

THE PARISH CHURCH *of*



Registered Charity Number 1134777

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church
Council for the Year Ended

31 December 2020

Incumbent:

The Revd Dr Samuel Gibson

The Vicarage

3 Westbourne Road

Birmingham

B15 3TH

Bank:

Santander

Bootle

Merseyside

L30 4GB

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

What are the Parochial Church Council's Tasks?

The PCC cooperates with the Incumbent in the whole mission of the Church. As part of the synodical structure of the Church of England, the PCC makes known and puts into effect any decision made by the Diocesan or Deanery Synods and gives advice to these Synods on any matters the PCC considers appropriate. The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the Church; the PCC draws up a budget and has the responsibility with the Incumbent of appointing, paying and dismissing paid officers of the Parish. The PCC is responsible for the care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric of the Parish church. The PCC is also responsible for the care and maintenance of the churchyard.

Report of the Churchwardens

The beginning of the year found the parish in vacancy following the appointment of Rev Julian Francis as Archdeacon of Walsall. We were able to maintain the normal pattern of Sunday services thanks to a group of visiting clergy. We are very grateful to Rev John Nightingale, Rev Professor Hugh Houghton, Rev Canon Dr Andrew Lenox-Conyngham, Rev David Tomlinson, Rev John Wilkinson, Ven Paul Taylor, Rev Canon Stephen Mayes, Rev Dr Carlton John Turner, Rev Canon Keith Withington, Rev Rob Farman and Rev Andrew Hutchinson for leading our worship during this period. Our ordinand on placement Ms Kate Tingle, Mr John Cooper, Mr Simon Kirby and our Reader, Mrs Jennifer Uff, also led services. Special thanks should also be given to our parish administrator, Mrs Marcia Cannings who organised all this activity and liaised with the visiting clergy.

On 22 March all normal services were suspended following the Government's announcement of a "lockdown" in order to reduce the spread of Covid 19. The church was open for private prayer for an hour from 1030, but the church building then closed completely for the remainder of the lockdown period. From 19 April Mrs Uff led a telephone service of Morning Prayer (BCP) which continued throughout the periods of lockdown including two sermons from the Archdeacon and music from Mr Phil Ypres-Smith, and Mrs Evelyn Kirby led a mid-week Prayer Group on Zoom which attracted two new followers from the teaching staff at St George's Primary School. From 21 June, when the lockdown was relaxed, the church was open for two hours on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday for private prayer. Services in church resumed on 5 July, at first with Morning Prayer. Holy Communion at 1030 a.m. resumed on 19 July.

Before the lockdown period we were delighted to learn from the Archdeacon, Ven Jenny Tomlinson, that it would be possible to appoint a new Vicar to St George's. On 18 February a special meeting of the PCC under s. 11 of the Pastoral Measure was held at which the Area Dean, Rev Nick Tucker, explained the process for making this appointment and the Churchwardens, Mr Nicholas Gibbs and Mr Keith Uff, were elected the Parish Representatives. Following advertising of the post within the Diocese interviews were held by Zoom on 20 May. On 12 July we were delighted to announce that the Patron of the Living, Sir Euan Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe, had proposed and the Bishop had appointed Rev Dr Samuel James Gibson to be Vicar of St George's. Father Sam was licensed by Bishop Anne on 4 September in a service

conducted under Covid-compliant rules. We were pleased to welcome Sam and his family to the Parish, and to hear that Mrs Charlotte Gibson would be on placement at St George's for the remaining year of her training for the ministry.

The Covid 19 crisis provided an imperative call for the rapid development of our information and communication systems. Along with many organisations around the world we learned to hold meetings remotely on Zoom and, later, Microsoft Teams enabled by PCC Member Mr Michael Pritchard who procured free licenses for the Windows 365 operating system through Microsoft's support scheme for charities. When we reopened for worship in July Michael developed our presence on Facebook to provide effective live streaming of services through a smartphone. The basic copper cable communications connection of the church to the outside world was severed in a churchyard gardening accident in the autumn and was replaced with a wireless mobile 5G service giving much improved capacity and capability at a lower cost. Not only could many of us remain connected to services, prayer groups and essential meetings during the covid lockdowns but we also made significant progress by introducing cloud-based applications for Gift Aid administration, file sharing and voice calls, allowing employees and volunteers to continue their essential support remotely.

Nick Gibbs and Keith Uff

Vicar's Report

I started as Vicar of St George's at the beginning of September 2020 and therefore wish to begin this report by giving thanks for the warm welcome given to me, Charlotte and our children by the congregation and community. 2020 has been an exceptional year, dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, and a series of unprecedented challenges for all of us personally and for church life.

