

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST GEORGE'S PRESUTE, MARLBOROUGH

England & Wales - Charity number 1184256

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2019-07-04

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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## Activities

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**Objects:** PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

**Activities:** Our work is to spread the Good News of our faith by 'Making Jesus Known'. Our mission has a two-fold strategy: to deepen and enrich our own worshipping life and also to find creative ways of making connections with the local community to both introduce the Christian story and deepen engagement with all in the local area.

## Classification

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

## Geography

- Wiltshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£80,625	£97,001	-	-
2023-12-31	£72,822	£100,563	-	-
2022-12-31	£85,791	£89,827	-	-
2021-12-31	£79,750	£80,869	-	-
2020-12-31	£72,613	£69,605	-	-

## Trustees

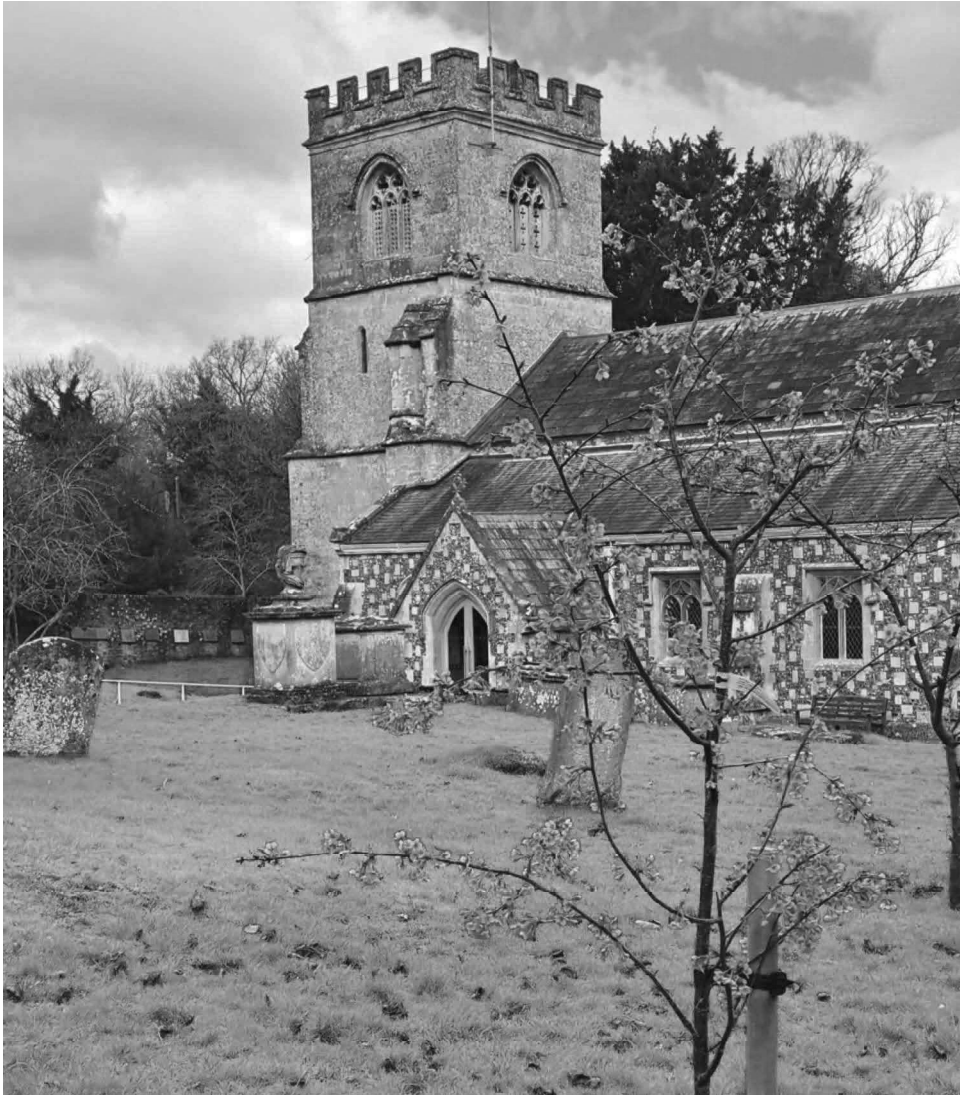
Name	Role	Appointed
Alastair James Barr		2021-05-18
Charles Graham		2023-04-23
Charles Notton		2025-05-11
David Beacom		2020-09-06
Emily Hurd		2025-05-11
Ian Moody		2025-05-11
Katie Dick		2025-05-11
Nicholla Huckle		2022-04-26
Rev Peter Sainsbury		2021-04-18

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# Accounts

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# St George's PRESHUTE



## Annual Report 2024

Registered Charity Number 1184256



**St George's Church** is situated on the western edge of Marlborough on the south bank of the River Kennet. The Parish of Preshute serves the villages of Manton and Clatford, the Barton Park estate, part of the western end of Marlborough and a rural area stretching both north and south. The church is in the Diocese of Salisbury (Deanery of Marlborough) and is part of the Marlborough Anglican Team, with an office in Silverless Street, Marlborough. St George's and the associated churchyard is open every day and anyone is welcome to visit the church for prayer, quiet contemplation or simply to enjoy the wonderful location next to the river.

### **Aims and Objectives – Making Jesus Known**

The Church is the family of Christians meeting together to worship God and to find fellowship together through prayer and learning. Our work is to spread the Good News of our faith by 'Making Jesus Known'.

St George's is well placed to serve the town of Marlborough and most of our mission has a two-fold strategy: to deepen and enrich our own worshipping life and also to find creative ways of making connections with the local community to both introduce the Christian story and deepen engagement with all in the local area.

### **St George's Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Vicar in promoting, in the ecclesiastical Parish of Preshute, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The life of St George's is within the Marlborough Anglican Team, Marlborough Churches Together and the Diocese of Salisbury in the Church of England.

#### Membership:

Members of the Parochial Church Council are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or co-opted by the PCC due to the functions they perform in the Church (provided the person is willing to be co-opted). The PCC is a charity, and the PCC members are its Trustees and are responsible for ensuring the Church is serving its community. This report shows how St George's engages with the local community.

Incumbent (Team Vicar):	Revd Pete Sainsbury
Churchwarden:	Nicky Huckle
Deanery Synod:	Charles Graham Paul Lefever
Members:	Alastair Barr (Treasurer) David Beacom (Fabric and Churchyard) Amanda Brown (Secretary)
The other members are:	Marcia Johnson Anna Jones (co-opted) Stephen Robins
Ex-officio members:	Heather Lee (LLM) Canon Sarah Musgrave (LLM) Revd Chris Smith

The PCC has met six times during the year. The most recent approved PCC minutes and past minutes are on file and available to view in the church or they can be obtained from the Secretary on request.

Central to each meeting is the core task of 'Making Jesus Known', as we plan and review services and discuss how we might 'grow' the worship offering.

Regular items of business on the PCC's agenda are a report from the Vicar and the Treasurer, as well as a report on matters relating to the maintenance of the church and churchyard. Our ongoing work as an Eco church is also routinely reviewed, and plans for social and fundraising events are made. Safeguarding is also a standard item on the agenda at each meeting, and we hear updates following meetings of the Deanery Synod from our representative.

Other considerations at the PCC meetings in 2024 were the spring stewardship campaign, improvements to the heating system in the church and initial discussions about enhancing the church's audio-visual provision. Policy documents for Health and Safety and Safeguarding were reviewed, and plans were made to offer defibrillator training after the installation of the defibrillator unit. A number of the PCC also attended a seminar on Living in Love and Faith in January 2024.

There were 124 names on the Electoral Roll at 31 December 2024. The average number of worshippers each week (excluding festival services) has been approximately 39.

### **Team Rector's Report**

2024 feels like the first year when the church pressed on not feeling like we were in Covid recovery. It was heartening to see so many activities, socials and mission activities all return to normal. Some things we have picked up along the way have not been bad either. The zoom prayers at 5pm on Wednesdays have been very much appreciated by those who are less mobile and have been a way of keeping in touch and us all benefiting from everyone's prayers.

The effects of the pandemic, turbulence in public life, the first bout of inflation for years, and various wars do seem to have left many with feelings of despair. The Church didn't cover itself in glory last year either. The Makin report laid bare the terrible abuse meted out by some 'in Christ's name'; the cover-ups in the end leading to the first resignation of an Archbishop of Canterbury. St Paul wrote to his protégé Timothy: 'Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction.' We might find some comfort in these verses in the sense that our faith has always been lived and proclaimed in the ups and downs of life. Paul's encouragement to us is not to stop, whether it feels like our message is in season or not. For what it's worth, the societal problems that we have seen, do seem to have created an opening for the gospel that perhaps we haven't seen from many years. Who knows, perhaps Marlborough is prepared and ready to hear the good news afresh and again?

My thanks to Pete and the team - press on St George's!

*Revd Chris Smith, Team Rector of Marlborough*

### **Team Vicar's Report**

I like to start my report by thanking you all for your contribution to the life of the church family at Preshute. Much is done by many to keep things going at St George's and I am very grateful to you all. Your giving in different ways makes the difference.

Our Sunday worship life is at the core of all we do as a church, and dovetails with our call to live

a life of daily worship. We are called to be learners of Jesus – this is the key meaning of the word *disciple*. A good word which sums this up for us is *apprenticeship*. And again, I love the Presbyterian statement that “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever” - it is well worth borrowing! We are loved beyond measure by God in Christ and also challenged deeply by Him to become more like Him.

I want to express my sincere thanks to

- the PCC for six meetings a year plus so much more,
- and similarly, to the Standing Team
- churchwarden Nicky Huckle for another year of very full service
- churchwarden Neil Croucher who stood down in April 2024
- Amanda Brown for being a proactive and capable PCC secretary
- Alastair Barr for keeping the financial ship steady
- Mel Rolfe for keeping the church spruce and clean
- David Beacom for coordinating a great deal of work on the church building and churchyard and also for continuing to organise many social and fundraising events
- Judith Denning for much safeguarding work in 2024, with Marcia Johnson’s assistance
- Andrew Brown for much music including with our young people
- Lyn Whatley for her care of our liturgical fabrics
- Richard Metters and the ringers for their (sometimes more than) weekly service
- Amanda Brown, Sue Elks and Lydia Bauer for their advocating and facilitating of children’s ministry
- Sally Cripps for taking on the mantle of flower coordination from the late Prue Groffman
- Marcia Johnson for coordinating the necessary work for the emptying and maintenance of the septic tank
- Ken Martin for behind-the-scenes repairs
- Laurien Carter for record-keeping
- Jeremy York for many and various helps
- and to all those who do many other things too such as welcoming, wardening, making coffee, polishing brass, reading, leading intercessions, newsletter distribution, flower arrangement, record keeping, singing ... and very much more besides, especially the unseen things
- and to all of you who support all those people!

We were delighted to welcome Heather Lee to St George’s in 2024, previously serving as a Licensed Lay Minister in Bristol diocese. Heather was relicensed to this diocese on 28 September 2024 at Salisbury Cathedral and now takes an active role at St George's and within the Marlborough Anglican Team.

We were delighted to have a confirmation service at the end of 2024 and were delighted to celebrate with Ian and Lynne Moody their confirmation by Bishop Andrew Rumsey.

As indeed it is in most years, we had some losses as a church family. Anne Notton (PCC secretary for many years and when I started at Preshute) died in April, and although Gerald and Prue Groffman both died in 2023, their joint memorial service was in 2024.

At the beginning of 2025, we said ‘goodbye and thank you’ to Richard and Judith Denning.

Richard and Judith have served the life of St George's considerably and in many ways over quite a period of time. Most recently, Judith has been a Lay Pastoral Assistant, and our Parish Safeguarding Officer, a role she has done with great efficiency.

As a parish, I'd like to express our gratitude to Helen Chambers, retired teacher at Preshute School and a parishioner at Baydon who stands as foundation governor with me, on your behalf.

Finally, we have some financial challenges but I'm grateful to you all for responding positively to the first year of my 'One-One-One Challenge', which proposes that we increase our personal financial giving by one percent a year over a few years to get (most of) us to giving 5% of our gross income to the church.

Church community life went on well in 2024 and looks set to do so just as much in 2025. We have much to be grateful for in a world where the ground seems to be shifting in ways that are surprising and unwelcome.

'God is greater'.

Every blessing, everyone, and thank you.

***Revd Pete Sainsbury, Team Vicar***

### **Electoral Roll Report**

Those whose names were on the Electoral Roll at the time of the 2024 APCM are listed on the notice board in the porch. Any regular worshippers at St George's who are not on the roll are encouraged to contact myself, Linda Sims, (or one of the churchwardens) for an application form. There were 124 names on the Electoral Roll at 31 December 2024.

Sadly, Prue Groffman and Anne Notton passed away and, therefore, were removed from the Electoral Roll. Six people joined the congregation this year.

*Linda Sims*

### **Church Attendance**

The good news is that over the course of 2024, the figures for church attendance at St George's have, by and large, been similar to those of 2023.

The 8am service of Holy Communion welcomed, on average, eight worshippers, whilst attendance at the Morning Worship and Parish Communion services (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays) increased slightly from 2023 to 39 in the congregation.

The first Sunday of the month is an All Age Worship service, where the figures swell to an average of 45 adults and 9 children attending. It is worth making special mention of some of the 'festival' All Age services: a total of 86 adults and 26 children attended a joyful Mothering Sunday service in 2024; there was also a large congregation for our 'Music Sunday' service, with 48 adults and 16 children attending, and for the All Age Harvest Festival service, 57 adults and 18 children gathered to celebrate and give thanks.

Turning to our major festival services, the church was once again packed for our 2024 Easter Day service of Family Communion (126 adults and 18 children). Our Christmas services were also well

very well attended: numbers at the Carols by Candlelight service surpassed last year's, with 136 adults and 26 children in the congregation. A total of 45 adults and children came to the Sing-along Nativity (principally aimed at pre-school children) – not as many as in previous years, but perhaps a reflection of the changing national demographic. The ever-popular Crib Service on Christmas Eve welcomed almost as many children (62) as adults (78), and later in the evening in the still of the night, 77 adults celebrated the First Communion of Christmas. There was a large congregation on Christmas morning too for the Family Communion service, with 75 adults and eight children attending.

In 2024 St George's held two summer Choral Evensongs - these had a faithful following of approximately 36 for each service.

The initiative of an occasional Family Worship service on a Saturday afternoon, started in 2023, continued into early 2024, but as attendance for these services was not strong, it was decided to focus on our Children's Ministry offerings through the monthly All Age worship service, and Messy Church which was held three times in 2024. The Children's Ministry team continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss ways in which St George's can reach out to young families in the parish.

There continues to be an online gathering offered each Wednesday afternoon for prayers, which is a helpful mid-week service, and which has a committed following.

### **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

St George's was delighted to welcome new members of the church family at two services of baptism in 2024, and the bells rang out for four weddings during the course of the year. A service of thanksgiving and renewal of marriage vows was also held at the church. Our prayers were with the bereaved at seven funerals and one interment of ashes during 2024.

### **St George's in the Community**

Revd Pete continued in 2024 with regular visits to Preshute Primary School to lead assemblies and our Open the Book team have been visiting the school on a monthly basis to act out Bible stories with the help of the pupils. St George's hosted a Year Six leavers' service, and a Harvest Festival service for children in Year 4 at Preshute Primary School and their families.

The St George's newsletter continues to be circulated to approximately 700 houses in the parish (mostly in paper format, but electronically in some cases) in an edition that covers two months. The six editions in 2024 covered the themes 'Journey to the Cross', 'Charitable Giving', 'Birds as symbols and inspiration in the Bible and beyond', 'Making the ordinary extraordinary', 'Finding God in poetry' and 'The Christmas Story – a different perspective'. Each edition contains a letter from the Vicar, an article on the theme, a children's page related to the topic as well as publicising events in the local community and, of course, the service times. We remain grateful to Rory Brown for typesetting each edition, to Originzone in Swindon for their speedy printing, to Sally Cripps for her work in preparing the newsletters for circulation and to our newsletter distributors for delivering the newsletter throughout the parish.

Visits by the clergy to residential homes - Savernake View, Merlin Court and Coombe End Court in Marlborough - to bring home communion to the residents continue on a regular basis.

In June 2024, the Georgians Choir upper voices led the Choral Evensong for the annual patronal service in St Peter's Church, Marlborough.

Shortly before Christmas, Andrew Brown, supported by a group of hardy singers from St George's, once again led community carol singing in Barton Park and raised over £250 for Crisis at Christmas. Supporters and choir alike enjoyed warming mulled wine and mince pies alongside the carolling!

St George's continues to attract many visitors during the course of the week who come to admire the church and churchyard in its idyllic setting by the river or to seek sanctuary in the peace and quiet of the church. For those unfamiliar with the church, there is a history of the church available to purchase as well as a free walk-round guide.

*Amanda Brown*

### **Safeguarding**

In line with guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, safeguarding continues to be a standing item on every agenda of the PCC meetings. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) reports in person to at least two of the meetings annually.

All safeguarding policies were reviewed, updated, and approved in July 2024 at the PCC meeting.

The Salisbury Diocesan Safeguarding Team have introduced the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, this is an online tool which allows PSOs to complete an audit of safeguarding policy and practice in the parish. Following the audit, an action plan is automatically generated to assist in maintaining and improving their safeguarding practices. St George's and the rest of the Marlborough Team has signed up to this and the audits are currently being completed for St George's by the PSO and PCC. The subsequent action plan has been shared with the PCC.

The Diocesan Safeguarding team has restarted Parish Safeguarding Officer network meetings. This enables the PSOs from different parishes to meet up and share issues which is extremely helpful and the meetings are providing good opportunities to share issues with those in both similar and contrasting settings, as well as being able to ask questions from the Diocesan Safeguarding team.

### Safer recruitment

Safer recruitment is a critical process to ensure we safeguard our children and vulnerable adults; the Church of England guidelines require the process to be undertaken even for volunteer roles. The process involves everything that you would expect of a normal job, such as application form, provision of references as well as a DBS and safeguarding training. St George's is in the process of updating its processes to try and ensure we comply with the guidelines and protect our most vulnerable.

The online system for DBS clearance is now well established. Applications for all those with roles requiring a DBS and renewals are currently up to date or proceeding as expected.

Thank you to everyone for their willingness to go through this process, your cooperation has been much appreciated.

### Training

In April 2021, the Church of England published a new Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework. The focus of this framework is on developing a positive culture of safeguarding within the church, rather than simply focusing on process. It does mean that additional training modules may need to be completed, indeed this has been completed by members of the Open the Book Team and Messy Church.

Currently, there are no other volunteers who need to complete any safeguarding training, but again, this is always kept under review.

### Safeguarding concerns and incidents

There has been a safeguarding concern raised during the year, which has been successfully managed. This highlights that we need to maintain our vigilance to ensure the protection and well-being of everyone in our community.

I will be stepping down as Parish Safeguarding Officer in January 2025 as I am hoping to move to Newbury. My role is being taken over by Heather Lee. It has been a pleasure to worship and serve St George's over the years. I thank you all for all the support and friendship.

*Judith Denning, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

### **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

The role of the Lay Pastoral Assistant is to provide assistance with pastoral ministry for the local church. This can involve work with children and young people, the sick, the recently bereaved and the elderly and housebound. They may take communion to those unable to come to church. The Marlborough Team as a whole has a number of LPAs. St George's has two: Judith Denning and Jessy Pomfret. The main focus of our work this year has been visiting some of those in the parish who are housebound.

St George's is also very fortunate in that it has a welcoming, friendly and supportive congregation who help one another when needed.

Judith Denning will be stepping down from her role as LPA, following her move to Newbury.

*Judith Denning and Jessy Pomfret*

## **2024 ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **Open the Book**

Our monthly presentations in Preshute School have mostly been focussed on the main events in the Christian calendar. So, we have featured Christmas, Epiphany, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost, with in addition a couple of stories from the Acts of the Apostles and two episodes from the life of Joseph (the Old Testament one). Our amateurish efforts seem to be appreciated by the children, and there are always volunteers offering to join the cast.

2024 saw the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Open the Book, and we were invited to perform at a Bible Society celebration in Bath Abbey in September. Despite considerable nerves, we managed to get

through two stories without too many mishaps: Shepherds and Angels (featuring Heather popping up in the pulpit as the angel appearing to the shepherds) and Zacchaeus (pulpit as tree).

At full strength we are a team of seven, advancing in years, and we would welcome anyone else who would value the opportunity to bring the Bible to the children of Preshute School.

*Charles Graham*

### **Home Group**

We study challenging and interesting texts, expanding our knowledge of the scriptures, and growing our faith, with much discussion along the way.

Your Home Group has had a year of highs and great lows. In October we were devastated by the sudden death of our beloved member Dorothy Blythe, a kind and inspirational lady who was so knowledgeable. We miss her enormously.

Julie and Mark Conlen moved to Stockbridge after Mark retired in the summer to be nearer family. We were sorry to say goodbye but wish them much happiness in their new home. Julie has been an important member of our group for many years - she has kept us on track with admin efficiently for a long time. Thank you, Julie.

This year we welcomed three new members to take our numbers to a total of nine . Welcome to Alison, Anne and Heather.

Finally, but importantly, our grateful thanks go to Charles Graham and Keith Fryer, who do so well in leading our sessions with such care and humour.

*Sally Cripps*

### **Teddy Prayers**

St George's is most grateful to Lydia Bauer and Sue Elks for their sterling work with Teddy Prayers over many years. As their children/grandchildren have outgrown this group, they have stepped back from organising regular services for preschoolers. The Children's Ministry group is considering how, as a church, we might expand our offering to young families.

### **Messy Church**

The 'Goodness of God's Creation' was our theme for the first Messy Church of 2024, held on Saturday 20 April, when we welcomed 11 children accompanied by 14 adults. Revd Pete opened the service with a lively selection of 'creation' songs before we focused on the first chapter of Genesis. The children captured the sequence of the Bible passage in a Creation Calendar, thought about praising God for the wonders of the world around us as well as reflecting on our responsibility to look after the planet. After a prayer walk around the churchyard in beautiful spring sunshine, we welcomed beekeeper, Sandra Rogers, who gave a fascinating presentation about the bees that she keeps in hives in the churchyard. Everyone enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea following the service, thanks to Lydia and Sue, and the children went home with sunflower seeds planted in recycled newspaper pots and ladybird cupcakes – God's creation had been celebrated in fine style!

Nine children and 16 adults gathered for a holiday-time Messy Church on 10 August, when our theme was 'The Feeding of the Five Thousand' parable from John's gospel. The service began with the children joining in enthusiastically with worship songs and a group reading of the Bible story. To recreate the scene of the parable, the children made five barley flatbreads, decorated two (gingerbread!) fishes and created a basket to carry them, emphasising that no matter how much we have, if we offer it for God's use, he will use it for his glory and make it grow. The ideas of giving thanks for our daily bread and the importance of sharing were further points for discussion during the activities before we ended the afternoon in prayer and finally, the chance to enjoy each others' company over another splendid tea.

Our third Messy Church service for 2024 was held on 9 November and focused on the parable of 'The Good Samaritan' as told in the gospel of Luke, chapter 10. Following the opening worship songs, and a group reading of the Bible passage, the children made a mini puppet theatre with all the characters from the Bible story so that they could re-tell the parable in their own words. With 'Love God and love your neighbour' as the key message of the afternoon, the children thought about who is one's neighbour, how we might be good neighbours and praying for those 'neighbours' who are in need with a prayer 'plaster'. To help remember that we need to be watching out for people in need of our help when life is a bit 'rocky', we made a rocky road sweet treat – something that's guaranteed to make anyone feel better!

A key part of the Messy Church service is that families receive a leaflet to use during the afternoon and to take away with the words of the worship songs, the Bible story, explanations of the thoughts behind each craft activity, prayers for use at home and details of church contacts and forthcoming services and events.

The Messy Church services are very much a team effort - huge thanks to Revd Pete and the wonderful team who have helped with Messy Church over the course of 2024. Particular thanks to Sue and Lydia for providing a wonderful tea to round off each Messy Church afternoon.

*Amanda Brown*

### **The Flower Group**

We have had a year of glorious flowers in our beautiful church. With enormous thanks to those who have given time, talents and hard work ...

Virginia Reekie, Bridget Smith, Chris McColl, Micky Graham, Linda Sims, Amanda Brown, Jo Aylward, Jan Lillywhite, Marcia Johnson, Emma Barr, Laurien Carter, Sandra Beacom, Nicky Huckle, Kate Martin, Ali Pick, Biz Keighley, Anne Rigby, Vernie Sofflet, Judith Denning and Liz Bonham.

... we are so grateful to you all.

Thanks must also go to the PCC for agreeing funding, part of which enables us to continue offering flowers for festivals and special services.

*Sally Cripps*

## Music

2024 was another year of much music making at St George's, with musicians of all ages participating in a range of services, including some exciting initiatives and outreach events.

The Junior Georgians sang on Mothering Sunday, Music Sunday (July), Harvest and the Crib Service. A special highlight of the year was the video recording of the children singing the Harvest anthem *One World* by Philip Kern. We sent this as a Harvest greeting from the St George's children to Bishop Data and all in the Morobo Diocese of South Sudan and were delighted to receive a video in return of joyous singing and dancing in the Cathedral. My thanks to Heather and Amanda for all their help and support with the Junior Georgians.

Meanwhile, services were led by The Georgians on Easter Day, Choral Evensong in July sung by the upper voices, Remembrance and Carols by Candlelight. An additional summer outreach event was the upper voices' beautiful singing of Choral Evensong at St Peter's Church in Marlborough on Sunday 30 June at their Patronal Service led by the Team Rector. At the Remembrance service, the anthem was *For the fallen*, composed by Joan Coleman. At a packed Carols by Candlelight, the soloist for *Once in Royal David's city* was Kate Hawthorn, and the choir carols were *Make we joy now in this fest* (William Walton), *Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing?* (French, arr. Robin Wells) and *Eastern monarchs, sages three* (Ian Carpenter).

In addition, the gallery choir sang on two occasions in the year, at the Confirmation of Ian and Lynne Moody by the Bishop of Ramsbury on 1 December (*Breathe on me, breath of God*) and in the First Communion of Christmas on Christmas Eve (*Bethlehem Down* and *In dulci jubilo*). For the fifth year running we extended a winter musical outreach in Barton Park in the week before Christmas. 20 hardy volunteers assembled to sing carols outside the Vicarage, joined by enthusiastic local residents. The winter air was filled with the sound of carols and enhanced by the smell (and taste!) of mince pies and mulled wine, and the evening raised over £250 for Crisis - my thanks to all involved.

The year saw the full launch of our junior instrumental worship group, who played for the All Age services in February and May and on Music Sunday. A total of six children have played the recorder, clarinet, guitar, cello and piano. I am very pleased that this initiative is now well under way and look forward to the group growing further in the years to come. Another musical initiative this year was the Taizé Service on the fifth Sunday of September, drawing on the Taizé tradition of prayer through musical chants and refrains to create a memorable and beautiful service. My thanks to Amanda for leading the singing and to Jessy for playing the cello. We were saddened by the death in April of Anne Notton, who gave many years of loyal service to The Georgians. At her funeral, members of the choir sang *Psalms 23* (Howard Goodall) and Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, both particular requests of Anne's family.

The organ, piano and keyboard continue to give good service. The keyboard in particular has supported Messy Church and Saturday Family Worship services, the Pet Service and the Junior Georgians services. In one of the more unusual closing voluntaries of the year, the organ even recreated angelic bird calls in Messiaen's *Les Anges* in June!

My thanks as always to Revd Pete, the PCC and all who have supported the music at St George's over the year.

*Andrew Brown*

## **Social Committee**

We started the year with our annual visit to the Raj Restaurant on 4 February where we were spoilt with delicious food once again by Mr Bablu and his wonderful staff. The night was finished off as usual with Irish Bingo and the evening raised £250 for Church Fabric Fund.

A St George's Day Quiz was held in the village hall on 23 March with many thanks to Julie and Peter Ayliffe who not only organised the quiz but supplied the prizes as well. As usual everyone enjoyed desserts and cheese and biscuits, washed down with some drinks. It was a successful night with £500 raised for the Fabric Fund.

The APCM was held on 21 April and we organised a bring and share lunch, which was enjoyed by everyone attending.

We had two well attended Choral Evensongs throughout the year. Both were wonderful evenings and finished off with the congregation being treated to refreshments.

On 22 June we had our Safari Supper with many thanks to all our hosts who made this happen. Everyone gathered at the church for prosecco and canapés and received an envelope telling them where they were going for main course and also where they were going for dessert. It was a great evening and the weather was kind to us, as well as being a good fundraiser with £700 going to the Fabric Fund.

Harvest supper was held in the Village Hall on 5 October and cottage pie, desserts, cheese and wine were enjoyed by everyone. As usual, the night ended with a raffle with £300 proceeds from the evening going to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. This is a wonderful charity which supports farmers when they are having financial difficulties, mental health problems or any other issue that they need help with.

Ride and Stride took place on 14 September and many thanks to Howard, Heather, Jeremy and Charles for raising £1,000 for Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.

The Carol Singing just before Christmas was held on the Green outside the Vicarage. It was a wonderful evening with great singing - many thanks to our hosts for a very welcome mince pie and mulled wine. All proceeds were donated through the Just Giving site to Crisis at Christmas and meant we were able to support seven homeless people over the Christmas period.

The Sing-Along-Nativity service held three days before Christmas is always thoroughly enjoyed by children and their parents. Afterwards, canapés were served with soft drinks for the children and mulled wine for the parents.

The success of these events is due to everyone who helps, whether it is by cooking, putting out chairs, serving, clearing up, or just turning up to support and enjoy them. Our thanks go to all involved and the income can sometimes be as high as £3,000 in the year, depending on what we are doing. All very helpful to our Church, especially with rising costs.

*David Beacom and Judith Denning*

Many thanks to Judith who has worked tirelessly for over 20 years helping to run the Social Committee. She and Richard are moving to Newbury to be near their family and we wish them well. If anyone feels that they can help with the Social Committee then please let me know, no previous experience required.

### **Bellringing**

Bellringing has continued over the last year for all services and weddings . Training continues and I look forward to being trained in computer skills to make more use of the simulator that the PCC kindly paid for in 2024 so that as a tower we can make much more use of it to advance our skills. Maintenance has continued throughout the year.

I look forward to arranging a demonstration of ringing to the church in spring 2025.

*Richard Metters*

## **MARLBOROUGH, THE DEANERY & THE DIOCESE**

### **Diocesan Synod**

In February 2024, Bishop Stephen, our diocesan bishop, welcomed us with a presidential address saying ‘the Good News in Jesus Christ is too good and too important not to be made known. Evangelism is not a formula; it is sharing the person. The gospel is not a What, it is a Who. The gospel is a person, the one who stood before us as a living person, the Word made flesh. This means the gospel has to be about encounter, not just proclamation which so easily becomes shouting, but about relationship. Jesus is what he teaches. He is the good news. Everything about Jesus is everything about God. If the gospel is a person, then evangelism is an invitation to meet this person. What we need, above everything else, isn’t more things, more stuff, but a relationship, a living connection, with our creator and judge, our beginning, and our end’.

Bishop Stephen also talked of the infectiousness of sin. We are all carriers and contaminators, and we can infect others; but our Saviour came for our healing, not just to diagnose, but to heal us and save us. Meanwhile the Gospel is also infectious as we share it with others.

