

THE PARISH CHURCH *of*



**Registered Charity Number 1134777**

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

31 December 2021

Incumbent:

The Revd Dr Samuel Gibson

The Vicarage

3 Westbourne Road

Birmingham

B15 3TH

Bank:

Santander

Bootle

Merseyside

L30 4GB

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

### **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.

### **Vicar's Report**

2021 was a year of recovery and renewal as we emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic gradually and by stages. We began to restore many of our longstanding services and activities, while developing new dimensions of parish life as society reopened. In writing this report, I found that I struggled to remember all the various tiers and levels of restriction to which the West Midlands and the UK were subject and had to retrace my steps through some of the legislation! I think this demonstrates both the complexity of 2021 as a year in church life and the way that the congregation and ministry team were required to adapt – as adapt we did. What struck me most is how rapidly things changed from one month to another and how one season's "normal" can become today's "highly unusual".

January 2021 saw most of England under Tier 4 Covid-19 restrictions. This meant that only essential shops could remain open while working from home became the norm once again. Before vaccinations were yet widespread there was significant risk to public health. St George's CofE Primary School, like many others, closed and reverted to home learning. Unlike the lockdown of November 2020, churches were not required by law to close for public worship. However, given the difficulties involved the Parochial Church Council met virtually and decided to voluntarily close for public worship. Church remained open for private prayer on Thursday afternoons, while services resumed an online format; with BCP Mattins at 8am by telephone conference call and live-streamed Eucharist at 10.30am via Facebook. This format had proved relatively successful in 2020, and was so again, with virtual attendance at 8am of up to 15 people, and 40 or so views on Facebook for 10.30am. This suggested that we were keeping in touch with a decent proportion of our regular congregation, and we continued to telephone one another for mutual support.

Inevitably though, this was a worrying and frustrating period for many of us. As I presided at the Eucharist, accompanied by Phil Ypres-Smith on the organ and sometimes others such as Jenny Uff (Reader), Charlotte Gibson and Kate Tingle (ordinands on placement), in an otherwise empty church, I wondered what the future might hold. At that time it was not at all obvious how or when the pandemic would loosen its grip or if people would return to public worship. It was also difficult to build on many of the positive pastoral links made on my arrival in 2020.



Nevertheless, the social life, fellowship and above all the mutual care and concern of St George's people – all gifts of God's grace – saw us through this challenging period.

Not everything during this period was fallow, however. The *Mystery of Faith* enquirers group continued to run online on Sunday evenings, which developed the faith of new and existing members alike, and we met regularly for social gathering on Sunday afternoons via Zoom. Ahead of Lent, we sent cards to everyone on our electoral roll which displayed a printed "virtual" ash cross, prayers, and an invitation to Ash Wednesday services. We held an interactive Ash Wednesday liturgy via Microsoft Teams that was well attended. I also offered everyone in the parish a "Spiritual MOT" – half an hour's conversation with the Vicar – and I was delighted with the positive uptake. With the help of Michael Pritchard the spring of 2021 saw the rebuilding of St George's parish website. I continued my ministry of prayer and presence in the parish on behalf of our parishioners, and this in itself proved a fruitful season of expectation.

With infection rates tentatively declining, on 9<sup>th</sup> March the PCC met once again to review Covid-19 measures and decided to reopen church for public worship on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday. This allowed us to pick up Lent together and celebrate this significant moment in many people's lives in-person – though we continued to livestream both 8am and 10.30am services for the benefit of those at risk or otherwise at home. Reopening in March meant that we could keep Passiontide and the Paschal Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday together. I advocate keeping the Triduum especially in a fulsome way since it sits at the very heart of the Christian story and message, so having been apart for so long we then entered an intense period of liturgy and prayer together. I would especially like to thank David Hill and Caroline Shaw as Sacristans, Charlotte Gibson and Kate Tingle as ordinands and Jenny Uff as Reader, as well as Keith Uff and Nick Gibbs as Churchwardens, for making my first Triduum at St George's so enjoyable. Some new people attended these services and several remarked that they found them foundational for their faith development – thanks be to God. The culmination of the Triduum was the Easter Vigil on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, at which Harriet Ellis and Amin Tavassoli were baptised, having both prepared thoroughly through catechism during Lent. It was a delight to see two younger adults come to committed faith at St George's, and a welcome sign of the ongoing vitality of our church and our sacramental tradition.