The final quarter of 2020 was no exception to this. When I arrived as Vicar public worship had resumed, but infection rates in Birmingham and nationally continued to rise as winter approached. Throughout September and October St George's was committed to a "mixed mode" of worship, with some participating by being physically present in church, and others joining online by watching on Facebook. When November arrived we found ourselves in another national lockdown with congregating for public worship once again prohibited for the greater good of infection control. The 10.30am Sunday Parish Eucharist continued, but with only myself as officiant, Phil Ypres-Smith as organist, and at times deacons and preachers, present in church; the remainder of the St George's community joined remotely. Meanwhile, the 8am service went fully online, as a shared service of Mattins by telephone conference call. During that November lockdown the church building opened for private prayer on Thursdays, which proved a lifeline for church members, and indeed for many passing by the church, who took the opportunity to sit in a place of peace. Churches, along with supermarkets, were one of the few non-domestic spaces in which people were allowed to be present, even if our interactions were strictly limited.

Given the rapidity with which public health decisions were made in the winter, the PCC adapted remarkably quickly, making the key decisions about switching to online media and interactions in a thoughtful and timely manner. Our gratitude must go to PCC members, and especially to Keith Uff and Nick Gibbs as churchwardens, for this process. Furthermore, Jenny Uff as Parish

Reader, Kate Tingle and Charlotte Gibson as parish ordinands, Charles Williams as Verger, and Phil Ypres-Smith as Director of Music are also owed a great deal for helping to organise and sustain the worshipping life of the parish during that period of lockdown. As a new Vicar and first-time incumbent this period was one of real challenge and growth for me, and I am profoundly thankful for their support.

As December began we resumed public worship open to all. We found that a significant proportion of St George's congregation persevered with attending in-person through these difficult circumstances, with Sunday attendance averaging 40-50 adults and 5 children, plus numerous virtual worshippers joining remotely including some from further afield. Understandably, some continued to access worship online and by telephone for medical and personal reasons throughout this period. A real strength of St George's as a worshipping community has been the willingness of so many to bridge the online/physical gap, to remain in touch with church members by telephone and to provide pastoral care for one another. This has led me to feel that many of our pastoral relationships have strengthened rather than diminished during times of lockdown, and that we are in a strong position to grow together in future. We were also fortunate that many continued to support St George's financially by standing order so that our finances, while hurt by a loss of rental income, were manageable. Our thanks go to all who support the ministry and mission of the church through their regular giving. Thanks are also due to Marcia Cannings as Parish Administrator for her patient remote working during 2020, and the many volunteers who have kept church open, clean, and prepared for services.

New initiatives beginning during November 2020 were the *Mystery of Faith* discussion group, via Zoom on Sunday evenings, and the Zoom social on Sunday afternoons for periods when the church was closed. Morning Prayer via Zoom on Wednesday mornings also resumed during lockdown, organised by Eve Kirby and others. These forums have provided me with an opportunity to build up some familiarity with church members, though I look forward to the time when longer in-person celebrations and interactions are possible.

Advent and Christmas saw an enthusiastic season of anticipation and celebration, albeit one restrained by the various ongoing restrictions. Before the 10.30am services some of us braved the cold to sing Advent/Christmas carols outdoors. Although many of the usual school services were not possible in 2020, as Vicar I was able to engage creatively with St George's Primary School, leading worship on-site but "beamed" into classrooms via Microsoft Teams, and at times remotely from the vicarage study. St George's School, and the other schools in the parish, remain committed to good relationships with us and these lines of communication are very much open.

There were several highlights during the festive season including a well-attended Christingle All-Age Eucharist, a service of Advent Carols sung by the choir, and the outdoor family Crib service which was attended by 25 adults and 15 children, some of whom were new to St George's. Special thanks go to Suganthi and Emma Daniel for their creative ideas and organisation of this service. Midnight Mass and Christmas Day were also well attended, and we welcomed several newcomers who are now continuing their journey of faith with us. Calthorpe Estates provided a Christmas tree, as in previous years, which was appreciated by many in the local area and was a focus for photographs. St George's has developed a good social media presence through our Twitter and Facebook pages which increases awareness of us as the church for "Edgbaston

village". Charlotte Gibson provided us with high quality publicity for the Christmas season, including an outdoor banner to face the local eateries and posters for external signage, which encouraged newcomers over the season. We placed an outdoor crib by the south door of church which elicited positive interactions from local families. A food bank box in church kept donations from parishioners flowing to people in need. All of this has meant that, despite the pandemic, St George's continued to be an outward-looking church.

Looking back at 2020 will give us all pause for thought. We were thankful not to lose many regular attendees to Covid-19, but mindful of the impact the pandemic had on the residents of our parish, which is home to deprived communities, and on many of our loved ones. We will be glad not to repeat the stress and complexity of switching between different modes of worship, but will identify the work of God in the times we were, by gifts of grace, able to adapt and change. Looking ahead we will wish to build on the strengths of our church: our pastoral care for one another and our welcome of newcomers, our flexibility and openness to new circumstances, our grounding in Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and regular prayer. We offer these to God and ask Him to use them, and us, to bless this place in the year ahead.