Bishop Andrew introduced further developments to the diocesan vision of ‘Making Jesus Known’. Our vision is to make Jesus Christ known in every place, so that all may flourish and grow, seeking his kingdom here and now. We can do this with courageous and confident Christian leadership, exploring creative partnerships in local mission and the idea of ‘missional pathways’ linking a designated group of churches, schools and communities coming together in mission and ministry. We discussed this in groups and considered ‘what connects us’, and the next steps for our particular deaneries.

A new share system paying for the diocese ministry was considered, based on the amount of deployed ministry and the size of worshipping communities. The ‘worshipping community’ of a church was defined as anyone who attends that church regularly; fellowship groups and other activities that have a distinct act of worship or prayer; and acts of worship not on church premises (eg a school or community centre).

The afternoon session consisted of the annual report from the Salisbury Diocese Board of

Education, and a report from the Safeguarding team. The meeting ended with a motion passed to provide more support for the role of churchwardens, recognising the office also has a vital spiritual, pastoral and mission dimension.

In July 2024, we heard a report from the Diocesan Board of Finance. The DBF received 85% of share payments with 10% of parishes paying nothing at all. This coincides with a higher than usual rate of clergy vacancies (also true nationally) and a temporary increase in costs due to the move to Emmaus House with Church House not yet sold {the sale completed the day after the synod meeting}. The £2.5m Covid loan had been paid off in full, which put the diocese into a positive cash position.

We met again in October 2024, when the Diocesan Synod welcomed many new members to the first meeting of the new Synod. During the spring, there was a 'Change Makers election campaign' and as a result, the Synod now includes two young people, members from the deaf and hard of hearing community and the blind community.

Richard Chitty was appointed as the new Chair of the House of Laity, Andy Perry is the Chair of the House of Clergy, and Cedric Pierce from Bradford Deanery was elected as Vice Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF).

Bishop Stephen's presidential address in the context of the opening Eucharist explored 'In the fullness of time, moving from lamentation to resurrection' and is available on the [diocesan website](#).

The meeting was an opportunity for members to get to know one another and to discuss three questions:

- What three things can we do and commit to as deanery synod reps, to be effective in our role?
- Which topics would you/your deanery would like to discuss at future synod meetings?
- What questions do you have for the President or others about expectations or running of this synod?

For the first time, Synod members were invited to use 'Slido'; a digital engagement app to increase interaction and participation and inviting members to put forward questions and suggest topics for further meetings. The morning concluded with Dean Nick sharing the annual report 2023 for Salisbury Cathedral.

After lunch members spent time discussing the diocesan vision and strategy, 'Making Jesus Known' and exploring the changes needed to revitalise our parishes for mission.

*Sarah Musgrave*

### **Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year and is made up of clergy and elected representatives for all the churches in the Marlborough Deanery (which covers an area that includes Chiseldon, Broad Hinton, Avebury, Marlborough, Ramsbury and Aldbourne). Canon Sarah Musgrave is the Lay Chair, and Paul Lefever and I are the lay representatives from St George's.

The Rural Dean (Revd Roger Powell) gave us an update from the Diocese, pointing out that the number of Archdeacons in Wiltshire is being reduced from two to one (at present Alan Jeans, but he is due to retire in the summer of 2025). He said that there is a 30% clergy vacancy rate in the Diocese, with some parishes having to advertise two or three times for a new priest. The Diocese is running at a deficit, mainly because not all parishes pay their Share. Roger also urged parishes not to feel remote from the Synods. If they had points to raise, they could do so via the Deanery Synod, which could put them to the Diocesan Synod and eventually to the General Synod of the Church of England.

The partnership with the Diocese of Morobo in South Sudan has become a major item on the agenda at the meetings. Thanks to generous support from individuals and parishes, we have been able to fund the successful digging of a borehole in the Morobo Cathedral compound, providing clean water for the first time since earlier wells were destroyed by rebels in the civil war.

In addition, we have had three presentations:

1. from Bishop Andrew on “Making Jesus known”, encouraging us to look carefully at how we can implement at least one of the five priorities (Creative Partnerships in Local Mission, Working for Justice, Climate Action, Financing the Future Sustainably and Courageous Christian Leadership).
2. from Antony MacRow-Wood, Diocesan Director of Finance and Asset Management, on the new system for calculating Parish Share which comes into operation in 2025. A few points I gleaned from a very fast and detailed presentation were:
  - The new system is very much part of the “Making Jesus known” strategy.
  - The share request is based on the number of worshipping community in each parish.
  - The emphasis is on the cost of “being church in the Salisbury Diocese”, rather than on the cost of a parish priest.
  - They are going back to offering a 1% discount if the share is paid in full in January or in 12 direct debit instalments.
3. from Ted Hiscocks, representing the Friends of Ramsbury Church, who are investigating how they can implement Net Zero; the Church of England’s target is to achieve Net Zero by 2030.

*Charles Graham*

## **THE FABRIC, GOODS & ORNAMENTS**

### **Fabric Report**

Church and Churchyard tidy up – This happens in April and October with many thanks to all the helpers that come to help keep our church and churchyard looking pristine. We are very lucky to have Wiltshire Council cutting the grass for us during the summer and the additional help we get from volunteers is essential.

Handrail – the handrail installed alongside the main path is greatly appreciated by everyone and the low-level lights operated by sensors at both ends of the path work well especially for our early

morning or evening services and concerts. After installation of new cycle racks, we had additional gravel laid to all the church paths and around perimeter of church. Hopefully our 'Grab a Weed' incentive (see EcoChurch report) will keep paths clear of weeds. With the help of the Goltz family and Martin we have also been able to clear the car park of weeds and lay new gravel.

The new glass South Porch Doors - these have now been fitted and there have been a lot of compliments by the congregation and visitors as to how well they fit in and enhance the porch. The DAC have stipulated that the doors have to season and no decoration is to be applied. With the excessive damp weather the doors have understandably got damp and expanded making them sometimes difficult to open. We don't want to plane too much off the edges because when they dry out we could end up with a larger than necessary gap.

As usual we have had the ongoing maintenance of cleaning windows, cleaning out gutters, joinery repairs, roof flashing repairs.

Many thanks go to Richard Metters and his team for keeping the bells and tower in such good order. A ringing simulator has now been added as a bellringing teaching aid. It is used through a laptop to assist in teaching bell ringing to young and old, without having to always ring the bells. As always, many thanks to Ken Martin and his tool box for carrying out various maintenance jobs throughout the year.

The Heating System – this has always struggled to bring the Church up to an acceptable level probably since it was installed in 1935. We will get there eventually, but the cost can be excessive and we have needed to look at various options to improve heating, and more importantly, costs. With Net Zero approaching, the PCC have looked at various options and have decided to proceed with a fan assisted system. The existing boiler is only six years old so there is plenty of life in it yet. The radiators will be replaced with radiator units that are fan assisted and are designed to heat up the Church more quickly and economically. These new units push the heat up more quickly and efficiently towards the ceiling instead of waiting for the slow process of heat rising naturally. We have viewed and visited other churches with these units fitted and good reports have come back on efficiency and economy.

The Lighting system – this functions well but we have to bear in mind that it was probably 40 years ago when it was installed. At our next Quinquennial in 2026 we will have to look at an upgrade to improve economy and efficiency. Thanks also to Richard Denning for keeping the sound system in working order and after 20 years of valuable service this will also need to be upgraded at the same time as the lighting.

Church Hall proposal – this is an ongoing feasibility study for a building between the Church and river to be used for children and youth organisations, meetings, social events and other activities.

*David Beacom*

### **Eco Church**

St George's Silver Eco Church plaque is now proudly on show in the porch and we can't thank everyone enough who has helped us to achieve this status.

If you want further details of this award from A Rocha (the Christian Environmental Charity) and

how we achieved it, details are on our website. Chefs will tell you that achieving a Michelin Star in a restaurant is hard, and once you get it, you then have to work harder to keep it. This is no different to the A Rocha award!

You will read below how the churchyard has evolved over the last year and how we need to work harder. One of the targets this year is to try and stop the use of pesticides on the Church paths and Car Park. 'Grab a weed' is what we are going to try and encourage, similar to picking up litter except we don't have to find a bin, just leave the picked weed where you found it at the edge of the path where it will decompose. Children should love it as a game, and maybe in the future we can give prizes to those who have pulled the most weeds ...

Sandra Rogers started keeping bees in the Maurice Family Burial Plot at St George's Preshute Church nearly three years ago. She now has two hives, one is decorated with sunflowers and the second one is covered with daisies. Bees can see patterns and some colours, so the idea is that this will help them find their way home. Sandra had a small honey harvest this year and she won third prize at Kennet Beekeepers' Association for pale runny honey and also came third in the novice class. Well done Sandra! Look out for a more detailed report from her which will appear in the June/July Newsletter. To ensure that there is enough food for the bees, daffodils, crocus, anemone, grape hyacinths and bluebells have all been planted to give the bees some spring flowers. Wild roses have also been planted in the hedge around the plot and through some of the churchyard trees which will also provide early spring forage for the bees.

The seven memorial cherry trees will add even more food for the bees, while at the same time making our Churchyard more beautiful. On the new soil banks to the main path we have planted crocuses, grape hyacinths, snowdrops, cowslips and primroses.

The ash trees near the pedestrian bridge succumbed to the 'ash dieback' disease and were cut down. This has brightened the area up and we have created another stumpery using ferns. Elder, willow and hazel trees have also been planted in this area.

With help from ARK we planted over 3000 bulbs throughout the Churchyard and were very unlucky with flood water which seems to have rotted these bulbs, but we will keep persevering with planting and very many thanks to all our helpers, young and old.

On the top left hand side of the path to the Church we have started a Remembrance Garden with cyclamen and other plants and bulbs. Snowdrops are starting to show and hopefully we get a result from the aconites as well. We do, however, have competition from the family of squirrels that live in the trees above.

Thanks to Matthew Best for surveying our bird population to see what types of birds frequent our churchyard. The result is that we now have two robin boxes, two spotted fly catcher boxes, seven tit boxes, a tawny owl box and a bat box. Matthew has cleaned out the boxes ready hopefully for this year's breeding season and he did notice that the tawny owl has been visiting its nesting box. Please look at the Nature Trail plan at the back of the Church to see the location of these boxes and other features of our Eco Church Churchyard.

As well as the Bug Hotel we also have two homes for dormice and two homes for hedgehogs.

We had four visits to the church and churchyard this year from schoolchildren to see the bee hives and also to find out what is living in our churchyard. Many thanks to Emily Best and Sandra Rogers for giving these children a day to remember. In preparation for these visits a Pale Shouldered Brocade Moth was discovered and we are waiting to see if this is the only one recorded for 2024 in Wiltshire as there were none recorded in 2023.

Eco Church is self-funding and many thanks go to Chris McColl and Bridget Smith for their donations from selling plants at the Village Fete and also from their base in Manton High Street. Future funding also comes from planting a memorial cherry tree for £800 including a memorial plaque. We still have three available should anyone wish to sponsor one in memory of a loved one. As we encourage our churchyard wildlife we will look at installing trail cams especially down by the river where an otter was spotted. Anybody with this type of experience would be welcome to our team.

Don't forget that we now have 12 memorial benches throughout the Churchyard with some next to the river. Why not come and picnic, rest, read, pray or just contemplate.

All the above is only part of creating an Eco Church. Thanking God for giving us the earth we live on extends to the ministry and running of the church. Sermons, prayers and readings that relate to God's greatest creation are used on a regular basis. We also must ensure, where possible, that purchases are sustainable, and recyclable. These thoughts and practices should also be mirrored in our own lives and homes, to care for God's creation.

*Linda Morgan and David Beacom*

### **Churchyard Records**

There was one burial in an existing plot in 2024 and two interments of ashes in new plots. The soft and hard copies of the records will be updated to reflect this information. Copies are held by the Churchwarden, the Team Office, the Team Vicar and me. There is a hard copy file of the records kept in the church.

*Laurien Carter*

### **Brass Cleaners**

Brass cleaning continues to be undertaken every two weeks by a small but diligent group of parishioners. Thank you to those involved – the church brass always looks good. If anyone is interested in becoming a brass cleaner they are welcome to join the team – please let us know.

*Laurien Carter*

### **Archives**

There have been very few additions to the church archives over the past year, but some interesting material dated 1925 has been retrieved for our bellringers during their research into the evolution of the bells at St George's.

*Jeremy York*

### **The Dominy and Turner Trust**

The trust continues to receive a healthy return on its investment fund. This in turn has

enabled the trustees to grant donations to an increased number and variety of applications. Neil Croucher has ended his three years as Churchwarden and in turn has resigned as a Trustee. We thank Neil for his insight and discernment over the last three years. Marcia Johnson, also a member of the PCC, will be joining as a Trustee which also ensures the continuity of three members.

*Nicky Huckle*

### **Missions and Charities**

Our policy for distributing the £3,380 set aside in the budget for donations to Missions and Charities has been to keep a balance between Christian mission and relief, and between international, national and local charities. So, four national and international charities have each received £500: SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad), the Bible Society, Tearfund and the Diocese of Morobo. The local charities we support are the Devizes and District Foodbank, Homestart North Wiltshire, the Jubilee Centre, Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group and the Prospect Hospice.

In addition, Special Collections at church services have raised money for the Jerusalem and Middle East Church, the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, SSAFA, Combat Stress, Age UK Wiltshire and the Children's Society.

Full details of the amounts involved can be found in the Accounts.

*Charles Graham*

### **Churchwardens' Report**

Throughout 2024 with the support of all our members and God's grace, we have maintained our church services and ministry (in all its forms) including a Taizé service, together with the stewardship of the church buildings and churchyard. Our members have readily engaged in our various social and fundraising events. We have celebrated anniversaries, baptisms and confirmations together.

Thanks to the participation of our Ride and Stride teams over many years, as part of the 40th Wiltshire Ride & Stride celebration, we have received a souvenir plaque (located in the porch alongside our Eco Church Silver Award). Our Open the Book Team was invited to give a presentation at Bath Abbey this year, on behalf of the Bible Society. St George's Church also featured in one of Bishop Rumsey's Eco Church Series videos.

Our church outreach has continued throughout the year, particularly amongst the younger members of the parish. Some examples being: the Junior Georgians choir; Open the Book team; Messy Church and our annual school services.

I trust with the gifts we have been given and which are yet to be placed upon us, with prayer and works we can not only sustain our outreach in the parish but also bear more fruit by increasing the number of young families and broadening our discipleship in Manton.

I add a short note of huge thanks to all who have provided not only continued but additional time and support to me this year in a time of vacancy of our "other" Churchwarden.

*Nicky Huckle, Churchwarden*

## Appendix 2

St George's Church, Preshute  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
to be held in the Church  
on Sunday 11 May 2025 at 11.45am

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Meeting of Sunday 21 April 2024 (See Appendix 3)
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Report of the proceedings of the PCC
6. Finance:
  - a. Treasurer's Report
  - b. Adoption of audited accounts
  - c. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church
  - Presentation and approval of Inventory Changes forms
8. Safeguarding
9. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
10. Team Vicar's Comments
11. Any Questions

### ELECTIONS

- a. PCC Members
- b. Churchwardens

## Appendix 3

Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting  
 Sunday 21 April 2024, 11.45am at St George's Church

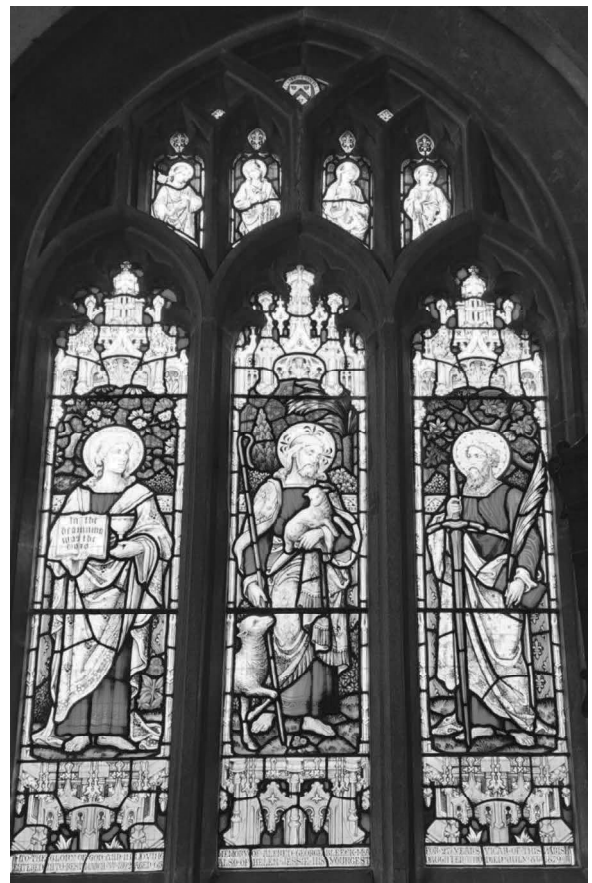
### MINUTES

<p><b>Present:</b> Alastair Barr (AB), David Beacom, Jude Arkwright, Amanda Brown, Andrew Brown, Fionnlagh Copland, Carole Cridland, Howard Cripps, Kay Cripps, Mary Ellis, Charles Graham, Kath Harding, Nicky Huckle (NH), Marcia Johnson, Anna Jones, Elizabeth Keighley, Heather Lee, Paul Lefever, Kate Martin, Iain Mackay-Dick, Chris McColl, Jesse Pomfret, Anne Rigby, Daphne Robertson, Rob Robertson, Stephen Robins, Revd Pete Sainsbury (PS), Revd Chris Smith (CS), Vernie Sofflet, Lyn Whatley, Hazel York, Jeremy York</p>	
1	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Prayers:</b> Revd Pete welcomed all present thanked everyone for coming. Revd Pete then offered a prayer to open the meeting.</p>
2	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Apologies were received from Liz Bonham, Simon Bonham, Laurien Carter, Sally Cripps, Heather Croucher, Neil Croucher, Judith Denning, Richard Denning, Grace Hoskins, Richard Metters, Linda Morgan, Marion Roundhill, David Sims, and Linda Sims.</p>
3	<p><b>Minutes of the Meeting of Sunday 23 April 2023:</b> The minutes had been published in the APCM report and were approved as a true record and signed. There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p>
4	<p><b>Electoral Roll:</b> Nicky Huckle represented Linda Sims, who was unable to be present, and read Linda's report as published in the Annual Report. Revd Pete thanked Linda for her work as Electoral Roll Officer.</p>
5	<p><b>Proceedings of the PCC:</b> PS referred the meeting to the report available in the Annual Report and highlighted the fact that in July the PCC meets for an elongated session in order to review any issues relating to the maintenance of the church and churchyard. PS offered special thanks to David Beacom for his work in looking after the fabric of the church. Of particular note in 2023 was David's hard work, supported by Linda Morgan, towards achieving the Eco Church Silver Award.</p>
6	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b></p> <p>a. Alastair Barr gave an overview of the Church's finances, full details of which are available in the APCM financial report. AB summarised the church finances as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The church finances are broadly divided into two areas: general day-to-day expenditure and income from collections/giving schemes, and spending on longer term projects.</li> <li>• Whilst at year end a deficit of approximately £7,000 had been recorded, this was less than had been predicted for the year. This was due to reduced expenditure thanks to slightly lower energy costs and significantly reduced</li> </ul>

	<p>stationery costs now that the blue service book has replaced the weekly printing of service sheets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been a reduction in income from collections and also from church fees (eg from weddings).</li> <li>• On a positive note, those giving through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) continues to grow. AB highlighted that this method of giving is particularly welcome as it facilitates the collection of gift aid and offers donors the chance to increase their giving each year in line with inflation. Currently, three quarters of those donating through the PGS take up this option to raise their giving in line with inflation.</li> <li>• The monies raised from the fundraising campaign to support the Worship Director portion of PS’s salary ran out in 2023 and therefore this expenditure is now coming out of St George’s general day-to-day fund. In order to support this extra cost, along with the other costs of ministry (such as provision of music, newsletter publishing etc) it was hoped that parishioners would consider increasing their giving through the current Stewardship Campaign.</li> </ul> <p>AB invited any questions and Charles Graham asked for clarification of the statement in the finance report that “the card reader continues to pay for itself”. AB explained that whilst the card reader had raised £2,000 over the course of the year, cash collections have fallen and income from the card reader has not compensated for this. Furthermore, as the card reader requires the donor to enter personal details and is not a simple ‘tap and go’ machine it is not a quick transaction. This acts as a bit of barrier to its use at the end of a service such as a baptism, wedding or festival service and income from these occasions via the card reader has been negligible.</p> <p>AB concluded that if anyone had any further questions, having looked at the accounts in more detail, they would be welcome to contact him.</p> <p>Revd Pete offered a vote of thanks to Alastair for the considerable amount of work involved in the role of Treasurer and for the preparation of the annual accounts.</p> <p>b. Proposal of the acceptance of the audited accounts: AB explained that an independent examiner reviews the annual accounts and this is currently in process. As any revisions are likely to be minor, PS asked that the meeting vote on provisional acceptance of the accounts. This was proposed by Stephen Robins and seconded by Kay Cripps, with all in favour.</p> <p>c. Roger Wheeler is currently our Independent Examiner and his re-appointment for another year was proposed by Howard Cripps and seconded by Jeremy York.</p>
7	<p><b>Report on the Fabric, Goods, and Ornaments of the Church:</b> PS referred the meeting to page 14 of the Annual Report and invited questions from the meeting. Jeremy York enquired whether the defibrillator was in its final position in the porch, to which David Beacom replied that it is indeed in its permanent position. Anne Rigby asked whether it</p>

	<p>would be possible to put up a sign in Manton indicating that there is a defibrillator at the church. David Beacom replied that to access a defibrillator, it is necessary to call 999 and the emergency services will direct the caller to the nearest defibrillator. However, PS suggested that the PCC consider Anne’s idea of a notice on the Manton community noticeboard.</p> <p>(The Team Rector, having just finished the service at St Mary’s, was welcomed to the meeting.)</p> <p>Nicky Huckle (NH) reported that, with the kind help of Charles Graham, the inventory of the church’s goods and ornaments had been completed. A small round lidded box (for communion wafers) and a silver plated shell dish (for use at baptisms) had been acquired and three blue service booklets had been lost due to wear and tear.</p> <p>NH presented the 2023 inventory form for PS to sign. The Archdeacon, Sue Groom, had noted at her visitation that whilst St George’s had completed inventories for the past eight years, that had not been officially signed off, so retrospectively, these will be signed off at the next PCC meeting.</p> <p>PS noted thanks to the Archdeacon, Sue Groom, for her helpful and encouraging approach at the Archdeacon’s visitation. Sue Groom is shortly to relinquish her post in ministry and CS drew the meeting’s attention to a farewell service for Sue to held in Devizes on Sunday 5 May at 6pm. As neither CS nor PS will be available to attend the service, CS felt it would be good to have a representative from St George’s at the service.</p>
8	<p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Judith Denning (Safeguarding Officer) was unable to be at the meeting, but had submitted a report within the Annual Report. PS recorded his thanks for all Judith’s hard work. It was also noted that the safeguarding issue that had been raised in 2023 had been resolved satisfactorily.</p>
9	<p><b>Deanery Synod:</b> PS referred the meeting to page 14 of the Annual Report for Charles Graham’s update on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod, to which Charles added that the Diocese of Morobo are desperate for clean water, as their water supply has been damaged by rebels in the civil war. They will soon be launching an appeal to dig a new borehole, which will probably be located within the grounds of the cathedral. Charles encouraged all present to keep aside some money to contribute to this fundraising.</p> <p>PS also commended to the meeting page 12 of the Annual Report where Sarah Musgrave has reported on the activities of the Diocese.</p>
10	<p><b>Team Vicar’s Comments:</b> In addition to the report contained in the Annual Report PS offered his thanks to all the St George’s community for their contribution to church life and for the sense of family at St George’s and said, “thank you for being you”.</p> <p>PS offered particular thanks to Nicky Huckle and Neil Croucher who have been trojans in their work as churchwardens. PS also thanked Amanda for her work at PCC secretary and</p>

	<p>the Standing Team. Stephen Robins stepped down from his involvement on the Standing Team at the end of 2023 and PS thanked him for all his input to the meetings.</p> <p>Neil Croucher’s work for the Bible Society as Head of Philanthropy means that he is unable to continue for another year as churchwarden and is therefore stepping down from the role, but PS thanked him sincerely for Neil’s much valued work as a churchwarden over the past three years. As yet, there are no candidates for the vacancy.</p> <p>Linda Morgan is also stepping down from the PCC and PS thanked her for her much appreciated work.</p> <p>PS invited the Team Rector to speak. CS underlined all that PS had said and commented that he much enjoys visiting St George’s and encouraged the church family to keep going with offering their time, talent and treasure. CS offered a vote of thanks to PS, adding that he felt they worked well together.</p>
	<p><b>Any Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NH offered a tribute to fellow churchwarden Neil Croucher as he steps down from office. NH had valued Neil’s friendship, advice and knowledge of the St George’s family and his ability to see the wider picture. NH was grateful that she and Neil had been able to complement in each as a churchwarden team.</li> <li>• In conclusion, PS suggested that a detailed reading of the Annual Report would offer a good overview of the life of St George’s.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ELECTIONS:</b></p> <p><b>PCC:</b> There are currently no candidates for election to the PCC, but PS highlighted that one person has been approached is considering the possibility of being co-opted to the PCC at a later date.</p> <p><b>Deanery Synod:</b> PS thanked Charles Graham and Paul Lefever for representing St George’s well on the Deanery Synod. There remains one vacancy for another Deanery Synod representative. For information, PS reminded the meeting that Deanery Synods reps are ex-officio members of the PCC (though PS prefer to think of them as PCC members with special responsibility).</p> <p><b>Churchwardens:</b> PS emphasised that the need for another churchwarden to support Nicky is quite acute and asked everyone to be mindful of this.</p> <p>Everyone joined together to say the grace before the meeting ended at 12.18pm.</p>



## **FINANCE**

### **Financial Review**

The following provides an overview of the accounts for 2024 which have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

In 2024 the Unrestricted Fund ended the year with a deficit of £10,878 against a deficit of £12,900 forecast in the budget set at the start of 2024. This deficit was mainly driven a change in the accounting of the Contemporary Worship Lead pay but it was offset by an increase in Planned Giving and Donations due to the 2024 Stewardship campaign.

Despite these challenges, we continue to be a charitable church. A total of £1,758 was raised through special collections and a further £3,380 was donated to a range of local, national and international charities out of our normal income.

2024 saw a number of capital projects, funded through the Legacy and Fabric funds we maintain for long term investment and maintenance of the church and churchyard. £13,006 was spent on capital project work from these funds leading to improvements to the path and porch including the new porch doors installed this year.

The full accounts are presented in the Appendix.

### **Notes on Income:**

The table below summarises the sources of income for our Unrestricted Fund over the past four years. This excludes restricted income such as designated donations and special collections.

In 2024 we started an annual Stewardship Campaign to ask parishioners to increase their regular giving. This acknowledges the annual loss of value due to inflation of donations that remain unchanged each year. Prior to the campaign, many of those who give regularly had not changed their donation amount in the last 4 years. A donation of £100 in 2020 was worth only £81 by 2024. Through the Stewardship Campaign in 2024 we achieved a total confirmed increase in regular giving of £559 per month.

Fewer social events in 2024 led to a drop off in money raised through these events. Overall, income was higher than budgeted at the start of 2024, with £70.8k raised against a budget of £68k.

<b>Sources of Income (Unrestricted Fund)</b>	<b>2021 (£)</b>	<b>2022 (£)</b>	<b>2023 (£)</b>	<b>2024 (£)</b>
Planned Giving (Total)	30,796	30,853	31,474	39,460
of which: Planned Giving Scheme (PGS)	16,494	18,016	18,848	25,014
Standing Orders	12,597	10,988	10,873	12,575
Blue Envelopes	1,705	1,849	1,753	1,872
Collections (excluding special collections)	1,858	3,418	2,614	2,476
Yellow Envelopes	972	1,191	1,170	1,492
Wall Box	293	220	251	347
Donations	10,307	7,434	5,501	6,496
Card Reader	N/A	281	1,787	2,023
Generous Giving Campaign	7,981	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gift Aid tax refund (2 years claimed in 2022)	11,425	22,447	10,468	13,069
Social Events (Net)	1,515	2,112	3,907	842
Fees from Weddings and Funerals	4,157	5,874	3,206	4,260
Legacies	0	0	200	0
Grants	0	1,000	335	0
Dividends from Investments	347	358	360	366
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>69,651</b>	<b>75,189</b>	<b>61,274</b>	<b>70,831</b>

## Notes on Expenditure:

The table below summarises the sources of expenditure for our Unrestricted Fund over the past four years. This excludes designated expenditure on long term capital projects, such as the porch and churchyard improvements. Expenditure increased in 2024 as the Contemporary Worship Lead pay was accounted for via Unrestricted Funds, having previously been met by via the funds raised back in the 2020 Worship Director fundraising campaign. However, expenditure was in line with budget set at the start of 2024. The other main increases in 2024 were utilities, which returned to the highs of 2022 and printing and publicity, with increased spending towards Easter and Christmas. The Parish Share increased in 2024, and accounts for 60% of our expenditure, having risen by 25% since 2018. Going forward, it has been frozen for 2025 and 2026 and will decrease slightly in 2027 and 2028.

Summary of Expenditure (Unrestricted Fund)	2021 (£)	2022 (£)	2023 (£)	2024 (£)
Parish Share	40,164	42,173	43,438	47,149
Church Maintenance and Running Costs	5,584	5,175	2,376	1,820
Church Capital Costs	Included above	60	177	259
Utilities	1,367	4,156	2,742	4,177
Insurance	2,085	2,169	2,232	2,274
Equipment & Consumables	561	631	118	610
Publicity, Printing and Stationery	1,867	3,128	1,450	2,550
Clergy Working and Office Expenses	1,926	2,567	2,055	2,451
Contemporary Worship Lead	N/A	N/A	3,853	9,600
Honoraria/Secretarial	2,030	8,107	6,361	7,034
Missions and Charities	1,123	3,330	3,455	3,380
Alpha Course	N/A	165	N/A	N/A
Education & Youth Work	N/A	632	126	179
Bank Charges	287	307	256	226
Independent Examiner Costs	432	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>57,426</b>	<b>72,602</b>	<b>68,639</b>	<b>81,709</b>

## Reserves policy

The PCC tries to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments (excluding charitable giving). In 2024 this was equivalent to £19,582 while the unrestricted fund stood at £7,068, in part due to the cost of the Contemporary Worship lead salary being accounted for by unrestricted funds. The cash component of the Unrestricted Designated Fund remains healthy at £70,996 and therefore all payments will continue to be met.

