but there doesn't necessarily seem to be the capacity to take on extra endeavours at the church at present given the heavy demands on people already. Other agencies, charities or churches may be able to help.

We continue to work closely with our ecumenical colleagues in Adswold for various services and events throughout the year, but they have similar problems with reducing congregations and limited people available to help.

A Christmas carol service was held in December and there are plans for a limited number of festival services to be held in 2022.

23rd January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 3pm.

4th June Pentecost breakfast at 9 am.

9th October Harvest service at 4pm.

11th December Carol Service at 3pm.

This will maintain our insurance on the building. There is a wider discussion to be had over what repairs etc need doing, the cost and the ultimate outcome for the building.

We were limited in looking at the deeds for land use and the church due to Covid but we hope to be able to present a fuller picture once these have been perused.

We have explored many avenues to keep St Gabriel's going and have really tried our very best to find a solution.

The Diocesan Outreach staff posed the question, 'If you had all the money to put it right, would that be the end of your problems?'

St George's School

We continued to work alongside St George's School during 2021 and inserted videoed segments into their festival services as there were restrictions on gathering.

We also took part in virtual assemblies and encouraged families to access on line Storytime, Messy Church and Messy Church Bake Off.

We supported staff in prayer and in regular pastoral contact and continued to be part of the governance structure as part of the Governing Board.

Sunday Clubs

Due to continued Covid restrictions and low numbers of children there were no Sunday Clubs sessions during 2021. Staff planned a Light Party for 31st October but due to high numbers of regional Covid cases in the target age group and health

considerations of several of the helpers this was cancelled with the hope that it can be offered next year.

During December 2021 it was agreed that we should resume offering a basic story and craft session in the children's corner at the back of church during the Sunday 10:15am service to any young attendee present. Craft or colouring activities based on the Liturgy were also still provided during school holiday Sundays. Staff are due to meet to finalise plans and resume in January 2022.

Louise Clark

Telephone Buddies

The Telephone Buddies have continued informally, reporting back with any concerns and bringing people to church when that has been possible. They have endeavoured to keep people in the picture with things and to let them know that they have a listening ear when they are feeling lonely. Grateful thanks to all concerned.

Curate's Report

Like many people, I had hoped 2021 would be the start of the end of Covid and restrictions would be well and truly behind us by now, but that was not the case. Instead, I continued my strange but fruitful curacy – it wasn't what I imagined but it was better in many ways.

Lent and Easter provided more opportunities for creative online services in response to the continued restrictions. In March, like many other churches, we took part in the National Day of Prayer. I put together a video montage of the church activities during the previous year (the first year of lockdown) and it was a poignant moment; a moment tinged with sadness at what we had endured but a moment also tinged with pride and joy in what we had achieved.

It was the year we ran Contentious Christianity online; a series of talks and discussions that grappled with some of the more difficult questions the church faces today. It was a wonderful development opportunity and a fascinating series to be part of.

Outside St George's, I began contributing to teaching readers in training in Chester Diocese and also became part of a team in the diocese offering training on unconscious bias. My IME2 training (the training all curates undertake) continued online with a new IME2 officer (just one of many staff changes in the diocese during the year).

As restrictions began to lift in the summer, we took the decision to end Messy Church (craft) and Compline online to focus my time on the in person services that were opening up such as school assemblies and Messy Church. As the autumn rolled on, things began to look a little more normal. The Christmas Tree festival ran again and our Christmas services also ran in full.

As I look back, I am aware of just how unusual my curacy has been. I had 9 months of 'normality' before we went into lockdown and the rest of my curacy has been restricted to varying degrees at different times by Covid. However, despite this I have managed to fulfil all requirements and have learnt more than I could ever have hoped for. Covid, despite its challenges has provided me with many opportunities. As I prepare to move on from St George's in 2022, I do so feeling that I've been blessed to have been at St George's during my crazy curacy.

Report from the Vicar 2021

2021 proved to be an unusual and challenging year due to Covid. There was a lot that we couldn't do but a lot we **did** do thanks to so many people extending themselves to overcome some of the difficulties that were presented to us.

Not only were we able to maintain most of the key functions set before us, we were also able to plan for the future, including for our 125th anniversary year in 2022.

The year evolved with almost all of our meetings being held virtually and that included our commitment to discipleship and outreach. Courses such as: Christianity for the Curious, Lent Breakfasts when we looked at "What has Covid done for me?" and Contentious Christianity where speakers from across the diocese shared their thoughts on "The Church and..."

It was in September that a group of us, joined a large group of people for "Feasts of Hope" part of the "Ripples of Hope Festival" which celebrates the power of people to make human rights a reality for all. This was organised by Stockport Council Library Department. Each person/group brought a dish of food that meant something to them and then they would tell their story. From our congregation, Nicola spoke about disability and Sareh and Sahar spoke about their journey from Iran and their Christian faith. I was very proud of them all.

Interviews for Life Events such as baptisms weddings and funerals were usually held online, at least in the early part of the year. It wasn't always easy for the bereaved families, but it enabled us to see each other as we planned for the most painful of situations, endeavouring to make them slightly more bearable.

The difficult decision to close the church for public worship came soon after the wonderful Confirmation service in January, attended by Bishop Mark, Bishop of Chester. This was due to seriously elevated coronavirus rates. We returned on Palm Sunday.

That meant that we weren't in a position to do baptisms and weddings for the early part of 2021. Our first baptism of the year was on 30th May and continued almost weekly with 27 children and 4 adults being baptised (2 by full immersion) with 2 who didn't turn up, so I'd like to thank the baptism team for all their love, care and support to the families and to the clergy.

Weddings started in May with 10 couples being married at St George's during the year with some restrictions still in place. This coincided with United Utilities digging

up the A6, which made things interesting. We were also presented with a change in marriage regulations. All training was done online and, somehow, we managed to navigate our way through it.

A total of 39 funerals, memorial services and burial of ashes took place over the year. Some people had been waiting for a couple of years for ashes to be buried or the funerals had been held elsewhere which meant that we offered a fuller service in church in an attempt to link to the earlier funeral.

We said goodbye to Richard Heap, one of our patrons and Jean Bull who had been the church cleaner for many years. We also mourned the loss of several church family members.

We also said farewell to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who died on 9 April 2021. The Church was immediately made ready for those who wanted to come and pay their respects and a series of services were held leading up to his funeral.

We consolidated our resources into keeping services online with the church being open for individual prayer which enabled people to come and collect the 40 or so, specially prepared, Lent packs at their convenience and some were hand delivered to those who would normally have received Home Communion.

Again, due to the coronavirus rates, we limited home visits to essential and end of life care.

We were part of the National Day of Reflection in March, acknowledging the enormity of the impact of the coronavirus on the lives of so many and reflecting on how people had worked together to bring so many positive things out of challenge.

The 8am service resumed from Easter Day; many people having come to the Wednesday BCP Communion Service. The 10.15am Parish Communion continued to be live streamed as well as in person and for the early part of the year, any evening services were live streamed only. The Wednesday Communion service resumed in person and refreshments were served for people to drink at tables.

In July we made the decision to stop Online Messy Church and Compline and Praise and Play would be on a Tuesday starting in person in September for a 1-hour session/service. Messy Church Bake Off and Storytime would continue as online services.

Despite the many restrictions on singing, our Director of Music, James Hibbert has done an astounding job to bring us singing in some form or another throughout the year and it is to be applauded that our wonderful choir were the choir in residence at Worcester Cathedral over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

2021 continued to be the year of the risk assessment which meant that any Life Event, regular service and specific festival or occasion services and events had a full risk assessment.

Following that we decided to have a Community Carol Service at St Gabriel's, and a reduced version of the Christmas Tree Festival at St George's which was appreciated. We were grateful to John Hayden for the accompanying video from the Christmas Tree Festival which enabled those at home to see the decorated church.

We welcomed the renowned Fairey Band and our choir sang along with them making it a splendid occasion.

We also went ahead with three Christingles on Christmas Eve, plus the midnight service, plus the Christmas Day services plus the Boxing Day service on the Sunday. Thanks to the fabulous people who stewarded all those occasions and helped to sanitize the church between things.

I am also hugely grateful for all those who came along for the Big Clean Events which helped us to keep on top of our housekeeping.

The Churches and Parish Rooms have needed some attention. Roofing work was done on the chapel and reredos roof and in the corridor near the smaller of the parish rooms which had leaked comprehensively, possibly due to lead theft. Lights were also replaced in both parish rooms. St Gabriel's comes as a separate report.

We have worked alongside the developers in discussion with the easement in the North Venue which took up a lot of time and relied heavily on the insight of our diocesan legal people and the tenacity of our church Warden Andrew Regan and Deputy Warden John Hardy. This was to enable the developers to dig an access hole, check the drains and replace them as necessary. It meant that the responsibility for any repair or replacement in the future would lie with whoever the developers appointed to manage the site. We also look forward the North Avenue being reinstated and resurfaced.

The Strategy Group, working alongside the Standing Committee and PCC, have worked tirelessly, and I am exceedingly grateful for their contributions. Steve Kelly stepped down as treasurer having extended his tenure for longer than planned in order to cover the vagaries of coronavirus. He has done an amazing job and I will always be grateful for his help and support. Andrew Regan has kindly added to his portfolio of roles within the parish and has taken on the job.

Andrea Webb Reilly stepped down as the PCC secretary and we await a new appointment for this job. In the meantime, Hazel Jenkins, the other church warden *and chief cook and bottle washer*, has stepped up in the interim.

We have been grateful to Will Hesson for being our Parish Safeguarding Officer and I am delighted to welcome James Hibbert into the role. Please do assist him in sharing the responsibility that we all have for ensure our churches and parish rooms are safer places to be for children and vulnerable adults.

Along with our commitment to safeguarding, we had a raft of reports to consider: Wellbeing, Eco Church, a "Firm place to stand" (emerging through Covid) and the

Living in Love report. We also started to make plans for our 125th anniversary and the Heritage Open Day brought in 70 people.

We delighted in a flurry of Bishops (a bench of bishops?) in 2021. We had Bishop Mark in January for the confirmation and the bishops designate: Julie Conalty and Sam Corley on 28th May for a time of prayer. This occasion was part of their tour around the diocese. It was followed by lunch at the Funky Monkey which was enjoyed by all.

The rearranged date of Bishop Sam's formal welcome was on October 14th and we had a packed church for a wonderful celebration.

Not to be outdone, Bishop Sam joined us for our Carol Service on Sunday 19th December.

All things episcopal hadn't quite finished as we went to Chester Cathedral in October to formally welcome our new Reader, Rita Waters, to the parish. It was a fabulous experience.

As I said in the beginning: In 2001, there was a lot that we couldn't do but a lot we **did** do, and I am grateful to each and everyone one of you who has helped to not only keep things going but to enable us to grow and reach those in our community who may never have thought about coming to the church.

Thanks especially to our ever supportive Church Wardens who have held such a lot of responsibility over these past 2 years, to our Curate Janine for putting up with such a hybrid way of training, for Peter and Rita, our Readers and for all those who have led Morning prayer, live streamed for us and all those who have mucked in, responded to various bizarre requests in an effort to get things done. You are magnificent. Thank you.

With every blessing

Elaine.

Financial Review for 2021

The PCC recorded an increase in funds of £7,711 over the year. PCC unrestricted funds grew by £2,553. The Fabric Fund grew by £5,681 and St Gabriel's funds reduced by £1,361. The Choir Legacy fund (established in 2020 from a bequest of £5,000) had a balance of £5,451 at 31st December 2021. The Preservation Trust funds reduced by £110, and other restricted funds increased in the year by £511.

St George's unrestricted funds

St George's unrestricted funds showed a surplus, with income and capital gains exceeding expenditure by £2,553, compared with a deficit of £728 last year. This surplus was made possible only by a continuing suspension of our charitable giving from unrestricted funds, and by transferring an amount of £2,800 from the Fabric Fund into Unrestricted Funds in order to comply with our financial reserving policy, as detailed below.

Overall income increased by £16,914, recovering from a large decrease last year due to the effects of the pandemic. Total voluntary income, excluding legacies and grants, reduced slightly by £291 to £90,822 as almost all our regular giver scheme members continued with their support. Income received from letting the church and Parish Rooms increased by £3,779 to £12,136 as more activities resumed. Income from fundraising events increased by £6,938 to £8,336, mostly as a result of being able to hold the Christmas Tree Festival again. Grants totalling £9,287 were received, including £7,338 from Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council to help the PCC through the pandemic.