Fr Sam Gibson, Vicar

Reports of Elected Officers and Safeguarding Statement

Report of Electoral Roll Officer

At the beginning of 2020 there were 84 names on Roll, of which 14 were resident in the parish. During the year, 3 names were removed due to deaths and 3 were added. At the beginning of 2021, there are 84 names on Roll, of whom 16 are resident in the parish.

Jenny Astley
(Electoral Roll Officer)

Report of Secretary to the PCC

The PCC met nine times during 2020, with an average attendance of thirteen members. All but two were held by Zoom because of the pandemic restrictions. Six meetings were the regular two-monthly events, preceded by a meeting of the Standing Committee (Vicar, Churchwardens, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Reader, Secretary and a PCC member) to set the agenda. One meeting was the 'Section 11' meeting to prepare for the selection of a new Vicar. In addition there were two short special meetings, one to decide on worship arrangements for the Second Lockdown in November, the other to agree the Common Fund payment for 2021.

Members of the PCC are *ex officio* or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The members of the PCC during the year 2020 were as follows (with retirement dates for elected members in brackets):

Vicar: The Revd Dr Samuel Gibson (from September)

Churchwardens: Nick Gibbs and Keith Uff

Reader: Jenny Uff

Representatives on Deanery Synod: Derek Mertling-Blake (2023), Michael Pritchard (2023), Sara Clethero (2023)

Elected members: Carol Austin (2023), Carol Couse (2023), Maggi Cull (2022), Simon Kirby (2021) (Vice Chair), Justin Pinkess (2022), John Russell (2022) (Treasurer), Charles Williams (2021), Caroline Shaw (2023), Phil Ypres-Smith (2021).

David Hill attended meetings of the Standing Committee and PCC as Secretary. Simon Kirby chaired the meetings of the Council until September, when Fr Sam took up the role.

The year's business was dominated by the pandemic and its consequences for both worship and the church's finances, and the much happier process of the appointment and welcome of Fr Sam Gibson as our new Vicar. The pattern for that was set at the Section 11 meeting in February where the Area Dean Nick Tucker provided helpful observations and suggestions for the Parish Profile. The March PCC meeting was held on the day that the Government announced amongst much else that churches should cease holding public worship.

Church finances were a major topic as sources of income were depleted because of Covid restrictions. The arrangements for the appointment and Induction of our new Vicar were a pleasant part of the year's business. Other topics included the new lighting scheme, which moved from being a plan and estimate to a Faculty application, the work on the south porch and the vestry, accepting or approving safeguarding policies and action plans, arranging services by telephone, live-streaming and in church, and responding to the second lockdown in November. The Council rose to the challenges of a most unusual year with vigour and imagination and managed to avoid all talking at once on Zoom.

David Hill

Safeguarding Statement

We continue to seek to make St George's a safe and welcoming place for children, vulnerable adults and survivors of abuse.

John Everson is St George's Safeguarding Officer and Derek Blake is Parish Identity Verifier and Safeguarding Dashboard Representative. Derek has kept the dashboard up-to-date and provided the PCC with copies for acceptance at meetings. He also guided PCC members to the required online training on safeguarding and recorded DBS checks.

Following guidance from the Diocese of Birmingham, the PCC has adopted the following safeguarding policies:

- Identifying and Reporting Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission
- Action Plan for Promoting a Safer Church, Levels 1, 2 and 3.

These documents were uploaded onto the church website.

A dedicated safeguarding email address and mobile phone number is available. Information about safeguarding is available at the back of church.

There have been no referrals made to social care or the police.

Reports of the Committees

(* indicates non-PCC member on membership of the committee)

The Financial Statements and Reports can be found commencing on page 14.

Education and Worship Committee

Membership and Meetings:

Fr Sam (chair), Nick Gibbs, Keith Uff, Jenny Uff, Caroline Shaw, David Hill*, Phil Ypres-Smith, Simon Kirby, John Cooper*, Suganthi Daniel*.

Also contributing: Kate Tingle, Carol Couse, Charlotte Gibson

The Committee met five times in 2020, once live and thereafter on Zoom.

Before Lockdown

During the early months of 2020, with the parish in vacancy, the pattern of visiting clergy taking 8am and 10.30 am communion services continued, but with increasing precautions through March until all public worship in the building had to cease.

The first Lockdown

After the abrupt closing of church buildings just before Easter, Nick Gibbs started to circulate the weekly notices to all the email addresses we have, giving news of St George's activities and news, and giving links to local and national online services.

Eve Kirby initiated a prayer group meeting three mornings a week on Zoom.

A telephone conference call service, at 8am on Sundays, and using the C of E Morning Prayer (BCP), was instigated through the energy and set-up work of Nick Gibbs. This has continued; it allows worship for those less confident with online provisions, or without access to internet. It has provided valued contact with familiar voices to people who are shielding or keeping to home.

More recently

The building was opened for private prayer as soon as this was permitted, on 17th July, with social distancing provisions, and open doors for ventilation.