With the summer came more recovery of regular parish life, including 8am and 10.30am Sunday services which returned to attendance levels of 10-15 and 40-60 respectively. On Pentecost Sunday we bade farewell to Charlotte Gibson and Kate Tingle as they went to prepare for ordination as Deacons, and serve in their new parishes; whereas we were delighted to welcome Jo Jennings from Trinity College Bristol and Marcus Pagnam from St Mellitus to short ordinand placements, and in September John Lanchbury as a Reader candidate on placement. St George's resumed its hosting of two significant theological training courses for the Diocese of Birmingham: Reader IME (Initial Ministerial Education) and the Local Ordination Pathway. This, combined with our ongoing role welcoming placement students, has deepened our role and reputation as a place of Christian learning.

Other significant events in the summer of 2021 included our Patronal Festival which we kept on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April with the Area Dean of our neighbouring Deanery, Fr Douglas Machiridza, preaching. Fr Douglas is Zimbabwean and therefore we were delighted to welcome members of



the United Methodist congregation that service to meet him. On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August, I was finally able offer some hospitality to the whole congregation in the form of the Vicarage Garden Party, which was a joyous occasion. On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August St George's choir joined with that of St Augustine, our neighbouring parish, to offer a wonderful Solemn Evensong for the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was well attended and preached by Fr Matthew Tomlinson.

The musical life of our parish continued to flourish under Phil Ypres-Smith's guidance – albeit with significant challenges posed by the pandemic. The choir successfully reformed and recruited new members in the autumn of 2021, including students from the University of Birmingham. Pat Bullock ably acted as Cantor for many of our summer services, and sang on our behalf when it was not possible to sing congregationally indoors. In the autumn we introduced two further new dimensions of music to the 10.30am service: the Primary School choir singing at a new monthly All Age Eucharist; and Zoe Challenor as a professional Cantor once a month. All these groups and individuals bring a richness and diversity to music at St George's which is a real strength. Our core liturgy remains each week, but sometimes is enriched by the voices of children, sometimes by a full choir and other times by Cantors; the music is all of a high standard and offered with care. Our thanks must go to Phil as Director of Music for developing this pattern.

In October 2021, we began a new series of theology lectures nicknamed *St George's Talks*. The first lecture was given by The Revd Professor Hugh Houghton, Professor of New Testament Textual Scholarship at the University of Birmingham and a scholar of international standing. These lectures proved very popular and engaged an audience beyond our regular congregation. Developing our charism as a church which is theologically literate, engaged and open to a range of voices seems to be truly life-giving for all involved. In a similar way, under Suganthi John's leadership and a group of able volunteers, our Junior Church has grown so that there is a Junior Church activity (or All Age talk) every Sunday. Along with regular outdoor Activity days, the dependability of our children's provision and the quality of relationships formed means that the attendance of children is now a reliable feature of Sunday worship at St George's. We are also engaging families who have not attended church before. This is a positive step forward.

Two significant difficulties stand out in 2021. The first is to do with church finances. Despite a successful stewardship campaign in May 2021 with several new donors, our outgoings continued to outstrip our income – mostly due to rental losses, and a lack of plate collections, but partially because the level of regular giving at St George's has not kept pace with the costs of running our work. Nevertheless, through the generosity of a substantial legacy from Frank Drake's estate, we were able to begin plans for some positive developments including adaptation of the south door welcome area and investment in mission. The paradox is that we have a reasonable level of reserves and sometimes receive generous one-off donations, but we have not had quite enough to pay our regular bills from what is donated each month. This means that we run deficits, which drag on our confidence to proclaim the gospel in our part of Edgbaston. I want to thank profoundly all those who support St George's through regular giving and appeal to the whole community to ensure that we are well supported in the years ahead.

The second major difficulty of 2021 was fabric-related, and that was the failure of our 40+ year old boiler in October. An emergency PCC meeting was held at which it was quickly decided to



invest in a modern replacement. Incredibly, donations amounting to nearly half of the £40,000 cost came in during the winter months of 2021 and work began in December. My reflection on this is enormous gratitude to God and for every generous donor, and also a sense that perhaps when we offer money together in solidarity we can achieve great things! Perhaps we could bring some of that energy and determination to our resolve to fund day-to-day ministry.

We also brought to completion, during 2021, our complete relighting scheme and as a result our church looks brighter, cleaner and more welcoming than ever. The lights were blessed and thanks given to God for their successful completion, including the gifts of all the donors, on All Saints Sunday 2021. Our thanks also go to Carol Couse as Chair of the Fabric Committee for being the driving force behind this wonderful project.

Looking back at 2021, two ongoing themes are transition, and engagement with new people. We began the year under serious restrictions, and ended by delivering new events and planning confidently for the future. The worshipping community figure – the CofE's measure of how many people are associated with St George's – grew from 127 to 139. Not all is numbers, and behind that figure is a lot of faithfulness, from God to us and on the part of our congregation, but the statistics do show us that St George's continues to be a vibrant parish church. Therefore we can look ahead with trust in God, and feeling encouraged that even under adverse circumstances we can develop and grow together. On the basis of our firm foundation in our programmes of music, worship and learning, I believe that the time is right to look outward at our neighbourhood and discern where God is calling us to make new disciples.