Overall expenditure increased by £6,333. Parish share costs increased by £482 to £67,478. Church running costs increased by £2,763, as usage of the building also increased, and church maintenance costs increased by £624. Upkeep of Services, including Music and Organ costs, increased by £2,049 to £4,486 as more services were held after the church reopened. Expenditure on the Parish Rooms decreased by £1,409 to £3,365. The cost of maintaining the curate's house increased by £164 to £3,736.

A transfer of £7,000 was made from St George's Unrestricted Funds to the Fabric Fund, this representing most of the net income from the Christmas Tree Festival. A transfer back of £2,800 was then required in order to comply with our financial reserving policy.

Designated Funds

St Gabriel's funds

There was a deficit of £1,361 for the year. Income for the year reduced by £159 to £1,462 including £821 voluntary giving (and associated income tax recoverable) and rental income of £210. Total expenditure reduced by £517 to £2,823, which included £829 contributed to St George's to cover its share of the Parish Share, clergy expenses, and Parish Office costs.

The reserves available to the church now stand at £10,032.

Fabric Fund

This fund was established in 2017, and received a further grant of £110 from the St George's Preservation Trust, plus interest and capital gains of £13,060. There was also a net transfer into the fund from Unrestricted Funds of £4,200. Expenditure for the year was £11,689, for repairs to the roof over the passage behind the reredos, the roof over the Parish Room corridor, and to the Parish Room lights. The fund currently stands at £126,844, representing an increase for the year of £5,681.

Choir Legacy Fund

This fund was established in 2020 with a £5,000 bequest from Frank Gee, a former chorister. After interest and capital gains of £864 and expenditure of £427 the fund stands at £5,451.

St George's restricted funds

The PCC is grateful for the continuing support of the Fearn Trust, which provided a grant of £20,000 to be used to cover the cost of insuring both St George's and St Gabriel's churches, and an additional grant of £1,440 towards minor repairs to the roof of St George's Church.

Charitable funds

The sum of £430, raised at the Christingle Services, along with a further £100 raised from a collecting box and £120 from carol singing, was donated to the Children's Society this year.

A further sum of £430 was raised from sales at a Christmas stall, and this was donated to Wellspring.

Music Fund

This fund was established to receive grants for musical activities. In 2021 we received a further £2,000 grant from the John Pilling Trust to support our choral scholars, now known as the John Pilling Choral Scholars.

Choir Music Fund

This fund may be used to cover the cost of the replacement of choir music.

St George's Preservation Trust

Full accounts for the Trust are available on application.

Income for the year was nil.

Expenditure this year comprised a grant to the Fabric Fund of £110, which has reduced the balance within the fund to £600. The Trustees have indicated their intention to pass the remaining balance to the Fabric Fund over the next six years.

Reserves and Investment Policies

The PCC reviewed its reserving policy in 2017. It is the policy of St George's to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months general running costs and an additional three month's salaries. At least one half of its minimum reserve should be held in Unrestricted

Funds. These reserves may be invested in funds which provide some protection against loss of value due to inflation. This may take the form of capital appreciation or income which can be re-invested.

Reserves will continue to be held in the PCC's accounts with CCLA Investment Managers which is the leading fund manager for the assets of the church, charities and local authorities. It has a policy of engaging only in ethical investments and is owned by its clients – through the Boards of Finance in the case of the Church of England. The CBF Church of England Investment Fund is used which is highly diversified and balanced across many sectors of investment and is actively managed to achieve long term capital growth and steady income.

As at 31 December 2021 it was necessary for the PCC to transfer £2,800 from the Fabric Fund to Unrestricted Funds in order to comply with this policy. A further transfer may become necessary during 2022 if expenditure exceeds income.

It is also the policy to hold a reserve to cover the work for projects that have been identified as necessary. This reserve, which may be required at short notice, is to be held in secure funds that are not subject to capital risks. An income from these funds while desirable is not essential. The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund is used, which holds only funds with AAA rated organisations and is managed by CCLA. However, excess funds may also be invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

The PCC has set a target minimum amount to be held in the Fabric Fund. This is calculated as a percentage of the insurance valuation of St George's Church, and the PCC make transfers from Unrestricted Funds into the Fabric Fund with the aim of reaching the target minimum within five to ten years. The current target minimum level is £142,000

A number of potential projects have been identified by the PCC including:

St George's Church

- Review of the lighting and sound systems in church
- Repairs to the West Window
- Further investigations into the subsidence in the north east corner of the church, and any remedial actions required
- Repointing of churchyard wall
- Maintenance of masonry at roof level
- Development of kitchen and toilet facilities, with changes to the internal porches

Parish Rooms

- Redevelopment of the kitchen

The PCC believes that, at present, there are insufficient reserves available to cover all of these projects. Consequently, individual projects will commence only when adequate finance is available.

The reserves policy for St Gabriel's church was reviewed in 2016 and was amended to match that of St George's, i.e. the equivalent of three months general running costs. No major projects are envisaged in the near future, and the reserves are considered to be adequate.

The reserves are held on deposit with the church's bankers, or with CCLA Investment Managers.

Dr Andrew Regan
9th March 2022

Approval

The annual report was approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23rd March 2022
and signed on its behalf by:

Gaie Chen Hay

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Paul Clancy

Date

11/4/2022

Paul Clancy, BA (Hons), ACA, MBA
19 Rosemoor Gardens
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 4RF.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds	
					2021 £	2020 £
<u>Income and endowments</u>						
Donations and legacies	2.a	100,169	1,247	23,870	125,286	131,087
Other trading activities	2.b	20,472	210	-	20,682	10,288
Income from investments	2.c	15	28	-	43	354
Income from church activities	2.d	9,754	-	-	9,754	7,232
Other income	2.e	-	-	-	-	-
Total income		130,410	1,485	23,870	155,765	148,961
<u>Expenditure</u>						
Expenditure on church activities	3.a	123,282	14,939	23,359	161,580	140,565
Expenditure on raising funds	3.b	375	-	-	375	153
Total expenditure		123,657	14,939	23,359	161,955	140,718
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		6,753	(13,454)	511	(6,190)	8,243
Net gains/(losses) on investments	4.b	-	13,901	-	13,901	7,098
Net income/(expenditure)		6,753	447	511	7,711	15,341
<u>Transfers between funds</u>						
Unrestricted Fund to Fabric Fund	7.a	(7,000)	7,000		-	-
Preservation Trust to Fabric Fund	7.b		110	(110)	-	-
Fabric Fund to Unrestricted Fund	7.c	2,800	(2,800)		-	-
Net movement in funds	8,9	2,553	4,757	401	7,711	15,341
Total funds brought forward	8,9	72,362	137,570	17,075	227,007	211,666
Total funds carried forward	8,9	74,915	142,327	17,476	234,718	227,007

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

BALANCE SHEET

at 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible fixed assets	4.a	35,500	-	-	35,500	36,000
Investment assets	4.b	-	93,496	-	93,496	79,595
Total fixed assets		35,500	93,496	-	128,996	115,595
Current Assets						
Stock		-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	5	14,556	126	1,261	15,943	14,991
Short term deposits		12,545	47,254	-	59,799	79,762
Cash at bank and in hand		17,255	1,451	16,645	35,351	21,684
Total current assets		44,356	48,831	17,906	111,093	116,437
Liabilities						
Creditors	6	(4,941)	-	(430)	(5,371)	(5,025)
Internal balances		-	-	-	-	-
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		39,415	48,831	17,476	105,722	111,412
Total assets less current liabilities		74,915	142,327	17,476	234,718	227,007
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-	-
Net Assets		74,915	142,327	17,476	234,718	227,007
Funds						
Unrestricted		74,915	-	-	74,915	72,362
Designated	8	-	142,327	-	142,327	137,570
Restricted	9	-	-	17,476	17,476	17,075
Total Funds		74,915	142,327	17,476	234,718	227,007

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by

.....
Sue Chyn Hall
(PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages A-3 to A-9 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, current Church Accounting Regulations and Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) together with the exemptions available to smaller charities under Section 1A. These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the value of investment assets which are shown at market value.

They include all transactions for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. They are only expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining at the end of each year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated Funds are unrestricted funds which the PCC has designated for a particular purpose, but the PCC retains the ability to use some or all of these funds for the general purposes of the PCC.

Income recognition

All income sources are accounted for gross. *Planned giving, collections and donations* are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. *Tax refunds* are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is recognised. *Grants and legacies* are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. *Dividends* are accounted for when due and payable. *Interest entitlements* are accounted for as they accrue. All *other income* is recognised when it is receivable.

The value of any *voluntary help* received is not included in the accounts but is described in the annual report.

Expenditure recognition

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. All *other expenditure* is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted gross.

Governance costs include any costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and of any legal advice to the PCC on governance or constitutional matters.

Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventories which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2001 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on *consecrated and benefice buildings*, or individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2001 is written off. Other items of equipment with a purchase price over £1,000 used within church premises are depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

The Parochial Church Council consider that there are no material uncertainties about the ability of St George's PCC to continue as a going concern.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds	
				2021 £	2020 £
2 INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS					
<i>2.a Donations and legacies</i>					
Tax efficient planned giving	56,555	-	-	56,555	53,941
Other planned giving	3,133	-	-	3,133	4,921
Collections at services	8,390	657	-	9,047	9,752
Donations, appeals, etc.	6,021	-	430	6,451	7,871
Income tax recoverable	16,783	164	-	16,947	17,157
Grants	9,287	426	23,440	33,153	27,245
Gifts of quoted securities	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	10,200
	100,169	1,247	23,870	125,286	131,087
<i>Note: Amounts collected from the St Gabriel's congregation, including planned giving, are shown under Collections at services (Designated Funds). This is necessary to ensure confidentiality given the small number of donors in some categories.</i>					
<i>2.b Other trading activities</i>					
Church lettings	2,329	210	-	2,539	1,187
Parish room lettings	9,807	-	-	9,807	7,653
Festivals, other fund-raising events	8,336	-	-	8,336	1,448
	20,472	210	-	20,682	10,288
<i>2.c Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest including tax recoverable	15	28	-	43	354
Rent	-	-	-	-	-
	15	28	-	43	354
<i>2.d Income from church activities</i>					
Bookstall	26	-	-	26	36
Magazine	2,687	-	-	2,687	3,377
Church fees for weddings and funerals	7,032	-	-	7,032	3,819
	9,754	-	-	9,754	7,232
<i>2.e Other income</i>					
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	130,410	1,485	23,870	155,765	148,961

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	2020 £
3 EXPENDITURE					
3.a Expenditure on church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Overseas Mission Societies	-	-	-	-	-
Christian Relief & Development Agencies	-	-	-	-	-
Home Mission & Church Societies	-	-	430	430	358
Secular Charities	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal</i>	-	-	430	430	358
Ministry:					
Parish share & deanery expenses	67,478	654	-	68,132	67,624
Other ministry costs	6,958	64	-	7,022	6,768
Church running expenses	16,021	248	20,525	36,794	33,540
Church maintenance	2,101	306	1,440	3,847	1,763
Upkeep of services	2,042	-	-	2,042	856
Music and organ	2,444	427	964	3,835	2,069
Upkeep of churchyard	3,363	1,440	-	4,803	2,699
Magazine and bookstall	79	-	-	79	813
Parish rooms - repairs, maintenance and running costs	3,365	636	-	4,001	4,774
Curate's house - repairs, maintenance and other costs	3,736	32	-	3,768	3,606
Salaries, wages and honoraria (see note 3.c)	11,485	39	-	11,524	12,406
Major repairs/replacements	-	11,053	-	11,053	-
Support costs	166	-	-	166	162
Administration	4,044	40	-	4,084	3,127
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of Annual Meeting	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>	123,282	14,939	23,359	161,580	140,565
3.b Expenditure on raising funds					
Envelope printing	132	-	-	132	153
Fund-raising trading costs					
Fetes, bazaars and other fund-raising events	243	-	-	243	-
<i>Total</i>	375	-	-	375	153
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	123,657	14,939	23,359	161,955	140,718
<i>Staff costs</i>					
3.c Wages and salaries	11,473	39	-	11,512	12,406
Tax and National Insurance	11	-	-	11	-
<i>Total</i>	11,484	39	-	11,523	12,406

During the year the PCC employed a Director of Music and a secretary at St George's, both on a part-time basis. A part-time parish room cleaner was also employed for part of the year only.

The John Pilling Choral Scholars were funded from the Music Fund, from grants received from the Pilling Trust.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

3 EXPENDITURE(cont)

3.d Payments to PCC members

James Hibbert was a PCC member throughout 2020 and 2021. In 2021 the PCC paid him a salary as the Director of Music (including payment for weddings and funerals) of £6,868 (2020: £4,580), and paid £240 (2020: £331) towards his professional development. He also received fees as a self-employed musician during 2021 of £0 (2020: £630) for weddings and funerals.