*Alastair Barr, Hon Treasurer*

## Appendix 1

### The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Geroge's Preshute, Marlborough Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>							
Planned Giving		39,460		0		39,460	33,079
Collections at Services		2,476		1,543		4,019	4,277
All other giving / voluntary receipts	4a	10,358	2,100	0		12,458	12,844
Gift Aid Recovered		13,069	400	0		13,469	10,468
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>65,364</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69,407</b>	<b>60,669</b>
Activities for generating funds	4b	842		743		1,585	4,761
Investment Income	4c	366	4,880	128		5,374	4,186
Church Activities	4d	4,260				4,260	3,206
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>70,831</b>	<b>7,380</b>	<b>2,414</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80,625</b>	<b>72,822</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church Activities</b>							
Parish Share		47,149				47,149	43,438
Clergy and Staffing Costs	4e	9,600		0		9,600	9,600
Church Running Costs	4f, 6, 7	21,321	3,792	0	0	25,113	24,943
Church Capital Costs	6, 7	259	9,214	0	0	9,473	16,609
Mission Giving and Donations	5	3,380		1,758		5,138	5,282
		81,709	13,006	1,758		96,474	99,873
Cost of Generating Funds	4g	0		528		528	690
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>81,709</b>	<b>13,006</b>	<b>2,286</b>		<b>97,001</b>	<b>100,563</b>
Excess of Receipts over payments		<b>-10,878</b>	<b>-5,626</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-16,376</b>	<b>-27,741</b>
Transfer Between Funds	8	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				
		<b>-10,878</b>	<b>-5,626</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-16,376</b>	<b>-27,741</b>
<b>Gains / Losses on Investments</b>							
Realised							
Unrealised			474		407	881	3,311
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>							
Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2024		17,946	97,331	0	17,798	133,075	157,505
Balance carried forward at 31 Dec 2024		7,068	92,178	128	18,205	117,580	133,076
Net change in funds in year						-15,495	-24,429
Comprising							
Total Receipts		80,625					
Total Payments		97,001					
Investment Gains/Losses		881					
Net change in funds in year		-15,495					

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund		Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£		£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>							
Bank Current Account		2,979	0	0		2,979	8,662
CCLA CBF Deposit Fund		4,089	70,996	128		75,213	85,908
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,068</b>	<b>70,996</b>	<b>128</b>		<b>78,193</b>	<b>94,571</b>
	Note		<b>31-Dec-24</b>			<b>31-Dec-23</b>	
			£			£	
<b>Investment Assets</b>							
Investment Shares - CCLA CBF Share Account			21,180			20,706	
Investment Shares - Aspent Copse Trust			13,485			13,183	
Investment shares - Angela and William Whitrow			4,721			4,615	
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Cash on hand at bank			2,979			8,662	
CCLA CBF Deposit Fund			75,213			85,908	
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>117,579</b>			<b>133,075</b>	

## Notes to the 2024 Accounts and Further Analysis

### 1. Accounting Policies

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St George's Preshute, Marlborough, is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Charity Registration Number 1184256.

#### a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK & Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16th July 2014.

#### b) The accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

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

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. The accounts do not include the accounts relating to any informal gatherings of Church members or small cash balances held by individuals such as the flower arrangers.

Rounding – the Accounts are prepared to the exact penny but for presentation purposes, and for ease of reading and understanding, are shown in rounded pounds. This can mean that some of the totals and/or sub totals do not appear as if they add correctly and appear to be £1 out.

#### c) Incoming resources

- Voluntary income - Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the Gift Aid is received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are logged as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. It is recorded in the accounts when received.
- Funds raised by any social events are accounted for gross, where practicable and costs for events included in expenditure, this is broken out later in the notes.
- Income from investments Dividends and interest are accounted for when received.
- Gains and losses on investments Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are recognised on their valuation in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

#### d) Resources used

- Church ministry and services - The diocesan share/quota is accounted for when paid. Any diocesan share unpaid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.
- Grants made - Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, then they are recorded in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

#### e) Fixed assets - Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the rectors and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property and not valued in the accounts.
- All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is treated as an expense and written off.
- The fabric fund is maintained to cover the costs of major maintenance whereas minor works are funded through the general fund.

f) Investments: Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

g) Current Assets. Cash held in a savings account with a bank is classified as cash at bank. Cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or held in a term deposit account with a bank is also classified as cash.

h) Funds - Funds have been classified as Unrestricted, Unrestricted Designated, Restricted or Endowment.

- Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated by the PCC for a particular purpose are classified as unrestricted designated as the PCC has allocated them for a specific purpose although the PCC can re-designate these funds. This helps budget for the future.
- Restricted funds are funds received, collected by or given to the PCC for a particular purpose which was specified at or before the time of receipt. These funds have been restricted by the donor for a particular purpose and they cannot be used by the PCC for any other purpose except by agreement with the donor or as determined by the courts or the Charity Commission.
- Endowment funds are funds or assets given to the PCC with the specific instruction that only the income gained from the funds can be spent. The original endowment funds cannot normally be spent and must remain in the form of equivalent assets or investments.

St George's is the beneficiary of two funds:

The Aspent Copse endowment fund. The dividend income from the fund each year is added to our general fund and is not restricted in use. The fund itself is managed by the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance and the capital is not available to be spent (it is understood that in extremis the board could be approached to allow the funds to be transferred to our general funds but this would be a matter for them to consider not a right).

The Angela and William Whitrow fund where the dividend income gained is restricted to use on upkeep of the churchyard.

## **2. Explanation of Funds**

St George's has a number of funds where the PCC has allocated money for specific purposes to aid saving for projects and to manage our finances more effectively, e.g. to budget for organ maintenance. The funds and purposes are as follows:

- Fabric fund: To build up reserves for maintenance work in the church and churchyard.
- Legacy and Gift Fund: Used to ring fence money for capital projects.
- Boiler Fund: Maintenance and where required replacement of the church boiler and related heating system
- Ministry: To provide specific funds for ministry
- Church Hall: Specific fund with the long term aim to provide a church hall or annex to the church
- Organ Fund: Fund for maintenance and repair of the organ.

## Note to the Accounts – Further Analysis Continued

The following pages further break down specific sections of income and expenditure.

### 3. Movement in Funds

We maintain a number of designated funds to help budget for future finance. At the end of the year these funds contained:

	Note	Balance B/F	Receipts	Payments	Investment Gains / Losses	Bal/C/f
<b>Unrestricted</b>		17,946	70,831	81,709		7,068
<b>Restricted</b>	6					
Fabric Fund		0	128	0		128
Legacy and Gift Fund		0	0	0		0
Worship Director Fund		0	0	0		0
Special Collections	5	0	2,286	2,286		0
		0	2,414	2,286		128
<b>Designated</b>	7					
Fabric		3,936	0	3,792		144
Legacy & Gift Fund		80,700	7,380	9,214	474	79,339
Boiler		0	0			0
Ministry		5,264				5,264
Church Hall		1,141				1,141
Organ		6,290				6,290
		97,331	7,380	13,006	474	92,179
<b>Total (excl of Aspent Copse &amp; Whitrow Fund)</b>		115,277	80,625	97,001	474	99,375
<b>Endowments</b>						
Value of Aspent Copse Trust & Whitrow Funds		17,798	0		407	18,205
<b>Total</b>		133,075	80,625	97,001	881	117,580
		£				
Value at 31/12/23		157,505				
Value at 31/12/24		117,580				
Value change in year		-15,495				
Total Receipts		80,625				
Total Payments		97,001				
Investment gains/loss		881				
Net change in funds in year		-15,495				

#### 4. Breakdown of Income and Expenditure

		Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
<b>a) All other giving / voluntary receipts</b>						
Donations (including yellow envelopes)		10,011	2,100		12,111	12,393
Legacies		0		0	0	200
Wall Box		347			347	251
	4a	10,358	2,100	0	12,458	12,844
<b>b) Social Activities Generating funds</b>						
Plant Sales		70			70	120
Raj Night		245			245	223
Rugby Dinners		0			0	510
Harvest Supper				743	743	567
Quiz Night		227			227	473
Concert		0			0	960
Westwind Open Gardens		0			0	1,222
Duck Race		0			0	686
Village Fete		0			0	0
St George's Supper		0			0	0
Safari Supper		300			300	0
	4b	842		743	1,585	4,761
<b>c) Investment Income</b>						
Interest on CCLA CBF Deposit Fund			4,305		4,305	3,134
Dividends of CCLA CBF shares			575		575	566
Dividends of Trust Shares		366		128	494	487
	4c	366	4,880	128	5,374	4,186
<b>d) Church Activities:</b>						
Fees for Weddings and funerals		4,260			4,260	3,206
	4d	4,260			4,260	3,206
<b>Payments</b>						
<b>e) Clergy and Staffing Costs</b>						
Worship Director Pay, NI, Pension etc		9,600		0	9,600	9,600
	4e	9,600		0	9,600	9,600
<b>f) Church Running Expenses</b>						
Clergy Working and Office Expenses		2,451			2,451	2,055
Honoraria and Secretarial		7,034			7,034	6,361
Organ Maintenance & tuning		567			567	540
Insurance		2,274			2,274	2,232
Printing and stationary		3,160			3,160	1,568
Heating, Lighting and Water		4,177			4,177	2,742
Repairs, Maintenance & Cleaning		1,253	3,792	0	5,045	9,063
Bank Charges		226			226	256
Education/Youth Work		179			179	126
	4f	21,321	3,792	0	25,113	24,943
<b>g) Costs of Generating Funds</b>						
Harvest Supper				528	528	403
Quiz Night		0			0	63
Concert		0			0	27
		0		528	528	690

## 5. Giving to Missions and Charities

	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Special Collection Distribution</b>					
DEC Turkey and Syria			0	0	335
Jerusalem and Middle East Church			214	214	217
RABI			478	478	304
SSAFA			116	116	100
Combat Stress			116	116	100
Crisis			0	0	33
Children's Society			417	417	369
Age UK Wiltshire			417	417	369
			<b>1,758</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>1,827</b>
	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable Giving</b>					
<b>International</b>					
SOMA UK	500			500	500
Diocese of Morobo (via Deanery)	500			500	500
<b>National</b>					
A Rocha	0			0	250
Bible Society	500			500	575
Tearfund	500			500	500
<b>Local Charities</b>					
Devizes and District Foodbank	500			500	500
Home Start North Wiltshire	150			150	150
Jubilee Centre	150			150	150
MAPAG	150			150	150
Prospect Hospice	400			400	150
Friends of Salisbury Cathedral	30			30	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,380</b>			<b>3,380</b>	<b>3,455</b>

**6. Note on Restricted Funds**

With the exception of Special Collections, there were no payments made in 2024 from Restricted Funds. The breakdown of receipts are shown below:

	Income	Expenditure
Dividends Received from Investments	128	
	<u>128</u>	0

**7. Note on Unrestricted Designated Funds**

As of 31 December 2024, there was £91, 678 in the Unrestricted Designated fund. The breakdown of payments and receipts are shown below:

	Income	Expenditure
Dividends Received from Investments	575	
CCLA CBF Deposit Account Interest Income	4,305	
Donations for cherry trees	1,600	
Gift Aid on designated donations	400	
Lions Donation for Defibrillator	500	
Fabric - Bulbs, Trees, Bird Boxes		188
Fabric - Grounds Work		3,604
Legacy - Porch, Path & Lighting		7,238
Legacy - Defibrillator		1,977
	<u>7,380</u>	<u>13,006</u>

**8. Transfer between funds**

No transfer between funds in 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL "THE PCC" (TRUSTEES)  
of  
St GEORGE'S CHURCH PRESHUTE  
Registered Charity Number 1184256  
Year Ended 31 December 2024**

I report on the Receipts and Payments Accounts, pages A-1 to A-8, which are attached to the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:



Date:

24/12/25

Roger Wheeler BSc Econ  
Accountant  
Roger John & Co  
1 Farrar Drive  
Marlborough  
SN8 1TP

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# Accounts

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# St George's PRESHUTE



## Annual Report 2023

Registered Charity Number 1184256

**St George's Church** is situated on the western edge of Marlborough on the south bank of the River Kennet. The Parish of Preshute serves the villages of Manton and Clatford, the Barton Park estate, part of the western end of Marlborough and a rural area stretching both north and south. The church is in the Diocese of Salisbury (Deanery of Marlborough) and is part of the Marlborough Anglican Team, with an office in Silverless Street, Marlborough. St George's and the associated churchyard is open every day and anyone is welcome to visit the church for prayer, quiet contemplation or simply to enjoy the wonderful location next to the river.

### **Aims and Objectives – Making Jesus Known**

The Church is the family of Christians meeting together to worship God and to find fellowship together through prayer and learning. Our work is to spread the Good News of our faith by 'Making Jesus Known'.

St George's is well placed to serve the town of Marlborough and most of our mission has a two-fold strategy: to deepen and enrich our own worshipping life and also to find creative ways of making connections with the local community to both introduce the Christian story and deepen engagement with all in the local area.

### **St George's Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Vicar in promoting, in the ecclesiastical Parish of Preshute, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The life of St George's is within the Marlborough Anglican Team, Marlborough Churches Together and the Diocese of Salisbury in the Church of England.

#### Membership:

Members of the Parochial Church Council are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or co-opted by the PCC due to the functions they perform in the Church (provided the person is willing to be co-opted). The PCC is a charity, and the PCC members are its Trustees and are responsible for ensuring the Church is serving its community. This report shows how St George's engages with the local community.

Incumbent (Team Vicar):	Revd Pete Sainsbury
Churchwardens:	Neil Croucher Nicky Huckle
Deanery Synod:	Charles Graham Paul Lefever
Members:	Alastair Barr (Treasurer) David Beacom (Fabric and Churchyard) Amanda Brown (Secretary)
The other members are:	Sally Cripps Marcia Johnson Linda Morgan Stephen Robins
Ex-officio members:	Canon Sarah Musgrave LLM Revd Chris Smith

The PCC has met six times during the year. The most recent approved PCC minutes and past minutes are on file and available to view in the church or they can be obtained from the Secretary on request.

The main items of business at each meeting are a consideration of our core task of 'Making Jesus Known'. Against this background, we have reviewed our worship, considered matters of finance, including St George's giving to missions and charities, made plans for the upkeep of the church and churchyard (with particular emphasis on fulfilling the requirements to gain Eco Church status) explored how we might best 'grow' St George's, and discussed the social events that are offered.

The PCC also met informally in October to discuss 'Living in Love and Faith'.

At the Annual Meeting in 2023, there were 114 names on the Electoral Roll of church membership. The average number of worshippers each week (excluding festival services) has been approximately 38.

### **Team Rector's Report**

I like the Chinese Proverb, which says, 'May you live in dull times'. The church that prays and faithfully reaches out with good news of Jesus will always be blessed by God. But 'exciting' times can knock the best of us off course. Post-Covid it has been quite a relief to return to the regular rhythms of our spiritual lives. The church year has been carefully thought through and honed over the centuries. It offers us six months of the birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension and coming again of Jesus; followed by six months focusing on what this might mean for us as his followers. The older I get the more I appreciate this pattern and the more wary I am of things that take us off course. We sit in a tradition that goes back to Moses 3,500 years ago. This is deeply enriching and offers us the wisdom of many generations. It is rare for the church to face a challenge that is brand new; more commonly it will be an old one with fresh branding. But do we know our history? Do we value our traditions? As we navigate the choppy waters of 2024, I pray we can hold fast to that which has been passed to us.

Each generation of Christians also has a responsibility to present the gospel to their generation in an attractive and winning way. Today we are blessed with cheap printing and technology that can take our message around the world in seconds. I was much encouraged by the imaginative ways that the Marlborough Anglican Team presented the gospel last year. The Easter Procession and Thy Kingdom Come initiatives were events where all the local churches joined in. In different ways both initiatives creatively and enjoyably told the story of our faith. Later at Ascension, we welcomed our new Bishop Stephen Lake to the deanery for a special service. From January the Methodists have been worshipping with us in an informal partnership. It was a pleasure for me to lead the Good Friday meditations at St George's with Revd Stephen Skinner. It seems that the Lord has smiled upon us as we have respected and worked with each other.

I always enjoy coming to St George's and Revd Pete Sainsbury is both a colleague and a friend. The growth of the Kingdom is the most exciting thing in the world. I value our partnership in the gospel and pray that we won't be blown off course by the wrong sort of excitement in 2024!

*Revd Chris Smith, Team Rector of Marlborough*

## Team Vicar's Report

I like to start my report by thanking you all for your contribution to the life of the church family at Preshute. Much is done by many to keep things going at St George's and I am very grateful to you all: thank you. Your giving in different ways makes the difference.

Our worship life is at the core of all we do as a church, and dovetails with our call to live a joyful and fulfilled life of daily worship of, and 'apprenticeship' to Jesus. "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever". This statement is from the Westminster Shorter Confession, of the Presbyterian tradition but well worth borrowing! We are loved beyond measure by God and also challenged deeply by Him to become more like Him. Work in progress.

In 2023, we as a team welcomed Christ Church to join St Mary's, when they became 'St Mary's Marlborough with Christ Church Methodist Fellowship'. This has been such a great move and a blessing to both groups. It is a good reminder too that we are part of the wider church in Marlborough, not just its Anglican expression.

Some of our events in 2023 were the annual *Night at the Raj* including the tense but highly enjoyable Irish bingo; Six Nations Rugby socials; the Lent Team Quiet Morning at St Mary's led by me and the Lent Course based on the themes of *Les Misérables*, the Holy Week services and the dramatised Easter Saturday procession on Marlborough High Street, the Quiz Evening, the Duck Race complete with vicar and deputy churchwarden in waders rounding up rubber 'stragglers', churchyard clean-ups and the significant achievement of the *A Rocha* Eco Church Silver Award.

Although not church events, the open garden afternoon at West Wind in Manton raised £1,000 for St George's (many thanks to Mrs Jerry Campbell-Sharp) and Mantonfest is always very enjoyable, not least for watching some older church members *largin' it up* to some excellent live rock and roll.

Also of note in 2023 were the celebrations of the coronation of Charles III, with much bellringing, the Archdeacon's visitation (an administrative but important exercise), Messy Church and also an additional new experiment with Saturday afternoon worship for families, the baptism and confirmation of Vernie Sofflet (at St Mary's), the Choral Evensongs, Music Sunday (the first Sunday of July), extensive safeguarding training, Open the Book's regular visits to Preshute School, my weekly assemblies, Harmony in Autumn (with Bishop Andrew amongst others, and Fin Copland's bagpipes) ... oh, and Christmas! Christmas is especially wonderful and well done at St George's. We have a beautiful building to base our celebrations around but it's about the people, the love, the ideas, the music, the wide-eyed children, the decorations and the tree, the flowers – and not least, the mystery and joy of God made flesh.

And there is so much more, including the 'life events' – the baptisms, the weddings and sadly too, the funerals. The life of St George's Preshute is rich.

I want to express my sincere thanks to:

- the PCC for six meetings a year plus so much more,
- and similarly, to the standing team
- churchwardens Nicky Huckle and Neil Croucher for another year of service, which is sometimes onerous and demanding but always responded to with cheerfulness and competence, and also to Stephen Robins, their deputy
- Amanda Brown for being a proactive and capable PCC secretary
- Alastair Barr for keeping the financial ship steady

- Mel Rolfe for keeping the church spruce and clean
- David Beacom for coordinating a great deal of work on the church building and churchyard (resulting in our EcoChurch Silver award, with the assistance of Linda Morgan)
- Judith Denning for much safeguarding work in 2023, with Marcia Johnson's assistance
- Andrew Brown for much music including with our young people
- Lynn Whatley for her care of our liturgical fabrics
- Richard Metters and the ringers for their (sometimes more than) weekly service
- Amanda Brown and Sue Elks for their advocating and facilitating of children's ministry
- the late Prue Groffman for coordinating the flowers at church for very many years
- Ken Martin for behind-the-scenes repairs
- Jeremy York for much behind-the-scenes work
- and to all those who support those people and do many other things too such as welcoming, wardening, making coffee, polishing brass, reading, leading intercessions, newsletter distribution, flower arrangement, singing ... and very much more besides, especially the unseen things.

I also wish to express gratitude to Brian Crowe for his much appreciated service as a foundation governor and steady financial hand at Preshute School. Brian's supportiveness and cheerfulness is already missed by the governing body.

In closing, as I wrote last year,

"in terms of networking and support, St George's is part of a team ministry. We are not a 'stand-alone' parish ... We are viable, in purpose, gathering and finance, but we are part of the Anglican Team. This has been an important facet of our life together as the Anglican church in Marlborough in 2022."

And also 2023. It is very important that we see our place within an extended family of three churches and that we actively embrace joint activity. It is good to be alongside the two other churches as a team, to be blessed by a rich and varied offering, to share the load and the difficulties as well as the fellowship and fun. My appreciative thanks to rector Chris Smith and licensed lay minister Sarah Musgrave, and to our ecumenical colleagues too.

Gratefully recalling 2023 and wondering what God has for us in 2024 and beyond.

Every blessing, everyone, and thank you.

***Revd Pete Sainsbury, Team Vicar***

### **Electoral Roll Report**

Those whose names were on the Electoral Roll at the time of the 2023 APCM are listed on the noticeboard in the porch. Any regular worshippers at St George's who are not on the roll are encouraged to contact myself, Linda Sims, or one of the churchwardens, for an application form.

There were 116 names on the Electoral Roll at 31 December 2023. One person moved away and has been removed from the Electoral Roll and three new parishioners added.

*Linda Sims*

## **Church Attendance**

Whilst the figures for church attendance at regular Sunday services for 2023 was slightly lower than in 2022, it was still pleasing that there was an average of eight adults attending the 8am service of Holy Communion, and 38 adults attending the 10.30am. St George's was delighted to welcome 26 children and 109 adults to the service of Family Communion on Easter Day. Eight children and 142 adults packed the church for the Carols by Candlelight service and 73 adults and children attended the Sing-along Nativity. There was standing room only for the joyful Crib service on Christmas Eve with 142 adults and 64 children and a further 64 adults attended the more reflective First Communion of Christmas in the evening. On Christmas morning, the church was once again full, with 130 adults and 27 children joining in the celebration.

St George's arranges a series of three Choral Evensongs during the summer months and these have a faithful following of approximately 35 for each service.

The congregation is swelled on the first Sunday of the month for the All Age service, with an average of 10 children attending the service. A new venture for 2023 has been the introduction of an occasional Family Worship service on a Saturday afternoon led by Revd Pete on the keyboard. This is intended particularly for families who may have commitments on a Sunday morning, but all are welcome and indeed the first service of this kind in October was attended by 10 adults. The second Saturday afternoon service was a Christingle service in early December which attracted 19 children and 14 adults.

During the first few months of 2023, an activity table was provided for children on the third Sunday of the month as a pilot, but it seems that the All Age worship on the first Sunday of the month is the focus for young families, as well as attending Messy Church, which took place twice in 2023.

The Children's Ministry team continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss ways in which St George's can reach out to young families in the parish.

There continues to be an online service of Evening Prayer each Wednesday afternoon, which remains popular.

## **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

In 2023 there were three wedding services held at St George's and we welcomed new members of the church at four services of baptism. It was with sadness that we mourned the loss of several members of the local community over the course of the year at three funeral services, four thanksgiving/memorial services and an interment of ashes.

## **St George's in the Community**

Revd Pete continued in 2023 with regular visits to Preshute Primary School to lead assemblies and our Open the Book team have been visiting the school on a monthly basis to act out Bible stories with the help of the pupils. St George's hosted a Year Six leavers' service, and a Harvest Festival service for children in Year 4 at Preshute Primary School and their families.

The St George's newsletter continues to be circulated to approximately 700 houses in the parish (mostly in paper format, but electronically in some cases) in an edition that covers two months.

The six editions in 2023 covered the themes 'Mission', 'A different kind of power & symbols of sovereignty', 'Psalms for summer reading', 'Significant numbers', 'Eco-edition' and 'The Light of Christ – awaiting, welcoming, sharing'. Each edition contains a letter from the Vicar, an article on the theme, a children's page related to the topic as well as publicising events in the local community and, of course, the service times. We remain grateful to Rory Brown for typesetting each edition, to Originzone in Swindon for their speedy printing and to our newsletter distributors for delivering the newsletter throughout the parish.

Visits by the clergy to residential homes - Savernake View, Merlin Court and Coombe End Court in Marlborough - to bring home communion to the residents continue on a regular basis.

Shortly before Christmas, Andrew Brown, supported by a group of hardy singers from St George's, led community carol singing in Barton Park to raise funds for Crisis at Christmas. The sum of £297 was raised, enabling Crisis to support ten homeless people.

St George's continues to attract many visitors during the course of the week who come to admire the church and churchyard or to seek sanctuary in the peace and quiet of the church. For those unfamiliar with the church, there is a history of the church available to purchase as well as a free walk-round guide, together with a quiz for visiting children.

*Amanda Brown*

### **Safeguarding**

In line with guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults safeguarding continues to be a standing item on every agenda of the PCC meetings, and the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) reports to at least two of the meetings annually.

All safeguarding policies were updated and approved in June 2023 at the PCC meeting.

The Salisbury Diocesan Safeguarding Team have introduced the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard - this is an online tool which allows PSOs to complete an audit of safeguarding policy and practice in the parish. Following the audit, an action plan is automatically generated to assist them in maintaining and improving their safeguarding practices. St George's and the rest of the Marlborough Team has signed up to this and the audits are currently being completed for St George's by the PSO. The subsequent action plan has been shared with the PCC.

The Diocesan Safeguarding team has restarted Parish Safeguarding Officer network meetings. This enables the PSOs from different parishes to meet up and share issues, which is extremely helpful, and are providing good opportunities to discuss topics with those in both similar and contrasting settings, as well as being able to ask questions from the Diocesan Safeguarding team.

The Diocese of Salisbury has recently undergone an External Safeguarding Audit to which PSOs were invited to provide input regarding safeguarding within the diocese.

- **Safer recruitment**

The online system for DBS clearance is now well established. Applications for those with roles requiring a DBS and renewals are currently up to date or proceeding as expected.

Currently, there are no other volunteers who require DBS clearance, but this is always under review.

Thank you to everyone for their willingness to go through this process - your cooperation has been much appreciated.

- **Training**

In April 2021, the Church of England published a new Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework. The focus of this framework is on developing a positive culture of safeguarding within the church, rather than simply focusing on process. It does mean that additional training modules may need to be completed, indeed this has been completed by members of the Open the Book Team, Messy Church and Teddy Prayers.

Currently, there are no other volunteers who need to complete any safeguarding training, but again, this is always kept under review.

- **Safeguarding concerns and incidents**

There has been a safeguarding concern raised during the year, and the management of the incident is still ongoing. This highlights that we need to maintain our vigilance to ensure the protection and well-being of everyone in our community.

*Judith Denning*

### **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

The role of the Lay Pastoral Assistant is to provide assistance with pastoral ministry for the local church. This can involve work with children and young people, the sick, the recently bereaved and the elderly and housebound. They may take communion to those unable to come to church. The Marlborough Team, as a whole, has a number of LPAs. St George's has two: Judith Denning and Jessy Pomfret - the main focus of our work this year has been visiting some of those in the parish who are housebound.

St George's is also very fortunate in that it has a welcoming, friendly and supportive congregation who help one another when needed.

*Judith Denning*

## **2023 ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **Open the Book**

Once we had satisfied the increasingly strict safeguarding requirements, our team of seven (when at full strength) was able to take Open the Book into Preshute School once every month except August. We have covered Christmas, the visit of the Magi (called Starwatchers in the version we are using), Easter, Pentecost, as well as a few of Jesus's parables and miracles. Now we are back in the Old Testament, starting with the Creation, the Fall and the Flood.

Using a new book of dramatised stories produced by the Bible Society, we hope to give the children a decent awareness of some of the key moments in the Bible. Each session is followed by a moment of reflection and a brief prayer. The children are amazingly appreciative of our amateurish acting efforts, and they enjoy taking part themselves when invited to do so (eg as Noah's family in the Flood).

We are grateful to Sally and Howard Cripps for hosting our rehearsals and to Heather Croucher for recruiting pupil helpers. As usual, we would welcome enquiries from anyone who might like to join the Team - no acting experience required!

*Charles Graham*

### **Home Group**

Home group has eight members (six from St George's and two from St Mary's) and meets fortnightly on Monday evenings. Sadly, we said goodbye to Yvette Courtney in December as she moved back to Dorset. Over the course of the year our home group sessions have been led by Charles Graham and Keith Fryer (St Mary's). We have studied Tom Wright's *Romans for everyone* which looks at Paul's letters to the Romans and we have recently finished *Acts 13-28 To the ends of the Earth* study guide, which is part of the *Cover to Cover* series. We have had an insight into Paul's three missionary journeys as he follows Jesus's call to proclaim the gospel. We try and spend time thinking about social issues and how they link in with our studies and we enjoy friendship, laughter and lots of biscuits.

*Julie Conlen*

### **Teddy Prayers and Pre-schoolers**

As our original Teddy Prayers children have grown older, the organisation of our special little group has had to change and adapt to nurture these children in their church life.

Our Sing-along Nativity was the usual happy, joyful service it always is! Welcoming the very young children in a relaxed and informal service is a joy for mothers! It also gives older siblings and friends a chance to shine and take part in the service - from our own "elf guitarists and recorder player" welcoming people by playing in the porch, to our young pianist playing beautifully inside through to the readers and prayer-takers - it is a very special half hour. Pete is stoic in the face of a knitted armada approaching up the aisle! Rounded off with mulled wine and homemade refreshments, the occasion was much enjoyed. There were several new faces too.

At other times we join forces with Amanda for Messy Church. Another very happy occasion with Pete teaching us songs as he plays on the keyboard. Well attended and fun.

We are always there for the first Sunday of the month with a group in the Lady Chapel and busy with activities and at other major festivals too. All join in at Easter with an Easter egg hunt after the service, and of course the Harvest Festival service is a special service for us as well.

Linked with Preshute School, we support the homeless community at 'Open Doors' in Devizes. We are joined by St Nicholas Church in Fyfield to provide the fresh ingredients every week for a cooked breakfast for up to 30 very needy people in the Southbroom Village Hall. The school's harvest collection of food is taken there too.

We keep an eye on the Marlborough rough sleepers and signpost them to the help available from WCC and help with sacks of logs and food etc when the weather is very bad. The church porch is also a haven for one man.

The children are learning to be aware of the needs of others and shown practical ways in which to help.

*Sue Elks and Lydia Bauer*

### **Messy Church**

Our first Messy Church service of 2023 was held on 25 March and welcomed 22 children and 16 adults to explore the Parable of the Lost Sheep. The service began with lively worship songs led by Revd Pete before we heard the Bible story and listened as Revd Pete helped us to understand its meaning and significance. Craft activities followed based on the Bible theme, which helped the children appreciate that each of us is precious to God and that he never gives up on us! After the excitement of the activities, a time of reflective prayer and further songs followed. As ever, we gathered for afternoon tea to round off the afternoon before the children departed carrying marshmallowy sheep and lovingly made 'build a Bible scene' crafts.

Our second Messy Church service of the year was held on 15 October and attended by nine children and 13 adults. The 'Fruit of the Spirit' was the theme on this occasion, and the children were amazingly adept at learning the nine gifts that make up the Fruit of the Spirit. In particular, I don't think that they will ever forget the 'self-control' required to dip a strawberry in chocolate and to then have to leave it until the end of the afternoon before eating it! (Even the vicar found this one quite testing!)

A new feature of Messy Church in 2023 was to give each family a service leaflet to use throughout the afternoon and to take home with them. The leaflet not only contained the words of the worship songs and prayers for use at home, but also an explanation of all the activities with Biblical references.

The Messy Church services are very much a team effort - huge thanks to Revd Pete and the wonderful team who have helped with Messy Church over the course of 2023.

*Amanda Brown*

### **The Flower Group**

At the time of writing this report (spring 2024) which covers the calendar year 2023, we are mourning the loss of Prue Groffman, who had been the dedicated and inspirational organiser of the St George's flower rota for many years. She would undoubtedly have wanted to offer thanks to all the flower arrangers who kindly gave of their time and skills throughout 2023. The fresh flowers contribute much to the beauty of the church and the welcome that it offers, with Easter and Christmas arrangements being a particular highlight. Prue's vision for a riot of spring flowers at Easter and the poinsettia arrangements at Christmas will be her special legacy. She was delighted to make a visit to the church shortly before Christmas and to see it decorated ready for the festival services. We are so grateful for all that Prue gave to St George's. New volunteer flower arrangers are always welcome!