Fr Sam Gibson, Vicar

### **Churchwarden's Report**

At the beginning of 2021 the third Covid-19 lockdown started. Between 6<sup>th</sup> January and 14<sup>th</sup> March it was not possible to hold services in church in the normal way. During this period a telephone conference service of Morning Prayer was conducted by our Reader, Mrs. Jennifer Uff, and a Eucharist was livestreamed every Sunday morning.

During the year there were two weddings and one service of blessing on a marriage, one baptism, four funerals and one memorial service.

An important new initiative in the life of St George's was the establishment by Father Sam of a programme of Theology lectures, which began on 15<sup>th</sup> October with a well-attended lecture by Rev Professor Hugh Houghton on "Ancient Manuscripts and Modern Technology: Biblical Research in the Twenty-first Century". This lecture was followed by "Reading the Book of Creation" by Rev Dr Sharon Jones on 12<sup>th</sup> November and "Live Liturgy, Technology and Performance" by Christopher Dingwall-Jones. The lecture programme will continue in 2022.

We regret to report the loss of a portable communion set. Its whereabouts are unknown.

Nick Gibbs and Keith Uff



## **Reports of Elected Officers and Safeguarding Statement**

### **Report of Electoral Roll Officer**

At the beginning of 2021 there were 84 names on Roll, of which 16 were resident in the parish. During the year, 8 names were removed due to deaths or people moving away, and 2 were added. At the beginning of 2022, there are 78 names on Roll, of whom 15 are resident in the parish.

Jenny Astley

### **Report of Secretary to the PCC**

The PCC met nine times during 2021, with an average attendance of fourteen members. Five of the meetings were held on Zoom because of the pandemic restrictions. Six meetings were the regular two-monthly events, each preceded by a meeting of the Standing Committee (Vicar, Churchwardens, Vice-Chair (until May), Treasurer, Reader, Secretary and a PCC member) to set the agenda. There were two special meetings to decide on worship arrangements as the pandemic progressed. The third special meeting was to approve the scheme to replace the church boiler.

Members of the PCC are *ex officio* or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The members of the PCC during the year 2021 were as follows (with retirement dates for elected members in brackets):

Vicar: The Revd Dr Samuel Gibson

Churchwardens: Nick Gibbs and Keith Uff

Reader: Jenny Uff

Principal of St George's Primary School: Shirley Atkar (from May)

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 (2024) (Vice Chair until May), Justin Pinkess (2022), John Russell (2022) (Treasurer), Charles Williams (2024), Caroline Shaw (2023), Phil Ypres-Smith (2024).

David Hill attended meetings of the Standing Committee and PCC as Secretary.

The business of the PCC during the year reflected the changing requirements of the second year of Covid restrictions and the need to continue developing our worship, our relationships with the local communities and wider, and care for our church building.

We responded to the relaxation of Covid restrictions by agreeing to return to in-person worship in church from Mothering Sunday. From July the PCC began to meet again in person. We were able to look forward to establishing a new musical regime from the autumn in re-forming the church choir and involving the St George's Primary School choir, as well as our excellent cantors. We approved the transfer of The Friendship Place to St Mary's RC Church in Harborne. We began to plan for using generous legacy money for improving the south porch area and for investment in mission in our local and fast changing area.

Finance was a regular topic as income continued to be lower than spending. In January we approved the go-ahead for our new lighting scheme, which was completed to great acclaim before the ending of the year. In November we approved the contract to replace our 40-year-old condemned boiler with two smaller, much more efficient condensing boilers. Both these projects were paid for from generous fund-raising.

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.

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 (stepped down in November) Keith Uff, Jenny Uff, Caroline Shaw, David Hill\*, Phil Ypres-Smith, Simon Kirby, John Cooper\*, Suganthi Daniel\*. Heather Butler\* and Harriet Ellis\* joined during the year.

Also contributing; Kate Tingle, Charlotte Gibson

The Committee met four times in 2021, twice on Zoom and thereafter in person, and with a screen link.

#### **Setting and easing Covid restrictions**

The year started with the third lockdown, and reverting to our accustomed pattern of 8 am telephone matins, and live-streamed 10.30 Eucharist with only essential persons in church. Over the months to July we were gradually able to return to shared worship, with social distancing and mask wearing, and to congregational singing. In the early stages we were most grateful for organ music, and then for cantors, and for the choir coping with visor wearing.