Hazel Jenkins was a PCC member throughout 2020 and 2021. During 2021 she received no fees (2020: £55 for acting as Verger for a wedding at St George's Church).

4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

		Freehold land and buildings	
		£	
Actual/Deemed Cost	At 01/01/21	52,000	
	Additions	-	
	At 31/12/21	<u>52,000</u>	
Depreciation	At 01/01/21	16,000	
	Charge for year	500	
	At 31/12/21	<u>16,500</u>	
Net Book Value	At 31/12/21	<u>35,500</u>	
	At 31/12/20	<u>36,000</u>	

The freehold land and buildings comprise the curate's house at 40 Beechfield Road, Stockport. The house was purchased in 1988 at a cost, after refurbishing, of £52,000. The building is being depreciated at £500 per annum from 2003 on the basis of its expected useful life of 50 years.

Those meeting rooms owned by the PCC are integral parts of the school premises and were donated by the Founder in 1901. As such the rooms are deemed to have no value for the purposes of these accounts.

4.b Investment assets

Movements in the year:	2021			2020	
	Designated Choir legacy £	Designated Fabric Fund £	Designated Total £	All Funds £	All Funds £
Opening market value	5,014	74,581	79,595	79,595	67,677
Purchases at cost, less disposals at carrying value	(427)	427	-	-	4,820
Net gains/(losses) on disposals and annual revaluation	864	13,037	13,901	13,901	7,098
Closing market value	<u>5,451</u>	<u>88,045</u>	<u>93,496</u>	<u>93,496</u>	<u>79,595</u>

No investment assets were held in Unrestricted Funds or in Restricted Funds.

Holdings at 31 December in CBF Church of England Investment Fund Accumulation Units:

	2021	2020
Choir legacy	93.33	100.84
Fabric Fund	1,507.59	1,500.08
Total	<u>1,600.92</u>	<u>1,600.92</u>

Charity number 1134170
NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2021

	2021										2020	
	Unrestricted				Designated Funds				Restricted funds		All Funds	
	PCC	Choir Legacy	Fabric	St Gabriel's	Designated Total	PCC Restricted	Preservation Trust	Restricted Total	All Funds	All Funds	All Funds	
5 DEBTORS												
Tax recoverable	12,313	-	-	126	126	-	-	-	-	-	12,439	11,754
Prepayments and accrued interest	951	-	-	-	-	1,261	1,261	-	-	1,261	2,212	2,727
Other debtors	1,292	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,292	510
Total	14,556	-	-	126	126	1,261	1,261	-	-	1,261	15,943	14,991
6 LIABILITIES:												
amounts falling due in one year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Creditors for goods and services	4,525	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,525	3,295
Other creditors	416	-	-	-	-	430	430	-	-	430	846	1,730
Total	4,941	-	-	-	-	430	430	-	-	430	5,371	5,025

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

7 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

- a An amount of £7,000 has been transferred from unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund. This represents the regular transfers which the PCC makes to cover the cost of larger maintenance works.
- b An amount of £110 was transferred from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund. This represents grants made by the Preservation Trust to the PCC.
- c As the value of unrestricted funds fell below the minimum required by our financial reserving policy, an amount of £2,800 was transferred from the Fabric Fund to unrestricted funds as at 31/12/21 to restore the necessary minimum reserve.

8 DESIGNATED FUNDS

Designated Funds are fund set aside for a particular purpose. However, the PCC may resolve to use such funds for any other purpose.

The *St Gabriel's Fund* is used for all matters relating to St Gabriel's Church, and the PCC has given the St Gabriel's Committee limited financial authority over these finances.

The *Fabric Fund* holds monies set aside for the maintenance and repair of church buildings, including the Parish Rooms and the Curate's House. The PCC intend to make regular transfers into this fund from unrestricted income.

The *Choir Legacy Fund* was established in 2020 with a bequest from Frank Gee, a former choir member. It is intended to be used for the benefit of the choir.

Fund movements	Choir Legacy	Fabric Fund	St Gabriel's	Total Designated
Balance at 01/01/21	5,014	121,163	11,393	137,570
Income	-	23	1,462	1,485
Expenditure	(427)	(11,689)	(2,823)	(14,939)
Transfers between funds	-	4,310	-	4,310
Investment gains	864	13,037	-	13,901
Change in fund	437	5,681	(1,361)	4,757
Balance at 31/12/21	5,451	126,844	10,032	142,327
Represented by:				
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Investment assets	5,451	88,045	-	93,496
Current assets	-	38,799	10,032	48,831
Current liabilities	-	-	-	-
Internal balances	-	-	-	-
Total	5,451	126,844	10,032	142,327

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2021

9 RESTRICTED FUNDS

St George's Church Preservation Trust was established under a trust deed in 1990. The objects include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church, the parish office, the parish rooms and other PCC property.

In 2021 the trustees made a grant of £110 from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund, and have stated their intention to transfer the remaining amount over the coming years.

The Preservation Trust is considered to be a connected charity, consequently the transactions and balances have been included in these accounts, but are restricted funds.

The *PCC Restricted Fund* represents donations given and monies raised for specific objectives.

Fund movements	PCC Restricted	Preservation Trust	Total
Balance at 01/01/21	16,365	710	17,075
Income	23,870	-	23,870
Expenditure	(23,359)	-	(23,359)
Transfers between funds	-	(110)	(110)
Investment gains	-	-	-
Change in fund	511	(110)	401
Balance at 31/12/21	16,876	600	17,476
Represented by:			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Investment assets	-	-	-
Current assets	17,306	600	17,906
Current liabilities	(430)	-	(430)
Internal balances	-	-	-
Total	16,876	600	17,476

Analysis of PCC Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/01/21	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Change in fund	Balance at 31/12/21
Charitable Payments	-	430	(430)	-	-	-
Choir Music	261	-	(98)	-	(98)	163
Grants: Fearn Trust	10,017	21,440	(21,965)	-	(525)	9,492
Music	6,087	2,000	(866)	-	1,134	7,221
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	16,365	23,870	(23,359)	-	511	16,876

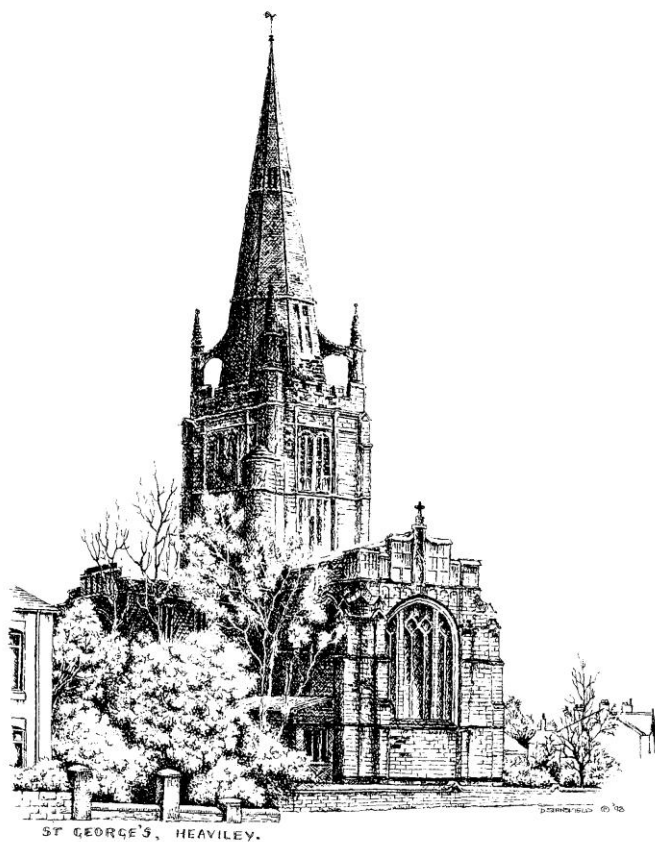
An annual grant from the Fearn Trust was received to cover the cost of insuring St George's Church and St Gabriel's Church. During 2021 the Fearn Trust also gave an additional grant of £1,440 towards minor repairs to the roof of St George's Church.

The *Music Fund* holds any grant income received in respect of musical activities.

A further grant of £2,000 was received from the Pilling Trust to support our Choral Scholars.

Accounts

**The Parish Church of St. George, Stockport.
REPORT and ACCOUNTS
of the
Parochial Church Council**



**presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
23rd May 2021**

ANNUAL REPORT for 2020

Administrative Information

The Parish Church of Stockport St George is located on Buxton Road, Heaviley, and the daughter church of St Gabriel is located at Clover Avenue, Adswold. The parish is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England.

PCC members who served during 2020, with future retirement dates in brackets after each name, are:

<i>Vicar</i>	Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall	Chair
<i>Assistant Curate</i>	Revd Dr Janine Arnott	
<i>Reader:</i>	Mr Peter Hall	<i>also Diocesan Synod</i>
<i>Pastoral worker:</i>	Mrs Audrey Manzano	<i>until 12.11.2020</i>
<i>Wardens:</i>	Mr Andrew Regan Mrs Hazel Jenkins	
<i>Deanery Synod:</i>	Mr Michael Coupe Mr David Foulkes Mr John Sutcliffe	<i>RIP 5/9/2020</i>
<i>Diocesan Synod:</i>	Mr Ian Roberts	
<i>Elected members:</i>	Mrs Sue Burt (2021) Mrs Louise Clark (2023) Mr Nigel Collison Mrs Sue Cordingley (2023) Mr John Hardy (2023) Mrs Dawn Hesson (2022) Mr James Hibbert (2022) Mrs Phoebe Macleod (2021) Mr Richard Parr (2021) Mrs Kim Regan (2022) Mr Peter Smith (2021) Ms Andrea Webb Reilly (2022)	<i>from 25/10/2020</i> <i>until 25/10/2020</i> <i>from 25/10/2020</i> <i>PCC secretary</i>
<i>Co-opted members:</i>	Mrs Lisa Darbyshire-Ellison Mr Will Hesson Mr Steven Kelly	<i>from 16/11/2020</i> <i>Safeguarding officer</i> <i>until 25/10/2020 treasurer</i>
<i>Independent Examiner:</i>	Mrs H M Coen	

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission, number 1134170.

This report covers the activities of the two churches and of St George's Church Stockport Preservation Trust. The Trust was constituted under a trust deed dated 1st August 1990. While legally a separate charity, the Trust is regarded by the Diocesan Authorities as a connected charity, consequently its transactions and dealings are included in the accounts of the PCC.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All members of the two churches are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This fulfils our public benefit requirement.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees and project groups, which meet between meetings of the PCC.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

The Preservation Trust

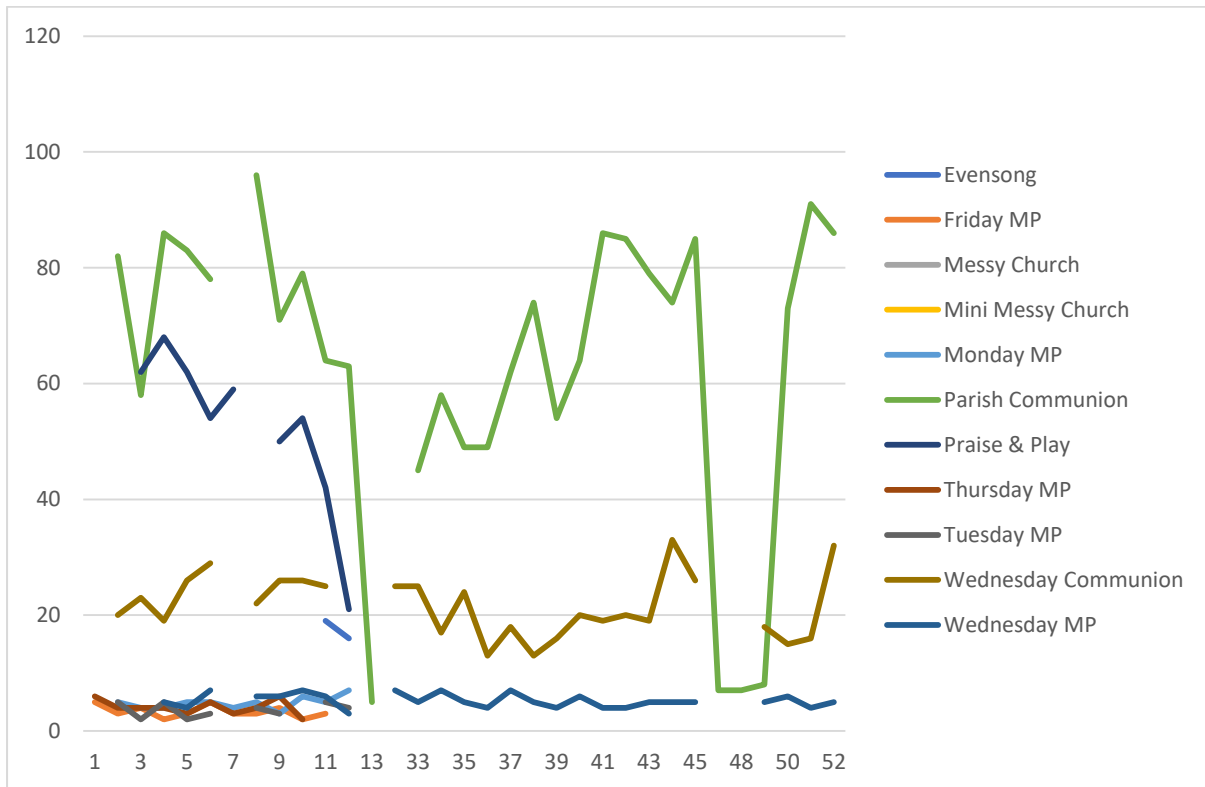
The objectives of the Preservation Trust include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church and buildings. The Trustees may also finance other work connected with the voluntary aided school, youth work in the parish, or as agreed by the trustees.