*Amanda Brown*

## Music

2023 saw another year of joyous music making at St George's, with musicians of all ages participating in services in many ways.

The Junior Georgians sang on Mothering Sunday, the Coronation Sunday service, Music Sunday (July), Harvest and the Crib Service. Highlights included the Mothering Sunday anthem, *The Lord is my shepherd* by Howard Goodall (the well-known theme of *The Vicar of Dibley*) and the Coronation Sunday service in May, when our two choirs combined to sing an anthem specially commissioned by the Royal School of Church Music, along with some 100 church choirs up and down the country. The children led both the Music Sunday and the Harvest services very expertly, and the Crib Service saw them singing to a full church and marking the choir's 10th anniversary with *The shepherds' cradle song* and John Rutter's lively *Star Carol*. The colourful feature in Marlborough News showed the choir to a wider public and celebrated the nearly 60 children who have sung in the choir over the past ten years. My thanks to Heather and Amanda for all their help and support with the Junior Georgians.

Meanwhile, The Georgians have enjoyed their year's singing. Services were led on Easter Day, the Coronation All-Age choir (mentioned above), Choral Evensong in July, Remembrance and Carols by Candlelight. A new service for the Georgians this year was on Remembrance Sunday, where the anthem was *Pie Jesu* from Fauré's Requiem, preceded at the Cenotaph ceremony by the National Anthem in a choir version. At a packed Carols by Candlelight, the soloist for *Once in Royal David's city* was Anna Jones, and the choir carols were *Jesus Christ the apple tree* (Bob Chilcott), *The little road to Bethlehem* (Michael Head) and *When Christ was born of Mary free* (John Gardner).

In June, we welcomed Corona Choir, a north Wiltshire choir which had originally formed online during the pandemic, to lead the first of our summer Choral Evensongs. In October, the last Choral Evensong of the year was sung by a chamber choir of six singers – the refreshments afterwards were kindly provided by Yvette Courtney, who was a great supporter of Evensong during her time in Marlborough. In addition, a gallery choir sang *Away in a manger* (Normandy version) in the First Communion of Christmas on Christmas Eve. For the fourth year running we extended a musical outreach in the local community in the week before Christmas. Over 40 singers and enthusiastic local residents joined together to sing carols at the western end of Barton Park. The winter air was filled with the sound of carols and enhanced by the smell (and taste!) of mince pies and mulled wine, and the evening raised nearly £300 for Crisis - my thanks to all involved.

The November concert *Harmony in Autumn* was a musical highlight. 17 musicians from the church family and friends of St George's combined to perform a hugely enjoyable evening of music and readings. Many thanks to all the musicians and readers, and to the Social Team for the delicious refreshments afterwards: the evening raised over £900 for the ongoing work of the church. Meanwhile, some of our junior instrumentalists have started to play in services this year, boding very well for the future. Eliza Gill played the piano preludes at the open-air Pet Service in September. At the Sing-along Nativity, which was accompanied by Heather and Revd Pete, Eliza again played, as did Nicolai Bauer and Max Gill as a guitar duet.

We were saddened by the death in March of Malcolm Hall, one of the founding members of The

Georgians. With his fine tenor voice, he gave many years of loyal support. Our grateful thanks for his wholehearted and much valued contribution.

The organ, piano and keyboard continue to give good service. All three have been much used, with the keyboard particularly supporting Messy Church services, the Pet Service and the new Saturday Family Worship services, led by Revd Pete from the front.

My thanks as always to Revd Pete, the PCC and all who have supported the music at St George's over the year.

*Andrew Brown*

### **Social Committee**

We started the year with our 18<sup>th</sup> annual visit to the Raj restaurant where we were spoilt with delicious food by Mr Bablu and his wonderful staff. The night was finished off as usual with Irish Bingo.

The six Nations Rugby started off in February and we had eight hosts who kindly invited guests to watch matches with something delicious to eat and drink - such a great fundraiser for St George's, and a good result.

St George's Day Quiz was held in the village hall and many thanks to Julie and Peter Ayliffe, who not only organised the quiz but supplied the prizes as well. As usual, everyone enjoyed desserts and cheese and biscuits, washed down with some drinks.

The next day we had a bring and share lunch for our APCM which was enjoyed by everyone attending.

We had three well attended Choral Evensongs throughout the year. All three were wonderful evenings and finished off with the congregation being treated to refreshments. The musical highlight of the year was the November *Harmony in Autumn* concert. A full church of concert goers thoroughly enjoyed the music, singing and readings followed by canapés and wine after the performance. Special thanks to the performers and Amanda and Andrew for all the preparation and organisation.

In July we had a Duck Race between the two bridges in our churchyard which was great fun and well supported. Prizes were awarded for the first three places as well as the best decorated ducks. Tea, cakes and drinks were appreciated by all, and the weather was kind to us. Apart from selling ducks we received other donations as well which meant that we received £2,800 and were able to purchase a defibrillator which is now placed in the church porch.

Harvest supper was held in the Village Hall and cottage pie, desserts, cheese and wine were enjoyed by everyone. As usual, the night ended with a raffle with all proceeds from the evening going to Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. This is a wonderful charity which supports farmers when they are having financial difficulties, mental health problems or any other issue that they need help with.

The Carol Singing just before Christmas was hosted by the Brown family outside their house in

Barton Park. It was a wonderful evening with great singing, and many thanks to our hosts for very welcome mince pies and mulled wine. Fundraising through a cash collection and the Just Giving site were all in aid of Crisis and meant we were able to support 10 homeless people over the Christmas period.

The success of these events is due to everyone who helps, whether it is by cooking, putting out chairs, serving, clearing up, or just turning up to support and enjoy them. Our thanks go to all involved and the income can sometimes be as high as £3,000 in the year, depending on what we are doing. All very helpful to our church, especially with rising costs.

*David Beacom and Judith Denning*

### **Bellringing**

Bell ringing has continued at St George's over the year for all services and extra occasions such as weddings and the coronation of King Charles III. The training of new recruits started in July in anticipation of the establishment of a new team of ringers at the neighbouring parish of St Michael's, West Overton. I would like to thank the ringers at St George's for their support in this project.

Maintenance and training has continued. Anyone interested in joining the team and learning to ring will be most welcome.

*Richard Metters*

## **MARLBOROUGH, THE DEANERY & THE DIOCESE**

### **Diocesan Synod**

In February 2023, Synod welcomed the Deans and diocesan synod representatives of the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey, who are now attached to the diocese.

The main discussion item was '*Living in Love and Faith*'. (LLF is a Church of England process which considered how questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ. What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?). Our three bishops Andrew, Karen and Stephen spoke of their own personal responses to the draft prayer resources put forward by the General Synod's college of Bishops. Bishop Stephen 'apologised unreservedly to LGBT+ people for the Church's ongoing and worsening rejection'. He also promised to support clergy, who for reasons of conscience will be unable to offer prayers of blessing for same sex couple. Other synod members spoke personally and movingly of their own responses to the proposals to offer prayers of blessing to same sex couples. The morning ended with a Eucharist, led by Bishop Stephen.

In the afternoon, we had an update from the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) and it was noted that the operating deficit at the end of 2022 was anticipated to be £1.4m, higher than the expected/budgeted £999k. Meanwhile, the sale of Church House, Salisbury, was progressing. We also focused on the new *Diocesan Vision and Strategy* ....



Steve Tarpey, a professional facilitator, spoke about the strap line of “Your Kingdom Come, Here and Now” and how the vision comes from this. “Our Vision is to know Jesus Christ and proclaim His Kingdom to each person and in each place, as Good News for our communities. We will be a church that is simpler, humbler and bolder”. Five strategic priorities underpinned the Vision: Nurturing Confident Christianity; Reimagining Missional Communities; Mobilising Advocacy in Society; Championing Environmental Justice; and Financing the Future.

In June '23 we considered the *Annual Report and Accounts of the Diocesan Board of Finance*. The year (2022) had been difficult, and share received was £1m below the required amount. However, with help from the National Church, we had provided 90 Warm Spaces.

In his Presidential Address, Bishop Stephen spoke of the success of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s mission weekend to Salisbury Diocese. He added, *‘more and more as I navigate being your bishop, my thoughts and prayers are drawn to the Jesus of the Gospels as my example and guide. What did Jesus say? What did he do? Who did he spend time with? What mattered to him? Did he heal or did he reject? Did he deny or did he wash feet? Did he love and did he die for you and me? The person, this person of the Trinity, is whom we know and who knows us better than we know ourselves.*

*This person died for us and rose again, and, just like those first witnesses, we need to make his good news known here and now. Making Jesus Known is not a strapline; it’s a choice. Our priorities are not a popularity list; they are wounds from which can spring resurrected life. In every thought and every conversation we have from now on, we must ask ourselves individually and in our worshipping communities: are we making the person of Jesus Christ known? If not, then it is about us, noisy us, and that convinces no-one.*

In October '23 Bishop Stephen commissioned a new *Director of Education*, and reminded us that over 40,000 young people, half of those learning in all schools in Wiltshire and Dorset are in our spiritual care.

We continued to explore our new *Vision and Strategy*, hearing talks, watching videos and spending time in groups to discuss what is happening at a local level.

We ended by approving the DBF annual budget for 2024. For the first time, in recent years, the proposed budget does not plan for an operating deficit, alongside an 8% increase to Share request.

*Sarah Musgrave*

## **Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year and is made up of clergy and elected representatives for all the churches in the Marlborough Deanery (which covers an area that includes Chiseldon, Broad Hinton, Avebury, Marlborough, Ramsbury and Aldbourne). Canon Sarah Musgrave is the Lay Chair, and Paul Lefever and I are the lay representatives from St George's.

The main focus of our discussions in 2023 has been the developing of the link with the Diocese of Morobo in South Sudan. This partnership has grown very successfully over the year. We started by providing money for seeds, hoes and wellington boots, to enable the bishop and clergy to improve the cultivation of crops. Our Lent Appeal raised over £4,000 for bibles, service books and hymn books, and later in the year we were able to fund the purchase of 20 bicycles for the clergy, giving them much increased mobility. An important element of the partnership is mutual prayer, and we made information leaflets and, in Advent, a daily prayer guide available in churches.

Another topic we considered was the Bishop of Salisbury's new vision "Making Jesus Known", with its five strands: Courageous Christian leadership, Working for justice, Creative partnerships in local mission, Championing climate justice and Financing the future sustainably. We were invited to make suggestions as to how this vision can be implemented in our churches, and the Bishop of Ramsbury will be attending the next meeting to find out what progress has been made.

Diocesan finance has also been on the agenda. The need is to reduce the Diocese's debt to zero, which will inevitably have consequences for all our churches. A new system of calculating the Parish Share will be introduced in 2025.

*Charles Graham*

## **THE FABRIC, GOODS & ORNAMENTS**

### **Fabric Report**

Church and churchyard tidy up: this happens in April and October and many thanks to all the helpers that come to help keep our church and churchyard looking pristine. We are very lucky to have Wiltshire Council cutting the grass for us during the summer and the additional help we get from volunteers is essential.

We have at last received all the approvals for a new handrail and the manufacturing works started in October. The handrail on the main path looks great and we now also have low level lights operated by sensors at both ends of the path. At the same time, we laid a cable duct behind the handrail should we ever need it for future services. The handrail on the path to the car park has also been welcomed by many of the congregation, especially in wet and slippery weather. The double entrance gates and posts were also refurbished with a new locking device and a pamphlet board.

We have also received faculty approval for the new glass south porch doors which have been ordered, and they will be fitted after Easter 2024. To carry out these works we had to move the porch light switch to the rear of porch - many thanks to Kevin Wroth for refurbishing the porch light at the same time. The defibrillator is situated on the floor on the left-hand side of the porch

as you enter. This was purchased from the income of the Duck Race held back in July.

We now have a permanent place for the card reader on the bookcase to the left as you enter the church. There has been an electric double plug added so that it has a continual supply. We have also applied for a faculty for a ringing simulator and this will be powered from the same plug. A ringing simulator is used through a laptop to assist in teaching bell ringing without having to always ring the bells.

During the summer a leak was noticed outside the toilet which resulted in the stopcock being replaced. Many thanks to Richard Metters and Kevin Wroth for carrying out all the digging and backfilling required. Also, many thanks to Ken Martin and his tool box for carrying out various maintenance jobs throughout the year.

*David Beacom*

### **Eco Church**

Congratulations to St George's as we have achieved a Silver Eco Church award from the Christian environmental charity, A Rocha. We cannot thank enough all those who have tirelessly helped us to win this award. Further details of our award and how we achieved it are on our website.

Sandra Rogers started keeping bees in the Maurice Family burial plot at St George's in May 2022. She now has two hives and in July this year she started the process of making honey. This harvest resulted in a jar of 'Holy Honey' being used as a fundraiser and for £1 you had to guess how many bees were responsible for making 454g of honey. One hive is decorated with sunflowers and the second hive is covered with daisies. Bees can see patterns and some colours, so the idea is this will help them find their way home.

The Maurice family have also been wonderfully supportive and kind about using this space for beehives. With their permission Sandra and her friend Trudi Granger (also a beekeeper) have been planting daffodils, crocus, anemone, grape hyacinths and bluebells in that area to give the bees some spring flowers. Wild roses in the hedge around the plot will also provide early spring forage for the bees.

Bees will also feed on the chestnut blossom from the existing chestnut trees in the churchyard in the spring. Flowering trees and hedges are also a valuable source of food, so we have now planted seven memorial cherry trees to add even more food for the bees, while at the same time making our churchyard more beautiful. On the new soil banks to the main path we intend to plant crocuses, grape hyacinths, snowdrops, cowslips and primroses.

After the loss of an ash tree in the churchyard to 'ash dieback' disease the PCC agreed to create a 'stumpery' which has now been planted out with cyclamen, primroses and cowslips. The existing trunk has been cut down to form a table and other logs are cut to size to make seats. Great place to have a picnic!

Other ash trees near the pedestrian bridge succumbed to the 'ash dieback' disease as well and were cut down. This has brightened the area up and we are looking to create another stumpery using ferns. In a damp area next to the bridge, we have planted numerous yellow flag iris plants as

well. Along the bank at the back of the church we had 2000 snakeshead fritillary planted, with tremendous help from ARK, for which we were very grateful.

On the top left-hand side of the path to the church we have started a remembrance garden with cyclamen and other plants. It is a very shaded area but we are hoping for a good result, although we do have competition from the 12 or so squirrels that live in the trees above it.

We were encouraged on our Eco Church journey to install cycle racks and these are now available to the left of the porch as you approach the church.

In June, with thanks to Emily Best, we hosted a visit from the reception class at Preshute Primary School. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit and were mesmerised at everything they learnt and saw about moths, dormice, hedgehogs and all the other animals that inhabit our churchyard.

As well as the bug hotel near to car park fence we now also have homes for the dormice and hedgehogs along the bottom of some hedges.

Our bird population is very important to us also and apart from some nesting boxes that are in place already we have put up owl and bat boxes. We now have plans to erect more nesting boxes throughout the churchyard and form a nature trail. Our nature plan is on view in the church, and it shows how we have protected the wildlife in the churchyard and have made homes for more.

Eco Church is self-funding and many thanks go to Chris McColl and Bridget Smith who sell plants at the village fête and from their base in Manton High Street. Further funding for our future comes from planting a memorial cherry tree for £800 including a memorial plaque. We still have some available should anyone wish to sponsor one in memory of a loved one. We have also added another two memorial benches next to the path to the church which brings the total to 12, giving plenty of room to picnic, rest, read or contemplate.

All the above is only part of creating an Eco Church. Thanking God for giving us the earth we live on extends to the ministry and running of the church. Sermons, prayers and readings that relate to God's greatest creation are used on a regular basis. We also must ensure, where possible, that purchases are sustainable, and recyclable. These thoughts and practices should also be mirrored in our own lives and homes, to care for God's creation.

*Linda Morgan and David Beacom*

### **Churchyard Records**

The electronic version of the records has been updated to include burials during 2023. Copies are held by the Churchwardens, the Team Office, the Team Vicar and me. This is updated as necessary and re-published annually. There continue to be a few burials each year; usually the interment of ashes. In 2023 there were seven burials of ashes; three added to existing plots and four in new plots. There is a hard copy file of the records kept in the church.

*Laurien Carter*

## **Brass Cleaners**

Brass cleaning continues to be undertaken every two weeks by a small group of diligent parishioners. Thank you to those involved – the church brass always looks good.

If anyone is interested in becoming a brass cleaner you are welcome to join the team – please let us know.

*Laurien Carter*

## **Archives**

Key policy and works services documents, together with selected photographs, continue to be filed with the church archives which are held at the vicarage. There were no enquiries during the past year January - December 2023.

*Jeremy York*

## **FINANCE**

### **Financial Review**

The following provides an overview of the accounts for 2023 which have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2023 was again a challenging financial year for St George's. The unrestricted fund returned a deficit of £7,365 in 2023, following a surplus of £2,588 in 2022. Key factors include a drop in donations and reduced fees from weddings and funerals. Fortunately, utility costs have started to reduce, coming down from £4,156 in 2022 to £2,742, though still well above the historic average of approximately £1,000 per year. In the third quarter, as planned we began to fund our Worship Director via our general fund, as the original Worship Director fund, set up in 2020, has now been used.

Despite these challenges, we remain a charitable church. A total of £1,827 was raised through special collections and £3,455 was donated to a range of local, national and international charities.

2023 saw the beginning of a number of capital projects, funded through the Legacy and Fabric funds we maintain for long term investment and maintenance of the church and churchyard. £16,432 was spent on capital project work, much of which can be seen as you come to the church, such as the new railings, upgraded paths and soon to be installed door and gate at the front of the church. A number of generous bequests have contributed to the installation of new benches and cherry trees in the churchyard.

The full accounts are presented in the Appendix. The Independent Examiner's Report is pending.

### **Notes on Income:**

The table below summarises the main sources of income for our Unrestricted Fund over the past three years, excluding restricted income such as Worship Director donations, bequests and special collections. Planned giving remains consistent and has done since 2019. Over that same period, the money we collect at services (cash and yellow envelopes) has dropped by nearly a

third. In 2023 we saw a further drop in donations and income from weddings and funerals, while income from social events increased. The card reader, introduced near the end of 2022, has continued to pay for itself.

<b>Sources of Income (Unrestricted Fund)</b>	2021 (£)	2022 (£)	2023 (£)
Planned Giving (Total)	30,796	30,853	31,474
of which: Planned Giving Scheme (PGS)	16,494	18,016	18,848
Standing Orders	12,597	10,988	10,873
Blue Envelopes	1,705	1,849	1,753
Collections (excluding special collections)	1,858	3,418	2,618
Yellow Envelopes	972	1,191	1,170
Wall Box	293	220	251
Donations	10,307	7,434	5,501
Card Reader	N/A	281	1,787
Generous Giving Campaign	7,981	N/A	N/A
Gift Aid tax refund (2 years claimed in 2022)	11,425	22,447	10,468
Social Events (Net)	1,515	2,112	3,907
Fees from Weddings and Funerals	4,157	5,874	3,206
Legacies	0	0	200
Grants	0	1,000	335
Dividends from Investments	347	358	360
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>69,651</b>	<b>75,189</b>	<b>61,274</b>

#### **Notes on Expenditure:**

Expenditure continues to be controlled, and has come down in a number of areas, for example as we move to booklets for the order of service. Overall expenditure for 2023 was below the budget of £69,707 for the year. The Parish Share continues to increase and we will see an 8% increase to £47,149 in 2024.

<b>Summary of Expenditure (Unrestricted Fund)</b>	2021 (£)	2022 (£)	2023 (£)
Parish Share	40,164	42,173	43,438
Church Maintenance and Running Costs	5,584	5,175	2,376
Church Capital Costs	Included above	60	177
Utilities	1,367	4,156	2,742
Insurance	2,085	2,169	2,232
Equipment & Consumables	561	631	118
Publicity, Printing and Stationery	1,867	3,128	1,450
Working and Office Expenses	1,926	2,567	2,055
Worship Director	N/A	N/A	3,853
Honoraria/Secretarial	2,030	8,107	6,361
Missions and Charities	1,123	3,330	3,455
Alpha Course	N/A	165	N/A
Education & Youth Work	N/A	632	126
Bank Charges	287	307	256
Auditor Costs	432	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>57,426</b>	<b>72,602</b>	<b>68,639</b>

### **Reserves policy**

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments (excluding charitable giving). In 2023 this was equivalent to £16,296 and this was met as of 31 December 2023 when the unrestricted fund stood at £17,946

We currently maintain a Gift and Legacy fund. This fund is to be used on major projects some of which are currently entering final consultation and faculty stage whilst others are at early discussion stages but all of which will significantly reduce this designated fund.

*Alastair Barr, Hon Treasurer*

### **The Dominy and Turner Trust**

The trustees (Vicar and two churchwardens) are pleased to report that the trust balance in hand has increased this year, despite making three reasonable size gifts. One donation was for Bibles for Preshute leavers, the second for books and the third to a parishioner.

We have made several contacts this year to make connections with the village and wider community (within the trust's deed and remit) but with no success. The trust is in good shape and the trustees will next meet in May 2024.

*Neil Croucher*

### **Missions and Charities**

In accordance with the principle that we give approximately 10% of our donated income to Missions and Charities, £3,100 was sent from the General Fund to a total of nine charities. The broad aim is to keep a balance between Christian mission and relief, and between international, national and local charities. In addition, there were special collections at Easter (for the Church in the Middle East), Harvest (the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution), Remembrance Sunday (two armed services charities) and Christmas (Age UK Wilts and the Children's Society). The Barton Park carol singing also raised good money for Crisis.

The full list of payments made in 2023 can be viewed in the Treasurer's Accounts, and thank you letters from the grateful recipients are displayed on the noticeboard in church.

*Charles Graham*

### **Churchwardens' Report**

Firstly, on behalf of Neil Croucher and Nicky Huckle, our wardens - *thank you* to all those who are mentioned in this year's report for their continued support and work on behalf of St George's Church.

Outreach: our children's ministry continues in Preshute School and also within St George's Church via Messy Church and Eco church days. Sue Elks teaches and inspires our young ones at our monthly All Age services (as well as at other local parish churches). Revd Pete has been trialling Saturday Worship services as part of our family outreach. Our social events continue to be well attended by the congregation and their friends and families.

Churchyard stewardship: we have installed bike rails, handrails, lighting, benches, bird boxes, planted bulbs and young trees, and the bees have been busy too. Thank you to the working parties and those involved in additional bulb planting, which included the local community. Thanks to David Beacom, Linda Morgan and their team for their hard work, particularly over the last 12 months, in not only achieving a Silver Award from A Rocha but also raising the general Eco Church awareness across our congregation and with the students and staff at Preshute School.

Our special thanks also to:

- all who maintain our church records and documentation, in particular this year as part of the Archdeacon's triennial visitation;
- Amanda Brown for her work as PCC Secretary, in our children's ministry and as Editor of the newsletter;
- to those collecting our weekly pew sheets and delivering our newsletters across the parish;
- duty wardens and all those who serve at our Sunday services;
- Jeremy York and Mel Rolfe for weekly maintenance and cleaning;
- our vergers serving during the week and our sacristan, Lynn Whatley.
- Andrew Brown for his continued work with the Junior Georgians and the Georgians choirs, and arranging and playing the music for our Sunday services. Also this year for arranging, rehearsing and conducting musicians for 'Harmony in Autumn'. We understand some of the music could be heard across the Marlborough bens, glens and vales.
- Alastair Barr for maintaining our accounts and church finances throughout another year, and for providing clarity to the PCC in his financial reporting and working diligently behind the scenes.
- Finally, to Revd Pete for presiding over our services throughout the week, pastoral care and leading the PCC and continued ministries among us.

This year we have had to say farewell to some of our friends in the congregation who have returned to the Lord, and others who have moved away from the parish.

We have continued in our works and maintained our warm welcome at St George's, let us now share the Word and become a growing part of God's church.

*Nicky Huckle and Neil Croucher, Churchwardens*

## Appendix 1

### The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St George's Preshute, Marlborough Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>							
Planned Giving		31474		1605		33079	32473
Collections at Services		2614		1664		4277	5702
All other giving / voluntary receipts	4a	9244		0		12844	10126
Gift Aid Recovered		10468		0		10468	26538
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>53800</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>3269</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60669</b>	<b>74839</b>
Activities for generating funds	4b	4194		567		4761	2658
Investment Income	4c	360	3700	126		4186	2420
Church Activities	4d	3206				3206	5874
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>61561</b>	<b>7300</b>	<b>3962</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72822</b>	<b>85791</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church Activities</b>							
Parish Share		43438				43438	42173
Clergy and Staffing Costs	4e			5747		9600	9600
Church Running Costs	4f, 6, 7	17715	4620	2608	0	24943	29039
Church Capital Costs	4f, 6, 7	177	10432	6000	0	16609	2857
Mission Giving and Donations	5	3455		1827		5282	5614
		68639	15052	16182		99873	89282
Cost of Generating Funds	4g	287				690	545
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>68926</b>	<b>15052</b>	<b>16585</b>		<b>100563</b>	<b>89827</b>
Excess of Receipts over payments		<b>-7365</b>	<b>-7752</b>	<b>-12624</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-27741</b>	<b>-4037</b>
Transfer Between Funds	8	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				
		<b>-7365</b>	<b>-7752</b>	<b>-12624</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-27741</b>	<b>-4037</b>
<b>Gains / Losses on Investments</b>							
Realised							
Unrealised			1781		1531	3311	-4696
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>							
Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2023		25311	103303	12624	16268	157505	166237
Balance carried forward at 31 Dec 2023		17946	97331	0	17798	133076	157505
Net change in funds in year						-24429	-8732
Comprising							
Total Receipts		72822					
Total Payments		100563					
Investment Gains/Losses		3311					
Net change in funds in year		-24429					

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund		Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£		£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>							
Bank Current Account		8662	0	0		8662	24537
CCLA Deposit Fund		9284	76624	0		85908	97775
<b>Total</b>		<b>17946</b>	<b>76624</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>94571</b>	<b>122311</b>
	Note		<b>31-Dec-23</b>			<b>31-Dec-22</b>	
			£			£	
<b>Investment Assets</b>							
Investment Shares CCLA General			20706			18926	
Investment Shares - Aspent Copse Trust			13183			12049	
Investment shares - Angela and William Whitrow			4615			4218	
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Cash on hand at bank			8662			24537	
CCLA Deposit Fund			85908			97775	
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>133075</b>			<b>157505</b>	

### Notes to the 2023 Accounts and Further Analysis

#### 1. Accounting Policies

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St George's Preshute, Marlborough, is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Charity Registration Number 1184256.

##### a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK & Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16th July 2014.

The accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

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

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. The accounts do not include the accounts relating to any informal gatherings of Church members or small cash balances held by individuals such as the flower arrangers.

b) Rounding – the Accounts are prepared to the exact penny but for presentation purposes, and for ease of reading and understanding, are shown in rounded pounds. This can mean that some of the totals and/or sub totals do not appear as if they add correctly and appear to be £1 out.

##### c) Incoming resources

- Voluntary income - Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the Gift Aid is received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are logged as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. It is recorded in the accounts when received.
- Funds raised by any social events are accounted for gross, where practicable and costs for events included in expenditure, this is broken out later in the notes.
- Income from investments Dividends and interest are accounted for when received.
- Gains and losses on investments - Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are recognised on their valuation in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

d) Resources used

- Church ministry and services - The diocesan share/quota is accounted for when paid. Any diocesan share unpaid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.
- Grants made - Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, then they are recorded in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

e) Fixed assets - Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the rectors and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property and not valued in the accounts.
- All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is treated as an expense and written off.
- The fabric fund is maintained to cover the costs of major maintenance whereas minor works are funded through the general fund.

f) Investments - Investments are valued at mid market value at 31 December.

g) Current Assets - Cash held in a savings account with a bank is classified as cash at bank. Cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or held in a term deposit account with a bank is also classified as cash.

h) Funds - Funds have been classified as Unrestricted, Unrestricted Designated, Restricted or Endowment.

- Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated by the PCC for a particular purpose are classified as unrestricted designated as the PCC has allocated them for a specific purpose although the PCC can re-designate these funds. This helps budget for the future.
- Restricted funds are funds received, collected by or given to the PCC for a particular purpose which was specified at or before the time of receipt. These funds have been restricted by the donor for a particular purpose and they cannot be used by the PCC for any other purpose except by agreement with the donor or as determined by the courts or the Charity Commission.

- Endowment funds are funds or assets given to the PCC with the specific instruction that only the income gained from the funds can be spent. The original endowment funds cannot normally be spent and must remain in the form of equivalent assets or investments.

St George's is the beneficiary of two funds:

The Aspent Copse endowment fund. The dividend income from the fund each year is added to our general fund and is not restricted in use. The fund itself is managed by the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance and the capital is not available to be spent (it is understood that in extremis the board could be approached to allow the funds to be transferred to our general funds but this would be a matter for them to consider not a right).

The Angela and William Whitrow fund where the dividend income gained is restricted to use on upkeep of the churchyard.

## **2. Explanation of Funds**

St George's has a number of funds where the PCC has allocated money for specific purposes to aid saving for projects and to manage our finances more effectively, e.g. to budget for organ maintenance. The funds and purposes are as follows:

- Fabric fund: To build up reserves for maintenance work in the church and churchyard.
- Legacy and Gift Fund: Used to ring fence money for capital projects.
- Boiler Fund: Maintenance and where required replacement of the church boiler and related heating system
- Ministry: To provide specific funds for ministry
- Church Hall: Specific fund with the long term aim to provide a church hall or annex to the church
- Organ Fund: Fund for maintenance and repair of the organ.
- Worship Director Restricted Fund: a restricted fund to manage donations and payments in support of the Worship Director.

## Note to the Accounts – Further Analysis Continued

The following pages further break down specific sections of income and expenditure.