### Patterns of Worship

At the July meeting Fr Sam proposed a pattern of Sunday worship which EWC commended and PCC accepted. This has a monthly cycle of music provision at 10.30, using an enhanced choir once a month, and a mixture of cantor and congregational singing otherwise. On Sunday evenings there is a said Common Worship Evening Prayer at 5 pm, with the church open for quiet prayer beforehand.

In the autumn a regular Thursday morning Eucharist was introduced, alternately BCP and Common Worship. This was helpful to older members to whom the 8am service, especially on winter mornings, can be difficult.

### Courses and development.

The earlier evening service leaves time for other activities. First came sessions on the CofE Living in Love and Faith material, sharing with St Peter's Harborne. The on-line material for preparation was found helpful though most participants had difficulty in finding enough time to use it all. Towards the end of the year a later evening group was started, led by Simon Kirby and Fr Sam, to discuss Rowan Williams "Being Human", with related poems by George Herbert. In May a short session was held for existing and new leaders of intercessions.

### Visitors

We have continued to benefit from having the enthusiastic support of Charlotte Gibson and Kate Tingle, until their ordinations in the summer, and also from ordinands and a reader-in-training spending short placements with us, both learning and sharing their own backgrounds and enthusiasms. Such sharing helps us to be aware of the wider church.

Jenny Uff

### **Notes on Junior Church (based on Suganthi's reports to EWC)**

#### Junior Church

The JC leaders met in February to prepare for the return on public worship. As restrictions on public worship eased activity sheets were prepared for families. In April Junior Church restarted.

#### JC Curriculum

It was agreed to continue with the Roots material, which enables a sustained exploration of the Bible with enough flexibility for JC leaders. Roots has the advantage of following the lectionary, and so the presentation of the children's work often reinforces the main service.

#### JC Activity Days

The first of these was held on 10th July 2021, in the Vicarage Garden and at the Nature Centre in Pershore Road. The purpose of the Activity Days is for children to socialise and get to know each other better over a longer duration of time than is possible during JC. It is also an important time of fellowship for parents. The second one was on Saturday, 16th October to Martineau Gardens, with the theme of Harvest.



#### Other points

Harriet Ellis joined the group of leaders. This meant there are 3 leaders, giving a complete rota for each month, given the monthly All-Age Eucharist when the children remain in church. The Christmas Crib service went very well.

#### Fabric and Environment Committee

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

WHAT A YEAR! And we thought that 2020 was challenging!

Covid-19 restrictions held up the Vestry decoration but all was finally finished by February. We continued with the Lighting Appeal and after four long years of planning and raising funds, work was at last begun in March to replace the 1991 lighting installation! As the church was closed during this initial phase, work progressed quite well. The work was disrupted a little with the opening and then various closings of the church because of outbreaks of Covid-19 and it wasn't until the beginning of December that we could say the project was completed.

In the meantime, a mandatory asbestos survey revealed the discovery of asbestos fibres in the cellar floor of the boiler room. No admittance to this room meant that we could not service the boiler as usual during the summer months. When the dangerous asbestos was finally removed (another great expense) at the end of September, the servicing of the boiler could be scheduled.

This servicing revealed a major failure of the inner seals of our 1981 Beeston 11 CN boiler which could mean the leaking of carbon monoxide into the church. It was condemned and had to be shut down. This was now the beginning of the winter season and it was essential that we act quickly to replace the heating system and protect not only the Health and Safety of the congregation but also the fabric of the building itself.

Fortunately, the firm which had been servicing the boiler for many years and familiar with both the history and uses of the building were in a position to recommend and begin work on a suitable solution which seemed to be within our budget and the PCC gave its approval in November. The scheme was approved by the DAC and work actually began on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December to dismantle the 40-year-old boiler and replace it with 2 modern high efficiency condensing boilers. These should consume less gas for the same heat output and reduce our annual CO2 emissions for a typical year by 8 tonnes, making a good start on St George's green journey.

The work carried on for the whole of December without interruption. However, the sheer scale of the work meant that it wasn't completed by Christmas but we were assured that we would have heat again sometime about the middle of January. And indeed we did have heat again from the 13<sup>th</sup> of January!

Carol Couse



## **Social Committee**

Carol Couse (Chair),  
Pat Bullock\*  
Jenny Astley\*

My report for 2020 in the Annual Accounts ended with 'Watch this space next year!' Well, THAT year certainly went by in a blur, didn't it?

For St George's Day, all we could provide was a stall (outside under a gazebo) offering donated items for sale along with Charlotte Gibson's icons, key chains and bookmarks to raise funds for the mission work of St George's and could not organise any other social event to mark the day. We did, however, open up the church (with the proper social distancing) to encourage people attending the sale to visit and learn about St George's history.