When public worship was allowed, we were able to build on the experience of opening for private prayer to hold a 10.30 said service of Morning Prayer from Common Worship, with organ music, on 5th July, and 12th July. Our first Holy Communion was on 19th July. We are most grateful to Ven Paul Taylor for coming to take this, and for all his kind and informed support.

The 8am telephone Morning Prayer continued, as it was not feasible to provide an early service in church, and the telephone link supported some who could not come to the building.

A mixture of Eucharist and Morning Prayer continued for the 10.30 morning service, with much appreciated organ music but no singing, while preparations for Fr Sam's installation went

forward. These 10.30 services were recorded and made available online, by the website and our Facebook page.

September and October:

Since the institution of Fr Sam on 4th September, 10.30 Eucharist, said but with organ music, has been celebrated every Sunday, and the 8am Book of Common Prayer service has been reinstated. Both services have been recorded and made available on the Facebook page and on the website. They can be followed either live or as a recording. Thanks are due to Michael Pritchard and Nick Gibbs for enabling this facility. The 10.30 service uses the nave altar, and spaced pews. The 8am Holy Communion takes place in the Chancel.

Fr Sam initiated saying Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel on weekdays – Tuesday to Friday – at 9am. Others join the prayers. On Thursdays, the church is open through the rest of the morning, allowing conversation with the vicar, but also visits to the church, and private prayer.

The arrangement of different areas for different services allows spaces used by larger numbers to be quarantined from one week to the next.

Developments

Fr Sam started a nurture group, potentially leading to baptism/confirmation, to meet fortnightly until Easter.

The pattern of a service of the word on the fifth Sunday of a month is being continued. We have had the benefit of two ordinands this year, Charlotte Gibson on placement, and Kate Tingle continuing to have St George's as her home church, giving a wide resource for preaching and leading. There is also opportunity for lay people to preach. Epiphany was celebrated on the actual day, Wednesday 6th January. The practice of having a liturgical deacon standing at the north side of the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer and helping with the setting up and clearing of the altar, as well as leading some parts of the responses, is being developed and adapted to cope with coronavirus restrictions and the preferences of those taking part.

Second lockdown, in November:

Under the rules of the second lockdown, the 10.30 Sunday Eucharist was celebrated in church – but with only a minimum of necessary participants – and livestreamed. The 8am telephone conference matins, and the now weekly Zoom prayer group, were re-instated.

Advent and Christmas:

From December, the decision on opening church buildings for public worship fell to the vicar and PCC, and was happily agreed for St George's, with our ample space and generous ventilation, though Advent plans were somewhat curtailed. The pattern of singing a hymn together outside the building at 10.20 each Sunday was most welcome, as were the use of cantors to sing parts of the service, and the organ music.

Fr Sam celebrated Eucharist at 10am on Thursdays in Advent.

Christmas itself began with an outdoor Crib Service - see the paragraph below on Children's Work - and we were delighted to have the choir sing carols for the Midnight Mass and the Christmas Day Eucharist.

Children's Work:

Junior Church (JC) maintained as much activity as possible for children through 2020. From January-March 2020, sessions were conducted when there were children in church. Although we planned for JC to take place regularly every third Sunday, this soon became impossible to maintain as it was important to have some kind of activity whenever there were children present. From March-September 2020, there were no JC activities in church due to the national lockdown. From September 2020, following Covid-secure protocols, JC has resumed with a small, but steady number of children attending. We have had an all-age Advent service and a very successful outdoors Crib Service and look forward to more activities through 2021 for all children who come to St George's.

Jenny Uff and Suganthi Daniel

Fabric and Environment Committee

Carol Couse (Chair), David Hill*, Jane Darnton*, John Russell, Nick Gibbs and Keith Uff (Churchwardens)

This year of the Covid-19 pandemic has been challenging for the church as with all other aspects of working and personal life.

The final stonework repairs to the South Porch were held up at the end of 2019 due to a shortage of suitable stone from the quarry. Work was then re-scheduled to the spring but the national Coronavirus lockdown and furloughing of contractors plus other delays meant the repairs were not completed until June of 2020. However, this has now completed the majority of the restoration for which Phase 2 of the appeal for 'Let the Stones Live' was created.

As you may recall, the first task of the stonework repair in 2019 was to restore the East elevation masonry which included the seriously eroded delicate tracery of the window. The extensive work also included the alteration of the vestry gutter which was the main source of the water ingress into the vestry itself. But the repairs to the interior walls of the vestry could not be undertaken until the full impact of the damage was determined. The saturated plaster was finally removed in September and the walls were allowed to dry out for several months before re-plastering. Most of the preparation work is now finished and we look forward to the decoration of the vestry in January when we can put the room back to order.

During the various periods of lockdowns, the only other matter with which we could actively engage was the continuation of the work of the appeal for the new lighting design. Not being able to actually meet very many times didn't stop the process of fund raising. We managed to put in several hundred hours into grant applications and publicising this great need for better lighting for the church. We received many very generous donations from members of the congregation and equally generous grants from local trusts, organisations and friends of St

George's. There were, also during the year, lots of individual fund raising initiatives producing amounts both large and small for the new lights. The result of all this activity now means that we have successfully secured 70% of the sum needed for the project, leaving £20,000 yet to be raised and we believe that we can achieve this.