Achievements and performance

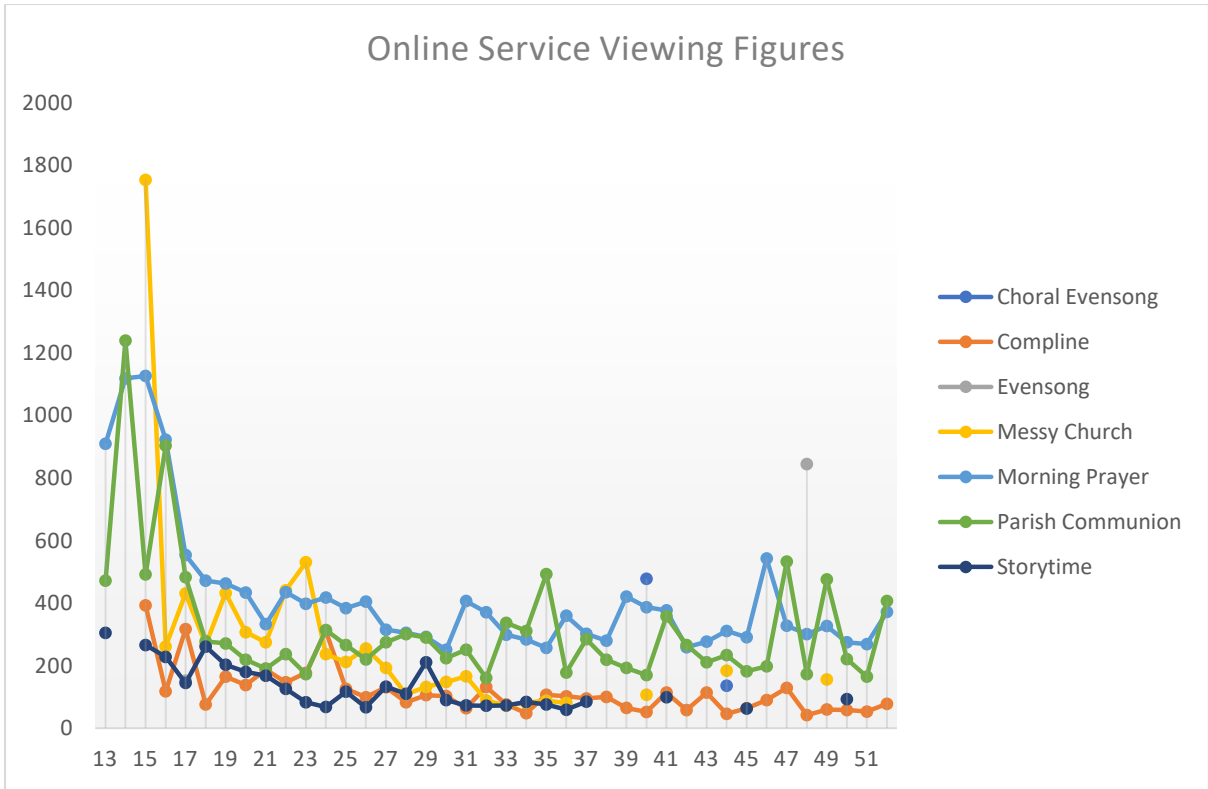
Church attendance

The Electoral Roll total for St. George, Stockport PCC was 182 in total at the end of 2020.

Average weekly attendance for St. George's was difficult to calculate due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.



Our online profile is shown below.



The full PCC met 5 times during 2020 with an average level of attendance of 85%

Baptism Assistants Team

Like so many special celebrations in 2020, baptisms were largely put on hold as Covid took its toll on our way of life. Shortly before lockdown, however, the Baptism team held its annual Baptism Welcome Back service on Candlemas in February. The event, which was being held for the third time, proved popular and many of our visitors stayed behind, lingering to enjoy our company and our hospitality.

On a sadder note, we lost two dear long-time members of our Baptism Team in 2020: Ann Jones and Irene Hinde. Ann died in September, shortly after the death of her beloved sister. Irene also died in September after a fall on an outing to Buxton. She had maintained an astonishingly active life for someone in her late 80's with mobility issues. Irene loved the outdoors and in her younger years had led many a walk in Derbyshire with her rambling society. I can only imagine the joy on her face as she travelled the familiar route to Buxton on the bus shortly before her fall. Both ladies were very able, active and beloved members of the Baptism Team and many other church organisations and they will be sorely missed.

Bell Ringers

This year has been like no other any of us can remember. It began very much as usual, with the regular Monday evening practices and ringing for Sunday morning services taking place. Even at our tower AGM on February 17th there was no real indication of how the spread of Covid-19 would eventually affect ringing and our daily lives generally. A band from Manchester Universities Guild visited to ring on Saturday 14th March and we rang for the morning service on Sunday 15th. We met to practice on Monday 16th March but decided that with the increasing spread of the virus we would restrict our activities to service ringing only. The following day the first national lockdown was announced, ringing was suspended, and the bells were left in the down position for safety.

When a return to services in church was permitted, Andrew Tyler and I inspected the bells on 4th July to ensure everything was in a suitable condition to begin ringing again. The bells were returned to the up position on Monday 3rd August, and we rang for the Sunday morning service on 9th August. This was after carrying out a comprehensive risk assessment and drawing up measures, as advised by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR), to provide the most Covid-safe environment possible. That we have such a large ringing room, plenty of ventilation and a well-spaced rope circle were of considerable advantage. Even so, it was necessary to leave out some bells to maintain the

necessary distancing. Face masks and hand sanitiser became the norm, and ringing was restricted to fifteen minutes only. Because we were limited to a maximum of six ringers at any session it was necessary to draw up a rota to ensure we didn't meet with too many (or too few) ringers, and this worked satisfactorily.

We usually receive a number of requests for the bells to be rung at weddings, but the restrictions introduced affecting the ceremony and the numbers permitted to attend resulted in many weddings being postponed. We were, however, able to ring for weddings on 5th September and 30th October, and helped to make these occasions a little more joyful and 'normal'.

With the introduction of the Tier system of Covid restrictions, the CCCBR advised that ringing in all but Tier 1 areas should be suspended. This caused considerable consternation for towers where a safe system had been introduced, and there were some robust exchanges in the bell ringing press – if choirs were able to sing at services, then it seemed reasonable that, with the necessary measure in place and where conditions permitted, ringers could ring for services. St George's was among a significant number of towers where, with the support of the vicar and church wardens, the band continued to ring. Nevertheless, ringing was suspended again during the second national lockdown in December. We were able to ring for the service on Christmas morning, but at the time of writing we are in a third national lockdown, and ringing has once more been suspended.

The determination of the band to maintaining ringing as far as possible is much appreciated. Some members of the band have understandably not felt able to commit on a regular basis, but have made up the number when we've been short, or supported us in other ways. We've also benefitted from a couple of ringers from other towers who live locally and have been willing to help us out.

It is uncertain when we shall be able to return to even the limited ringing it has been possible to maintain to date. It is to be hoped that the vaccine will eventually enable restrictions to be gradually eased to the point where our ringing can begin to approach something more like normal. This will be extremely welcome, as will enjoying a drink together in the pub after practices! Ringing has always been a very social activity and we have missed each other's company as much as ringing itself.

Andrew Mayes – Ringing Master

St. George's Choir & St. George's Singing Group

This has to be, by far, the most difficult annual report I've had to write during my tenure as Director of Music at St. George's.

I'll begin by reporting on the Singing Group. Sadly, due to the pandemic, the Singing Group haven't convened since we sang for the last All-age Service back in February 2020. Owing to the fact that so many members haven't regularly been attending St. George's over the last year it hasn't been viable for the group to perform, even when government guidance has permitted such activities. I hope that it won't be too long before the group can meet together again, when congregational singing is once again permitted.

It's certainly been a mixed year for St. George's Choir!

The last occasion that members sang together as a full cohort was for Choral Evensong on Sunday 23rd February 2020. We did manage to perform a fundraising 'Spring Concert' on Saturday 14th March 2020, however by that point members of the choir had, understandably, started to 'keep their distance'.

On a social level, very little has been permitted and so our regular pub visits, BBQ and meals haven't taken place at all. From April-August 2020 we did have a regular Thursday evening Zoom meeting, often with a quiz. Hopefully, these managed to keep spirits up during the early weeks and months of inactivity.

Since the first lockdown was announced in March 2020 we have had to abide by a wide ranging mix of rules, regulations, and guidelines published by either HM Government or the Church of England.

Over the course of the last 13 months we've attempted to keep the musical traditions of St. George's alive via a variety of combinations and permutations. These have included; Professional Musicians only (i.e. Director of Music and Organist), Cantor and Organist. Cantors and Organist (a maximum of 3 singers for services that required more voices), Small groups of 6 singers, a socially distanced Choir (numbers permitted based on the size of our buildings), and of course St. George's Virtual Choir. Whilst Church of England churches were closed the Virtual Choir provided a regular offering of hymns and anthems for services held in the study at the Vicarage. Whilst not all of our regular members were able to contribute to the Virtual Choir, I was grateful for the help provided by singers from different choirs who happily supported us by sending audio files to me so that they could take part. Some of these people have never stepped foot inside St. George's before but it was great that they felt enabled to join our Virtual Choir. Despite church buildings reopening, the recordings made during the initial lockdown have continued to be of use during some of our online services. Most notably being an entirely virtual Choral Evensong put together by our Ministry Team and members of the Virtual Choir in January 2021.

Despite the odds being very much against live, active music making at times, I'm grateful to the small group of around 10 singers who have continued to turn up, week by week, to sing for services and rehearsals as and when restrictions have allowed. To this end, we have been able to provide music at the 10:15am Parish Communion and one Choral Evensong per month for at least 6 of the last 13 months.

Whilst restrictions were relaxed over the winter period, we were able to put together the 3 Carol Services for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. They might not have been the usual grand affairs they have previously been, but I hope they were of some comfort to those watching online.

After another stoppage between January and March, the guidance once again permitted small groups of singers to provide music for Holy Week 2021. Once again, we're limited based on the size of our building but thankfully at St. George's this isn't too much of an issue!

I'm mindful not to continuously refer to those currently singing as 'The Choir' out of respect for those who haven't been able to attend for over a year now. The sense that I don't want to leave anyone behind is something I'm very conscious about. I feel it's important to note that we've only been singing at half capacity since February 2020, and I long for the day when the choir can join together in full again once it's safe for everyone to do so.

This certainly hasn't been the year to put together a recruitment drive for new members! I had plans to start working on recruiting a number of new Trebles to the choir over the last year, however these plans will have to be put on hold until it's safe and sensible to approach our local schools again. It is pleasing that we've been able to welcome at least some new members to the Choir during a period of such unpredictability. Father and Son Neil and James Raval have joined the choir, and Ian Dayes has joined us on a part time basis as and when his commitments to the choir at St. Thomas', Mellor allow. I'm also pleased to have appointed Paige Wright Harrison to the position of a John Pilling Choral Scholar following a successful audition. Looking to the future, recruitment is of paramount importance, especially to the Alto Section - where we're very much short staffed compared to the rest of the choir.