We did manage to start up the coffee fellowship, after the 10.30 service, sometime in the summer but without the customary biscuits.

The Theology Lecture Series in October, November and December offered us an opportunity to provide for a simple offering of light refreshments with wine reception before our speaker of the evening which was a welcome back to experiencing some of the church's hospitality. And, Pat Bullock prepared a very welcome and very well attended Christmas Lunch in December, hoping that this could be the re-start of the monthly event.

Next year looks to be nearly as challenging. Let's hope and pray NOT!

Carol Couse

## **Reports of Church Activities**

### **Bible Reading Fellowship**

Seven people receive Guidelines notes and four take Daylight notes. I would be pleased to order new copies if people request them.

Eve Kirby

### **The Children's Society**

The donations of the box holders in 2021 were slightly lower than last year; several boxes were not returned as some holders had not returned to Church due to the pandemic. However a total of £641.31 was collected this year.

Contact Pat Bullock on 0121 475 6875 if you wish to register as a new box holder.



This year's Christingle collection was taken at the Candlemas service, where Christingles were given out, and raised £137.18

Pat Bullock

### **Christian Aid**

For May 2020 our efforts for Christian Aid Week were very curtailed by Covid but in 2021 we managed a house-to-house collection with no-contact envelopes. Each envelope was left at a house for a voluntary donation with the envelope returned to an address, often within the collector's own road. This was very successful as donors had time to put in their gift and to fill in a Gift Aid form as appropriate. The very creditable return for the week's collection was £4503.88 including Gift Aid.

The quiz still existed by popular demand, as an on-line version where people could Zoom with family and friends at their chosen time, with some print-and -post. Donations were voluntary on a St George's personalised Just Giving page, which also allowed Gift Aid, and the total gained was £329.38.

Our two Christian Aid week 2021 activities therefore gave a grand total of £4833.26.

We had one Emergency appeal for Global Hunger in July 2021 resulting in a gift of £243.00

Jane Darnton

### **Joined-up Reading**

The group, which we hope will continue 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:

'Not in God's Name' by Jonathan Sachs

'God and the Pandemic' by Tom Wright

'Chosen' by Giles Frazer

'Julian of Norwich' by Janina Ramirez

'Holy Living' by Rowan Williams

'Thomas Aquinas' by Denys Turner

We have also heard interesting talks from Fr Andrew Lenox-Conyngham and Fr Sam Gibson.

Eve Kirby

### **Monthly Lunch Club**

After a break of over 18 months from March 2020 due to the pandemic, many people had been expressing the hope that we would be able to resume Lunch Club as soon as possible. In November 2021 I sent out an email asking if parishioners would now be willing to attend. Everyone was keen to restart, which we did in December, with 24 people attending.

The day was changed to the second Thursday in the month to fit with open Church and the weekly Eucharist.



Numbers attending have continued to be around 15 to 20, and the group runs at a surplus which goes to church funds. All money taken for the May Lunch will as usual be donated to Christian Aid. Unfortunately due to prior commitments there will be no recital this year, and the food will be a buffet rather than soup, bread, and fruit.

Pat Bullock

### **Music Liaison with St George's Primary School**

A break of 18 months from the beginning of March 2020 due to the pandemic meant that it was a case of starting the School Choir again from scratch, as two academic years of Year 6 children had moved on to senior school. An additional problem was that the children were in class bubbles and the school choir is comprised of children from Years 1 to 6.

After discussion with the Head Teacher it was not practical to restart until the beginning of the new academic year in September 2021. Rehearsals therefore began in the second week of September 2021 and have continued under whatever Covid-19 restrictions/rules were in place at the time.

It was proposed by Church that children from the School Choir attend the monthly All Age service to sing a Mass setting and anthem. They sing the parts of James Macmillan's Galloway Mass appropriate to the liturgical season. Their first service was 3<sup>rd</sup> October for the Harvest service. They sing every month as long as it is not in the School holidays.

In November a choir of 38 sang at the Edgbaston lights switch on. They also sang at the School Harvest, Christmas, and the Easter services. More recently School requested that they also sing at the weekly Collective Worship on Wednesdays, which they now do, and Phil Ypres-Smith accompanies them on the piano to sing if available.

There have been no plans as yet to restart recorder lessons at School.