If so, we have the Faculty granted by the Diocese in place and a quotation for the works, which is good until the end of June, meaning that we might actually have fully functioning lights to see out the New Year of 2021 and welcome in the next!

Carol Couse

Mission Partnership Committee

There have been no meetings and no developments over the last year. The continuation of the Committee, or its alternative, will need discussion with Fr Sam.

Jenny Astley

Social Committee

Carol Couse (Chair)

Pat Bullock*

Jenny Astley*

Well.....what can we say?

We had the usual array of activities to look forward to and then Covid-19 happened!

In order to keep everyone safe, we couldn't continue with the fellowship of coffee after church and then it didn't matter anyway because we couldn't have church!

Even in very early planning sessions, St George's Day had already proved to be a bit of a headache with the awkward timing of school half term. I think there was the church's Patronal Festival Lunch being planned for the end of April and the Community Picnic scheduled for the 1st of May but, of course, that couldn't take place.

And we had already planned that we would continue with the growingly popular Friday Fellowship Evenings with Cottage Pie, Dessert and entertainment and looking forward to those fun events.

So, I guess all we can do is pray that we can all emerge from the pandemic safe, healthy and looking forward to a better and happier 2021!

Watch this space next year!

Carol Couse

Reports of Church Activities

Bible Reading Fellowship

The number of people who receive BRF Notes is gradually decreasing. Seven people receive Guidelines and four take Daylight. I would be pleased to order new copies if people request them.

Eve Kirby

The Children's Society

This year St George's held a socially distanced 'make your own' Christingle service on 20th December, which was closely followed by another lockdown. Some people took home candle boxes; so far two have been returned giving £62. Volunteer Support have been in touch to say not to worry if home collection box opening is delayed. Boxes and cheques are still being returned. So far the total is £194.20 from five boxes, with eleven boxes still to be returned.

Pat Bullock

Christian Aid

For May 2020 our efforts for Christian Aid Week were very curtailed by Covid restrictions but we donated directly the sum of £1320.00 by received cheques. There were also unknown donations from parishioners who gave via the Christian Aid web site, enabling Gift Aid to be added.

House-to-house collection was completely abandoned. Also, we could not hold our Tuesday lunch club where we normally have soup and cheese, music and donations.

The quiz still existed, by popular demand, mostly on-line but also printed out and posted. It was felt it would be too difficult to do a simultaneous parish Zoom quiz but people could Zoom circles with family and friends at their chosen time. Participants were asked to donate via the main web site if they wished.

Christian Aid week 2021, due to take place in mid-May, is reduced in extent but a drop off only system for house-to-house will allow some local collecting rounds. Collecting envelopes will be available in church also now we can open. The quiz will be the distant format as last year and we must anticipate sociable quiz and lunch tables in 2022!

Jane Darnton

Deanery Synod

The synod has not met since 12th November 2019, when Edgbaston and Warley Deaneries had a joint meeting and agreed to the merging of the two Deaneries. We had no meetings in 2020 or since and await the new area Dean taking up office.

Derek Mertling-Blake

The Friendship Place

We had time for one meeting in January before Covid 19 closed us down. The one meeting was great in that we had a busker called David Fisher. Everyone enjoyed his singing and tunes and we danced. Roll on freedom when we can meet up again!

Eve Kirby

Joined-up Reading

The group, which continues to meet on a Monday evening once a month, usually attracts seven or eight people. Most are from St George's; some however are from other local churches. We read a book and discuss it.

Books read during the year include:

'Christians and Religious Pluralism' by Alan Rice

'Village of Secrets' by Caroline Moorehead

Then we closed down because of Covid 19.

Eve Kirby

Monthly Lunch Club

St George's Lunch Club met to enjoy a meal together for the first three months of 2020 and unfortunately have not met since because of Covid restrictions.

Pat Bullock

Music Liaison with St George's Primary School

Due to Covid19 I have not been back into school. The plan was that I return in the New Year to teach small groups, but then there was another lockdown.

Pat Bullock

The Parish Magazine

For the magazine, as for many of the church's activities, 2020 was a year like no other. For the first time in over forty years, the April issue had to be aborted on the verge of printing and May and June abandoned altogether. In partial compensation we produced a separate issue for August, giving a net loss of two. Uncertainties about each month in advance, the absence of active servers and the suspension of coffee and most of the music led to changes in format, too.

As ever I am grateful to my faithful contributors, and welcome the new vicar's regular contribution in a 'Vicar's slot' – if not quite the conventional Vicar's letter that opens most parish magazines – but wish there were more of them.