### 3. Movement in Funds

We maintain a number of designated funds to help budget for future finance. At the end of the year these funds contained:

		Balance B/F	Receipts	Payments	Investment Gains / Losses	Bal/C/f
<b>Unrestricted</b>		25311	61561	68926		17946
<b>Restricted</b>	6					
Fabric Fund		2482	126	2608		0
Legacy and Gift Fund		6000	0	6000		0
Worship Director Fund		4142	1605	5747		0
Special Collections	5	0	2231	2231		0
		12624	3962	16585		0
<b>Designated</b>	7					
Fabric		8555	0	4620		3936
Legacy & Gift Fund		82052	7300	10432	1781	80700
Boiler		0	0			0
Ministry		5264				5264
Church Hall		1141				1141
Organ		6290				6290
		103303	7300	15052	1781	97331
<b>Total (excl of Aspent Copse &amp; Whitrow Fund)</b>		141238	72822	100563	1781	115278
<b>Endowments</b>						
Value of Aspent Copse Trust & Whitrow Funds		16268	0		1531	17798
<b>Total</b>		157505	72822	100563	3311	133076
		£				
Value at 31/12/22		157505				
Value at 31/12/23		133076				
Value change in year		-24429				
Total Receipts		72822				
Total Payments		100563				
Investment gains/loss		3311				
Net change in funds in year		-24429				

#### 4. Breakdown of Income and Expenditure

		Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
<b>a) All other giving / voluntary receipts</b>						
Donations (including yellow envelopes)		8793			8793	9906
Bequests			3600		3600	0
Legacies		200		0	200	0
Wall Box		251			251	220
	4a	9244	3600	0	12844	10126
<b>b) Social Activities Generating funds</b>						
Plant Sales		120			120	220
Raj Night		223			223	270
Rugby Dinners		510			510	0
Harvest Supper				567	567	0
Quiz Night		473			473	0
Concert		960			960	700
Westwind Open Gardens		1222			1222	0
Duck Race		686			686	0
Village Fete		0			0	139
St George's Supper		0			0	669
Safari Supper		0			0	660
	4b	4194		567	4761	2658
<b>c) Investment Income</b>						
Interest on CBF Deposit Fund			3134		3134	1373
Dividends of CBF shares			566		566	563
Dividends of Trust Shares		360		126	487	484
	4c	360	3700	126	4186	2420
<b>d) Church Activities:</b>						
Fees for Weddings and funerals		3206			3206	5874
	4d	3206			3206	5874
<b>Payments</b>						
<b>e) Clergy and Staffing Costs</b>						
Worship Director Pay, NI, Pension etc		3853		5747	9600	9600
	4e	3853		5747	9600	9600
<b>f) Church Running Expenses</b>						
Working and Office Expenses		2055			2055	2567
Honoraria and Secretarial		6361			6361	8107
Organ Maintenance & tuning		540			540	698
Insurance		2232			2232	2169
Printing and stationary		1568			1568	3760
Heating, Lighting and Water		2742			2742	4156
Repairs & Maintenance		1836	4620	2608	9063	9334
Capital Improvements		177	10432	6000	16609	9334
Bank Charges		256			256	307
Education/Youth Work		126			126	632
Alpha Course		0			0	165
	4f	17892	15052		41552	31895
<b>g) Costs of Generating Funds</b>						
St George's Supper		0			0	452
Harvest Supper				403	403	0
Quiz Night		60			60	0
Arocha Lunch		63			63	0
Concert		137			137	93
Christmas Carols		27			27	0
		287			690	545



<b>6. Note on Restricted Funds</b>				
As of 31 December 2023, there are no restricted funds. The breakdown of payments and receipts (excl Worship Director and Special Collections) are shown below:				
The remaining balance in the Worship Director Fund was spent in 2023 and going forward the salary of the vicar shall be paid from the Unrestricted Fund				
		Income	Expenditure	
Dividends Received from Investments		126		
Fabric - Tree Surgery			2080	
Fabric - Cherry Trees and Bulbs			528	
Legacy - Rail, Gate, Doors & Lighting			3379	
Benjamin & Beauchamp Survey and Pre Faculty Work			2621	
		126	8608	
<b>7. Note on Unrestricted Designated Funds</b>				
As of 31 December 2023, there were £97,388 Unrestricted Designated funds. The breakdown of payments and receipts are shown below:				
		Income	Expenditure	
Dividends Received from Investments		566		
CBF Deposit Acct retained interest		3134		
Bequests		3600		
Fabric - Bulbs, Trees, Bird Boxes			1046	
Fabric - Grounds Work			2605	
Fabric - Tap Repair			969	
Legacy - Defibrillator			2411	
Legacy - Benches			855	
Legacy - Rail, Gate, Doors & Lighting			6813	
Legacy - Central Heating Thermostat			353	
		7300	15052	
<b>8. Transfer between funds</b>				
No transfer between funds in 2023				

## Appendix 2

St George's Church, Preshute  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
to be held in the Church  
on Sunday 21 April 2024 at 11.45am

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Meeting of Sunday 23 April 2023 (See Appendix 3)
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Report of the proceedings of the PCC
6. Finance:
  - a. Treasurer's Report
  - b. Adoption of audited accounts
  - c. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church
  - Presentation and approval of Inventory Changes forms
8. Safeguarding
9. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
10. Team Vicar's Comments
11. Any Questions

### ELECTIONS

- a. PCC Members
- b. Churchwardens

## Appendix 3

Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting  
 Sunday 23 April 2023, 11.45am at St George's Church

### MINUTES

<p><b>Present:</b> Alastair Barr, David Beacom, Sandra Beacom, Liz Bonham, Simon Bonham, Amanda Brown, Andrew Brown, Howard Cripps, Heather Croucher, Neil Croucher, Sue Elks, Charles Graham, Nicky Huckle, Elizabeth Keighley, Paul Lefever, Jan Lillywhite, Kate Martin, Chris McColl, Linda Morgan, Philip Morgan, Revd Pete Sainsbury (Chair), Judith Sharp, Revd Chris Smith (Rector), Vernie Sofflet, Alec Thomas, Jeremy York</p>	
<p>1     <b>Welcome and Opening Prayers:</b> Revd Pete welcomed all present thanked everyone for coming. Revd Pete then offered a prayer to open the meeting.</p>	
<p>2     <b>Apologies:</b> Apologies were received from Laurien Carter, Kay Cripps, Prue Groffman, Marcia Johnson, Richard Metters, Anne Notton, Robin Notton, Stephen Robins, David Sims, Linda Sims.</p>	
<p>3     <b>Minutes of the Meeting of Sunday 26 April 2022:</b> The minutes had been published in the APCM report and were approved and signed. There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p>	
<p>4     <b>Electoral Roll:</b> Charles Graham represented Linda Sims, who was unable to be present, and referred the meeting to Linda's report in the Annual Report. Charles reminded everyone that the report relates to 2022, and as such there was nothing further to add. Charles thanked Linda for taking on the task of Electoral Roll Officer.</p>	
<p>5     <b>Proceedings of the PCC:</b> In addition to the information given in the Annual Report, the Secretary gave a brief description of the items that appear regularly on PCC agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vicar's Report, including matters relating to worship patterns, children's ministry, baptisms, the Alpha course and our links with Preshute Primary School</li> <li>• Finance, including a review of charitable giving in 2022 and the planning of the budget at the November meeting</li> <li>• Diocesan and Deanery Synod report – a particular feature of the reports from the Deanery Synod in 2022 was the establishing of a link with the Diocese of Morobo.</li> <li>• Safeguarding, with a report on any issues arising and focusing in the past year on training requirements, particularly for those working with children at the church and Preshute Primary School.</li> <li>• Church and Churchyard (with thanks to David Beacom for all his work in this area) including a detailed walk around the church and churchyard at the July PCC meeting to review the fabric of the building</li> <li>• Eco Church</li> <li>• Planning of Social Events</li> <li>• Other topics for discussion this year were the printing of service booklets and the</li> </ul>	

	<p>return of communion wine, the installation of the Nest heating monitor and applications for faculties. Last but not least, an important part of the October meeting was the proposal to make Revd Pete’s Worship Director post permanent – pleased to say this was approved.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report:</b></p> <p>a. Alastair Barr gave an overview of the Church’s finances, full details of which are available in the APCM financial report. AB highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB was pleased to report a surplus of £2,588 at the end of 2022</li> <li>• Areas of increased expenditure included – a) utility costs, which had risen by £3,000; b) photocopying expenses; c) secretarial costs</li> <li>• After suspending charitable giving during the course of the pandemic, St George’s had resumed this in 2022 donating £3,300 to chosen charities, as well as £2,000 from special collections (eg from the Christmas services)</li> <li>• 2022 had also seen the reintroduction of weddings and income from these together with the social events had been restored to a pre-pandemic level. AB thanked David Beacom for all his work in arranging the social events.</li> <li>• Together with the installation of the Nest heating monitor to manage the church’s heating system more cost effectively, a card reader has now been installed at the back of the church for electronic donations. The card reader had paid for itself from donations within a month of operation.</li> <li>• AB has now taken over the role of managing Gift Aid from Howard Cripps and AB thanked Howard very much for all his work over several years. AB is hoping to claim Gift Aid wherever possible from donations, as this boosts gifts by 25%.</li> <li>• AB reported that the number of people giving to the church through the Parish Giving Scheme continues to rise, and as the scheme takes care of claiming the Gift Aid directly, this is a very effective way of making regular donations to the church.</li> </ul> <p>AB invited any questions and Charles Graham enquired firstly whether, now that service booklets had been printed, the annual printing costs would be reduced and AB confirmed that this would be the case. Secondly, Charles asked the Treasurer if he had any news on the amount of money raised from St George’s in the appeal to support the Diocese of Morobo in purchasing Bibles. AB answered that he didn’t have the figures to hand but would circulate these following the meeting.</p> <p>AB concluded that if anyone had any further questions, having looked at the accounts in more detail, they would be welcome to contact him.</p> <p>Revd Pete offered sincere thanks to Alastair (and to Emma for her forbearance!) for the considerable amount of work involved in the role of Treasurer and in preparing the annual accounts.</p> <p>b. Proposal of the acceptance of the audited accounts: PS explained that the church’s accounts are not required to be ‘audited’ but do require an Independent Examiner to</p>

	<p>approve them. As this process is not yet complete (but any revisions are likely to be minor), PS proposed provisional acceptance of the accounts. All were in favour.</p> <p>c. PS also proposed that Roger Wheeler be appointed Independent Examiner. All were in favour.</p>
7	<p><b>Report on the Fabric, Goods, and Ornaments of the Church:</b> An inventory of the fabric, goods and ornaments had been carried out by the Churchwardens with the aid of Charles Graham.</p> <p>Nicky Huckle reported the additions to the inventory as: mini glasses for communion wine, new service booklets, large print versions of the new service booklets, some more booklets for the 8am communion services, roped guide posts to cordon off the bell tower when in use, the new card reader machine and the electronic piano.</p> <p>Nicky reported as missing the Gideon children's story books.</p> <p>PS offered thanks to Nicky and Charles for all their work and signed the inventory.</p> <p>Alec Thomas enquired whether the potential increased value of fabric, goods and ornaments was reflected in the church's insurance. It was agreed that the value of certain items should be investigated and checked with the insurance company.</p>
8	<p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Judith Denning (Safeguarding Officer) was unable to be at the meeting, but had submitted a report within the Annual Report. PS recorded his thanks for all Judith's work and to all those who had been required to complete an enhanced DBS check and online training. PS had completed an update of his safeguarding training for incumbents in 2022. Otherwise (thankfully) there was little to report on safeguarding, other than that new signage had been placed in the toilet with contact details for those wishing to contact make contact with someone on a safeguarding issue.</p>
9	<p><b>Deanery Synod:</b> PS referred the meeting to page 13 of the Annual Report for a report from Canon Sarah Musgrave on activities of the Deanery Synod in 2022 and (although this is not a requirement for the annual report) the Diocesan Synod. Additionally, PS commented that areas for discussion at the Diocesan Synod had been finances, Parish Share, resources and the state of the Diocese and had involved making some brave decisions about cuts required. PS highlighted that whilst the workings of the Diocese may seem remote from parish life, we are very much a part of the Diocese and they help to fund what we do at parish level.</p> <p>A highlight from the summer of 2022 had been the visit of Bishop Data from the Diocese of Morobo. PS is now in touch with +Data on a regular basis and fundraising is in process to allow the Diocese of Morobo to purchase more Bibles. The Marlborough Deanery is already at work helping the Diocese of Morobo with food production and developing their sustainability.</p> <p>PS explained the structure of the Diocese and Deanery and thanked Jeremy York, Simon Bonham and Sarah Musgrave very much for their work as representatives on the</p>

	<p>Deanery Synod over the past three years. As it is now the end of the triennium, new representatives have to be elected to the Deanery Synod.</p> <p>On a matter of Church procedure, Alec Thomas asked why there had been such a long interregnum before PS's appointment. PS explained that it is the way of the Church of England to allow a period of re-setting before the installation of a new incumbent. In addition, applications have become slower, and in the case of the Marlborough Anglican Team there was the added complication of the Team Rector's appointment needing to be made before the appointment of an incumbent at St George's.</p>
10	<p><b>Team Vicar's Comments:</b> PS referred the meeting to his report within the Annual Report to which he added his especial thanks to Neil Croucher and Nicky Huckle for their work as churchwardens and to Jeremy York for his work as Deputy Churchwarden. PS also thanked Stephen Robins who had stepped in to Jeremy's role on his retirement and who, shortly after his arrival in Marlborough had shown his 'servant heart' in assisting at St George's in so many ways.</p> <p>Thanks and a presentation of flowers were also given to Mel Rolfe for all her work in keeping the church clean, and additionally, PS indicated how grateful he was for the work of the PCC, those on the Flower Rota, Deanery Synod Reps and those involved in children's work and Messy Church. PS felt it was important too to be grateful to each other for the warm, family-oriented church family.</p> <p>PS also gave personal thanks for the positive response to formalising the Worship Director as a permanent post.</p> <p>Howard Cripps proposed thanks to the Brown family for the music at St George's.</p> <p>PS outlined the services offered at St George's and emphasised that members of St George's were welcome at St Mary's, and vice versa. A service of Evening Prayer on Zoom continues to be offered on a Wednesday. Anyone interested should ask PS for details of how to access the service.</p> <p>PS added that Jessy Pomfret's licensing as a Lay Pastoral Assistant had been one of the highlights of 2022, and thanked Jessy for growing into this role. PS asked for everyone's prayers for the clergy as they support Jessy in her pastoral ministry.</p> <p>Charles Graham spoke on behalf of Richard Metters to mention the special contribution of the bellringers at the time of the Queen's death. The dedication of the ringers had been memorable and Richard had felt it a great privilege to lead the team.</p> <p>As promised in the Annual Report, Neil Croucher presented a verbal report on the <b>Dominy and Turner Trust</b> activities in 2022: NC explained that the Trust, administered by the Vicar and Churchwardens of St George's, exists to give support in the fields of education/training, the prevention or relief of poverty and religious activities to children/young people, people with disabilities and the elderly. Three grants had been made by the Trust in 2022: 1) the sum of £94 to Preshute School Fun Club, 2) to</p>

	<p>purchase Bibles to present to year 6 Leavers at Preshute Primary School at a cost of £449 and 3) to support the restoration of a school bell at Preshute School, an initiative led by Sue Elks. The opening balance for the Trust was £11,504, with an income of £1,500 and a closing balance of £12,950. Looking to the future, it was hoped that the Trust would be able to support the elderly in times of rising prices. NC encouraged anyone aware of individuals in need to contact PS, NC or NH.</p> <p>Thanks were offered to Sally Cripps for all her work as churchwarden, which completed in 2022.</p> <p>Finally, NC proposed thanks to PS, who had arrived three years ago shortly before the pandemic and despite these difficulties has led the church forward so positively. NC was pleased that PS's position was now unhypothecated (to use Chris Smith's term!).</p>
	<p><b>Any Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan Lillywhite raised a question about communications as she had been unaware that there was no 8am service at St George's on Easter Day. PS promised that the PCC would review this at their next meeting.</li> <li>• Kate Martin said that she and Ken were willing to take updated photos for St George's photo board but sought reassurance that the photos on the Marlborough Anglican Team website would be updated, as they are currently out of date. PS said that he would endeavour to make this happen. On the subject of the website, PS explained that despite Chris's excellent work, a bigger platform was needed for the Team, with volunteers to manage the website. If anyone knows of someone who would be interested in helping in this way, PS would be grateful to hear from them.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ELECTIONS</b></p> <p><u>PCC:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Beacom - re-elected for three more years (2026) Proposed by: Charles Graham Seconded by: Marcia Johnson</li> <li>• Amanda Brown – re-elected for three more years (2026) Proposed by: James Rothwell Seconded by: David Beacom</li> </ul> <p><u>Deanery Synod:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charles Graham – elected for the next triennium (2026) Proposed by: Amanda Brown; Seconded by: Neil Croucher</li> </ul> <p><u>Churchwardens:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicky Huckle – was elected in 2022 for four years and is happy to continue in post</li> <li>• Neil Croucher – also willing to continue in post for another year</li> </ul>



## FINANCE

### Financial Review

The following provides an overview of the accounts for 2023 which have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2023 was again a challenging financial year for St George's. The unrestricted fund returned a deficit of £7,365 in 2023, following a surplus of £2,588 in 2022. Key factors include a drop in donations and reduced fees from weddings and funerals. Fortunately, utility costs have started to reduce, coming down from £4,156 in 2022 to £2,742, though still well above the historic average of approximately £1,000 per year. In the third quarter, as planned we began to fund our Worship Director via our general fund, as the original Worship Director fund, set up in 2020, has now been used.

Despite these challenges, we remain a charitable church. A total of £1,827 was raised through special collections and a further £3,455 was donated to a range of local, national and international charities out of our normal income.

2023 saw the beginning of a number of capital projects, funded through the Legacy and Fabric funds we maintain for long term investment and maintenance of the church and churchyard. £16,609 was spent on capital project work, much of which can be seen as you come to the church, such as the new railings, upgraded paths and soon to be installed door and gate at the front of the church. A number of generous donations have contributed to the installation of new benches and cherry trees in the churchyard.

The full accounts are presented in the Appendix.

### **Notes on Income:**

The table below summarises the main sources of income for our Unrestricted Fund over the past three years, excluding restricted income such as Worship Director donations, bequests and special collections. Planned giving remains consistent and has done since 2019. Over that same period, the money we collect at services (cash and yellow envelopes) has dropped by nearly a third. In 2023 we saw a further drop in donations and income from weddings and funerals, while income from social events increased. The card reader, introduced near the end of 2022, has continued to pay for itself.

<b>Sources of Income (Unrestricted Fund)</b>	<b>2021 (£)</b>	<b>2022 (£)</b>	<b>2023 (£)</b>
Planned Giving (Total)	30,796	30,853	31,474
of which: Planned Giving Scheme (PGS)	16,494	18,016	18,848
Standing Orders	12,597	10,988	10,873
Blue Envelopes	1,705	1,849	1,753
Collections (excluding special collections)	1,858	3,418	2,614
Yellow Envelopes	972	1,191	1,170
Wall Box	293	220	251
Donations	10,307	7,434	5,501
Card Reader	N/A	281	1,787
Generous Giving Campaign	7,981	N/A	N/A
Gift Aid tax refund (2 years claimed in 2022)	11,425	22,447	10,468
Social Events (Net)	1,515	2,112	3,907
Fees from Weddings and Funerals	4,157	5,874	3,206
Legacies	0	0	200
Grants	0	1,000	335
Dividends from Investments	347	358	360
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>69,651</b>	<b>75,189</b>	<b>61,274*</b>

\*Excluding costs of social events of £287, total income for 2023 is £61,561

## Notes on Expenditure:

Expenditure continues to be controlled, and has come down in a number of areas, for example as we move to booklets for the order of service. Overall expenditure for 2023 was below the budget for the year. The Parish Share continues to increase and next we will see an 8% increase to £47,149 in 2024.

<b>Summary of Expenditure (Unrestricted Fund)</b>	2021 (£)	2022 (£)	2023 (£)
Parish Share	40,164	42,173	43,438
Church Maintenance and Running Costs	5,584	5,175	2,376
Church Capital Costs	Included above	60	177
Utilities	1,367	4,156	2,742
Insurance	2,085	2,169	2,232
Equipment & Consumables	561	631	118
Publicity, Printing and Stationery	1,867	3,128	1,450
Working and Office Expenses	1,926	2,567	2,055
Worship Director	N/A	N/A	3,853
Honoraria/Secretarial	2,030	8,107	6,361
Missions and Charities	1,123	3,330	3,455
Alpha Course	N/A	165	N/A
Education & Youth Work	N/A	632	126
Bank Charges	287	307	256
Auditor Costs	432	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>57,426</b>	<b>72,602</b>	<b>68,639</b>

## Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments (excluding charitable giving). In 2023 this was equivalent to £15,311 and this was met as of 31 December 2023 when the unrestricted fund stood at £17,946

We currently maintain a Gift and Legacy fund. This fund is to be used on major projects some of which are currently entering final consultation and faculty stage whilst others are at early discussion stages but all of which will significantly reduce this designated fund.

*Alastair Barr, Hon Treasurer*

## Appendix 1

### The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Geroge's Preshute, Marlborough Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>							
Planned Giving		31474		1605		33079	32473
Collections at Services		2614		1664		4277	5702
All other giving / voluntary receipts	4a	9244	3600	0		12844	10126
Gift Aid Recovered		10468		0		10468	26538
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>53800</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>3269</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60669</b>	<b>74839</b>
Activities for generating funds	4b	4194		567		4761	2658
Investment Income	4c	360	3700	126		4186	2420
Church Activities	4d	3206				3206	5874
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>61561</b>	<b>7300</b>	<b>3962</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72822</b>	<b>85791</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church Activities</b>							
Parish Share		43438				43438	42173
Clergy and Staffing Costs	4e	3853		5747		9600	9600
Church Running Costs	4f, 6, 7	17715	4620	2608	0	24943	29039
Church Capital Costs	4f, 6, 7	177	10432	6000	0	16609	2857
Mission Giving and Donations	5	3455		1827		5282	5614
		68639	15052	16182		99873	89282
Cost of Generating Funds	4g	287		403		690	545
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>68926</b>	<b>15052</b>	<b>16585</b>		<b>100563</b>	<b>89827</b>
Excess of Receipts over payments		<b>-7365</b>	<b>-7752</b>	<b>-12624</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-27741</b>	<b>-4037</b>
Transfer Between Funds	8	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				
		<b>-7365</b>	<b>-7752</b>	<b>-12624</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-27741</b>	<b>-4037</b>
<b>Gains / Losses on Investments</b>							
Realised							
Unrealised			1781		1531	3311	-4696
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>							
Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2023		25311	103303	12624	16268	157505	166237
Balance carried forward at 31 Dec 2023		17946	97331	0	17798	133076	157505
Net change in funds in year						-24429	-8732
Comprising							
Total Receipts		72822					
Total Payments		100563					
Investment Gains/Losses		3311					
Net change in funds in year		-24429					

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund		Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£		£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>							
Bank Current Account		8662	0	0		8662	24537
CCLA Deposit Fund		9227	76681	0		85908	97775
<b>Total</b>		<b>17889</b>	<b>76681</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>94571</b>	<b>122311</b>
	Note		<b>31-Dec-23</b>			<b>31-Dec-22</b>	
			£			£	
<b>Investment Assets</b>							
Investment Shares CCLA General			20706			18926	
Investment Shares - Aspent Copse Trust			13183			12049	
Investment shares - Angela and William Whitrow			4615			4218	
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Cash on hand at bank			8662			24537	
CCLA Deposit Fund			85908			97775	
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>133075</b>			<b>157505</b>	

## Notes to the 2023 Accounts and Further Analysis

### 1. Accounting Policies

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St George's Preshute, Marlborough, is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Charity Registration Number 1184256.

#### a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK & Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16th July 2014.

The accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

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

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. The accounts do not include the accounts relating to any informal gatherings of Church members or small cash balances held by individuals such as the flower arrangers.

Rounding – the Accounts are prepared to the exact penny but for presentation purposes, and for ease of reading and understanding, are shown in rounded pounds. This can mean that some of the totals and/or sub totals do not appear as if they add correctly and appear to be £1 out.

#### c) Incoming resources

- Voluntary income - Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the Gift Aid is received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are logged as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. It is recorded in the accounts when received.
- Funds raised by any social events are accounted for gross, where practicable and costs for events included in expenditure, this is broken out later in the notes.
- Income from investments Dividends and interest are accounted for when received.
- Gains and losses on investments Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are recognised on their valuation in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

#### d) Resources used

- Church ministry and services - The diocesan share/quota is accounted for when paid. Any diocesan share unpaid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.
- Grants made Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, then they are recorded in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

#### e) Fixed assets - Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the rectors and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property and not valued in the accounts.
- All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is treated as an expense and written off.
- The fabric fund is maintained to cover the costs of major maintenance whereas minor works are funded through the general fund.

#### f) Investments: Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

g) Current Assets. Cash held in a savings account with a bank is classified as cash at bank. Cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or held in a term deposit account with a bank is also classified as cash.

h) Funds - Funds have been classified as Unrestricted, Unrestricted Designated, Restricted or Endowment.

- Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated by the PCC for a particular purpose are classified as unrestricted designated as the PCC has allocated them for a specific purpose although the PCC can re-designate these funds. This helps budget for the future.
- Restricted funds are funds received, collected by or given to the PCC for a particular purpose which was specified at or before the time of receipt. These funds have been restricted by the donor for a particular purpose and they cannot be used by the PCC for any other purpose except by agreement with the donor or as determined by the courts or the Charity Commission.
- Endowment funds are funds or assets given to the PCC with the specific instruction that only the income gained from the funds can be spent. The original endowment funds cannot normally be spent and must remain in the form of equivalent assets or investments.

St George's is the beneficiary of two funds:

The Aspent Copse endowment fund. The dividend income from the fund each year is added to our general fund and is not restricted in use. The fund itself is managed by the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance and the capital is not available to be spent (it is understood that in extremis the board could be approached to allow the funds to be transferred to our general funds but this would be a matter for them to consider not a right).

The Angela and William Whitrow fund where the dividend income gained is restricted to use on upkeep of the churchyard.

## **2. Explanation of Funds**

St George's has a number of funds where the PCC has allocated money for specific purposes to aid saving for projects and to manage our finances more effectively, e.g. to budget for organ maintenance. The funds and purposes are as follows:

- Fabric fund: To build up reserves for maintenance work in the church and churchyard.
- Legacy and Gift Fund: Used to ring fence money for capital projects.
- Boiler Fund: Maintenance and where required replacement of the church boiler and related heating system
- Ministry: To provide specific funds for ministry
- Church Hall: Specific fund with the long term aim to provide a church hall or annex to the church
- Organ Fund: Fund for maintenance and repair of the organ.
- Worship Director Restricted Fund: a restricted fund to manage donations and payments in support of the Worship Director.

## Note to the Accounts – Further Analysis Continued

The following pages further break down specific sections of income and expenditure.

### 3. Movement in Funds

We maintain a number of designated funds to help budget for future finance. At the end of the year these funds contained:

		Balance B/F	Receipts	Payments	Investment Gains / Losses	Bal/C/f
<b>Unrestricted</b>		25311	61192	68614		17889
<b>Restricted</b>	6					
Fabric Fund		2482	126	2608		0
Legacy and Gift Fund		6000	0	6000		0
Worship Director Fund		4142	1605	5747		0
Special Collections	5	0	2231	2231		0
		12624	3962	16585		0
<b>Designated</b>	7					
Fabric		8555	0	4620		3936
Legacy & Gift Fund		82052	7300	10375	1781	80757
Boiler		0	0			0
Ministry		5264				5264
Church Hall		1141				1141
Organ		6290				6290
		103303	7300	14995	1781	97388
<b>Total (excl of Aspent Copse &amp; Whitrow Fund)</b>		141238	72453	100194	1781	115277
<b>Endowments</b>						
Value of Aspent Copse Trust & Whitrow Funds		16268	0		1531	17798
<b>Total</b>		157505	72453	100194	3311	133075
		£				
Value at 31/12/22		157505				
Value at 31/12/23		133075				
Value change in year		-24430				
Total Receipts		72453				
Total Payments		100194				
Investment gains/loss		3311				
Net change in funds in year		-24430				

## 4. Breakdown of Income and Expenditure

		Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
<b>a) All other giving / voluntary receipts</b>						
Donations (including yellow envelopes)		8793			8793	9906
Bequests			3600		3600	0
Legacies		200		0	200	0
Wall Box		251			251	220
	4a	9244	3600	0	12844	10126
<b>b) Social Activities Generating funds</b>						
Plant Sales		120			120	220
Raj Night		223			223	270
Rugby Dinners		510			510	0
Harvest Supper				567	567	0
Quiz Night		473			473	0
Concert		960			960	700
Westwind Open Gardens		1222			1222	0
Duck Race		686			686	0
Village Fete		0			0	139
St George's Supper		0			0	669
Safari Supper		0			0	660
	4b	4194		567	4761	2658
<b>c) Investment Income</b>						
Interest on CBF Deposit Fund			3134		3134	1373
Dividends of CBF shares			566		566	563
Dividends of Trust Shares		360		126	487	484
	4c	360	3700	126	4186	2420
<b>d) Church Activities:</b>						
Fees for Weddings and funerals		3206			3206	5874
	4d	3206			3206	5874
<b>Payments</b>						
<b>e) Clergy and Staffing Costs</b>						
Worship Director Pay, NI, Pension etc		3853		5747	9600	9600
	4e	3853		5747	9600	9600
<b>f) Church Running Expenses</b>						
Working and Office Expenses		2055			2055	2567
Honoraria and Secretarial		6361			6361	8107
Organ Maintenance & tuning		540			540	698
Insurance		2232			2232	2169
Printing and stationary		1568			1568	3760
Heating, Lighting and Water		2742			2742	4156
Repairs & Maintenance		1836	4620	2608	9063	9334
Capital Improvements		177	10432	6000	16609	9334
Bank Charges		256			256	307
Education/Youth Work		126			126	632
Alpha Course		0			0	165
	4f	17892	15052	8608	41552	31895
<b>g) Costs of Generating Funds</b>						
St George's Supper		0			0	452
Harvest Supper				403	403	0
Quiz Night		60			60	0
Arocha Lunch		63			63	0
Concert		137			137	93
Christmas Carols		27			27	0
		287		403	690	545

## 5. Giving to Missions and Charities

	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Special Collection Distribution</b>					
DEC Ukraine			0	0	805
DEC Turkey and Syria			335	335	0
Jerusalem and Middle East Church			217	217	307
Royal Naval Benevolent Trust			0	0	53
RABI			304	304	173
SSAFA			100	100	125
Combat Stress			100	100	125
Crisis			33	33	342
Save the Children			0	0	88
Children's Society			369	369	88
Christian Aid			0	0	88
Age UK Wiltshire			369	369	88
			1827	1827	2284
	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
<b>Charitable Giving</b>					
<b>International</b>					
SOMA	500			500	500
Sudan Church (via Salisbury DBF)	500			500	500
<b>National</b>					
A Rocha	250			250	0
Bible Society	575			575	500
Tearfund	500			500	500
<b>Local Charities</b>					
Devizes and Marlborough Foodbank	500			500	500
Home Start Kennet	150			150	125
Jubilee Centre	150			150	125
MAPAG	150			150	125
Prospect Hospice	150			150	125
Friends of Salisbury Cathedral	30			30	30
<b>Emergency Fund</b>					
Tearfund - Yemen	0			0	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>3455</b>			<b>3455</b>	<b>3330</b>

<b>6. Note on Restricted Funds</b>					
As of 31 December 2023, there are no restricted funds. The breakdown of payments and receipts (excl Worship Director and Special Collections) are shown below:					
The remaining balance in the Worship Director Fund was spent in 2023 and going forward our contribution to the salary of the vicar not paid by the Diocese shall be paid from the Unrestricted Fund					
		Income	Expenditure		
Dividends Received from Investments		126			
Fabric - Tree Surgery			2080		
Fabric - Cherry Trees and Bulbs			528		
Legacy - Rail, Gate, Doors & Lighting			3379		
Benjamin & Beauchamp Survey and Pre Faculty Work			2621		
		126	8608		
<b>7. Note on Unrestricted Designated Funds</b>					
As of 31 December 2023, there were £97,388 Unrestricted Designated funds. The breakdown of payments and receipts are shown below:					
		Income	Expenditure		
Dividends Received from Investments		566			
CBF Deposit Account Interest Income		3134			
Bequests		3600			
Fabric - Bulbs, Trees, Bird Boxes			1046		
Fabric - Grounds Work			2605		
Fabric - Tap Repair			969		
Legacy - Defibrillator			2411		
Legacy - Benches			855		
Legacy - Rail, Gate, Doors & Lighting			6813		
Legacy - Central Heating Thermostat			353		
		7300	15052		
<b>8. Transfer between funds</b>					
No transfer between funds in 2023					

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL "THE PCC" (TRUSTEES)  
of  
St GEORGE'S CHURCH PRESHUTE  
Registered Charity Number 1184256  
Year Ended 31 December 2023**

I report on the Receipts and Payments Accounts, pages A-1 to A-8, which are attached to the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:



Date:

31/10/24

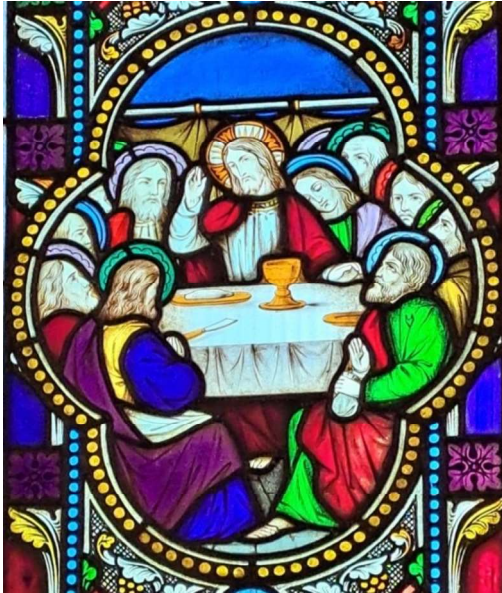
Roger Wheeler BSc Econ  
Accountant  
Roger John & Co  
1 Farrar Drive  
Marlborough  
SN8 1TP

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# Accounts

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# St George's PRESHUTE



## Annual Report 2022

Registered Charity Number 1184256



**St George's Church** is situated on the western edge of Marlborough on the south bank of the River Kennet. The Parish of Preshute serves the villages of Manton and Clatford, the Barton Park estate, part of the western end of Marlborough and a rural area stretching both north and south. The church is in the Diocese of Salisbury (Deanery of Marlborough) and is part of the Marlborough Anglican Team, with an office in Silverless Street, Marlborough. St George's and the associated churchyard is open every day and anyone is welcome to visit the church for prayer, quiet contemplation or simply to enjoy the wonderful location next to the river.