Pat Bullock

### **The Parish Magazine**

2021 saw something of a return to normality for the Parish Magazine: the aftermath of the pandemic saw a small drop of advertisers, but this had largely been recovered by the end of the year, thanks to the efforts of David Allen, the Advertising Manager, to whom I am grateful, as ever. The usual eleven issues, with one joint for July and August, were produced and circulated among the congregation, a few visitors, and old friends who like to keep in touch. Thanks are due to my contributors, though I still find myself having to write a great deal myself. We aim to carry a variety of material, of local, general or theological interest, besides providing an account and record of what is going on. So I would appeal to anybody who has anything to say, or has done something interesting or plans to do so, to write about it, whether long or short, controversial or not.



I am as ever grateful to our unfailingly friendly and helpful printers, Bromsgrove Printing Co.

Justin Pinkess – Editor

### **Sewing Group**

Although we have only recently managed to meet on a fortnightly basis our numbers have been good. We continue our usual varied sewing projects with some members being more prolific than others. Some of us do more talking than sewing! We are planning a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June with a bring and share lunch to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

Carol Austin

### **Verger's Report**

This year has been another challenging one but we seem to be getting back to normal. It's good to have the cleaning crew back in every month but we do need more volunteers to help. Coffee and biscuits provided. The big news is that the old copier has finally given up the ghost and now we have a super-duper colour copier that does all except make my espresso! Looking forward to getting back to full normality.

Charles Williams

### **Community involvement**

One of the effects of Covid, lockdowns and other restrictions has been to increase St George's presence on social media. It started with the live-streaming of services on Facebook and the church website in the early part 2021 and continued over the year with special seasons and events highlighted. It has certainly raised the public profile of the church in the local community. The autumn saw the return of the free Wednesday lunchtime concerts and B'Opera's performances for small children and their parents. Local schools began holding services in church again. The introduction of the occasional Artisan Market in the refurbished Greenfield Crescent allowed St George's to be represented there under a special gazebo. The market also became the location of the Calthorpe Estates Christmas Lights Switch-on, replacing the church and Highfield Road, but again St George's was there under the gazebo advertising our Christmas services. Calthorpe Estates once again provided St George's with a splendid, fully decorated Christmas tree.



### **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 three months' worth of general expenditure at current levels plus nine months' premiums on the church insurance policy. 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 2020-22 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 which should be sufficient to sustain associated losses.

Other Fund raising activities during the year 2021 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  
2021 accounts but are set out below for information.

	£ Details	£ Totals
<b>1 Christian Aid</b>		
Covid 19 continued implications on the usual street collections. But in 2021 we managed a house-to-house collection with with a no-contact envelope system.	4504	
Our usual Quiz night was replaced by a digital on sytem or Zoom with voluntary donatioins via a St Georges Personalised Just Giving Page- allowing Gift Aid donations which raised a total of	329	
<b>2 Emergency appeal for Global Hunger</b>		
Collections from Services and personal donations	243	
<b>Total collected by us and forwarded to Christian Aid</b>		<b>5076</b>
<b>3 Childrens Society - Home collecting boxes counted and paid direct to therir Bank Account</b>		
Home collecting boxes counted Net	641	
Additional Gift Aid Tax to be claimed by C of E Childrens Society where applicable - Estimated	160	
Collections at Christingle Service	137	
<b>Total collected including estimated Gift Aid Tax claimable</b>		<b>938</b>
<b>4 Christmas Charity Collection for The Salvation Army</b>		
including Gift Aid Tax where given	487	
CAF Voucher to Salvation Army (forwarded to CAF)	100	
Total Collected for Salvation army including Gift Aid Tax where given		<b>587</b>
<b>5 Malawi Diocese Student Support - 2021 Fourth year</b>		
Donations received including Gift Aid Tax where given, plus other incoming annual donations.	53	<b>53</b>
Course suspended in 2020 due to COVID and continued in 2021 towards Graduation		
<b>6 Fees collected on behalf of Birmingham D B of F from Weddings, Funerals etc.</b>	885	<b>885</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7539</b>



# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the 12 months to 31 December 2021

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	General £	Designated £	Funds £	Funds £	2021 £	2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	71,034	-	-	-	71,034	71,183
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	76,310	-	57,463	-	133,773	11,715
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2(c)	18,068	-	-	-	18,068	15,990
Other ordinary income resources	2(d)	195	-	-	-	195	40
Income from investments	2(e)	259	-	-	260	519	1,120
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	2	165,866	-	57,463	260	223,589	100,048
RESOURCES USED							
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3(b)	109,429	-	108,463	-	217,892	105,764
Church management and administration	3(c)	690	-	-	-	690	660
Grants	3(a)	791	-	-	-	791	-
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	3	110,910	0	108,463	0	219,373	106,424
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		54,956	0	(51,000)	260	4,216	(6,376)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS							
General to Mission Development designated		(40,000)	40,000	-	-	0	0
Clergy Stipend to General		260	-	-	(260)	0	0
Fabric designated to		-	(6,391)	-	-	(6,391)	(16,645)
Let there be Light restricted		-	-	6,391	-	6,391	16,645
Fabric restricted to		-	-	(1,611)	-	(1,611)	0
Let there be Light restricted		-	-	1,611	-	1,611	0
		(39,740)	33,609	6,391	(260)	0	0
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS							
Unrealised	7	(547)	0	0	(660)	(1,207)	626
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		14,669	33,609	(44,609)	(660)	3,009	(5,750)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY							
As previously reported	4	81,954	6,391	50,477	10,422	149,244	154,994
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER							
	4,5	96,623	40,000	5,868	9,762	152,253	149,244