Thanks are due also to David Allen, the advertisement manager, whose diligence and contacts keep the whole financially viable, and to our unfailingly friendly and helpful printers, Bromsgrove Printing Co: it was with considerable relief that when I rang them in June I found them active on the other end of the line!

Justin Pinkess – Editor

Prayer and Share Group

This group has been in abeyance during 2020, and may well find a different format to offer prayer in 2021.

Jenny Uff

Sewing Group

We have not been able to meet but we have been able to share news by email. When we meet again we will have a shared lunch and hope to make plans for a visit, possibly to Compton Verney, our choice for Summer 2020 that had to be cancelled.

Carol Austin

Verger's Report

Due to the pandemic not a lot happened in 2020 as the church was closed for a large part of the year. My thanks to the cleaning crew when we were allowed into church to clean in a socially-distanced manner. I can't be the only one to look forward to being able to go back to normal. The main new expenditure on the horizon is a new photocopier with a finishing station on the side, as our old copier is facing an uncertain future due to the lack of spare parts being available.

Charles Williams

Community Involvement

Despite the pandemic many in St George's congregation continued to be involved in community activity within the parish and beyond. Events continued in and around the church whenever they could. Before the first lockdown Year 1 from St George's Primary School visited, Tuesday monthly lunches were held and Friendship place was able to meet. Six free Wednesday lunchtime concerts were held during the year, the audience socially distanced as needed, and the last concert was live-streamed from the empty church. The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church celebrated services in St George's on five Saturdays. From June the church was open for private prayer on Thursday mornings. In October, just before the second lockdown, B'Opera held a very successful relaxed concert in church for small children and their parents ('beautiful

music for tiny ears'). Many events had to be cancelled however, the St George's Day picnic, school end-of-term services, concert bookings, the Edgbaston Village Christmas Lights Switch-on and the many carol services. Nonetheless as always Calthorpe Estates provided us with a splendid fully decorated tree at Christmas, when a banner on the Highfield Road corner announced 'A light to lighten the nations – Advent and Christmas blessings from St George's Church' – a sign that, pandemic or not, we are always here.

David Hill

PCC Financial Responsibilities

In relation to the financial statements, Charity law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the PCC's affairs and of its financial activities for that year. In preparing the financial statements, the PCC are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- c) State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- d) Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the PCC will continue.

The PCC are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the PCC and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act of 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Risk Management

The PCC keep under review the major strategic and operational risks which they face to ensure that systems have been established and all necessary steps have been undertaken to minimise these risks.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain the general fund, which represents its free reserves, at least at a level which approximately equates to between six and eight months' unrestricted fund expenditure at current levels. The PCC believes that such a level of reserves is needed to ensure that their ongoing commitments can be met.

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic 2020-21 creates uncertainty with regard to certain income flows. Steps are being taken to preserve cash flows in and control cash flows out. The General Fund has reserves at 31st December 2020 which should be sufficient to sustain associated losses.

Other Fund raising activities during the year 2020 by Special Agency Collections ,
not being part of PCC funds raised to be paid out to whom it beneficially belongs,

These amounts are not included as income or expenditure our
2020 accounts but are set out below for information.

	£	£
	Details	Totals
1 Christian Aid		
Covid 19 had serious implications on the usual street collection which was not able to take place in 2020 as well as our other annual fund raising events.		
Our usual Quiz night was replaced by a digital sytem on line or paper copies by post.		
Entrance fees recived by us forwarded to Christian Aid.	1320	
Option to forward fees direct to Christian Aid but no information of any donations made this way	0	
Total collected by us and forwarded to Christian Aid		1320
2 Childrens Society - Home collecting boxes counted and paid direct to therir Bank Account		
Home collecting boxes counted Net	666	
Additional Gift Aid Tax to be claimed by C of E		
Childrens Society where applicable - Estimated	158.61	
Total including estimated Gift Aid Tax claimable		824.61
3 Christmas Charity for Karis Neighbour Scheme		
Collections from Services including Gift Aid tax as given	212.5	
Cheques made to Karis and forwarded to them,	350	
Total including estimated Gift Aid Tax claimable		562.5
4 St Georges Primary School Christmas Project		
Total including estimated Gift Aid Tax claimable	875	875
5 Malawi Diocese Student Support - 2019 Fourth year		
Donations received including Gift Aid Tax where given, plus other incoming annual donations.	169	169
Course suspended for 2020 to continue in 2021		
Paid over in 2020		0
6 Fees collected on behalf of Birmingham D B of F from Weddings, Funerals etc.	28	28
TOTAL		3779.11