### **Aims and Objectives – Making Jesus Known**

The Church is the family of Christians meeting together to worship God and to find fellowship together through prayer and learning. Our work is to spread the Good News of our faith by 'Making Jesus Known'.

St George's is well placed to serve the town of Marlborough and most of our mission has a two-fold strategy: to deepen and enrich our own worshipping life and also to find creative ways of making connections with the local community to both introduce the Christian story and deepen engagement with all in the local area.

### **St George's Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Vicar in promoting, in the ecclesiastical Parish of Preshute, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The life of St George's is within the Marlborough Anglican Team, Marlborough Churches Together and the Diocese of Salisbury in the Church of England.

#### Membership:

Members of the Parochial Church Council are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or co-opted by the PCC due to the functions they perform in the Church (provided the person is willing to be co-opted). The PCC is a charity, and the PCC members are its Trustees and are responsible for ensuring the Church is serving its community. This report shows how St George's engages with the local community.

Incumbent (Team Vicar):	Revd Pete Sainsbury
Churchwardens:	Neil Croucher Nicky Huckle
Deanery Synod:	Simon Bonham Sarah Musgrave Jeremy York (retired October 2022)
Members:	Alastair Barr (Treasurer) David Beacom (Fabric and Churchyard) Amanda Brown (Secretary)
The other members are:	Sally Cripps Marcia Johnson Paul Lefever Linda Morgan Stephen Robins
Ex-officio member:	Canon Sarah Musgrave LLM Revd Chris Smith

The PCC has met six times during the year. The most recent approved PCC minutes and past

minutes are on file and available to view in the church or they can be obtained from the Secretary on request.

The main items of business at each meeting are a consideration of our core task of 'Making Jesus Known'. Against this background, we have reviewed our worship, considered matters of finance and fabric, explored how we might best 'grow' St George's, the way we welcome people, and discussed the social events that are offered.

At the Annual Meeting in 2022, there were 119 names on the Electoral Roll of church membership. The average number of worshippers each week has been approximately 42.

### **Team Rector's Report**

Last year was a year with three characteristics. First, recovery. The year began with the omicron surge, which turned out to be the last gasp of the lockdowns. St George's social activities began to return helping people to recover from the trauma of the pandemic. The Queen's Jubilee celebrations seemed to be a turning point on the pathway back to regular life. Second, the churches offered comfort. The invasion of Ukraine in February, three Prime Ministers and the Queen's death in the Autumn left many feeling unsettled. Traditionally we are a very stable country, however, we did not seem it sometimes in 2022. St George's led prayers and offered faith and continuity through challenging times. Third, we did press on with our mission to proclaim the good news of Jesus in word and deed. A Team Alpha course was run in St Peter's and various 'good works' groups have actively helped the poor and needy.

One more piece of good news from last year; I was delighted that St George's PCC voted unanimously in October to support Revd Pete Sainsbury and extend his contract so he can stay full time in the parish. It's been a pleasure for me working in a team with Pete and Sarah and I always enjoy my visits to St George's. Thank you for welcome, support and prayers.

*Revd Chris Smith, Team Rector of Marlborough*

### **Team Vicar's Report**

A local church is the most extraordinary gathering of people. We may not be as diverse as urban parishes often are, but we are nevertheless a diverse group of people brought together by our searching after God (which I believe is actually our responding to his searching out of us). We are the family of God in this place. And that warms my heart in all sorts of ways.

In reflection of that gratitude, I start with an expansive *thank-you* to you all. St George's is marked by a wide breadth of activity that 'makes church happen' in its different ways and I am deeply grateful for this and for the quality of relationships that underpins this.

Sally Cripps finished her term as churchwarden in 2022 after a significant period of busy service and we are very grateful to her. Nicky Huckle took on that role in 2022, joining Neil Croucher, and I am so glad for committed, loyal, hardworking and cheerful co-workers alongside me. As honorary treasurer, Alastair Barr continued to oversee the many and varied aspects of our finances with care and I am grateful indeed to Alastair for his quietly-good-humoured approach to things, including his clear and helpful presentation of data. We welcomed Amanda Brown as honorary secretary, and we are all impressed by Amanda's efficiency and willingness as she coordinates, pushes and pulls to help me, the wardens and the PCC get things done!

2022 was a time of moving out from under lockdown, and going about things in as full a way as

previously. Worshipping numbers increased through 2022 and I was impressed that Christmas attendance as it was described to me in 2020 was at least back to pre-pandemic levels in 2022.

2022's Lent Course was built around Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, exploring the themes of grace and restoration. These themes are evidently powerful and there was a sense of blessing through those weeks.

My role as foundation governor (and vicar and assembly taker) at Preshute School expanded through 2022. Meetings in 2022 reverted to in-person meetings, and Brian Crowe and I were pleased to continue to support the headteacher, staff and kids. Brian's role is focused on finance as well as foundation and the governors appreciated Brian's calm, clear and can-do approach to finances. The pattern of assemblies reverted to a weekly one, more or less, and Open the Book restarted in the autumn term to the evident delight of the kids.

Messy Church (a worship and activity gathering for primary age children and their parents and carers) went from strength to strength in 2022. Amanda Brown and I, supported by a great team deliver about three or four of these two hour Saturday gatherings a year, and we continue to be blessed with some very committed people who have a heart for our children. We are very grateful to Amanda for her key role in leading and delivering Messy Church, along with the support of children's work veterans like Sue Elks.

The church's 'Occasional Offices', baptisms, weddings and funerals resumed and were steady in 2022, with weddings lower than expected. All of these things could happen with unrestricted numbers and this was a great blessing after the strains and stresses of 2020 and 2021. Although I am mostly at St George's for these, as a team, the clergy and lay minister operate across all three churches including on Sundays. Chris, Sarah and I remain grateful to those retired clergy who assist. But we suffered losses in 2022, and our prayers and thoughts are with the families of all those who grieve.

Chris Smith and I led an Alpha Course for the team (and indeed the town) in the Spring of 2022. We based this at St Peter's, and this felt like such a positive use of that building along with the arts and community events which happen there. Alpha is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith more deeply: we had about 25 guests and a team of helpers (thank you to them!) and it was a significant time of reflection and decision about faith for many. We are currently considering when it would be most fruitful to run Alpha again.

An occasional but great part of life at St George's is the churchyard clear-up days. A few times a year, a team assembles on a Saturday morning, does a few hours of good work on the churchyard and then enjoys lunch. Thank you to David Beacom for his energy in bringing these enjoyable sessions together, and also for his work behind the scenes on 'fabric'.

2022 was another year of financial pressure, acute at times, not just for us but across the Church of England and the Diocese, and the economy generally. I wish to thank you for your financial giving and ask you to consider what you can give in 2023. (There will be a stewardship initiative later in 2023.)

Our worship is blessed by a very good quality of music, and on an occasional basis, this is augmented either by the Georgians or the Junior Georgians, our occasional choirs. Andrew Brown and I continued the programme of Choral Evensongs in 2022 which are greatly appreciated by many.

We were pleased to move to a service booklet in 2022, which has replaced weekly service sheets and therefore significantly reduced our paper use. The booklet contains the liturgy for services of Morning Worship and Parish Communion in both a shorter and longer format.

Our social evenings of quiz-nights, harvest suppers and the annual ‘Night at the Raj’ were very well received in 2022 as always – and they are an effective fund-raising strategy! (Sadly, the Six Nations Rugby get-togethers had to be cancelled due to Covid concerns.)

As the year drew to a close, Christmas was joyfully and unrestrictedly celebrated, complete with a packed church for Carols by Candlelight, the Sing-along Nativity, the Crib Service, the First Communion of Christmas and our celebrations on Christmas Day.

In terms of networking and support, St George’s is part of a team ministry. We are not a ‘stand-alone’ parish (and haven’t been for over forty years). We are viable, in purpose, gathering and finance, but we are part of the Anglican Team. This has been an important facet of our life together as the Anglican church in Marlborough in 2022. I attend the deanery chapter along with the four other clergy, and I am also part of the fraternal, which is a cross-denominational group of church leaders in Marlborough.

We were delighted to have Jessy Pomfret licensed as a Lay Pastoral Assistant in July. With my support, Jessy is working out how best to express this ministry at St George’s.

Finally ... I am grateful to you, my church family for your support, encouragement and love, not least to the PCC and to the members of the standing team in particular, and to Chris Smith and Sarah Musgrave who help to make team ministry a joy.

Remembering 2022 and anticipating all that God has for us in 2023 and beyond: every blessing, everyone.

*Revd Pete Sainsbury, Team Vicar*

### **Electoral Roll Report**

Those whose names were on the Electoral Roll at the time of the 2022 APCM are listed on the notice board in the porch. Any regular worshippers at St George’s who are not on the roll are encouraged to contact me, Linda Sims, (I have taken over from Charles Graham as Electoral Roll Officer) or one of the churchwardens for an application form.

There were 114 names on the Electoral Roll at 31 December 2022. This represents a drop of five from 2021. We have been pleased to welcome Angela Southern, Elizabeth Keighley, Alison and Robert Pick and Grace Hoskin, but sadly 2022 was a bad year for goodbyes. We mourn the loss of David Harding, Rosemary Hawes, Michael and Maureen Ponting, Peter Davison, David Whiting and Tom Maye. In addition, the following have moved away: Mark and Sandra Finn and Malcolm Hall.

*Linda Sims*

### **Church Attendance**

Church attendance throughout 2022 remained encouraging, with an average of 10 attending the 8am service of Holy Communion, and 42 attending the 10.30am service. It was a great blessing to have services without the restrictions of the pandemic and 80 (adults and children) gathered for the service on Easter Day, and there was a notable increase in the numbers attending the Christmas services – 111 at the Carols by Candlelight service, 76 adults and 62 children at the Crib Service and over 100 of all ages attended the Sing-along Nativity. The Family Communion service on Christmas Day was attended by 88 adults and 12 children.

The All Age service on the first Sunday of the month is currently attended by an average of 11

children with their families. The Junior Georgians Choir sing at three of the All Age services during the year and also at the Crib service.

St George's is looking to expand its ministry to children. Plans were made for there to be activities for children on the third Sunday of the month as well, starting in January 2023. This is in addition to services organised by the Teddy Prayers group and three Messy Church services per year, which are increasingly well attended.

There continues to be an online service of Evening Prayer each Wednesday afternoon, which remains popular.

### **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

In 2022 there were four wedding services held at St George's together with one wedding blessing. St George's was also delighted to hold two services of baptism. It was with sadness that we mourned the loss of several members of the local community over the course of the year at eight funeral services, seven thanksgiving/memorial services and an interment of ashes.

### **St George's in the Community**

Over the course of 2022 it was good to restore St George's links with the community and to revitalise pre-pandemic activities. Revd Pete was able to resume visiting Preshute Primary School on a regular basis to lead assemblies and our Open the Book team began visiting again on a monthly basis from September to act out Bible stories. St George's hosted a leavers' service and a Harvest Festival service for Preshute Primary School children and their families.

The St George's newsletter continues to be circulated to approximately 700 houses in the parish (mostly in paper format, but electronically in some cases) in an edition that covers two months. The six editions in 2022 covered the themes 'God's Love for us', 'Lent & Easter – thoughts from our European friends', 'Serving God', 'Prayer', 'Eco-edition' and 'Angels in art, music and experience'. Each edition contains a letter from the Vicar, an article on the theme, a children's page related to the topic as well as publicising events in the local community and, of course, the service times.

Shortly before Christmas, Andrew Brown led carol singing in Barton Park and the Oddfellows Inn raising funds for Crisis at Christmas.

Despite being tucked away in its riverside location on the edge of the town, St George's receives quite a number of visitors during the course of the week from those seeking the peace and quiet of the church to others who come to visit a family grave or admire the snowdrops in the churchyard. For those unfamiliar with the church, there is a history of the church available to purchase as well as a free walk-round guide, together with a quiz for visiting children.

*Amanda Brown*

### **Safeguarding**

St George's policy and practice for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults is based upon the Guidelines from the Church of England House of Bishops and is updated annually. A summary of our policy is posted on our website and on the noticeboard in the porch. A full hard copy is kept in the church, and vicarage.

The safeguarding and protection of children and adults at risk is everyone's responsibility, not just parents, guardians and carers. St George's is committed to:

- The safeguarding and protection of all children and young people
- Safeguarding adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect
- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with all adults and children
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Judith Denning and she is the first line of contact if there are any concerns. The Parish DBS verifier is Marcia Johnson.

There are no safeguarding issues to report. Over the course of this year following Church and Charity Commission guidelines all PCC members have been DBS checked as well as all those who work with children and the vulnerable in the church. Nearly all safeguarding training is still being carried out remotely - the Basic Awareness course (C0) and Foundation course (C1) can be accessed via the Diocese of Salisbury website. Ideally, all church members who come into contact with children, young people and adults who may be at risk need to undertake the basic awareness course.

*Judith Denning*

### **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

The role of the Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) is to provide assistance with pastoral ministry for the local church. This can involve work with children and young people, the sick, the recently bereaved and the elderly and housebound. They may take communion to those unable to come to church. The Marlborough Team, as a whole, has a number of LPAs. St George's has two, Judith Denning and Jessie Pomfret. St George's is also very fortunate in that it has a congregation who are supportive and neighbourly to one another.

*Judith Denning*

## **2022 ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **Open the Book**

We have been doing Open the Book (acting out Bible stories) at Preshute School for several years now. The two teams that we began with have now merged into one, following the retirement of several distinguished cast members, but these assemblies continue to provide instruction and enjoyment to the schoolchildren (not to mention the very amateur thespians). Covid caused suspension of activity for much of 2020-2021, and a prolonged period of getting compliance with tighter safeguarding regulations delayed the start of proceedings in 2022. But we were finally able to kick off in September with *Jesus and the Children*, followed in October by *Jesus and the Taxman*, featuring Howard Cripps up a tree as Zacchaeus, and then *The Kind Stranger* (the Good Samaritan) in November. The cast has been ably assisted by members of Year 6.

We are hoping for an uninterrupted run of monthly performances in 2023, and we would be happy to hear from anyone interested in joining the team.

*Charles Graham*

## **Home Group**

Home Group has nine members (seven from St George's and two from St Mary's) and meets on Monday evenings, fortnightly. Over the course of the year our Home Group sessions have been led by Charles Graham and Keith Fryer (St Mary's). We have studied Angels: Standing Guard by Douglas Connelly, a series of eight studies exploring different angelic encounters throughout the Bible and recently we explored the Bible Society's course: Explore the Bible. This was an interesting eight session course which combined video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection and daily readings. We have also spent time thinking about social issues and linking them into passages from scripture. Our final session of the year was a 'bring and share' evening with quizzes, poetry and a lot of laughter.

*Julie Conlen*

## **Teddy Prayers and Picnic**

Teddy Prayers has evolved and grown with our children. All our original cohort are now in primary school. We plan to encourage our children to undertake practical Christianity and to help all those around them with kindness and useful activities.

The four star events in the year will be continued with others joining us. These are as follows:

- The Easter Sunday easter-egg hunt with snack picnic takes place in the churchyard
- The late summer Pet Service and snacks takes place in the churchyard, or inside if wet.
- Harvest is the next popular gathering where we aim to help others: the church and school collections of non-perishable food stuffs in 2022 filled two cars and subsequently, the Open Doors store cupboard – a marvellous effort. Fresh items are also welcomed by the Open Doors kitchen and, thanks to a bumper crop, many apple pies were made and frozen for winter meals.
- The Sing-along Nativity, the week before Christmas Day with seasonal refreshments, is always a highlight for us all. Over 100 people of all ages attended this year.

We have linked up with Amanda and Messy Church. These gatherings have all been very successful and enjoyed by a growing number of children. Everyone joins in to worship and create various items which give much enjoyment and happiness. The tea which follows is now legendary! Thank you, Amanda!

Teddy Prayers families have now been joined by Revd Pete to continue to support Open Doors in a special way. A small group of families from our church and St Nicholas in Fyfield and Preshute School supply the ingredients for a good, wholesome cooked breakfast every week. Eggs, bacon, sausages, tomatoes, mushrooms, bread, spread, marmalade and fresh fruit - enough for 30 vulnerable people - are collected from the families and taken every Monday to the Southbroom Centre in Devizes ready to be cooked for the Wednesday breakfast. The welcome we receive is truly heart-warming from the inspiring group of volunteers there. Vulnerable and needy people from the Marlborough and Pewsey area and surrounding villages are welcome there to receive all manner of practical help. Please have a look at their website: [devizesopendoors.org.uk](http://devizesopendoors.org.uk).

We also collect new or good used kitchen items and towels suitable for young people starting out in the world on their own in accommodation in Salisbury supported by Alabaré. Good quality, clean ladies' and men's clothing is always needed. All items need to be of a quality and condition that we would be happy to give to members of our own families.

The Teddy Prayers families are constantly busy with small acts of kindness and the children are learning invaluable lessons and positive attitudes. Bless them.

*Sue Elks and Lydia Bauer*

### **Messy Church**

We were delighted to welcome 18 children and 18 adults to our first Messy Church service of the year when our theme was Lent and the Temptations of Jesus. After hearing the Bible story of Jesus's time in the wilderness, we joined together to sing a rousing chorus of *Be bold, be strong*. Activities on the theme followed with the children making collages of the story from scripture, preparing crosses with Bible verses to hang on our Lenten prayer tree, decorating heart shaped biscuits as a reminder that by keeping God's word in our hearts it will help us to resist temptation and finally, making a bread plait to take home to bake with a candle to add as the centrepiece – a lasting reminder that 'man shall not live by bread alone' and that we need the light of Christ in our lives. We concluded with prayers, offering them up to God in the song *Father God in heaven, hear our prayer* to the tune of Kumbaya. As usual, we rounded off our time together with tea.

Our summer Messy Church was just as well attended with 18 adults and 19 children coming to enjoy a service on the theme of the Parable of the Sower. Revd Pete began the service with a worship songs and we listened to the Bible story and Revd Pete's teaching on the theme before the children explored this in their activities. The children illustrated the story beautifully through their creations of clay coasters with seeds, rice crispy 'rocks' with edible seeds, their planting of mustard seeds and by preparing a large sunflower picture with prayers on all the petals which were read at prayer time. We finished the service with further worship songs and prayers and the happy afternoon concluded with the sharing of refreshments.

Our third and final Messy Church service for 2022 took place on 19 November, when we were 'Preparing for Advent with Angels'. This was our busiest Messy Church service of the year with 16 adults and 30 children in attendance. Revd Pete once again led the service with worship songs and teaching on the theme before the children got to work creating an amazing array of crafts: many of the families started making a crib set Advent calendar which they took home with them to complete and use during the season of Advent. The children also looked at paintings of the Annunciation before creating their own wonderful artistic interpretations of the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary. Continuing on the theme of angels and their role as messengers of God, the children made 'stained glass' angels, decorated angel biscuits and wrote prayers on angel templates for our prayer tree. It was uplifting to see the church so full and to see the children entering into all the activities and worship with such enthusiasm. It has been very encouraging to see familiar faces returning to Messy Church as well as families for whom it is the first tentative step in exploring church. We hope very much that they will all come back to join us again in 2023!

In the meantime, huge thanks to Revd Pete, Sarah and the wonderful team who have helped with Messy Church over the course of 2022.

*Amanda Brown*

### **The Flower Group**

St George's is, and always has been, a much-loved place and in a small way this is reflected in the flower arrangements in the church. Each fortnight a volunteer is in charge of the flowers. This year, although we have new people joining the team, sadly we have lost some. It is a rewarding activity, and we are always looking for new volunteers to help make the church beautiful and welcoming,

something which is constantly remarked on by the many casual visitors who, whatever their reason, come to spend time at St George's.

*Prue Groffman*

## **Music**

The year saw congregational and choral singing return without restrictions, and the musical life of St George's was fully maintained throughout the year for the first time since 2019.

The Junior Georgians sang at four services, on Mothering Sunday, Music Sunday, Harvest and the Crib Service. Each of the first three started with an exuberant "introduction", *Always remember* on Mothering Sunday and the African chant *Sizohamba naye* at Harvest, with Revd Pete adding the rhythm section on the African drum. On Music Sunday the Junior Georgians added extra Hallelujahs as the congregation sang the verse of *I'm gonna sing*. The anthems at these services were, respectively, *The Lord bless you and keep you* (John Rutter), *I will sing a song of love* (John Bell) and *Look at the world* (John Rutter). At the Crib Service, the 11 strong choir sang John Rutter's lilting *Christmas lullaby* and the rousing *Gaudete!*.

Meanwhile, The Georgians have enjoyed a full year's singing. The first service was the Easter Day Communion, followed by Choral Evensong on Trinity Sunday, Advent Sunday and Carols by Candlelight, where we marked 15 years since the formation of the choir. On Easter Day, the intonation *Alleluia!* (William Byrd) opened the service, and the anthem was *Maranatha, Alleluia!* by David Ogden. The Evensong anthem was *Holy, holy, holy* by Alan Smith, while on Advent Sunday the intonation was the *Matin Responsory* (Palestrina) and the anthem *The truth from above* (Vaughan Williams). At Carols by Candlelight the soloist for *Once in royal David's city* was Ellen Arkwright, and the choir carols were *Adam lay ybounden*, *In dulci jubilo* and *Sussex Carol*. In addition, a gallery choir sang *Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing?* in the First Communion of Christmas on Christmas Eve. The congregational sung Evensong on 11 September was preceded by organ music in memory of Her Majesty the Queen, following her death three days before.

For the third year running we extended a musical outreach in the local community in the week before Christmas. 18 hardy volunteers assembled to sing carols in streets in Barton Park before repairing to the Oddfellows where we sang with the customers. The evening raised £149 for Crisis - my thanks to all involved, and to Holly at the Oddfellows once again for her hospitality.

Three events this year have highlighted the variety of church music locally. The first was at the Parish Communion on 3 April, when a gallery choir sang the anthem *God be in my head* by local church composer Adam Meehan-Staines. We were delighted that Adam was able to attend the service. The second was the Open Worship Evening in St Mary's on 5 July, led by Revd Pete, which brought together 12 musicians from across the Team (and two Norwegian tourists!) to play and sing a worship band service with improvisations: instruments included keyboard, guitar and flute. The third event was a well-attended organ recital in St George's on 3 September, at which Michael Butterfield (Marlborough College Organist) and Ian Crabbe (Marlborough College Organist Emeritus) joined me to mark the 125th anniversary of the installation of the organ. A programme was produced with the history of the organ, the social team kindly provided delicious refreshments, and the convivial evening raised £700 for the ongoing work of the church.

We were saddened by the death in June of Michael Ponting, a founding member of The Georgians, as well as of his wife Maureen, and of Peter Davison, both in August. All three were strong supporters of music at St George's: their funeral services contained hymns and organ music that they had particularly loved.

The organ and piano continue to give good service. In February we took possession of the new Roland keyboard, which was first used on Mothering Sunday. Since then it has featured regularly at services including Messy Church, the Pet Service and Harvest, when Revd Pete led everyone in the *Harvest Samba*. Special thanks to the PCC for the purchase of the new keyboard.

My thanks as always to Revd Pete, the PCC and all who have supported the music at St George's over the year.

*Andrew Brown*

### **Social Committee**

We started the year with our annual visit to the Raj restaurant where we were spoilt with delicious food by Mr Bablu and his wonderful staff. The night was finished off as usual with Irish Bingo.

St George's Day supper saw the village hall packed with eager diners who were treated to cottage pie. A vast array of desserts followed and the night was finished off with a raffle.

We had two well attended Choral and Congregational Evensongs in June and September respectively. Both were wonderful evenings and special thanks to The Georgians and Andrew for all the preparation and organisation. Both evenings were finished off with the congregation enjoying refreshments afterwards.

The Safari supper started off with bubbles and canapés for nearly 50 people in the Church in mid-July. Envelopes were then handed out to all diners to discover where they would be going for their main course. After main course was enjoyed by all, the diners made their way to their next host for dessert. The real bonus was the lovely warm evening and a lot of lovely stories have been told about this evening. Everyone really enjoyed it.

The Organ Recital in September was a musical masterpiece, with thanks to Andrew for all the hard work in making this evening a real success. Apart from enjoying the wonderful music, the congregation enjoyed refreshments and canapés at the end of the evening.

September saw a great turnout for Ride and Stride and thanks to Charles, Jeremy and Howard with all their fundraising for Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.

In October, sadly due to a spike in the Covid Pandemic, we had to cancel Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.

The Carol Singing just before Christmas started off in College Fields and Barton Park and then we made our way to the Oddfellows Arms in Manton where we entertained the pubgoers with carols. Both the cash collection and the funds raised through the Just Giving site were all in aid of Crisis at Christmas.

The success of these events is due to everyone who helps, whether it is by cooking, putting out chairs, serving, clearing up, or just turning up to support and enjoy them. Our thanks go to all involved and you will see in the financial section of this report that, apart from us all enjoying ourselves, we earned £2,112 after costs were taken out.

*David Beacom and Judith Denning*

## **Bellringing**

It's been quite an eventful year. Routine maintenance was carried out and the six new ropes kindly purchased by the PCC were fitted. New recruits have joined the team and another recruit is making good progress. On 8 September at 6.30pm we heard the announcement of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. The period between the announcement and the funeral saw a massive amount of ringing by the bellringing team at St George's. I can honestly say that they rose to the challenge fantastically and it is my greatest privilege to date to have led the tower through such an incredible period of history. I've never been so proud to be associated with St George's. Looking forward, we continue to improve our standard of ringing and to increase our membership.

*Richard Metters*

## **MARLBOROUGH, the DEANERY and the DIOCESE**

Do you want to know what's happening in the wider church? Are you interested in how Salisbury Diocese and our parishes interact? These two synods are important information-gathering and information-sharing forums. So, if you want to contribute to the conversation, do consider being elected to one or both synods.

### **Diocesan Synod**

In February 2022, we met on zoom, led by +Karen, the Acting Bishop of Salisbury; but the mood was more upbeat than in 2021, and the focus was 'Mission and Ministry- a mixed ecology'. We reviewed the impact of Covid, and discussions included new and creative approaches in some churches, while others continued to struggle without water supplies, loos or broadband.

Revd Canon Jonathan Herbert, spoke of his Chaplaincy to the Travelling Community, meeting with gypsies and travellers, wherever they are (70% now live in houses and 20% on private or council run sites, and interestingly, just 2% are on the road). He offers advocacy and education - partly encouraging travellers/gypsies back into education, but mainly educating the wider community, who know little about traveller culture. The community do need more safe spaces, as once they have a settled place, they are more likely to access education and health care. A motion was passed committing each of the parishes within the diocese to offer active support to this community. *Are we?*

With fewer Covid cases, we met in-person in June 2022, and it was an opportunity to look back, and to look forwards. We celebrated the leadership of Bishop Karen as Acting Diocesan Bishop through an ongoing time of challenge and transition in our communities and churches. Our new bishop, Bishop Stephen, the 79th Bishop of Salisbury, gave a presidential address that was dynamic and uplifting and he shared some of the inspirational stories that had come out of the £10 'gifts' he gave away at his inauguration. He reminded people that the £10 talent was to be taken home and grown as a sign of the Kingdom of God. *Have we done this?*

He suggested that the Diocese of Salisbury can be and should be one of the jewels in the crown of the Church for England. We ought to be leading the way in generosity and evangelism, in social engagement and community resilience. He suggested that the task is clear - pastoral care and evangelism need to go hand in hand; and he identified various areas that require focus: 1. Accountable leadership, 2. Effective governance, 3. Moving into our calling in Mission and Ministry, and 4. Establishing sustainable finance.

The financial situation was less encouraging, and consideration was given to the sale of surplus clergy houses, and the sale of Glebe lands. More positively, there was a plan to eliminate the deficit by 2025.

In September 2022, Bishop Stephen offered the Beatitudes as a guiding text, in his Presidential Address. He called on everyone to work towards a new Vision and Plan for the Diocese, to be in place by June 2023; holding one another accountable, in trust, to deliver what is needed.

Bishops Stephen, Andrew and Karen discussed the opportunities created by the emerging vision of “Thy Kingdom Come: here, and now”, together with reflections on the past few months and hopes for the future. This led into group discussions on the new Vision and Strategy for the diocese.

The financial report had changed direction and the following were proposed: No reduction in clergy numbers while this remains a holding budget; 4% increase in clergy stipend which is in line with National Church recommendations - the Diocese of Salisbury currently pays £821 above the stipend benchmark for incumbents, while the total package including housing, pension and other benefits, totals around £60,000; use of £250,000 Total Return to subsidise stipends; and an “across the board” increase of 3% in Share request for parishes. The 2023 budget also assumed £250,000 of glebe sales to support the Fund that pays clergy stipends.

It was also noted that the Church Commissioners were offering £3.6 billion over the next 9 years. This is 10% of the Commissioners fund. The funding would start in 2023 and to make a successful bid, Salisbury would need to demonstrate a costed diocesan strategy, aligned to the national vision and strategy.

### **Deanery Synod**

Meanwhile, our three Deanery Synod meetings offered the opportunity to hear and discuss the diocesan aims and plans – and to feedback thoughts and suggestions from our parishes.

In February 2022 we met on Zoom, and Yvonne Penn, the Christian Aid Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer gave a short presentation on the charity’s aims for 2022. She talked about ‘climate justice’ with a campaign in schools, while Climate justice would also be discussed at the Lambeth conference.

Our Deanery Ascension Day Service was held on 26 May 2022 at St Michael’s, Aldbourne, with The Venerable Michael Johnson, Acting Archdeacon of Bristol preaching.