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON

## BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Digital Organ		Cost	40,451		40,451
		Depreciation	(40,451)		(40,451)
		Net book value	0		0
Investments	5,7		16,766		17,973
			16,766		17,973
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	8	15,807		7,620	
Short term deposits	5	72,261		115,207	
Cash at bank and in hand	5	97,358		20,595	
		185,426		143,422	
<b>LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>					
	9	(49,939)		(12,151)	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
			135,487		131,271
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
			152,253		149,244
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted:					
General	4,5		96,623		81,954
Designated	4,5,10		40,000		6,391
Restricted	4,5,10		5,868		50,477
Endowment	4,5,10		9,762		10,422
			152,253		149,244

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29 May 2022 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 2021

### 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 2021**

**2 INCOMING RESOURCES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2021 £	2020 £
<i>2(a) Incoming resources from donors</i>					
Gift aid	47,687			47,687	48,977
Income tax recoverable thereon	11,744			11,744	12,474
Non - gift aid	4,483			4,483	2,565
Collections (open plate) at all services	989			989	461
Sundry donations	2,708			2,708	4,380
Use of Church including concerts	3,423			3,423	2,326
	<u>71,034</u>			<u>71,034</u>	<u>71,183</u>
<i>2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources</i>					
Bequests	76,310	-		76,310	0
Donations to New Boiler fund (incl tax £2,867)		25,286		25,286	0
Donations to Let there be Light fund (incl tax £4,398)		31,391		31,391	10,956
Donations to restricted Fabric fund		140		140	140
Donations to Urban Mission fund		646		646	0
Donations to The Friendship Place fund		-		-	198
Grants to Let the Stones Live fund		-		-	421
	<u>76,310</u>	<u>57,463</u>		<u>133,773</u>	<u>11,715</u>
<i>2(c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>					
Magazine	1,954			1,954	2,005
Fund raising activities	-			-	551
Fees and other charges	1,183			1,183	46
Car parking	14,931			14,931	13,388
	<u>18,068</u>			<u>18,068</u>	<u>15,990</u>
<i>2(d) Other ordinary income resources</i>					
Sundry	195			195	40
	<u>195</u>			<u>195</u>	<u>40</u>
<i>2(e) Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest	259	-	260	519	1,120
	<u>259</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>519</u>	<u>1,120</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>165,866</b>	<b>57,463</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>223,589</b>	<b>100,048</b>



**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the 12 months to 31 December 2021**

**3 RESOURCES USED**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	2021 £	2020 £
<i>3(a) Grants</i>					
Missionary and charitable giving- Malawi student	791	-		791	0
<i>3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the church</i>					
Ministry					
Diocesan Common Fund	60,780			60,780	62,004
Working expenses of incumbent	673			673	351
Assistant Clergy expenses	512			512	98
Administration expenses	2,353			2,353	1,685
Secretarial assistance	6,202			6,202	6,166
Vicarage maintenance:	1,288			1,288	2,357
Church running expenses					
Gas and electricity	8,145			8,145	6,079
Insurance	7,925			7,925	8,082
Church maintenance					
Routine repairs, maintenance, cleaning	4,498			4,498	3,598
Asbestos removal	9,085			9,085	0
Release of organ retention	(2,023)			(2,023)	0
Director of Music	6,198			6,198	6,283
Organists and choir	358			358	586
Parish magazine expenses	1,288			1,288	930
Training, development, lent books, cards	98			98	156
Social events and fund raising	134			134	284
Upkeep of services (altar requisites, music, books)	1,625			1,625	1,268
Sundry	290			290	452
	109,429			109,429	100,379
Restricted funds:					
New boiler		27,000		27,000	0
Let there be Light- new lighting system		78,877		78,877	0
Fabric expenditure		1,769		1,769	3,000
The Friendship Place		817		817	0
Let the Stones Live		-		-	2,385
	109,429	108,463		217,892	105,764
<i>3(c) Church management and administration</i>					
Examination of accounts	690			690	660
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>110,910</b>	<b>108,463</b>		<b>219,373</b>	<b>106,424</b>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the 12 months to 31 December 2021**