Back in May 2020 the choir was due to visit Blackburn Cathedral to sing for a Saturday Choral Evensong. For obvious reasons this had to be cancelled. In the last few days, I have received notification from Manchester Cathedral that our planned weekend visit on the last Sunday in August this year will need to be postponed too due to the unpredictable nature of the pandemic. I'm hopeful that we can rearrange the Blackburn trip next summer (if not before!) and I'm pleased to report that the Manchester Cathedral trip has been rebooked for the last weekend in August 2023! A glimmer of hope on the horizon is our annual

trip to Chester Cathedral to join other Diocesan Church Choirs at the Royal School of Church Music Chester Area Festival (provisionally planned for 16th October 2021)

I'd like to note the continued support the Choir has received from two former Directors of Music here at St. George's, Roger Briscoe & Andrew Dean. Having such experienced organists willing to come in and accompany the choir is a real joy, and I'm grateful for their hard work.

Finally, I'd like to share a few thoughts on the complete lack of congregational singing over the course of the last year. Personally, I cannot understand the decision to allow choirs to sing, albeit socially distanced, yet congregations across the country aren't permitted to sing, even though the distancing rules are the same. It's extremely disheartening, and I long for the day when I can accompany the choir and congregation on the organ as we sing together as a Church community. Sadly, the rules are there to be adhered to but hopefully it won't be much longer until that can happen again.

James Hibbert
Director of Music.

Christmas Tree Festival

In January 2020, the Christmas Tree Festival Committee held its usual meeting to review the festival for the previous year and note what changes we could make for 2020. How hopeful we were and how little we knew! In April 2020 I was still fondly under the illusion that it would all happen as normal, but gradually reality began to dawn on me. I had plans for a scaled down version with fewer trees, no singing and dancing and refreshments outside like a winter market. However when we got to Lockdown 2 in November it was evident that it was not going to be possible despite 20+ people committing to it. So we then planned to go online and various groups videoed their tree and spoke about their organisation. We trawled our photos for as large a selection as possible and then the Hayden family, in particular John, did amazing stuff in combining the videos and pictures in a way I would never have thought possible. When it was uploaded at the beginning of December we felt that at least we were trying to reach out to the community who always support us so well. By the time we took it down in January, the online festival had over 4,000 views. So no, we missed the buzz, the cafe, the choirs, the chat and the children but we were there and roll on 2021, let's see what we can do then!

Hazel Jenkins

Communication

From the time of the Lockdown in March to the end of 2020, we have had to discover new and ever more creative ways of communicating.

For those of us who still thought that Zoom was a retro ice lolly we soon learned that this was a resource which would enable us to keep in touch with people pastorally and to carry on with formal meetings.

If we weren't aficionados of the ways of Facebook then we caught up quickly as this became our go-to platform enabling us to live stream services throughout the week, making contacts with people far and wide.

Our Grapevine magazine went online and became international as so many people grabbed a copy from our website. We were very grateful for our wonderful advertisers who stayed with us despite the change in format to the Grapevine.

The Lance, our weekly newsletter, expanded with information and various other attachments including weekly Bible studies.

We connected closely with Twitter and we tweeted updates about the parish as the coronavirus unfolded and we consolidated our presence on our website and on the Church of England's site, *A Church Near You*.

We had to be on the ball with posters in our churches, keeping people informed of the state of play.

We wrote monthly to all those we knew didn't have internet access, providing them with information, assurance of our love and a copy of Morning Prayer.

The Mothers' Union kept in touch very regularly with all their members and the Telephone Buddies provided a valuable service to the housebound and vulnerable.

We linked in with local shops and markets to ensure that no one went without food. We joined with local businesses and cafés to share food parcels. The Funky Monkey became a focal point for distribution of food to NHS and Social services staff. The hidden front-line workers such as funeral directors, cemetery and crematorium staff were not forgotten and appreciated the delivery of treats to lift the spirits in challenging times.

We appeared on the Chester Diocesan website several times as we shared what was happening in the parish. Elaine was approached to record a video segment

for the diocese just before Christmas and for a live and unscripted interview for TalkRadio with Penny Smith over Easter.

Many of us became proficient with things that we hadn't a clue about at the beginning of 2020 and whilst it has been a steep learning curve, we have been able to share the Gospel message with people in ways we could have hardly imagined.

Elaine.

Cursillo

"Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good works". *Hebrews 10:24*

Cursillo was mostly unknown at St. George's until Irene Hinde started to worship here. Having moved house from Edgeley, St. George's being within walking distance, Irene saw her ministry as introducing people to Cursillo. Individuals and parishes are challenged to grow in faith and their individual vocations and for over 50 years Cursillo has helped in parish spiritual development.

After spending a weekend away listening to talks and lectures, sharing spiritual experiences and interacting socially you return home transformed having deepened your discipleship and experience of God's love.

Irene was always overjoyed when someone who she had prayed over to go on the course came back refreshed and renewed. In total (so far) there are 6 Cursillistas from St. George's.

Irene was until last year the secretary of our local group – HEBAG with members from Heaviley, Edgeley, Bramhall and Gatley who meet once a month. She felt she should hand this over to someone who was more knowledgeable with technology.

Now our monthly meetings are via zoom but we still share our experiences with God, pray together, and support each other and keep in touch via email

Our diocesan meetings which usually take place at a church in the diocese three or four times a year with a 'bring and share' lunch are unfortunately on hold at the moment, as are our weekends away. I'm not sure which I miss most the fellowship of all the people I have met through Cursillo who are like another family or the lovely food. I know Irene loved both!

Let us hope that once we are back to "normal" we will be able to encourage people to go on a weekend and experience Cursillo for themselves. What a

wonderful legacy that would be for Irene. I, myself will be forever indebted to her for encouraging me to take that leap of faith.

Garden Gnomes

Garden Gnomes 2020 was not one of the busiest for the Garden Gnomes! The weather wasn't too kind early on in the year, then, of course, the lockdown came in March and stopped our activities completely.

When restrictions began to be eased in late June, we were able to meet in socially distanced groups of not more than six.

It needed a huge effort to get the grounds back to rights but by the Autumn, everywhere was looking much better. We were then kept busy sweeping up the leaves and planting around 500 bulbs kindly donated by members of the congregation. Most of these have been put in the grass between the stones lining the North Avenue. We hope to be able to see these in 2021.

With the Church building being closed we had to bring our own tools and coffee, but still managed to put the world to rights at halftime.

January 2021

We are very sorry to hear that our dear friend Jean Bull has passed away. She was much appreciated and will be sadly missed by us all.

Kate Stephenson

Grapevine

The magazine was produced in the normal print form in December 2019/ January 2020, February and March 2020.

From April 2020 onwards it has been produced in digital form. We have continued to maintain the usual number of 24 pages, and the larger 28 page edition for December 2020/January 2021. We also produced an extra issue of 12 pages in August 2020, in order to keep in touch with our readers during the summer.

The digital format has had the advantage of allowing colour throughout the magazine, including for advertisements where appropriate, instead of colour on just the front and back pages. In the December/January, Christmas and New Year edition, we continued with the tradition of a double-page colour spread to reflect the year's activities in St George's.

The change of format has only been made possible by much extra work put in by Andrew Regan, who deserves great credit for the skilful and efficient way he

has managed the changes, including formatting the Christmas colour spread, a task normally performed by our printer, Kevin. Andrew has also masterminded the huge task of sending out the digital edition to all our readers and subscribers, as well as ensuring that Committee members have sight of the magazine before it is 'published'.

The inability to hold Committee meetings has been a great sorrow; I hope very much that we will be able to meet in person before too long. I should like to thank all the members of the Committee who have continued to help during such a difficult year.

Back in March 2020, Judith Swift, Olwen Smith and Rosie Stead had distribution of the printed copies of Grapevine down to a fine art, with 22 posted and 25 hand delivered. Then, of course, it was all change when the decision was taken to produce the magazine digitally.

This required obtaining email addresses for the 47 recipients. Rosie phoned or wrote to each one, giving her email address, which resulted in many happy conversations, as well as the required email addresses! Sadly, 6 people did not have email access, and were unable to receive the magazine unless it was printed out for them. The email addresses were all passed on to Andrew, and he added them to his huge distribution list of people to receive the digital editions. The system is working well, and everyone is delighted to still receive the magazine - especially Tril in New Zealand, who reads every word – adverts included!

Rosie Stead takes control of the invoicing of advertisers, with help from Penny Bisby. Recently, they acquired the offer of help from Phoebe MacLeod, which they have willingly accepted. Invoices are sent out electronically, twice a year, in May and November, and every one of the advertisers has paid, despite the difficult times that some of them must be experiencing. Thanks must also go to Steve Kelly, for being able to identify what is required by Rosie, in order that receipts can be issued, either for invoice payments or for varying donation sums from magazine recipients.

Rosie also works enthusiastically and tactfully in liaising with all our advertisers, as well as seeking out new ones. I am very grateful to her for all her hard work. In January 2020 we had 18 advertisers, and in January 2021 we still had 17. This is a great tribute to the loyalty of our advertisers, but also to Rosie's hard work, enthusiasm and charm in maintaining such a strong income stream.

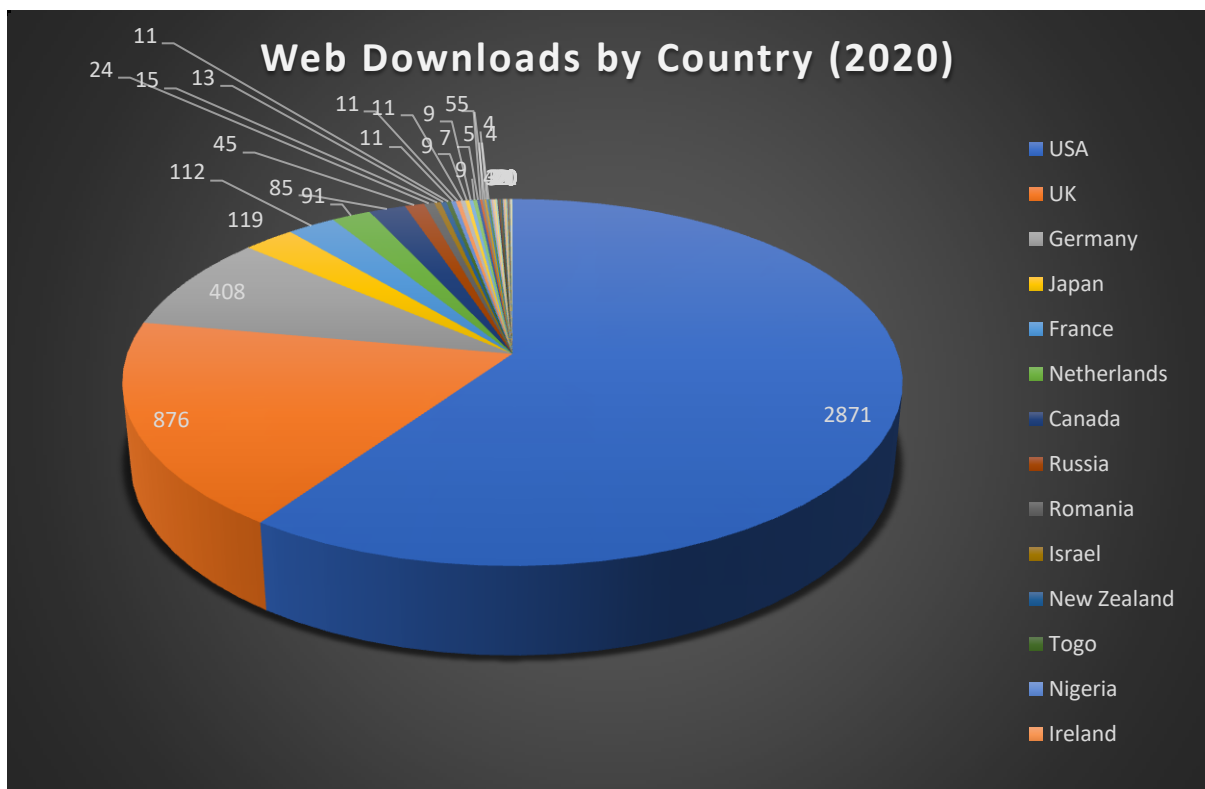
I should like to mention in particular our printer, Kevin, who has seen much of his work disappear since the pandemic but continues to be a cheerful supporter of Grapevine.

I should also like to pay tribute to the continued excellent work of our eagle-eyed proof reader, Angela Foulkes, who brings a consistent diligence to her work, as well as a sense of humour!

Thank you also to our faithful contributors, in particular, Pamela with her delicious recipes; the Garden Gnomes for their helpful and enjoyable articles; Elaine and Janine for their Clergy Letters, and James for the Music Lists. To everyone who contributes, grateful thanks.