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the 12 months to 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		General	Designated			2020	2019
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES							
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>	2(a)	71,183	0	0	0	71,183	85,981
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>	2(b)	0	0	11,715	0	11,715	33,484
<i>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>	2(c)	15,990	0	0	0	15,990	20,457
<i>Other ordinary income resources</i>	2(d)	40	0	0	0	40	775
<i>Income from investments</i>	2(e)	795	0	0	325	1,120	1,668
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	4	88,008	0	11,715	325	100,048	142,365
RESOURCES USED							
<i>Grants</i>	3(a)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Activities directly relating to the work of the church</i>	3(b)	100,379	0	5,385	0	105,764	146,908
<i>Church management and administration</i>	3(c)	660	0	0	0	660	700
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		101,039	0	5,385	0	106,424	147,608
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		(13,031)	0	6,330	325	(6,376)	(5,243)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS							
<i>Clergy stipend to general</i>		325	0	0	(325)	0	0
<i>Fabric designated to</i>		0	(1,964)	0	0	(1,964)	(16,645)
<i>Let the Stones Live restricted</i>		0	0	1,964	0	1,964	16,645
<i>Urban Fund restricted to</i>		0	0	(12,000)	0	(12,000)	0
<i>Let there be Light restricted</i>		0	0	12,000	0	12,000	0
		325	(1,964)	1,964	(325)	0	0
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS							
<i>Unrealised</i>	7	284	0	0	342	626	373
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(12,422)	(1,964)	8,294	342	(5,750)	(4,870)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY							
<i>As previously reported</i>	4	94,376	8,355	42,183	10,080	154,994	159,864
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER	4	81,954	6,391	50,477	10,422	149,244	154,994

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 December 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS	6		
Digital Organ		40,451	40,451
Depreciation		(40,451)	(40,451)
Net book value		0	0
Investments		17,973	17,347
		<u>17,973</u>	<u>17,347</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	7,620	12,433
Short term deposits	6	115,207	129,680
Cash at bank and in hand	6	20,595	12,006
		<u>143,422</u>	<u>154,119</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	9	(12,151)	(16,472)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>131,271</u>	<u>137,647</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>149,244</u>	<u>154,994</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted:			
General	4,6	81,954	94,376
Designated	4,6,10	6,391	8,355
Restricted	4,6,10	50,477	42,183
Endowment	4,6,10	10,422	10,080
		<u>149,244</u>	<u>154,994</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Reverend Dr. Samuel Gibson M.A PhD:

Mr John Russell (Treasurer):

The notes on pages 16 to 21 form part of these accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the 12 months to 31 December 2020

1 Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

Funds

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

Designated Funds have been set aside by the PCC for a particular purpose, but are unrestricted and may be redesignated by the PCC for any other purpose. *Restricted Funds* have been given to the PCC to be used only for particular purposes. *Endowment Funds* have been given to the PCC with the condition that the capital given is to be retained, and only the income from the capital expended.

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

Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC not when banked. Planned giving receivable under gift aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised in the same accounting year as the income is recognised, not in the year when it is recovered. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount is due. Income from the letting of church premises is recognised when due. Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources used

Expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Fixed assets

The Church and associated buildings are owned by the Diocese of Birmingham. The cost of repairs, renewal of fixtures and additions of new items of furniture or new fixtures are paid for by the PCC. All such costs are expensed to the SOFA in full in the year in which the expense is incurred with the exception of the digital organ which was fully depreciated straight line over 12 years from 2007 to 2018.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at December 31.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the 12 months to 31 December 2020

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Incoming resources from donors					
Gift aid	48,977	0	0	48,977	53,380
Income tax recoverable thereon	12,474	0	0	12,474	13,160
Non - gift aid	2,565	0	0	2,565	2,871
Collections (open plate) at all services	461	0	0	461	1,114
Sundry donations	4,380	0	0	4,380	1,476
Use of Church	2,326	0	0	2,326	13,980
	71,183	0	0	71,183	85,981
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources					
Donations to restricted Fabric fund	0	140	0	140	0
Donations to The Friendship Place fund	0	198	0	198	19
Donations to Let the Stones Live fund	0	0	0	0	1,137
Grants to Let the Stones Live fund	0	421	0	421	15,800
Donations to Let there be Light fund	0	10,956	0	10,956	16,528
	0	11,715	0	11,715	33,484
2(c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
Magazine	2,005	0	0	2,005	2,494
Fund raising activities	551	0	0	551	1,157
Fees and other charges	46	0	0	46	484
Car parking	13,388	0	0	13,388	16,322
	15,990	0	0	15,990	20,457
2(d) Other ordinary income resources					
Sundry including concerts	40	0	0	40	775
	40	0	0	40	775
2(e) Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	795	0	325	1,120	1,668
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	88,008	11,715	325	100,048	142,365

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the 12 months to 31 December 2020