In July 2022, our meeting was in person and attended by David Pain, Diocesan Secretary; Liz Ashmead, Diocesan Financial Director; and Anna Hardy the Diocesan Giving Advisor. It was a fruitful meeting, with clear information and good discussion. David described how Bishop Nick prided himself that the diocese didn’t need a formal strategy, but only a clear vision. Now, a strategy was needed, and a proactive plan had to be produced. The Diocese was in a difficult position, suffering a post Covid reduction in church numbers and we needed to concentrate on four issues: people, buildings, finance and governance. On a positive note, Marlborough Deanery was in the top three net givers in the Diocese.

Liz Ashmead, Diocesan Financial Director, gave an overview of the 2021 results which showed that, after some proactive action by the diocese in selling clergy houses, glebe plots, investments and the increased investment values, the year had ended with £2,773k in increased funds. She added that the sale of Church House, in 2023, would result in a cash injection, although the requirement to find alternative office accommodation, would have an impact on the amount gained. Meanwhile, Glebelands and vicarages were being reviewed to identify any that could be sold; and tenancies and

rent charged on church properties was being reviewed.

Anna Hardy, our new Diocesan Giving Advisor, was upbeat and talked about her own journey of faith. She suggested we should keep fund raising simple, explain why donations are needed and what for, and involve people in the project. We need trust, to be transparent, to thank people involved in the project, update them on progress and let them know if things change. We should be able to talk about what we are giving and lead from the front – Christians do expect to give. Anna is available to talk to PCCs, offer advice and help set up contactless payment systems in churches or other online options. Her contact details are: [anna.hardy@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:anna.hardy@salisbury.anglican.org) or 07500 831566.

One of the highlights of the year was Bishop Data's visit to our deanery, in August 2022. He had attended the Lambeth conference and then came to stay, bringing his wife Agnes and baby daughter Esther. He met many people, visited churches, farms, Avebury, a golf course etc and expressed a wish to form a partnership between his Diocese of Morobo, in the province of Central Equatoria, South Sudan and Marlborough Deanery.

In September 2022, Reverend Canon Ian Woodward, Chair of the Salisbury – Sudan Link, helped us to consider setting up a Morobo – Marlborough Deanery partnership. We also watched a presentation about Bishop Data, and the rebuilding of Morobo, following the civil war. There are few material goods in South Sudan, food is scarce, and water is drawn from the river, as local wells have been destroyed by rebel forces. Despite the hardships, Christianity is flourishing in South Sudan, peace in the area seems to be returning and Bishop Data's optimism and faith in God was inspiring.

His prayer was for fresh water, bibles, good health care and education, sufficient food, hoes, seed to raise money to support the priests, and our prayers. Deanery members voted to form a partnership based on prayer and Christian fellowship, ending the synodic year on a very positive note. If you would like to know more or to join the group who are forming this partnership, please do contact me: [sarahmusgrave99@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahmusgrave99@hotmail.com).

Please note: the Archbishop of Canterbury will be joining us in the Salisbury Diocese from 9 to 11 June 2023, to help us implement Our Vision.

*Canon Sarah Musgrave LLM and Deanery Lay Chair.*

## **THE FABRIC, GOODS & ORNAMENTS**

### **Fabric Report**

The War Memorial received a professional clean up - many thanks to Brian Crowe and his company for carrying this out free of charge.

Church and Churchyard tidy up: this happens in April and October and many thanks to all the helpers that come to help keep our Church and Churchyard looking pristine. We are very lucky to have Wiltshire Council cutting the grass for us during the summer and the additional help we get from volunteers is essential. Thank you also to Ken Martin and his toolbox for carrying out various maintenance jobs.

New handrail to main path with wi fi duct and new glass South Porch Doors: the faculty application was submitted in June 2021. Salisbury DAC then requested additional information, which was submitted in early December 2021.

The Quinquennial report was completed in 2021 and all urgent works suggested by the Architect have now been completed

*David Beacom and Brian Crowe*

## **Eco Church**

Carrying on from last year's report please see below our progress towards achieving our Gold Eco Church award from A Rocha:

Sandra Rogers has been keeping bees in the Maurice family burial plot at St George's since May 2022. This all started with a nuc box (like a tiny half hive) which was transferred carefully into a hive decorated with sunflowers. She has now added a second hive covered with daisies. Bees can see patterns and some colours, so it is hoped this will help them find their way home.

The Maurice family have also been wonderfully supportive and kind about using this space for beehives. With their permission, Sandra and her friend Trudi Granger (also a bee keeper) have been planting daffodils, crocus, anemone, grape hyacinths and bluebells in that area to give the bees some spring flowers. Wild roses in the hedge around the plot will also provide early spring forage for the bees.

Bees will also feed on the chestnut blossom from the existing chestnut trees in the churchyard in the spring. Flowering trees and hedges are also a valuable source of food for them, and we are looking at how we can add more food for the bees, while at the same time making our churchyard more beautiful, with as little maintenance as possible. We are arranging a site meeting soon to discuss planting cherry trees and a pollinator garden that can be planted with seeds and plug plants.

We have lost an ash tree in the churchyard to 'ash dieback' disease and the PCC have agreed to cut this down. The intention is to make the stump of the tree and some logs into a 'stumpery'. This is where the existing trunk is cut off to form a table and other logs are cut to size to make seats – a great place to have a picnic. There will be suitable planting around it.

We are also looking for an area in the Churchyard to plant a memorial garden which would be lovely for visitors and the bees.

Eco Church is self-funding thanks to Chris McColl and Bridget Smith selling plants at the Fete, at Churchyard clear up and from their base in Manton High Street. Further funding for our future plans will come from 'planting a cherry tree (£800) or buying a bench (£1,000) in memory of a loved one'. Prices include a memorial plaque.

Last year, Action for the River Kennet (ARK) helped us stem the erosion of the river banks and this has all now matured beautifully. ARK installed two brash wood 'mattresses' or 'berms' and some logs to deflect the section of the river that runs through the Churchyard. This helps reduce bank erosion, improves the flow of the river and creates habitat. When the flow of the river is increased, this then scours the riverbed flushing out settled sediment. Also, some of the alder trees on the bank were coppiced to create lighter conditions for the marginal plants to establish.

Hopefully, in the Spring we will be able to get pupils from Preshute Primary School to visit the Churchyard. There is so much wildlife to monitor including what is happening in the Bug Hotel. We are also looking into the right location for an owl box as they have been heard 'hooting' nearby.

All the above is only part of creating an Eco Church. Thanking God for giving us the earth we live

on extends to the ministry and running of the Church. Sermons, prayers and readings that relate to God's greatest creation are used on a regular basis. We also have to ensure, where possible, that purchases are sustainable, and also recyclable. These thoughts and practices should also be mirrored in our own lives and homes to care for God's greatest creation.

Please help us achieve our goal of a Gold Award from the Christian environmental charity A Rocha. At present we have the Bronze award with some silver marks and are due a further assessment in 2023. In the meantime, please ensure that any information that will help us with our assessment is placed in the brown box underneath the photographs board in the Church.

*Linda Morgan and David Beacom*

### **Churchyard Records**

The electronic version of the records has been updated to include burials in 2022. Copies are held by the Churchwardens, the Team Office, the Team Vicar and me. This is updated as necessary and re-published annually. There continue to be a few burials each year, usually the interment of ashes. In 2022 there were four burials of ashes of two couples. There was also one full burial in an existing plot.

There is a file hard copy of the records kept in the church.

*Laurien Carter*

### **Cleaners**

Brass cleaning continues to be undertaken every two weeks by a small group of diligent parishioners. Thank you to those involved – the church brass always looks good.

If anyone is interested in becoming a brass cleaner they are welcome to join the team – please let us know.

*Laurien Carter*

### **Archives**

During 2022 there were no requests for information from the church archives which are held securely in the Vicarage.

A selection of photographs continues to be added to the archives, as and when the display board at the west end of the church is updated.

*Jeremy York*

## **FINANCE**

### **Financial Review**

The following provides an overview of the accounts for 2022 which are being examined by Mr Wheeler and are prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2022 saw improvements for St George's financial position with an increase in church services and a return of a number of social events and weddings in the church. The mainstay of our income remains the regular giving from our parishioners and we remain fortunate that this continued even when

## **FINANCE**

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The unrestricted fund returned a surplus of £2,588 in 2022. In person services were uninterrupted in 2022. A total of £2,284 was raised through special collections and there was return to annual charity donation by the parish, suspended during the pandemic, which led to £3,330 being donation to a range of local, national and international charities. £4,797 was spent from the legacy fund, of which £2,797 was spent on capital project work and £2,000 on maintenance. One of the main financial challenges was the increase in utility costs, which went from £1,367 in 2021 to £4,156 in 2022.

We continue to pay our contribution to our vicar's Worship Director role in conjunction with the Marlborough team, with the money raised in 2019 along with the regular contributions covering this cost. This continues to be detailed separately in the accounts as a restricted fund.

The full accounts are presented in the Appendix.

### **Notes on Income:**

The table below summarises the main sources of general income over the past three years, excluding restricted income such as Worship Director donations and special collections. Planned giving has remained consistent over that period, but the sources have changed, with a shift away from Standing Orders to regular giving via the Parish Giving Scheme.

	2020 (£)	2021 (£)	2022 (£)
Planned Giving (Total)	31,862	30,796	30,853
of which: Planned Giving Scheme (PGS)	12,290	16,494	18,016
Standing Orders	17,128	12,597	10,988
Blue Envelopes	2,444	1,705	1,849
Collections (excluding special collections)	1,258	1,858	3,418
Yellow Envelopes	840	972	1,191
Wall Box	157	293	220
Donations	4,186	10,307	7,434
Card Reader	N/A	N/A	281
Generous Giving Campaign	N/A	7,981	N/A
Gift Aid tax refund (2 years claimed in 2022)	11,374	11,425	22,447
Social Events (Net)	1,249	1,515	2,112
Fees from Weddings and Funerals	2,506	4,157	5,874

### **Notes on Expenditure:**

General expenditure has been controlled closely through the year and in most areas were below the budgeted amount for 2022. The main increases in 2022 were related to utility costs, printing costs and secretarial costs.

## **Independent Examiner's Report**

The independent examiners report and full accounts are in the Appendix.

### **Reserves policy**

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments (including  $\frac{1}{4}$  or the value of the share payment but excluding charitable giving). This is equivalent to £15,000 and this was met as of 31 December 2022 when the unrestricted fund stood at £25,311.

We currently maintain a Gift and Legacy fund. This fund is to be used on major projects some of which are currently entering final consultation and faculty stage whilst others are at early discussion stages but all of which will significantly reduce this designated fund.

*Alastair Barr, Hon Treasurer*

## Appendix 1

### Independent Examiner's Report

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL "THE PCC" (TRUSTEES)  
of  
St GEORGE'S CHURCH PRESHUTE  
Registered Charity Number 1184256  
Year Ended 31 December 2022**

I report on the Receipts and Payments Accounts, pages 12 to 20, which are attached to the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:



Date:

31/10/23

Roger Wheeler BSc Econ  
Accountant  
Roger John & Co  
1 Farrar Drive  
Marlborough  
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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST GEORGE'S  
 PRESHUTE, MARLBOROUGH - **Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

Accounting policies are detailed at Note 1

**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>							
Planned Giving		30853		1620		32473	32741
Collections at Services		3418		2284		5702	2791
All other giving / voluntary receipts	4a	10126		0		10126	24544
Gift Aid Recovered		22447		4090		26538	11494
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>66844</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7995</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74839</b>	<b>71570</b>
Activities for generating funds	4b	2658		0		2658	2953
Investment Income	4c	358	1936	125		2420	1070
Church Activities	4d	5874				5874	4157
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>75735</b>	<b>1936</b>	<b>8120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>85791</b>	<b>79750</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church Activities</b>							
Parish Share		42173				42173	40164
Clergy and Staffing Costs	4e			9600		9600	9600
Church Running Costs & Improvements	4f, 7	27099	4797			31895	23621
Mission Giving and Donations	5	3330		2284		5614	6812
		72602	4797	11884		89282	80197
Cost of Generating Funds	4g	545				545	672
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>73147</b>	<b>4797</b>	<b>11884</b>		<b>89827</b>	<b>80869</b>
Excess of Receipts over payments		<b>2588</b>	<b>-2861</b>	<b>-3764</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-4037</b>	<b>-1119</b>
Transfer Between Funds	8	<b>-1535</b>	<b>1535</b>				
		<b>1053</b>	<b>-1326</b>	<b>-3764</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-4037</b>	<b>-1119</b>
<b>Gains / Losses on Investments</b>							
Realised							
Unrealised			-2525		-2170	-4696	4992
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>							
Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2022		24258	107154	16388	18438	166237	162364
Balance carried forward at 31 Dec 2022		25311	103303	12624	16268	157505	166237
Net change in funds in year						-8732	3873
Comprising							
Total Receipts		85791					
Total Payments		89827					
Investment Gains/Losses		-4696					
Net change in funds in year		-8732					

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund		Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£		£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>							
Bank Current Account		24537	0	0		24537	14947
CCLA Deposit Fund		774	84377	12624		97775	111402
<b>Total</b>		<b>25311</b>	<b>84377</b>	<b>12624</b>		<b>122311</b>	<b>126348</b>
	Note		<b>31-Dec-22</b>			<b>31-Dec-21</b>	
			£			£	
<b>Investment Assets</b>							
Investment Shares CCLA General			18926			21451	
Investment Shares - Aspent Copse Trust			12049			13657	
Investment shares - Angela and William Whitrow			4218			4781	
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Cash on hand at bank			24537			14947	
CCLA Deposit Fund			97775			111402	
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>157505</b>			<b>166237</b>	

## Notes to the 2022 Accounts and Further Analysis

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St George's Preshute, Marlborough, is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Charity Registration Number 1184256.

#### a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK & Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16th July 2014.

The accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

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

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. The accounts do not include the accounts relating to any informal gatherings of Church members or small cash balances held by individuals such as the flower arrangers.

Rounding – the Accounts are prepared to the exact penny but for presentation purposes, and for ease of reading and understanding, are shown in rounded pounds. This can mean that some of the totals and/or sub totals do not appear as if they add correctly and appear to be £1 out.

#### c) Incoming resources

- Voluntary income - Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the Gift Aid is received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are logged as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. It is recorded in the accounts when received.
- Funds raised by any social events are accounted for gross, where practicable and costs for events included in expenditure, this is broken out later in the notes.
- Income from investments Dividends and interest are accounted for when received.
- Gains and losses on investments Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are recognised on their valuation in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

#### d) Resources used

- Church ministry and services - The diocesan share/quota is accounted for when paid. Any diocesan share unpaid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.
- Grants made Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, then they are recorded in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

#### e) Fixed assets - Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the rectors and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property and not valued in the accounts.
- All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is treated as an expense and written off.
- The fabric fund is maintained to cover the costs of major maintenance whereas minor works are funded through the general fund.

#### f) Investments: Investments are valued at mid market value at 31 December.

g) Current Assets. Cash held in a savings account with a bank is classified as cash at bank. Cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or held in a term deposit account with a bank is also classified as cash.

h) Funds - Funds have been classified as Unrestricted, Unrestricted Designated, Restricted or Endowment.

- Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated by the PCC for a particular purpose are classified as unrestricted designated as the PCC has allocated them for a specific purpose although the PCC can re-designate these funds. This helps budget for the future.
- Restricted funds are funds received, collected by or given to the PCC for a particular purpose which was specified at or before the time of receipt. These funds have been restricted by the donor for a particular purpose and they cannot be used by the PCC for any other purpose except by agreement with the donor or as determined by the courts or the Charity Commission.
- Endowment funds are funds or assets given to the PCC with the specific instruction that only the income gained from the funds can be spent. The original endowment funds cannot normally be spent and must remain in the form of equivalent assets or investments.

St George's is the beneficiary of two funds:

The Aspent Copse endowment fund. The dividend income from the fund each year is added to our general fund and is not restricted in use. The fund itself is managed by the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance and the capital is not available to be spent (it is understood that in extremis the board could be approached to allow the funds to be transferred to our general funds but this would be a matter for them to consider not a right).

The Angela and William Whitrow fund where the dividend income gained is restricted to use on upkeep of the churchyard.

## **2. Explanation of Funds**

St George's has a number of funds where the PCC has allocated money for specific purposes to aid saving for projects and to manage our finances more effectively, e.g. to budget for organ maintenance. The funds and purposes are as follows:

- Fabric fund: To build up reserves for maintenance work in the church and churchyard.
- Legacy and Gift Fund: Used to ring fence money for capital projects.
- Boiler Fund: Maintenance and where required replacement of the church boiler and related heating system
- Ministry: To provide specific funds for ministry
- Church Hall: Specific fund with the long term aim to provide a church hall or annex to the church
- Organ Fund: Fund for maintenance and repair of the organ. The last major service cost some £20,000 and is required every 20-30 years.
- Worship Director Restricted Fund: a restricted fund to manage donations and payments in support of the Worship Director.

## Note to the Accounts – Further Analysis Continued

The following pages further break down specific sections of income and expenditure.

### 3. Movement in Funds

We maintain a number of designated funds to help budget for future finance. At the end of the year these funds contained:

		Balance B/F	Receipts	Payments	Investment Gains / Losses	Bal/C/f
<b>Unrestricted</b>		24258	75735	74681		25311
<b>Restricted</b>	6					
Fabric Fund		2356	125			2482
Legacy and Gift Fund		6000				6000
Worship Director Fund		8031	5710	9600		4142
Special Collections	5	0	2284	2284		0
		16388	8120	11884		12624
<b>Designated</b>						
Fabric		8555				8555
Legacy & Gift Fund	7	87438	1936	4797	-2525	82052
Boiler	8	-1535	1535			0
Ministry		5264				5264
Church Hall		1141				1141
Organ		6290				6290
		107154	3471	4797	-2525	103303
<b>Total (excl of Aspent Copse &amp; Whitrow Fund)</b>		147799	87325	91362	-2525	141237
<b>Endowments</b>						
Value of Aspent Copse Trust & Whitrow Funds		18438	0		-2170	16268
<b>Total</b>		166237	87325	91362	-4696	157505
		£				
Value at 31/12/21		166237				
Value at 31/12/22		157505				
Value change in year		-8732				
Total Receipts		85791				
Total Payments		89827				
Investment gains/loss		-4696				
Net change in funds in year		-8732				

## 4. Breakdown of Income and Expenditure

		Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
<b>a) All other giving / voluntary receipts</b>						
Donations (including yellow envelopes)		9906			9906	11279
Legacies					0	1000
Wall Box		220			220	293
Generous Giving Campaign						11972
Worship Director Capital Donations				0	0	0
	4a	10126		0	10126	24544
<b>b) Social Activities Generating funds</b>						
Plant Sales		220			220	394
Raj Night		270			270	0
Rugby Dinners		0			0	0
Village Fete		139			139	234
Harvest Supper				0	0	766
Quiz Night		0			0	540
Concert		700			700	1020
St George's Supper		669			669	0
Safari Supper		660			660	0
	4b	2658		0	2658	2953
<b>c) Investment Income</b>						
Interest on CBF Deposit Fund			1373		1373	0
Dividends of CBF shares			563		563	544
Dividends of Trust Shares		358		125	484	468
	4c	358	1936	125	2420	1012
<b>d) Church Activities:</b>						
Fees for Weddings and funerals		5874			5874	4157
Fees refunded by diocese for service cover		0			0	0
	4d	5874			5874	4157
<b>Payments</b>						
<b>e) Clergy and Staffing Costs</b>						
Worship Director Pay, NI, Pension etc				9600	9600	9600
				9600	9600	9600
<b>f) Church Running Expenses</b>						
Working and Office Expenses		2567			2567	1926
Honoraria and Secretarial		8107			8107	2030
Organ Maintenance & tuning		698			698	481
Insurance		2169			2169	2085
Printing and stationary		3760			3760	2428
Heating, Lighting and Water		4156			4156	1367
Repairs, Maintenance & Improvements		4537	4797		9334	12585
Bank Charges		307			307	287
Education/Youth Work		632			632	0
Alpha Course		165			165	0
Accounts examiners fees		0			0	432
		27099	4797		31895	23621
<b>g) Costs of Generating Funds</b>						
St George's Supper		452			452	0
Harvest Supper		0			0	484
Quiz Night		0			0	113
Concert		93			93	75
		545			545	672

## 5. Giving to Missions and Charities

	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Special Collection Distribution</b>					
DEC Ukraine			805	805	0
Jerusalem and Middle East Church			307	307	213
Christian Aid			0	0	173
Royal Naval Benevolent Trust			53	53	0
Mission to Seafarers			0	0	194
RAFBF			0	0	109
RABI			173	173	766
SSAFA			125	125	0
Combat Stress			125	125	245
Crisis			342	342	0
Save the Children			88	88	0
Children's Society			88	88	0
Christian Aid			88	88	0
Age UK Wiltshire			88	88	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>2284</b>	<b>2284</b>	<b>1699</b>
	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
<b>Charitable Giving</b>					
<b>International</b>					
SOMA	500			500	0
Sudan Church (via Salisbury DBF)	500			500	0
<b>National</b>					
A Rocha	0			0	43
Bible Society	500			500	0
Tearfund	500			500	0
<b>Local Charities</b>					
ARK	0			0	250
Devizes and Marlborough Foodbank	500			500	0
Home Start Kennet	125			125	0
Jubilee Centre	125			125	0
MAPAG	125			125	0
Prospect Hospice	125			125	0
Friends of Salisbury Cathedral	30			30	30
<b>Emergency Fund</b>					
Tearfund - Yemen	300			300	500
Christian Aid - Haiti	0			0	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>3330</b>			<b>3330</b>	<b>1123</b>
Annual donations suspended in 2021 and reinstated in 2022					

<b>6. Note on Restricted Funds</b>									
We currently have £2,482 of restricted funds in the fabric fund, £2000 restricted to church maintenance and £482 on the churchyard									
We have £6000 in the legacy fund restricted to use on capital projects									
We have £4142 in the Worship Director Fund									
<b>7. Breakdown of Legacy Fund Income and Expenditure</b>									
			Income	Expenditure					
Dividends Received from Investments			563						
CBF Deposit Acct retained interest			1373						
New Electric Organ				1704					
Church Heating Controls Upgrade				414					
Church External Painting				2000					
Benjamin & Beauchamp Survey and Pre Faculty Work				679					
			1936	4797					
<b>8. Transfer between funds</b>									
A transfer of £1534.76 was made from the Unrestricted Fund into the Unrestricted Designated Fund to clear a deficit in the Boiler Fund									

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL "THE PCC" (TRUSTEES)  
of  
St GEORGE'S CHURCH PRESHUTE  
Registered Charity Number 1184256  
Year Ended 31 December 2022**

I report on the Receipts and Payments Accounts, pages 12 to 20, which are attached to the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:



Date:

31/10/23

Roger Wheeler BSc Econ  
Accountant  
Roger John & Co  
1 Farrar Drive  
Marlborough  
SN8 1TP

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# Accounts

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# St George's PRESHUTE



## Annual Report 2021

Registered Charity Number 1184256

**St. George's Church** is situated on the western edge of Marlborough on the south bank of the River Kennet. The Parish of Preshute serves the villages of Manton and Clatford, the Barton Park estate, part of the western end of Marlborough and a rural area stretching both north and south. The church is in the Diocese of Salisbury (Deanery of Marlborough) and is part of the Marlborough Anglican Team, with an office in Silverless Street, Marlborough. St. George's and the associated churchyard is open every day and anyone is welcome to visit the church for prayer, quiet contemplation or simply to enjoy the wonderful location next to the river.

### **Aims and Objectives – Making Jesus Known**

The Church is the family of Christians meeting together to worship God and to find fellowship together through prayer and learning. Our work is to spread the Good News of our faith by 'Making Jesus Known'.

St George's is well placed to serve the town of Marlborough and most of our mission has a two-fold strategy: to deepen and enrich our own worshipping life and also to find creative ways of making connections with the local community to both introduce the Christian story and deepen engagement with all in the local area.

### **St George Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Vicar in promoting, in the ecclesiastical Parish of Preshute, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The life of St George's is within the Marlborough Anglican Team, Marlborough Churches Together and the Diocese of Salisbury in the Church of England.

### Membership:

Members of the Parochial Church Council are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or co-opted by the PCC due to the functions they perform in the Church (provided the person is willing to be co-opted). The PCC is a charity, and the PCC members are its Trustees and are responsible for ensuring the Church is serving its community. This report shows how St George's engages with the local community.

Incumbent (Team Vicar): Rev. Pete Sainsbury

Churchwardens: Neil Croucher, Sally Cripps

Deanery Synod: Sarah Musgrave, Jeremy York, Simon Bonham

Members: Anne Notton (Secretary), Alastair Barr (Treasurer), David Beacom (Fabric and Churchyard). The other members are Lydia Bauer, Paul Lefever, Marcia Johnson, Robin Notton, Amanda Brown, Linda Morgan who take on responsibilities as needed. The Team Rector, Revd Christopher Smith is an ex officio member.

The PCC has met 6 times during the year either on Zoom or live. The most recent approved PCC Minutes and Past Minutes can be obtained from the Secretary on request.

The main items of business at each meeting are a consideration of our core task of 'Making Jesus Known'. Against this background, we have reviewed our worship,

considered matters of finance and fabric, explored how we might best "grow" St George's, the way we welcome people, and discussed the social events that are offered. However, during the last year some of the options above have become less limited

At the Annual Meeting in 2021, there were 120 names on the Electoral Roll of church membership, approximately 70 of whom are regular worshippers. The average number of worshippers each week has been approximately 40. This number decreased during the pandemic but, with the gradual relaxation of Covid rules the numbers have been increasing again.

### **Team Rector's Report**

2021 was a challenging year as the pandemic dominated. The year began with the hopes of the vaccine rollout yet ended with an Omicron surge. As a church our fellowship, communion, finances and outreach were all diminished. Who knew how much we would miss such simple things as after service coffee and being able to sing? In 2020 there seemed to be some excitement about lockdowns but this evaporated in 2021. While lives were saved the cost began to become clearer: increased loneliness and drinking. Missed treatments, exams and holidays. And great frustration at plans being continually blown off course. For the country that hoped to take back control we now seemed completely out of control.

On the plus side St George's and other churches made magnificent efforts to keep the faith show rolling. In Lent we organised a course looking at Faith in the Arts, which was attended by more than 100 people. Love Marlborough Kids Meals continued to deliver hot, nutritious food to the town's most needy families. Your ministers became zoom Jedi and much worship occurred online. We learnt to stream and now breezily talk of mixed media worship. Who would have imagined all this in 2019? All the little gatherings online of 10 or 20 people did much to keep us going through dark times. The 5pm prayers on Wednesday were a great source of solace and encouragement.

According to Christianity Today 38% of ministers considered quitting in 2021. The pressures have been intense. How can groups be led when some think Covid is a cold, yet others have run for the hills? Very little appreciation has gone to ministers as key workers - yet Pete visited and took funerals all through the pandemic. While technology is a great blessing it has been exhausting to use and so little feedback comes through the computer. Some members of our congregations have been cranky because they have been locked up again and ministers have sometimes been the punchbags for their frustration. The clergy and other ministers need our love, prayers and support. Be a blessing to your ministry team!

One person who sadly left us in 2021 was Laura Willis. She served as the Administrator of the Marlborough Anglican Team for 14 years. Her role was very much behind the scenes but only in leaving did we all find out how much she did for churches across the town. We pray for a blessed retirement for her and Paul.

As we look to 2022 may God give us the end of the pandemic. The Bishop of London has said she feels after the pandemic ends it will take the churches two years to recover.

May God keep us safe and help us through this process. And may somehow much good fruit be borne from a difficult time.

I'm very grateful for the ongoing work of St George's. In all my visits it seems a very happy church and it brings the sunshine of God's love to the team and the town.

Well done church; and thank you Pete, Sally and Neil for all your hard work and service.

*Revd Chris Smith, Team Rector of Marlborough*

## **Team Vicar's Report**

I was once told that the main purpose of a vicar's annual report was to thank the people for all the hard work, done often behind the scenes and with great cheerfulness. I therefore start with a great, all-embracing and heartfelt *thank-you* to you all. St George's is marked by a wide breadth of activity that 'makes church happen' in its different ways and I am deeply grateful for this and for the quality of relationships that underpins this.

Of note, we expressed thanks to Richard Denning (Treasurer) and Charles Graham (Churchwarden) for sterling work over many years in their respective roles, and we were pleased to welcome Alastair Barr and Neil Croucher to fill those roles, respectively.

After my uneven start in the parish due to lockdowns at the end of 2020, things began to settle and it has been good to see a whole year through from beginning to end. I will look back through the lens of highlights.

2021 marked a continuation of the pandemic but I am so glad to say that we have attempted to go about things as normally and fully as possible. Worshipping numbers were down (but up from 2020), and things picked up numerically in the autumn.

Early in the year, we devised and delivered an online Lent Course based around 'God and the Arts' which was attended virtually by about 125 people. This course, delivered by local clergy including Bishop Andrew was greatly appreciated and showed the considerable fraternal spirit that Churches Together in Marlborough enjoys.

My involvement with Preshute School began in earnest and as a foundation governor alongside Brian Crowe, we attended meetings mostly online in 2021. The school continued to rise to the significant challenges of a building project (the addition of some very fine new classroom space) and some more difficult issues staff-wise. With support from 'County' and the appointment of a new chair, things began to settle down. Our activity within school was necessarily reduced and even now, church/school activity has not quite regained its shape. We hope that 2022 will bring back the regularity of assemblies and 'Open the Book' sessions.

We don't have the resources presently to run Sunday School as such at St George's but we are nevertheless blessed with some very committed people who have a heart for our children. Teddy Prayers (for pre-schoolers) reduced in activity in 2021 but Messy Church increased, with great success. I am very grateful to Amanda Brown for her key role in that and for the support of many, significantly Sue Elks, in delivering Messy Church termly or twice-termly.

The church's 'Occasional Offices' (baptisms, weddings and funerals) resumed regularity in 2021 with a burst of necessary catch-up: we had a great deal of weddings and baptisms to perform. Funerals continued to happen but typically limited to 30 people in church.

Although I am mostly at St George's for these, as a team, the clergy operate across all three churches including on Sundays. The number of clergy available to assist with worship and occasional offices has significantly reduced, but Henry Pearson in particular helps out at St George's from time to time, and I am grateful.

An occasional but great part of life at St George's is the churchyard clear-up days. A few times a year, a team assembles on a Saturday morning, does a few hours of good work on the churchyard and then enjoys lunch. Thank you to David Beacom for his energy in bringing these enjoyable sessions together. In 2021, Action for the River Kennet did some sterling work in improving the flow of the river directly behind the church. The treasurer and I were even photographed in waders, driving stakes into the river-bed!

It was evident in 2021 that finances were under pressure, not just for us but across the Church of England and the Diocese, and the economy generally. The Generous Giving scheme was devised by the Diocese as a tool to help parishes focus on giving, and we responded by focusing on a one-off Gift Day with a commitment to give one-third to the three most financially pressured parishes in our deanery. Across the Anglican team, something like £30,000 was raised which is a significant achievement. I am very grateful for your response to this and also for Alastair's work in administrating this with all the follow-up work necessary.

Our worship is blessed by a very good quality of music, and on an occasional basis, this is augmented either by the Georgians or the Junior Georgians, our occasional choirs. Andrew Brown and I devised a programme of Choral Evensongs in 2021 and these have been very well received. Music is a great asset to a church family and locality, and with the enthusiasm and commitment of both Andrew and Amanda, we hosted an evening of rather fine music at the end of November.