Finally, and certainly not least, thanks and admiration to our superb cover photographers, Andrew and Kim Regan, Louise Clark and Janet Neilson, whose work enhances every edition of Grapevine.

Richard Parr



Handbell Ringers

In January 2020 Debbie Heaton who has led the group since its inception, announced that she was no longer in a position to lead the handbell ringers. As a group we were very sorry to hear this and are extremely grateful to Debbie for starting the group, leading the initiative to have the bells restored and for moving us forward with our skills and performances.

Just as we began to discuss our alternatives, Coronavirus struck and so we have progressed no further. However we sadly lost one of our keen members in September when Ann Jones died and we as a group felt privileged to play the bells as part of her funeral service. Hopefully we will be able to ring again in 2021.

Hazel Jenkins

HeART Lent Course 2020

For an hour on four Mondays from **2nd March to 23rd March** we took four images from a Christian perspective which were relevant to Lent. Some were well known and some were a new encounter. It meant that people were able to take the luxury of time to immerse themselves in a work of HeART. We managed the first three weeks before the lockdown. Among other images, we looked at St John of the Cross by Salvador Dali, Ultima Cena and the Icon of the Last Supper Rostov / Suzdal 15th century.

Lent Prayer Breakfasts

The prayer breakfasts, which were meant to run from 29th February to Saturday 28th March managed to meet in church for most of the sessions until the coronavirus restrictions forced us to close.

We met some intriguing speakers as we explored the theme of Celebrating difference: understanding and embracing others who may not be like ourselves.

29 February: Sareh Shah, Sahar Zahraie, Alireza Kalantari spoke powerfully of their personal faith journeys about what it means to be a Christian in in their home country and now in Britain.

7 March: Revd Dr Rachel Mann shared her insights into gender, sexuality and religion and how this has impacted on her life. She spoke about diverse sexualities in the context of celebrating difference. She was a very polished speaker and had us in stitches more than once.

14 March: Revd Dr Janine Arnott – Positive Parenting: parenting children with additional needs. Janine opened our eyes to the joys and challenges of this topic and how we might be better able to support those children and their families.

Sadly the next two sessions had to be set aside.

21 March: SPARC – Stockport progress and Recovery centre. Sharing their thoughts about mental health.

28 March: Reflection time.

Elaine.

Linen Guild

Due to the present situation, there has been very little linen used on a regular basis and we are very grateful to one member who has managed to deal with items. At home the group has helped with the production of cushions for the coffee area and making rail and book markers in the four liturgical colours, all to be put in place when conditions allow.

Pat Rigley

Messy and Mini Messy Church

An Epiphany Messy Church and two Mini Messy Churches took place before we had to suspend these activities in March. Mini Messy Church had a small but loyal group of families who attended after school on the third Wednesday of the month. The Mini Messy Church has helped to maintain a link with some families who attended Praise and Play as well as create a link with other families at St. George's Pre-School and the Primary School.

During the first lockdown and over the summer Elaine Chegwin Hall streamed a Messy Church Bake Off each week and Janine Arnott streamed a Messy Church Craft activity each week. In the Autumn, when schools were back, these were streamed monthly. Many of the recipes were shared in the Lance newsletter. Thank you for the time and effort that was put into this.

We hope to be able to re-start Messy Church and mini Messy Church later in 2021.

Messy Church (Craft)

As I am writing this it has been a year since we went into our first lockdown and began moving services online. As the schools closed and children's ministry came to a halt, we developed an online Messy Church presence. This came out of a need to provide services for families and children over Easter but continued throughout the year. These were initially each week but reduced to monthly once children began to return to school in September.

Over the last year, Elaine has produced a Messy Church Bake-off on a Friday while I have produced a Messy Church Craft on a Saturday. The Messy Church Craft has developed into a type of Forest Church that is usually filmed out and about in Bramhall Park and Happy Valley and then edited and uploaded.

Each session follows the Lectionary readings or seasonal themes but expresses these through nature. Each session has a prayer, bible story, game and craft that is nature based. For example, we have made aborigine journey sticks out of sticks, leaves, pine cones etc to talk about journeys in life and we raced ducks on the river to talk about the invisible force of the Holy Spirit.

The idea of Messy Church is to engage with younger children and those who are new to church in a way that is fun and accessible. I hope we have achieved that. I have certainly had fun producing the sessions and it has given me the opportunity to develop ministerial skills and think about scripture in a different way.

Mothers' Union

The group started 2020 with lunch at the Deanwater hotel in January, then we met in church in February for a Beetle Drive. We held a Pancake Day on Shrove Tuesday which realised £200 for the MU 'Away From it all' Holiday Fund and in March we welcomed Stuart Roughley who spoke about Public Transport in Stockport.

Then we were in lockdown and unable to meet together.

During the rest of the year, we have made new seat pads & cushions for the coffee area in church and cards have been made using all kinds of bits & pieces, fabric, old photos, greetings cards, embroidery, ribbon & silk flowers. These cards, which contain an inset with poems, sayings & prayers, have been sent out to our members at regular intervals to keep us in touch. All members received a small Christmas gift. There has been lovely feedback from this.

We also started the MU Telephone Buddies whereby our group made regular phone calls to our members with a friendly word and offering any help if needed.

Our knitting project, started in March, produced items for babies in hospital and 6 blankets, each made from 35 knitted squares, which were sent to 'Blankets for Hope' to be given out to refugee children.

We have missed our regular meetings, but we have tried our best to stay connected through the cards, phone calls and the occasional 'doorstep' social distance visit!

MU group Jan 2021

Praise and Play

January 2020 started a fresh new decade full of hope as we welcomed our families and new faces at the group on Monday mornings. We had a programme of activities planned to link with our Bible stories and songs. The Chapel overflowed into the body of the church so we had enough space for Playdough and refreshments, plus jigsaws, cars, Lego, "tunnel time", craft and dressing up with our happy crowd of about 30 children and adults.

During January we heard about Daniel then, as Lent began, we were learning about Jesus and his promises to us. We always have notices about hygiene and are very aware of infection, especially with new babies in our midst. So as March came we had to enforce the need of wiping and hand gels whilst still being able to sing, use instruments, hold the prayer chain and play close together.

Suddenly we were faced with a Lockdown and have been unable to meet since. Fortunately many families had given us email contact addresses so we have tried to keep in touch by messaging and also, by coincidence of living locally, have met in the park or on walks around the area and to the shops. Families are glad of news and happy to be safe. Through the internet we have been able to access lots of songs from "Out of the Ark" music and also enjoyed the wonderful Messy Bake-off, Craft and stories from Elaine, Janine and Nicola.

Some of our children have now moved onto school. We are looking forward to meeting our new babies when it becomes safe to do so. Meanwhile families have been encouraged to go to a church service of their choice if possible. We are an ecumenical group. Our notice board reminded us that Jesus said, "I am with you always" and now brings us "Peace on earth".

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way. Janet Neilson.

Prayer Chain

Over the past few years, a group of approximately 12 members of St George's congregation has been part of a prayer chain. The objective was and is to pray for people or families who have requested such support because of illness, injury or challenging times.

The group has been able to understand the difference between curing and hearing, realising that while a person may not be cured; through prayer, healing is able to take place at a subtle level within the person. This often results in healing, acceptance by and comfort to those prayed for.

Members of the prayer chain are informed about new requests usually by myself who is informed initially by Elaine. Elaine provides feedback on a regular basis so the list never becomes stale.

What has been truly encouraging about our activities are the 'good' news stories and thanks we receive.

We have learned never to underestimate the power of prayer.

Phoebe

Safeguarding and Vulnerability Officer's report

Review of the year

I report that there have been no major incidents or accidents in 2020 and am happy to be working along with Morag Ranson to continue to meet high standards on safeguarding in line with Chester Diocese Safeguarding Policy. The accident book is located at the back of church. Please continue to document any accidents in this. First aid kits are located at the back of church, in the vestry, in the Lady chapel, and in the kitchen of the parish rooms. DBS certificates need renewing every 5 years. Renewals were completed in 2020 for all relevant personnel with the exception of one person who was isolating and whose role is currently in abeyance due to the pandemic. At the end of the year all other DBS certificates were up to date. The majority of the church council has completed basic safeguarding training.

Our church continues to take the safety of our children and vulnerable adults seriously and follows the Chester Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.

William Hesson

Safeguarding Officer

St Gabriel's

We had many plans in the diary for St Gabriel's in 2020 but the coronavirus restrictions prevented us from going ahead. However, we did manage the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 19th January and Dementia Awareness Training on 30th January accompanied by the Evergreens.

Once the lockdown commenced, both St George's and St Gabriel's were closed as buildings, with a weekly check by a designated person.

As the lockdown restrictions were adjusted during 2020 we still felt unable to return to worship at St Gabriel's. We have had to recognise our capacity within the ever-changing guidelines and regulations and have had to make serious and uncomfortable decisions as to how to manage services over the parish in general.

People traditionally associated with St Gabriel's, have been kept abreast of what is going on in the parish either by electronic means or by letter. Many people have also been supported by the Telephone Buddies.

Elaine.

The Strategy Group

The Strategy Group came into being in March 2020 when the lockdown was announced. On it were the clergy: Elaine and Janine, the treasurer, Steven Kelly, the Churchwardens, Hazel Jenkins and Andrew Regan, and the Director of Music, James Hibbert.

All had been invited to join because of the specific nature of their ministry and the authority they hold in terms of being able to keep the parish running.

The meetings have generally taken place weekly and work alongside the Standing committee and the PCC via Zoom meetings.

Much of what has been discussed has centred on worship which was predominantly online for a significant part of 2020. This included creative ways of journeying through Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Children's Corner services were included and Messy Church Bake Off, Messy Church Craft and Storytime were every weekend until after Summer when we went to monthly.

Thanks to James, we enjoyed the dulcet tones of the virtual choir in our live streamed services and later in various guises, a single cantor, a group of cantors and a choir – all dependant on what regulations were in place at the time. He has done a sterling job and has also been responsible for getting us up and

running with a new Facebook page which has been the platform for us getting the services out to people.

A decision was made to start a weekly Compline service at 9pm on Sundays and there were times when we were allowed to be in church to live stream without a congregation and later, and at various times, with a congregation. All of these decisions were taken seriously and carefully and with consultation with the PCC when decisions to return to worship in church or stopping worship were needed.

The largest concern was wading through the ever changing guidelines and regulations from the government and the Church of England. Risk assessments started to be second nature and we have tried our level best to keep people safe.

Strangely enough, even though we were in lockdown, it was hugely emotionally exhausting trying to ensure we kept abreast of everything that was necessary.

Protective equipment, special cleaning materials and face coverings were ordered. Sanitizing gel was in short supply at first and we were grateful to those who kindly sourced it for us. We also purchased a "fogger" machine in order to make cleaning the church, with high quality sanitizer, so much quicker and easier. We even use the same sanitizer that is used in the interior of planes!

We were also aware of the financial implications of lockdown and were exceedingly grateful to all those who continued with their planned giving, sent in a cheque, or an envelope containing money and those who used the donate button on our website. It made a difference.

We had to close the buildings, but they were checked regularly by two designated people who reported back to the strategy group and referred to the PCC as necessary.

We also ensured that people were pastorally supported. The telephone buddies have been mentioned in a separate part of the report and their contribution must not be underestimated. Thanks to the fabulous work of the Mothers' Union, lots of other people were looked after and enjoyed the cards and gifts that were delivered throughout the year. Children and families were linked in via Praise and Play leaders.

Even though the clergy were not allowed to do routine visits hospitals and people in their homes, pastoral "visits" were done via Zoom, phone calls and good old-fashioned writing. Even baptism, wedding and funeral visits were done in this way.

Much of this work has been done behind the scenes. We have all had to learn to do a number of new things. Our churchwardens have live streamed and recorded for us and have been significant cogs in the wheel as they have held things together.

I am most grateful to each and every one of the strategy group members for their unstinting commitment over what has been an arduous year when things have seemed unrelenting and sometimes overwhelming. I am also most grateful for the kind letters, cards and messages of appreciation and support from parishioners and others for what we have been trying to do. Thank you.

Elaine.

Sunday Clubs

Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic Sunday Clubs had no regular attendees and had been offering a basic bible themed story and craft activity during the 10:15 service with any children and families who might be in attendance. The hope being that as children reach nursery age they would be ready to engage with more structured sessions. Sunday Clubs were not therefore in a position to offer anything remotely in addition to the children's items that were implemented.

Louise Clark

Telephone Buddies

The Telephone Buddies are a group of people who kindly stepped forward in order to support people in the parish, to try and combat feelings of loneliness and ensure that they were kept in the loop as to what was going on in the parish.