3 RESOURCES USED

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>3(a) Grants</i>					
Missionary and charitable giving	0	0	0	0	0
<i>3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the church</i>					
Ministry					
Diocesan Common Fund	62,004	0	0	62,004	58,248
Working expenses of incumbent	351	0	0	351	587
Assistant Clergy expenses	98	0	0	98	548
Administration expenses	1,685	0	0	1,685	2,362
Secretarial assistance	6,166	0	0	6,166	6,200
Vicarage maintenance:	2,357	0	0	2,357	500
Church running expenses					
Gas and electricity	6,079	0	0	6,079	7,571
Insurance	8,082	0	0	8,082	8,056
Church maintenance					
Routine repairs, maintenance, cleaning	3,598	0	0	3,598	8,001
Upkeep of services (altar requisites, music, books)	1,268	0	0	1,268	1,377
Director of Music	6,283	0	0	6,283	6,165
Organists and choir	586	0	0	586	1,145
Piano repair	0	0	0	0	695
Parish magazine expenses	930	0	0	930	1,329
Training, development, lent books, cards	156	0	0	156	669
Social events and fund raising	284	0	0	284	1,057
Sundry	452	0	0	452	1,836
	100,379	5,385	0	105,764	146,908
Fabric fund expenditure	0	3,000	0	3,000	3,900
Let the Stones Live expenditure	0	2,385	0	2,385	36,662
	100,379	5,385	0	105,764	146,908
<i>3(c) Church management and administration</i>					
Examination of accounts	660	0	0	660	700
	101,039	5,385	0	106,424	147,608
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	101,039	5,385	0	106,424	147,608

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the 12 months to 31 December 2020

4 Analysis of movement on funds

	At 31.12.19	Movements in the year					At 31.12.20
		Incoming Resources	Resources Used	Transfers	Profit/ (loss) on investments	Total for the year	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted							
General	94,376	88,008	(101,039)	325	284	(12,422)	81,954
Designated : Fabric	8,355	0	0	(1,964)	0	(1,964)	6,391
Restricted							
Let there be Light	16,528	10,956	0	12,000	0	22,956	39,484
Urban Mission	15,044	0	0	(12,000)	0	(12,000)	3,044
Let the Stones Live	0	421	(2,385)	1,964	0	0	0
The Friendship Place	619	198	0	0	0	198	817
Fabric	9,992	140	(3,000)	0	0	(2,860)	7,132
	42,183	11,715	(5,385)	1,964	0	8,294	50,477
Endowment							
Clergy Stipend	10,080	325	0	(325)	342	342	10,422
Total	154,994	100,048	(106,424)	0	626	(5,750)	149,244

5 Salaries, wages, honoraria and fees

	2020 £	2019 £
Director of Music	6,283	6,165
Organist and choir	586	1,145
Secretarial	6,166	6,200
	<u>13,035</u>	<u>13,510</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the 12 months to 31 December 2020

6 Analysis of net assets by fund

	Fixed assets	Debtors	Short term deposits	Cash at bank and in hand	Liabilities	Total at 31.12.20
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted						
General	8,151	4,120	57,367	20,595	(8,279)	81,954
Designated: Fabric	0	0	6,391	0	0	6,391
Restricted						
Let there be Light	0	3,500	35,984	0	0	39,484
Urban Mission	0	0	3,044	0	0	3,044
Let the Stones Live	0	0	872	0	(872)	0
The Friendship Place	0	0	817	0	0	817
Fabric	0	0	10,132	0	(3,000)	7,132
	0	3,500	50,849	0	(3,872)	50,477
Endowment						
Clergy Stipend	9,822	0	600	0	0	10,422
Total	17,973	7,620	115,207	20,595	(12,151)	149,244
Analysis	CBF Deposit Account		11,042			
	CBF Combined Account		104,165			
			<u>115,207</u>			

Note: For administrative purposes the general fund holds in its name £57,240 of short term deposits on behalf of the designated (£6,391) and restricted (£50,849) funds.

7 Investments within Fixed assets.

In the unrestricted general fund there are 4,813 shares in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund with a net asset value of £8,151 (2019: £7,867) and a historical cost of £6,221 (2019:£6,221).

In the endowment clergy stipend fund there are 5,793 shares in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund with a net asset value of £9,812 (2019: £9,470) and a historical cost of £7,543 (2019:£7,543).

8 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	2,984	6,018
VAT recoverable	0	1,986
Prepaid insurance	656	692
Other debtors	3,980	3,737
	<u>7,620</u>	<u>12,433</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the 12 months to 31 December 2020

9 Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Organ works	2,023	2,023
Accruals and other creditors	6,256	6,022
Fabric works	3,000	0
Stoneworks	872	8,427
	<u>12,151</u>	<u>16,472</u>

10 Designated, Restricted and Endowment Fund details

Designated	Purpose
Fabric	To maintain and restore the fabric of the Church
Restricted	Purpose
Let there be Light	To provide a new lighting system for the Church
Urban Mission	To support the church to enable it to help urban causes outside the parish.
Let the Stones Live	To fund urgent stonework renovation
The Friendship Place	To provide a friendly meeting place to support people with needs and their carers
Fabric	To maintain and restore the fabric of the Church
Endowment	
Clergy Stipend	Income (only) applied towards vicar's working expenses

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of St George's

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 14 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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: 

Name: Anna Madden

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCA

Address: Curo Chartered Accountants, Curo House, Greenbox, Westonhall Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 4AL

Date: 18/10/21