**4 Analysis of movement on funds**

	At 31.12.20	Movements in the current year					At 31.12.21
		Incoming Resources	Resources Used	Transfers	Profit/ (loss) on investments	Total for the year	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted</b>							
General excluding legacies	81,954	89,556	(110,910)	260	(547)	(21,641)	60,313
General legacies	0	76,310	0	(40,000)	0	36,310	36,310
General sub-total	81,954	165,866	(110,910)	(39,740)	(547)	14,669	96,623
Designated: Fabric	6,391	0	0	(6,391)	0	(6,391)	0
Designated: Mission Development	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	40,000
	88,345	165,866	(110,910)	(6,131)	(547)	48,278	136,623
<b>Restricted</b>							
New Boiler	0	25,286	(27,000)	0	0	(1,714)	(1,714)
Let there be Light	39,484	31,391	(78,877)	8,002	0	(39,484)	0
Fabric	7,132	140	(1,769)	(1,611)	0	(3,240)	3,892
Urban mission	3,044	646	0	0	0	646	3,690
The Friendship Place	817	0	(817)	0	0	(817)	0
	50,477	57,463	(108,463)	6,391	0	(44,609)	5,868
<b>Endowment</b>							
Clergy Stipend	10,422	260	0	(260)	(660)	(660)	9,762
<b>Total</b>	<b>149,244</b>	<b>223,589</b>	<b>(219,373)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,207)</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>152,253</b>

Note 2      Note 3

The total cost of the new boiler is £39,485. By 31 December £27,000 had been invoiced and fund raising (continuing) had reached £25,286.

**5 Analysis of net assets by fund**

	Fixed assets	Debtors	Short term deposits	Cash at bank	Liabilities	At 31.12.21
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
General	7,604	9,295	71,661	14,833	(6,770)	96,623
Designated: Mission Development	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000
	7,604	9,295	71,661	54,833	(6,770)	136,623
<b>Restricted</b>						
New Boiler	0	2,867	0	22,419	(27,000)	(1,714)
Let there be Light	0	3,645	0	12,524	(16,169)	0
Fabric	0	0	0	3,892	0	3,892
Urban Mission	0	0	0	3,690		3,690
	0	6,512	0	42,525	(43,169)	5,868
<b>Endowment</b>						
Clergy Stipend	9,162	0	600	0	0	9,762
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,766</b>	<b>15,807</b>	<b>72,261</b>	<b>97,358</b>	<b>(49,939)</b>	<b>152,253</b>

CBF Deposit Account      11,047  
CBF Combined Account      61,214  
72,261

Note: For administrative purposes all the cash at bank is held in the one general fund bank account on behalf of all funds.



**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the 12 months to 31 December 2021**

**6 Salaries, wages, honoraria and fees**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Director of Music	6,198	6,283
Organist and choir	358	586
Secretarial	6,202	6,166
	<u>12,758</u>	<u>13,035</u>

**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 £7,604 (2020: £8,151) and a historical cost of £6,221 (2020:£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 £9,152 (2020: £9,812) and a historical cost of £7,543 (2020:£7,543).

**8 Debtors**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	12,446	2,984
VAT recoverable	2,695	0
Prepaid insurance	666	656
Other debtors	0	3,980
	<u>15,807</u>	<u>7,620</u>

**9 Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2021	2020
	£	£
New boiler	27,000	0
New lighting system	16,169	0
Accruals and other creditors	6,770	6,256
Organ works	0	2,023
Fabric works	0	3,000
Stoneworks	0	872
	<u>49,939</u>	<u>12,151</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the 12 months to 31 December 2021**

**10 Designated, Restricted and Endowment Fund details**

<b>Designated</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Fabric	To maintain and restore the fabric of the Church (designated now closed)
Mission Development	To support projects that will be of missional benefit to St George's Church and parish
<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
New Boiler	To provide a new boiler for the Church
Let there be Light	To provide a new lighting system for the Church (now closed)
Fabric	To maintain and restore the fabric of the Church
The Friendship Place	To provide a friendly meeting place to support people with needs and their carers (now closed)
Urban Mission	To support the church to enable it to help urban causes outside the parish.
<b>Endowment</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
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 2021 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.

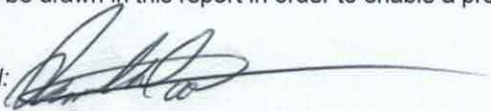
### **Independent examiner's statement**

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: Stuart Wood

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCA

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

Date: 24/8/22