Their work has been invaluable. They have been the early warning system for people who have been struggling and have reported concerns into churchwardens and clergy. They have ensured that people are cared for, that they have enough food to keep them going and they have been the friendly voice at the end of the phone with their regular calls.

The amazing thing is that, sometimes the telephone buddy, had never met their contact before but overcame their initial shyness to build up a real and genuine bond and have been the continuous link over this difficult time in 2020.

This has been a hugely important ministry and we have cause to be grateful for their faithfulness in ensuring people don't feel alone.

Elaine.

Curate's Report

As curacies go, this isn't what I expected. However, there are positives in every experience. Some of my curacy has remained relatively unchanged. Our IME2 training has continued, albeit online. My role in church has changed along with every other minister. I have had to learn how to live stream services, produce online resources and content and to how to plan and work with others through the wonders of Zoom.

I have missed some training opportunities due to Covid-19. For example, we have had very few occasional offices such as weddings and baptisms. I have also missed working with the school and the children. However, I have had the opportunity to be involved in other areas of ministry I would not have been involved in had it not been for Covid-19. For example, I have been involved in online services and had developed a 9.00pm Compline (night prayer) service on a Sunday evening and Messy Church Craft for children and young families.

I was eventually ordained priest in October (4 months later than usual) in a wonderful service at Chester Cathedral and at St George's the following day. Under the circumstances, it was a fantastic occasion and very well thought through and delivered. Well done Chester Diocese and St George's!

Like all of you, I look forward to the easing of restrictions and of seeing you all again.

Vicar's Letter 2020

Shining as a beacon for Christ - our Mission Statement. This year has challenged us to think how we might shine in 2020 when so many things have left a pall of dimness, uncertainty and fear in its wake.

But shine we did, despite the challenges of the coronavirus and the restrictions it placed on us.

We may have been down, but we certainly weren't out and whilst the church buildings of the land closed, we were certainly open for business on a platform of live streamed services.

Whilst we knew that we couldn't reach everyone, people were kept in touch either by the electronic version of the Lance, a phone call or a monthly letter containing each month's Morning prayer service. A Bible Study was added to the Lance along with quizzes, recipes and other articles of interest.

Our communication took on a different form. People stepped up to the plate to offer their services as Telephone Buddies and it was a joy and privilege to hear the stories of appreciation from those in receipt of the care that was offered.

The random acts of kindness, that I have spoken about on several occasions, lifted the mood of what we have all been enduring and they made a genuine difference to those who were struggling.

We had to rethink services. Each one had to be rewritten to ensure it was suitable for live streaming and even the festival services plus VE day were honoured in different formats along with a new addition of Compline.

Thanks to Janine, James, Kim, Andrew, Peter, Nicola and Hazel for their regular contributions to Morning Prayer and other services over the year.

As children were away from school and Praise and Play was stopped, the Children's Corner was created to help fill that gap. Messy Church Bake Off, Messy Church Craft and Storytime were done weekly and even daily during Holy Week. Later they went to once a month. Each session took a lot of preparation and we were able to enjoy Janine's fabulous filming as she took Messy Church out to the countryside.

There were special procedures for opening buildings, and it was really strange to see papers come alive as they flew through the air when we opened all five doors in St George's for the first time in many months. A fabulous image of God's Holy Spirit breezing through the building and through us, making it all come alive again.

Whilst there were times when we have had to close, people have been amazingly adaptable and genuinely grateful for what we have been able to offer.

There has been sadness, of course. Some of our beloved parishioners have died and we haven't been able or allowed to give them the celebration of their life that we might have wished.

One of those precious people has been our good friend and Reader, Michael Coupe, who passed away after a long illness, at home. Thankfully, through the opportunities that modern technology presents, it allowed us to do two important things. Firstly, it allowed us to say the very important goodbye prayers via Zoom. Glenys, Rita and I were able to see Michael in his room and were able to say the prayers that we would normally have done, had we been in a position to visit. That meant that Michael and his family could hear what we were saying, and we pray that they will have been blessed by what we were able to offer. Secondly, Michael's funeral was, by necessity, a small affair, but we were able to

bring his service, via live stream, into the living room of people throughout the country who knew and loved him. A privilege indeed.

Surprisingly there is much to say about the year even though lots of things were curtailed or adjusted. There have been many blessings, surprises and opportunities and I have rejoiced in the generosity of heart and mind of so many people. I am grateful for all that has been done and continues to be done in the name of Jesus in this place and beyond.

All praise to His Name!

With many thanks and every blessing

Elaine

[Financial Review for 2020](#)

Financial Review for 2020

The PCC recorded an increase in funds of £15,341 over the year. PCC unrestricted funds reduced by £728. The Fabric Fund grew by £10,345 and St Gabriel's funds reduced by £1,719. A choir legacy fund was established in 2020, arising from a bequest of £5,000 with a balance of £5,014 at 31st December 2021. The Preservation Trust funds reduced by £90, other restricted funds increased in the year by £2,519.

St George's unrestricted funds

St George's unrestricted funds showed a deficit, with expenditure exceeding income and capital gains by £728 compared to a deficit of £1,483 last year. The deficit was restricted to this amount only by a continuing suspension of our charitable giving from unrestricted funds, and by transferring an amount of £11,100 from the Fabric Fund back into Unrestricted Funds in order to comply with our financial reserving policy, as detailed below.

Overall income decreased by £21,555 largely due to the effects of the pandemic. Total voluntary income, excluding legacies and grants, reduced by £1,331 to £91,173 as almost all our regular giver scheme members continued with their support. Income received from letting the church and Parish Rooms, and income from fundraising events were all hugely reduced, the latter £14,215 in 2019. Most fund raising events were cancelled, but £1,398 was raised through a number of initiatives. Grants of totalling £5,245 were received, £2,450 from the Diocese and £2,795 from the HMRC Job Retention scheme to help the PCC through the pandemic.

Overall expenditure reduced by £19,634. Parish share costs increased by £4,059 to £66,996, partly because the portion of the total for the parish which is allocated to St Gabriel's was significantly reduced in 2020. Church running costs decreased by £7,290, as usage of the building was significantly less, and church maintenance costs reduced by £2,472. Upkeep of Services, including Music and Organ costs, fell by £4,726 to £2,437 due to the restrictions imposed because of the pandemic. Expenditure on the Parish Rooms reduced by £1,189 to £4,774. The cost of maintaining the curate's house reduced by £1,834 to £3,572.

Designated Funds

St Gabriel's funds

There was a deficit of £1,719 for the year. Income for the year reduced by £2,847 to £1,621 including £1,041 voluntary giving (and associated income tax recoverable) and rental income of £483. Total expenditure reduced by £3,104 to £3,340, which included £782 contributed to St George's to cover its share of the Parish Share, clergy expenses, and Parish Office costs.

The reserves available to the church now stand at £11,393.

Fabric Fund

This fund was established in 2017, and received a further grant of £1,135 from the St George's Preservation Trust, plus interest and capital gains of £7,110, and bequests of £5,200.

Expenditure for the year was nil, but there was a net transfer to Unrestricted Funds of £3,100, The fund currently stands at £121,163.

Choir Legacy Fund

This fund was established in 2020 with a £5,000 bequest from Frank Gee, a former chorister. After interest and capital gains of £204 and expenditure of £190 the fund stands at £5,014.

St George's restricted funds

The PCC is grateful for the continuing support of the Fearn Trust, which provided a grant of £20,000 to be used to cover the cost of insuring both St George's and St Gabriel's churches.

Charitable funds

The sum of £408, raised at the Christingle Services, along with £39 raised from a collecting box, was donated to the Children's Society this year.

Music Fund

This fund was established to receive grants for musical activities. In 2020 we received a further £2,000 grant from the John Pilling Trust to support our choral scholars, now known as the John Pilling Choral Scholars. A further grant of this amount has been awarded for 2021.

Choir Music Fund

This fund may be used to cover the cost of the replacement of choir music.

St George's Preservation Trust

Full accounts for the Trust are available on application.

Income for the year was £1,045 which was the amount collected at the funeral of Richard Heap.

Expenditure this year comprised a grant to the Fabric Fund of £1,135. The net reduction of £90 has reduced the balance within the fund to £710. The Trustees have indicated their intention to pass the remaining balance to the Fabric Fund over the next seven years.

Reserves and Investment Policies

The PCC reviewed its reserving policy in 2017. It is the policy of St George's to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months general running costs and an additional three month's salaries. At least one half of its minimum reserve should be held in Unrestricted Funds. These reserves may be invested in funds which provide some protection against loss of value due to inflation. This may take the form of capital appreciation or income which can be re-invested.

Reserves will continue to be held in the PCC's accounts with CCLA Investment Managers which is the leading fund manager for the assets of the church, charities and local authorities. It has a policy of engaging only in ethical investments and is owned by its clients – through the Boards of Finance in the case of the Church of England. The CBF Church of England

Investment Fund is used which is highly diversified and balanced across many sectors of investment and is actively managed to achieve long term capital growth and steady income.

As at 31 December 2020 it was necessary for the PCC to transfer £11,100 from the Fabric Fund to Unrestricted Funds in order to comply with this policy. A further transfer may become necessary during 2021 if expenditure continues to exceed income.

It is also the policy to hold a reserve to cover the work for projects that have been identified as necessary. This reserve, which may be required at short notice, is to be held in secure funds that are not subject to capital risks. An income from these funds while desirable is not essential. The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund is used, which holds only funds with AAA rated organisations and is managed by CCLA. However, excess funds may also be invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

The PCC has set a target minimum amount to be held in the Fabric Fund. This is calculated as a percentage of the insurance valuation of St George's Church, and the PCC make monthly transfers from Unrestricted Funds into the Fabric Fund with the aim of reaching the target minimum within five to ten years. The current target minimum level is £142,000

A number of potential projects have been identified by the PCC including:

St George's Church

- Review of the lighting and sound systems in church
- Repairs to the West Window
- Further investigations into the subsidence in the north east corner of the church, and any remedial actions required
- Inspection of roof and any remedial actions required
- Repointing of churchyard wall
- Maintenance of masonry at roof level
- Development of kitchen and toilet facilities, with changes to the internal porches

Parish Rooms

- Redevelopment of the kitchen

The PCC believes that, at present, there are insufficient reserves available to cover all of these projects. Consequently, individual projects will commence only when adequate finance is available.

The reserves policy for St Gabriel's church was reviewed in 2016 and was amended to match that of St George's, ie the equivalent of three months general running costs. No major projects are envisaged in the near future, and the reserves are considered to be adequate.

The reserves are held on deposit with the church's bankers, or with CCLA Investment Managers.

Steven Kelly

Approval

The annual report was approved by the Parochial Church Council on
and signed on its behalf by:

2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

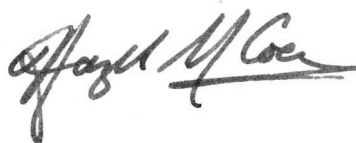
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date

14.5.2021

H Coen, BSc(Hons), FCCA, MBA(Dist.)
10 Beechways
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 5ER

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds	
					2020 £	2019 £
<u>Income and endowments</u>						
Donations and legacies	2.a	96,418	11,241	23,428	131,087	126,711
Other trading activities	2.b	9,755	533	-	10,288	33,700
Income from investments	2.c	91	263	-	354	533
Income from church activities	2.d	7,232	-	-	7,232	9,552
Other income	2.e	-	-	-	-	-
Total income		113,496	12,037	23,428	148,961	170,496
<u>Expenditure</u>						
Expenditure on church activities	3.a	117,171	3,530	19,864	140,565	165,095
Expenditure on raising funds	3.b	153	-	-	153	1,180
Total expenditure		117,324	3,530	19,864	140,718	166,275
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		(3,828)	8,507	3,564	8,243	4,221
Net gains/(losses) on investments	4.b	-	7,098	-	7,098	12,392
Net income/(expenditure)		(3,828)	15,605	3,564	15,341	16,613
Transfers between funds						
Unrestricted Fund to Fabric Fund	7.a	(8,000)	8,000	-	-	-
Preservation Trust to Fabric Fund	7.b	-	1,135	(1,135)	-	-
Fabric Fund to Unrestricted Fund	7.c	11,100	(11,100)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	8,9	(728)	13,640	2,429	15,341	16,613
Total funds brought forward	8,9	73,090	123,930	14,646	211,666	195,053
Total funds carried forward	8,9	72,362	137,570	17,075	227,007	211,666

The notes on pages A-3 to A-9 form part of these financial statements

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

BALANCE SHEET

at 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible fixed assets	4.a	36,000	-	-	36,000	36,500
Investment assets	4.b	-	79,595	-	79,595	67,677
Total fixed assets		36,000	79,595	-	115,595	104,177
Current Assets						
Stock		-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	5	13,366	112	1,513	14,991	16,880
Short term deposits		19,350	56,931	3,481	79,762	74,235
Cash at bank and in hand		8,309	996	12,379	21,684	26,490
Total current assets		41,025	58,039	17,373	116,437	117,605
Liabilities						
Creditors	6	(4,663)	(64)	(298)	(5,025)	(10,116)
Internal balances		-	-	-	-	-
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		36,362	57,975	17,075	111,412	107,489
Total assets less current liabilities		72,362	137,570	17,075	227,007	211,666
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-	-
Net Assets		72,362	137,570	17,075	227,007	211,666
Funds						
Unrestricted		72,362	-	-	72,362	73,090
Designated	8	-	137,570	-	137,570	123,930
Restricted	9	-	-	17,075	17,075	14,646
Total Funds		72,362	137,570	17,075	227,007	211,666

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

and signed on its behalf by

.....
(PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages A-3 to A-9 form part of these financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, current Church Accounting Regulations and Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) together with the exemptions available to smaller charities under Section 1A. These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the value of investment assets which are shown at market value.

They include all transactions for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. They are only expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining at the end of each year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated Funds are unrestricted funds which the PCC has designated for a particular purpose, but the PCC retains the ability to use some or all of these funds for the general purposes of the PCC.

Income recognition

All income sources are accounted for gross. *Planned giving, collections and donations* are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. *Tax refunds* are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is recognised. *Grants and legacies* are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. *Dividends* are accounted for when due and payable. *Interest entitlements* are accounted for as they accrue. All *other income* is recognised when it is receivable.

The value of any *voluntary help* received is not included in the accounts but is described in the annual report.

Expenditure recognition

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. All *other expenditure* is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted gross.

Governance costs include any costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and of any legal advice to the PCC on governance or constitutional matters.

Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventories which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2001 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on *consecrated and benefice buildings*, or individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2001 is written off. Other items of equipment with a purchase price over £1,000 used within church premises are depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

The Parochial Church Council consider that there are no material uncertainties about the ability of St George's PCC to continue as a going concern.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	2019 £
2 INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS					
<i>2.a Donations and legacies</i>					
Tax efficient planned giving	53,941	-	-	53,941	49,888
Other planned giving	4,921	-	-	4,921	5,739
Collections at services	9,120	632	-	9,752	18,694
Donations, appeals, etc.	6,443	-	1,428	7,871	4,570
Income tax recoverable	16,748	409	-	17,157	17,768
Grants	5,245	-	22,000	27,245	24,052
Gifts of quoted securities	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	-	10,200	-	10,200	6,000
	96,418	11,241	23,428	131,087	126,711
<i>Note: Amounts collected from the St Gabriel's congregation, including planned giving, are shown under Collections at services (Designated Funds). This is necessary to ensure confidentiality given the small number of donors in some categories.</i>					
<i>2.b Other trading activities</i>					
Church lettings	704	483	-	1,187	6,810
Parish room lettings	7,653	-	-	7,653	12,675
Festivals, other fund-raising events	1,398	50	-	1,448	14,215
	9,755	533	-	10,288	33,700
<i>2.c Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest including tax recoverable	91	263	-	354	533
Rent	-	-	-	-	-
	91	263	-	354	533
<i>2.d Income from church activities</i>					
Bookstall	36	-	-	36	235
Magazine	3,377	-	-	3,377	3,868
Church fees for weddings and funerals	3,819	-	-	3,819	5,449
	7,232	-	-	7,232	9,552
<i>2.e Other income</i>					
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	113,496	12,037	23,428	148,961	170,496

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds	
				2020 £	2019 £
3 EXPENDITURE					
3.a <i>Expenditure on church activities</i>					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Overseas Mission Societies	-	-	-	-	-
Christian Relief & Development Agencies	-	-	-	-	55
Home Mission & Church Societies	-	-	358	358	876
Secular Charities	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal</i>	-	-	358	358	931
Ministry:					
Parish share & deanery expenses	66,996	628	-	67,624	65,975
Other ministry costs	6,705	63	-	6,768	6,655
Church running expenses	13,258	1,235	19,047	33,540	41,022
Church maintenance	1,477	125	161	1,763	4,386
Upkeep of services	856	-	-	856	2,261
Music and organ	1,581	190	298	2,069	7,507
Upkeep of churchyard	1,499	1,200	-	2,699	2,949
Magazine and bookstall	813	-	-	813	4,172
Parish rooms - repairs, maintenance and running costs	4,774	-	-	4,774	5,963
Curate's house - repairs, maintenance and other costs	3,572	34	-	3,606	5,406
Salaries, wages and honoraria (see note 3.c)	12,380	26	-	12,406	11,422
Major repairs/replacements	-	-	-	-	-
Support costs	162	-	-	162	2,254
Administration	3,098	29	-	3,127	4,192
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Governance costs</i>					
Cost of Annual Meeting	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>	117,171	3,530	19,864	140,565	165,095
3.b <i>Expenditure on raising funds</i>					
Envelope printing	153	-	-	153	244
<i>Fund-raising trading costs</i>					
Fetes, bazaars and other fund-raising events	-	-	-	-	936
<i>Total</i>	153	-	-	153	1,180
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	117,324	3,530	19,864	140,718	166,275
<i>Staff costs</i>					
3.c Wages and salaries	12,380	26	-	12,406	11,167
Tax and National Insurance	-	-	-	-	255
	12,380	26	-	12,406	11,422

During the year the PCC employed a Director of Music, a parish room cleaner and secretary at St George's, all on a part-time basis.

The John Pilling Choral Scholars were funded from the Music Fund, from grants received from the Pilling Trust.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

3 EXPENDITURE(cont)

3.d *Payments to PCC members*

James Hibbert, the Director of Music, was a PCC member throughout 2020. During the year the PCC has paid him a salary of £4,580 (£3,451 2019), and paid £331 (£160 2019) towards his professional development. He also received fees as a self-employed musician during this period totalling £630 for weddings and funerals, (£1435 2019)

Hazel Jenkins, a churchwarden, was a PCC member throughout 2020. During the year she received fee of £55 for acting as Verger for a wedding at St George's Church.

4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

4.a *Tangible fixed assets*

		Freehold land and buildings	
		£	
Actual/Deemed Cost	At 01/01/20	52,000	
	Additions	-	
	At 31/12/20	<u>52,000</u>	
Depreciation	At 01/01/20	15,500	
	Charge for year	500	
	At 31/12/20	<u>16,000</u>	
Net Book Value	At 31/12/20	<u>36,000</u>	
	At 31/12/19	<u>36,500</u>	

The freehold land and buildings comprise the curate's house at 40 Beechfield Road, Stockport. The house was purchased in 1988 at a cost, after refurbishing, of £52,000. The building is being depreciated at £500 per annum from 2003 on the basis of its expected useful life of 50 years.

Those meeting rooms owned by the PCC are integral parts of the school premises and were donated by the Founder in 1901. As such the rooms are deemed to have no value for the purposes of these accounts.

4.b *Investment assets*

Movements in the year:	2020			2019	
	Designated Choir legacy £	Designated Fabric Fund £	Designated Total £	All Funds £	All Funds £
Opening market value	-	67,677	67,677	67,677	55,286
Purchases at cost, less disposals at carrying value	4,820	-	4,820	4,820	-
Net gains/(losses) on disposals and annual revaluation	194	6,904	7,098	7,098	12,391
Closing market value	5,014	74,581	79,595	79,595	67,677

No investment assets were held in Unrestricted Funds or in Restricted Funds.

Holdings at 31 December in CBF Church of England Investment Fund Accumulation Units:

	2020	2019
Choir legacy	100.84	-
Fabric Fund	1,500.08	1,500.08
Total	1,600.92	1,500.08

Charity number 1134170
NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020										2019	
	Designated Funds				Restricted funds				All Funds		All Funds	
	Unrestricted	Choir Legacy	Fabric	St Gabriel's	Designated Total	PCC Restricted	Preservation Trust	Restricted Total	All Funds	All Funds	All Funds	All Funds
5 DEBTORS	PCC	-	-	112	112	-	-	-	11,754	12,650	11,754	12,650
Tax recoverable	11,642	-	-	112	112	-	-	-	2,727	2,784	2,727	2,784
Prepayments and accrued interest	1,214	-	-	-	-	1,513	1,513	1,513	-	-	-	-
Other debtors	510	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	510	1,446	510	1,446
Total	13,366	-	-	112	112	1,513	1,513	1,513	14,991	16,880	14,991	16,880
6 LIABILITIES:												
Amounts falling due in one year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Creditors for goods and services	2,933	-	-	64	64	298	298	298	3,295	7,644	3,295	7,644
Other creditors	1,730	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,730	2,472	1,730	2,472
Total	4,663	-	-	64	64	298	298	298	5,025	10,116	5,025	10,116

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2020

7 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

- a An amount of £8,000 has been transferred from unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund. This represents the regular transfers which the PCC makes to cover the cost of larger maintenance works.
- b An amount of £1,135 was transferred from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund. This represents grants made by the Preservation Trust to the PCC.
- c As the value of unrestricted funds fell below the minimum required by our financial reserving policy, an amount of £11,100 was transferred from the Fabric Fund to unrestricted funds as at 31/12/20 to restore the necessary minimum reserve.

8 DESIGNATED FUNDS

Designated Funds are fund set aside for a particular purpose. However, the PCC may resolve to use such funds for any other purpose.

The *St Gabriel's Fund* is used for all matters relating to St Gabriel's Church, and the PCC has given the St Gabriel's Committee limited financial authority over these finances.

The *Fabric Fund* holds monies set aside for the maintenance and repair of church buildings, including the Parish Rooms and the Curate's House. The PCC intend to make regular transfers into this fund from unrestricted income.

The *Choir Legacy Fund* was established in 2020 with a bequest from Frank Gee, a former choir member. It is intended to be used for the benefit of the choir.

Fund movements	Choir Legacy	Fabric Fund	St Gabriel's	Total Designated
Balance at 01/01/20	-	110,818	13,112	123,930
Income	5,010	5,406	1,621	12,037
Expenditure	(190)	-	(3,340)	(3,530)
Transfers between funds	-	(1,965)	-	(1,965)
Investment gains	194	6,904	-	7,098
Change in fund	5,014	10,345	(1,719)	13,640
Balance at 31/12/20	5,014	121,163	11,393	137,570
Represented by:				
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Investment assets	5,014	74,581	-	79,595
Current assets	-	46,582	11,393	57,975
Current liabilities	-	-	-	-
Internal balances	-	-	-	-
Total	5,014	121,163	11,393	137,570

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2020

9 RESTRICTED FUNDS

St George's Church Preservation Trust was established under a trust deed in 1990. The objects include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church, the parish office, the parish rooms and other PCC property.

In 2019 the trustees made a grant of £1,135 from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund, and have stated their intention to transfer the remaining amount over the coming years.

The Preservation Trust is considered to be a connected charity, consequently the transactions and balances have been included in these accounts, but are restricted funds.

The *PCC Restricted Fund* represents donations given and monies raised for specific objectives.

Fund movements	PCC	Preservation	Total
	Restricted	Trust	
Balance at 01/01/20	13,846	800	14,646
Income	22,383	1,045	23,428
Expenditure	(19,864)	-	(19,864)
Transfers between funds	-	(1,135)	(1,135)
Investment gains	-	-	-
Change in fund	2,519	(90)	2,429
Balance at 31/12/20	16,365	710	17,075
Represented by:			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Investment assets	-	-	-
Current assets	16,663	710	17,373
Current liabilities	(298)	-	(298)
Internal balances	-	-	-
Total	16,365	710	17,075

Analysis of PCC Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/01/20	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Change in fund	Balance at 31/12/20
Charitable Payments	-	358	(358)	-	-	-
Choir Music	261	-	-	-	-	261
Grant: Fearn Trust (Insurance)	9,064	20,000	(19,047)	-	953	10,017
Music	4,385	2,000	(298)	-	1,702	6,087
Other	136	25	(161)	-	(136)	-
Total	13,846	22,383	(19,864)	-	2,519	16,365

The annual grant from the Fearn Trust is used to cover the cost of insuring St George's Church and (from 29/9/2020) St Gabriel's Church.

The *Music Fund* holds any grant income received in respect of musical activities.

A further grant of £2,000 was received from the Pilling Trust to support our Choral Scholars.

A donation of £136 was received from the Fellowship of Marriage in 2019 and £25 from the Mothers Union in 2020, used to furnish the coffee area.