Our social evenings of Quiz Nights, Harvest Suppers and Nights at the Raj are always very well received. Together with the music night, they represent a considerable fund-raising effort.

As the year drew to a close, numbers were significantly down at Christmas services due to an increase in Covid infections, but it was wonderful to be able to celebrate together in sung worship, unlike 2020. Our ardent, prayerful hope is for an entirely unrestricted Christmas in 2022.

Finally, my life was significantly difficult in 2021 for personal reasons which most of you know. I am grateful to many of you, my family of St George's for your support and love, and not least to Chris Smith and Sarah Musgrave who have been exceptionally supportive and loving colleagues and friends.

Remembering 2021 and anticipating all that God has for us in 2022 and beyond: every blessing, everyone – and thank you.

*Revd Pete Sainsbury, Team Vicar*

## **Electoral Roll Report**

Those whose names are on the Electoral Roll are listed on the notice board in the porch. Any regular worshippers at St. George's who are not on the roll are encouraged to contact me or one of the churchwardens for an application form.

There were 119 names on the Electoral Roll at 31 December 2021, one fewer than a year ago. We welcomed newcomers Stephen Robins and Anne Rigby, but we record with sadness the death of Anthea Haydon, Diana Hony and Derek Robinson, all of them well advanced in years, having lived happy and fruitful lives.

*Charles Graham*

## **Church Attendance**

Church attendance at St. George's remains good following the relaxation of Covid restrictions. Teddy Prayers and Picnic is hoping to change its format and to and is hoping to support Messy Church more. Teddy Prayers members have attended the All Age Services that are now taking place regularly. Evening Prayer on a Wednesday is now on line and is popular. At Easter we had Services, as the Church is now open for public worship, though there were still some restrictions. At Christmas the Carol Service and Christmas Services took place, though not so well attended as was hoped. Unfortunately, all the children's services over Christmas were cancelled due to a resurgence of the covid virus.

## **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

During the last year at St. George's, we have celebrated eight weddings and one wedding blessing. In addition there have been five baptisms. Sadly, there have been five funerals and five interments of ashes.

## **St. George's in the Community**

With the easing of lockdown restrictions, St. George's activities in the Community have been gradually getting back to "normal".

At Christmas, a group led by Amanda and Andrew Brown sang carols in Barton Park and then in the Oddfellows Inn. The money raised was donated to Crisis at Christmas.

St. George's members are involved in the life of Manton Village, the Jubilee Centre, St. Peter's Trust etc. Links with Preshute School are being maintained, though "Open the Book" has not yet started again. The St. George's Newsletter is now being delivered to most houses in the Parish again.

Let us continue to hope and pray that by this time next year all activities will be back to normal and flourishing

Despite its fairly isolated setting, St. George's receives a regular trickle of visitors, and there is a history of the church on sale at the back, as well as a free Walk-Round Guide.

*Anne Notton*

## **Safeguarding**

St George's Preshute policy and practice for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults is based upon the guidelines from the Church of England House of Bishops and is updated annually. A summary of our policy is posted on our website and on the notice board in the porch. A full hard copy is kept in the church and the vicarage. The safeguarding and protection of children, and adults at risk is everyone's responsibility, not just parents, guardians and carers. St George's Preshute is committed to:

- The safeguarding and protection of all children and young people.
- Safeguarding adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.
- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with all adults and children.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Judith Denning; she is the first line of contact if there are any concerns. The Parish DBS Verifier is Marcia Johnson.

There are no safeguarding issues to report. Over the course of this year following Church and Charity Commission guidelines all PCC members have been DBS checked or are currently undergoing DBS checks. Currently due to COVID 19 all Safeguarding Training is still being carried out remotely, the Basic Awareness course (C0) and Foundation course (C1) can be accessed via the Diocese of Salisbury website. Ideally all church members who come into contact with children, young people and adults who may be at risk need to undertake the basis awareness course.

*Judith Denning - Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

The role of the Lay Pastoral Assistant is to provide assistance with pastoral ministry for the local church. This can involve work with children and young people, the sick, the recently bereaved and the elderly and housebound. They may take communion to those unable to come to church. The Marlborough Team as a whole has a number of LPA's; St George's at present only has one. However, St Georges is fortunate in that it has a congregation who support and are good neighbours to one another.

*Judith Denning*

## **Website**

We continue to operate a website in conjunction with both St Mary's and Mildenhall churches. This is used to provide information on the church, services and provide contact details for ministers, the office and key posts such as churchwardens. Rev Chris Smith spent much of the first lockdown updating the site and it now looks much more modern with links to the new Love Marlborough site and YouTube channel.

*Richard Denning*

## 2020 ACTIVITY REPORT

### **Open the Book**

For obvious reasons the book had to remain closed for most of the year. We were able to do one session in September, when we acted the Creation story (from the Lion Storyteller Bible). The children enjoyed playing their part as “green growing things”, “flying things”, “splashing things” and “walking, crawling, running, hopping and climbing things”. We hope that 2022 will offer more opportunities to bring Bible stories to life for the children of Preshute School.

*Charles Graham and Sarah Musgrave*

### **Home Group**

Home group has 11 members (9 from St George’s and 2 from St Mary’s) and meets on Monday evenings, fortnightly. 8 members have managed to meet regularly on zoom over the past year and we enjoyed a brief period when we were able to meet face to face. Over the course of the year our home group sessions have been led by Charles Graham and Keith Fryer (St. Mary’s).

We have studied The Greatest thing in the World by Henry Drummond, based on 1 Corinthians 13 which explores the nine components of love including patience, humility and kindness. We have recently finished studying 1&2 Peter and Judah by Tom Wright and have enjoyed some stand-alone sessions throughout the year. We have also spent time thinking about social issues and linking them into passages from scripture and our final session of the year was a ‘bring and share’ evening with music, poetry, one of Charles’ famous quizzes and a lot of laughter.

*Julie Conlen*

### **Teddy Prayers and Picnic**

Teddy Prayers started five years ago when Rev. Miri Keen was our vicar. I had been involved with a similar initiative forty years ago in Houghton near Stockbridge, under the guidance of Canon Sam Hayman, when my own children were young.

Rev, Miri Keen suggested we met in church twice a month in the afternoon for a short service, songs, a story, prayers and a children’s tea. We were fortunate Sarah Musgrave was keen to take part and Heather Croucher was able to play the piano for us.

We have enjoyed these years and watched the children grow to be kind and thoughtful through the teachings of our Lord. They have made good friends both children and adults and have grown up supported by members of the church and been given much encouragement and love. Please see our scrapbook for photos! I am very happy to lend this book if you would like to take it home to look at.

However, time passes, children grow, and life moves on. The original TPP children are now at primary school. TPP is the type of organisation that owes its success to personal contact and word of mouth.

So, looking to the future, we plan to hold three larger meetings a year – Easter, Summer and Christmas. These gatherings will be for local families, new and old, who would like to come along. Also, we are supporting Amanda with her Messy Church Days. St George's is known locally as a child-friendly church, and we hope to continue this with our plans.

*Sue Elks and Lydia Bauer*

### **Messy Church**

At the beginning of the year, with a lockdown in place, there was still no opportunity to meet together, but instead, a home video was compiled with a demonstration of how to make an Easter garden.

After such a long period of restrictions, it was with great excitement that we were able to make plans for a 'live' Messy Church on Saturday 25 September to explore the theme of 'Walking with Jesus' based on Mark 1, v 16-20. It was a lively and heart-warming afternoon, with 13 children and 12 adults gathered for songs, the Bible reading and teaching, prayers, and activities all based on the passage from scripture. The children thought about what it means to walk with Jesus and created a banner of footprints, crafted origami prayer fish, became 'fishers of men' by making an invitation card to give to friends for the Harvest Festival service, and made a 3-D scene representing Jesus's call of the disciples in the Bible story. It was a particular joy to welcome some families who were new to Messy Church.

Spurred on by the good response to the September Messy Church, a further session was organised for Saturday 20 November, focusing on the theme of Advent. Once again, the church was buzzing with activity as 17 children and 15 adults enjoyed worship and songs together with activities leading to an understanding of Jesus as the light of the world as well as the idea of waiting expectantly for Jesus in Advent. The children went home with the fruits of their afternoon's work: an Advent wreath with candles ready to light on each Sunday of Advent, an Advent 'prayer' calendar, a lantern to show Jesus's light to others, and a flowerpot planted with spring bulbs to illustrate the idea of waiting (for quite a long time!).

It has been a great joy to be able to re-introduce Messy Church into the church calendar and we look forward to establishing a programme of three to four services per year as part of the children's ministry in the parish. On each occasion in 2021, there were many people involved – very many thanks indeed to all helpers for their help with preparations and their support on the day. A special thank you to Pete too, for leading the heart of the service with lively songs and thoughtful worship.

*Amanda Brown*

### **The Flower Group**

The last year saw many weddings, several postponed from the previous year in lockdown, and we all delighted in enjoying the glorious flowers arranged for these occasions - even if it entailed extra work for our team in dismantling and clearing!

Our volunteers work to have some fresh flowers in church every week, though each person can do as little or as much as they want. There is plenty of scope for the more ambitious but, even if you have never 'had a go' before, you would be very welcome to join our group. Judging from the comments of visitors our church always looks beautiful, welcoming and loved. Thank you to all who help achieve this.

*Pru Groffman*

## **Music**

Despite the year starting unpromisingly with the second lockdown imposed early in January, other restrictions, and difficulties with the church ceiling, we tried to maintain as normal a musical offering as possible through 2021.

Sunday services resumed in March, with social distancing, no congregational singing indoors, and restrictions on choirs. Hymns were instrumental only and singing in services was by soloists. Many thanks to soloists Amanda Brown and Michael Bauer, and to Jessy Pomfret who provided accompaniment on the cello. On Easter Day a small group sang, and since outdoor singing was allowed, we all sang the final hymn, *Thine be the glory*, in the churchyard. It felt like a wonderful liberation, the first congregational singing of any kind for over a year! Over the next couple of months, we moved outside for the final hymn whenever the weather permitted.

Children's choirs could be of any size; so with great excitement the Junior Georgians reassembled for Music Sunday on 4 July. 10 children sang *Jubilate everybody* and *Heaven is singing for joy*, following this up at Harvest on 3 October with *Everybody praise Him* and *Above the moon earth rises*. This service had a strong environmental focus in line with our Eco-Church work. The Junior Georgians have recruited several new members this year: 17 singers were preparing for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, which sadly had to be cancelled because of fears over the spread of Coronavirus.

From July we were able to expand the adult choir to 6 singers, and in memory of Ian Penfold, one of the founder members of the Georgians, who had sadly passed away on 23 May, we sang Choral Evensong on 11 July, which was attended by Megan and other family members. The two hymns were particular favourites of Ian's (*How shall I sing that majesty?* and *There's a wideness in God's mercy*), and the anthem was *For the beauty of the earth*, by John Rutter, whom Ian had known since school days. In addition, on 12 September a congregational sung Evensong was much enjoyed.

With congregational singing and choirs of any size returning in the autumn, we were finally able to resume a more normal pattern of music in worship. Two services saw the Georgians back in full voice for the first time for nearly two years: Choral Evensong on Advent Sunday, and Carols by Candlelight on 19 December. The soloist for *Once in royal David's city* was Annabelle Moody, and the choir carols were *The truth from above*, *The infant King* and *Star Carol*. In addition, a gallery quartet sang an arrangement of the *Coventry Carol* in the First Communion of Christmas on Christmas Eve.

After our Barton Park carol singing in 2020, we repeated this outreach in the week before Christmas. 30 hardy volunteers assembled to sing carols in several streets before proceeding to the Oddfellows where we sang to and with the customers in the side courtyard. The evening raised £270 for Crisis - my thanks to all involved, and to Holly at the Oddfellows for her hospitality.

As one of the autumn fund-raising events, a group of 14 musicians from the church family presented a musical evening *Falling leaves and early snow*, on 3 December. With choral items, solo songs, instrumental items and readings, this was a hugely enjoyable concert, clearly much appreciated by the audience and raising £1000 for the work of the church. Many thanks to all who were involved in whatever way.

The organ, piano and keyboard continue to give good service. For a few weeks in September the organ was roped off after a ceiling panel above it had collapsed. Fortunately, the organ escaped damage and was back in service as soon as the ceiling was repaired. It has been agreed that the electronic keyboard needs to be upgraded: a new keyboard has been ordered and should be in use in the spring.

My thanks to the PCC for their support in both these matters, and for the purchase of new choir folders and reading lights.

*Andrew Brown*

### **Social Committee**

Sadly, the COVID 19 Pandemic meant that we had to cancel a lot of our annual social evenings.

September saw a great turnout for our Ride and Stride, and thank you to Charles, Jeremy and Howard with all your fundraising.

We had our Harvest Celebration in October with a Supper in the Village Hall. A very well attended and thoroughly enjoyable evening with a raffle at the end.

In November we had a quiz in the Village Hall thanks to our quizmasters Julie and Peter Ayliffe. Fabulous night with cheese, wine and desserts.

In December we had a concert in the Church, "Early Leaves and Falling Snow", organised by Amanda and Andrew Brown. Fabulous event with Junior Georgians, poetry reading and beautiful songs and music. We even had a solo with our Vicar playing an organ. Afterwards everyone was treated to canapés with a glass of wine.

The Carol Singing just before Christmas started off in College Fields and Barton Park, and then we made our way to the Oddfellows Arms in Manton where we entertained the villagers with carols. Cash collection and the Just Giving site were all in aid of Crisis at Christmas

The success of these events is due to everyone who helps, whether it is by cooking, putting out chairs, serving, clearing up, or just turning up to support, and enjoy them. Our thanks go to all involved.

*David Beacom and Judith Denning*

## **Bellringing**

Bellringing re-started at St. George's Preshute on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 following a break of over a year due to the covid virus.

Minimal maintenance was carried out during this period due to the fact that the bells were not being rung. The bellringing team has 5 new recruits who are being trained and are making good progress.

*Richard Metters*

## **MARLBOROUGH, the DEANERY and the DIOCESE**

### **Diocesan Synod**

My report for 2020 was stark, outlining the challenges our diocese was facing, while considering a '5 Year Financial Framework' to eliminate the financial deficit. None of us were to know that Covid-19 would continue, with significant challenges for the church at every level, and so 2021 was equally challenging.

In **February 2021**, our meeting was held on Zoom, with 120 people attending.

Interestingly, in the middle of lockdown and a demoralised world, Bishop Nicholas led a discussion on what we were learning from our experience and how hope was being renewed. Many talked of the importance of reaching out, connecting through live streams and social media, and prayer. He also introduced a draft Mission and Pastoral Plan. The dual purpose of the plan was to present the diocesan priorities and enable discussion at a local level. The three priorities were 1. Clearer paths to mission & ministry (growing vocations, developing lay ministry and resourcing mission); 2. Better care for those who serve (including welfare and training of ministers and volunteers) and 3. Stronger roots for the local church (financing the future and sustaining church buildings). There was considerable support for the general direction of the plan (97 in favour, 2 against and 21 abstaining). A Generous Giving Campaign was considered, with a mixed response

Our meeting **in June** was also held on Zoom and Bishop Nicholas delivered his final Presidential Address, prior to retirement. Themes included the financial impacts of Covid; the potential for growth and flourishing in our parishes if the Generous Giving Campaign is successful; congratulations to the Cathedral for achieving a Gold EcoChurch Award and encouragement for all churches to engage with EcoChurch.

The financial impact of Covid meant share income had reduced and the size of the deficit was concerning. Nevertheless, many mitigating measures were already in place to help balance the budget over the coming years. Again, a great deal depended on the success of the Generous Giving Campaign, planned for the autumn.

The Archdeacon of Sarum, Alan Jeans, re-introduced 'Living in Love and Faith'. He explained that the hope is for people in Church of England churches across the country, in each congregation, to use the LLF resources to study and pray together, as part of discerning a way forward in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

In **September**, we met to discuss a diocesan paper entitled ‘A thriving Christian presence, while balancing the budget’. There was a lengthy explanation of the financial difficulties and ways of resolving these, including reviewing and outsourcing glebe management and development, changing investment portfolios, growing the building consultancy business, cutting the Church House salary budget by 10%, losing nine stipendiary posts as part of an overall reshaping of ministry in 2021/22 and actively sharing resources with neighbouring dioceses etc

In **November**, we finally met in person, to discuss and approve a budget for 2022. The DBF chair reported that Diocesan leadership remained committed to the principle of maintaining a Christian ministry in every parish and that this Diocese has one of the highest ratios of clergy to churchgoers of anywhere in the country. The 5% share increase proposal was discussed, aiming to reduce the deficit to under £1 million during 2022. External costs had increased, but internal costs had been reduced and efforts continued to find further savings. These central savings do not, however, greatly affect Share because central administrative costs account for such a small percentage of the whole. 74% of Diocesan income comes from parish Share and 87% of Diocesan expenditure directly supports ministry in parishes. It soon became obvious that the only long-term way to maintain clergy in the parishes is for income from parishes to increase to pay for them.

*Sarah Musgrave LLM*

### **The Deanery Synod**

Meanwhile, our Deanery Synod meetings offered the opportunity to hear and discuss the diocesan aims and plans – and to feed back thoughts and suggestions from our parishes. On 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021, I presented the *Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Plan* to the Deanery Synod, on Zoom. (Do contact me for a copy of the paper or my presentation). We also discussed the *Generous Giving Campaign*, starting in September with a week of prayer, followed by focussing on God’s generosity, thanksgiving for what we ourselves have received from God and ending on week 4 with our response, and a pledge form. The Marlborough Team responded with a Thank Offering, and our congregations responded with great generosity, offering 1/3 of all money raised to other parishes in the deanery who have been struggling, particularly during the pandemic.

In October, we met in St Mary’s Church to discuss the diocesan paper ‘A thriving Christian presence, while balancing the budget’. Nick Swannell (Deanery Treasurer) gave an excellent presentation explaining Diocesan income, expenditure and the Parish Share and explained that our weekly giving is not a tax but a personal investment by members to maintain ministry across the diocese. As he said, ‘there is no pot of gold’, and ‘it’s not us and them, *we* are the diocese’. He encouraged us to change our mindset, to be ‘cheerful investors’, and to accept the personal responsibility. Afterwards, there was an animated question time, full of interesting, challenging, and creative thoughts and comments.

Naturally, there was serious concern about the idea of reducing the number of priests, while acknowledging the difficulty of poor share returns.

*Sarah Musgrave LLM and Deanery Lay Chair*

## **THE FABRIC**

### **Fabric Report**

A lot of weeding to the edges of the Car Park was carried out in the summer together with spreading some gravel.

Church and Churchyard tidy up – This happens usually in April and October and many thanks to all the helpers that come to help keep our Church and Churchyard looking pristine. This year we tackled a lot of essential hedge cutting. We are very lucky to have Wiltshire Council cutting the grass for us during the summer, and the additional help we get from volunteers is essential. Thank you also to Ken Martin and his tool box for carrying out various maintenance jobs.

New Handrail and New Glass South Porch Doors – Faculty application was submitted back in June, and we are still negotiating with Salisbury DAC before we can start these works. The Quinquennial report was completed this year, and various works suggested by the Architect will be carried out in the better weather.

*David Beacom and Brian Crowe*

### **Eco-Church**

When we first heard about Eco Church the question was - how do you make a church that originated in the 12th Century into an Eco Church. The Fabric of the Church is important and we at St George's are limited due to the age of the Church. However, it is very important that the way we run the Church and all the purchases we make are as eco-friendly as possible. We have to ensure that our gas and electricity are on the most economical settings and we are paying for greener tariffs. Our purchases for the Church have to be recyclable where possible and coffee should be bought from a source such as Fair Trade. The pattern extends to the Ministry and the prayers, readings and sermons which have to include as often as possible thanks to God for giving us the earth we live on. We should also mirror all these thoughts and practices in our own lives and homes in caring for God's greatest creation. Many thanks go to Sarah Musgrave for being instrumental in starting this journey with the Christian environmental charity A ROCHA. We were awarded the Bronze award and we now have some Silver marks as well. Our goal is the Gold award and with help from you all we intend to achieve it.

There are over 2,000 Churches within the Church of England and only 10 of these have achieved this top award. This involves every member of the Church caring for God's earth in whatever way they can.

We have teamed up with Living Churchyards, Transition Marlborough, ARK (Action for the River Kennet) and the RSPB. ARK have agreed to help us with managing river erosion

and tidying up the river bank and have made two visits with their volunteers so far. We intend to have our Gold Award within our three-year target and look forward to having speakers from these various organisations advising us on how they can help us. The PCC are supportive of these plans and hopefully with all the future functions and sales the Eco Church will be self-financing.

We will be assessed for our award on the basis of what we have documented and that could be anything from newsletters, orders of service, receipts for coffee, cleaning materials etc. all with the relevant section highlighted. We need to get a rhythm going that everything relevant needs to go into the brown Eco Church box at the back of the Church for future filing. We don't want to get the award and then lose it for not having a system in place. To get us warmed up we had a survey of the Churchyard with Nationwide Churchyard Surveys which all the kids enjoyed especially the building of a Bug Hotel. With help from Heather Croucher, we also hope to get Preshute School more involved once the easing of Covid takes the pressure off our schools. Our own Preshute Ecocides (PEK's) will also be helping. Indeed, with the help two Preshute School families and the PEK's we managed initial summer survey. We need to survey what is in our Churchyard and what we are trying to attract, like bees etc. Hopefully in March we will see the introduction of bee hives in the Churchyard.

There are a number of mini-projects around the churchyard that will be started as the plan develops. Anyone wanting to get involved further then please let us know.

*Linda Morgan and David Beacom*

### **Churchyard Records**

The electronic version of the records has been updated for 2021. Copies are held by the Church Wardens, the Team Office, the Team Vicar and me. This is updated as necessary and re published annually. There continues to be a few burials each year; usually the interment of ashes. In 2021 there were nine interments, all ashes. Many of these related to deaths during 2020 and the Pandemic. This led to families waiting for restrictions to be lifted to allow wider family and friends to attend.

Thanks to Ian Maurice for updating the information relating to the Maurice family area. Again, it has been possible to help people making enquiries as to the location of relatives buried in the Churchyard which makes all the work rewarding.

There is a file hard copy of the records kept in the church.

*Laurien Carter*

### **Cleaners**

Brass cleaning resumed in July and has since been undertaken every two weeks. We welcomed some new brass cleaners but always look for more help. Thank you to those involved. If anyone interested in becoming a brass cleaner is welcome to join the team – please let us know.

*Laurien Carter*

## **Archives**

Important additions to the Archives over the past twelve months include:

Legal and other historic documents relating to the establishment of the church car park.

The exceptionally well-illustrated Quinquennial Inspection Report for 2021.

The 5-yearly Electrical Installation Condition Report dated 22 June 2021

*Jeremy York*

## **Financial Review**

Data to be provided

## **The Dominy and Turner Trust**

In 1888, H.B. Turner invested £55 for blankets to be lent to poor parishioners. In 1938 Ethel Dominy gave money for a former Mission House in Manton to be rented by an old person. The house was sold in 1973 and the proceeds invested. In 1994 the two charities were amalgamated and its purposes defined as a) the advancement of religion b) the relief of the poor c) general charitable purposes of the inhabitants of the parish of Preshute. The Trustees are The Vicar and Churchwardens of St Georges, in 2021 Revd Pete Sainsbury, Sally Cripps and Neil Croucher.

I am pleased to say that the balance of the fund is modest but good, with pleasing returns from the fund's investment. We aim to keep the investment income and grants at the same level in any year. We are continuing to give support to Preshute Primary School with part-funding of an interactive white board as well as Bibles for children who were leaving last year. In addition, we have made a small donation to the Preshute Fun Club to support after school activities for children, providing some much-needed play equipment.

During 2022, the trustees would like to consider wider support for the people of the parish of Preshute and we will be contacting various organisations to discuss our objectives and see if there is anything we can do in a small way; being mindful that we do not want to open the floodgates of requests.

*Neil Croucher*

## **Churchwardens' Report**

The report for 2021 sees Pete's first year completed, and we are so grateful for all that has been achieved during this difficult year.

You will read in more depth in other reports, of the amazing work being done to fill St Georges with music, but we especially want to thank Andrew and Amanda Brown, along with Hamish assisting, for the breadth of music achieved this year. We have enjoyed lovely solos (when there was no congregational singing in church). We enjoyed hearing the Junior Georgians Choir who sang so beautifully for music Sunday in July and for our Harvest Festival in October. We had Choral Evensong, the Georgian Choir at the Carol service, Community carol singing, and a splendid concert with professional musicians and the Concert choir, singing a varied mix which catered for all. We are blessed to be singing again in Church, albeit in masks for the time being.

Thank you to Pru Groffman and her team who have kept the Church looking so beautiful with floral arrangements. The very special red and green Christmas flowers were truly stunning.

Thank you to Deputy Church Warden Jeremy York, for at least a thousand things; keeping us on task, assembling the Christmas chandeliers, his candlelit runway, and caring for the Church in such a prayerful thoughtful way. This year we were delighted to hear Jeremy was honoured with a presentation of The Queens Maundy Money.

David Beacom and Linda Morgan have got us all working towards a better ECO church, with many schemes, even getting the Vicar in the river all kitted out in waders. David and Linda have, together with Action for the River Kennet (ARK) encouraged Preshute school to join in activities, along with some wonderful wildflower planting by Chris McColl.

Thank you to David Beacom and his team who have put together splendid social events, we were unable to plan for this year because of covid related restrictions. You will read more in other reports.

Thank you to our Treasurer Alastair Barr who financially steered the Generous Giving campaign and has done a great job, particularly during this restricted time.

Laurien Carter administers the graveyard plots and has put together a file with the layout of the churchyard, the graves and occupants noted. You can find this at the back of the church. This invaluable document has been so helpful to many visitors who come searching for a grave of a relative. Thank you to Laurien for this and also for putting together the brass cleaning rota, and here we would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the people who keep our brass sparkling.

Melanie Rolfe continues as our cleaner and does her job with loving care; Melanie is also a member of the Teddy Prayers team and often reads for services.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Ken Martin who with great expertise, deals with some of our trickier problems: the worn main door latch, the wobbly light in the pulpit, the cracked wooden paschal candle holder, the stuck coffee cupboard door. He makes our lives easier; thank you Ken.

To all the folk who assist in so many ways for all our Church services, we thank you for your time and care.

*Sally Cripps and Neil Croucher*

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**Appendix 1 – Financial Information to be provided**

## Appendix 2

St. George's Church, Preshute  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
to be held in the Church on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Meeting of Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (See Appendix 3)
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Report of the proceedings of the PCC
6. Finance:
  - a. Treasurer's Report
  - b. Adoption of audited accounts
  - c. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church
8. Safeguarding
9. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
10. Team Vicar's Comments
11. Any Questions

### ELECTIONS

- a. Churchwardens
- b. PCC Members

## Appendix 3

St. George's Church, Preshute  
Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting  
On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 11.45am in the Church

**Present:** Rev. Pete Sainsbury(*Chair*), Rev Chris Smith(*Rector*), Sarah Musgrave, Charles Graham, Sally Cripps, Jeremy York, Simon Bonham, Neil Croucher, Heather Croucher, Anne Notton, Robin Notton, Howard Cripps, Marcia Johnson, Lynn Whatley, Chris McColl, Yvette Courtney, Laurien Carter, Nicky Huckle, Judith Denning, Richard Denning, Amanda Brown, Andrew Brown, David Beacom, Chris Musgrave, Paul Lefever

**Apologies:** Kath Harding, David Harding, Brian Crowe, Kay Cripps, Prue Groffman, Linda Morgan, Philip Morgan, Lydia Bauer, Richard Metters

### 1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Vicar Welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer

### 2. Apologies are as noted above

### 3. Minutes of 2020 APCM

The Minutes of the APCM of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 had been published in the Annual report and taken as read and agreed unanimously and signed

### 4. Electoral Roll Report

Charles Graham reported that there had been losses from the Electoral Roll for various reasons.

The number of people currently on the roll is 120

### 5. Proceedings of the PCC

The Secretary had nothing further to add to her written report

### 6. Finance

- a. The Treasurer had little to add to his report except to remind us that there will be a substantial deficit at the end of the year. Richard Denning was thanked for all his work
- b. The audited accounts were adopted unanimously Proposed Charles Graham Seconded Neil Croucher
- c. Appointment of Independent Examiner. It was decided to appoint Roger Wheeler as Independent Examiner agreed unanimously Proposed Charles Graham Seconded Robin Notton

### 7. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

There was nothing to add to the report except that there is now a book of photographs of the Church ornaments etc.

## 8. Safeguarding

All PCC members and Church Wardens need to have an Enhanced DBS. Judith Denning agreed to continue as Safeguarding Officer

## 9. Report on proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Sarah Musgrave said that she had nothing to add to her report

## 10. Elections

a. Pete Sainsbury gave a summary of the number of members on the PCC and duration of their lengths service. He proposed that due to the numbers on our electoral that we can have ideally 9 ordinary members of the PCC. This was approved unanimously

### b. Elections

#### Churchwardens;

Sally Cripps

**Proposed** Charles Graham    **Seconded** Jeremy York

Neil Croucher

**Proposed** Charles Graham    **Seconded** Jeremy York

### c. PCC Members

There were no nominations but, Paul Lefever agreed to serve for another 3 years and Linda Morgan had expressed interest in joining the PCC

d. **Secretary, Treasurer and Sidespersons** are appointed by the PCC

## 11. Conclusion and Thanks

The meeting concluded with a certain amount of discussion on the matter of greening the Church environment and Eco Church and on the matter of Church finance.

The Rector congratulated Pete Sainsbury and Sarah Musgrave for all they have done in the last year.

He also said our message and faith is the Good News.

There were presentations to Charles Graham who is standing down as Churchwarden and Richard Denning who is standing down as Treasurer. Our thanks were expressed to them both.

The Vicar Thanked all who attended the meeting.

## 12. The meeting closed in prayer at 12.20pm

## **FINANCE**

### **Financial Review**

The following provides an overview of the accounts for 2021 which have been examined by Mr Wheeler and are prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2021 saw improvements for St George's financial position with an increase church services and a return of a number of social events and weddings in the church. The mainstay of our income remains the regular giving from our parishioners and we remain fortunate that this continued even when services were suspended. The Generous Giving campaign in the second half of the year raised a total of £11,972 (excluding Gift Aid), 2/3 of which was retained in the parish and the other third shared with parishes in the Marlborough Deanery.

The general fund turned from a deficit of £7,982 in 2020 to a surplus of £12,224 in 2021, which includes a contribution of £7,981 from the Generous Giving campaign. As in person services returned, we also raised £2821 through special collections and charity donations. £7,481 was spent on capital project work from the legacy fund. As we move into 2022, the pressures on finances will remain, with increases in the Parish Share and energy bills. However, we should continue to improve our receipts through services and social events which gives us a forecast of a small surplus by year end.

We continue to pay our contribution to our vicar's Worship Director role in conjunction with the Marlborough team, with the money raised in 2019 along with the regular contributions covering this cost. This continues to be detailed separately in the accounts as a restricted fund

The full accounts are presented in the appendix.

### **Notes on Income:**

The table below summarises the main sources of general income over the past three years, excluding restricted income such as Worship Director donations and special collections. Planned giving was broadly the same as previous years, and we saw income recover in a number of areas. The main changes that led to the surplus in 2021 were increased donations and the Generous Giving Campaign.

	2019 (£)	2020 (£)	2021 (£)
Planned Giving (incl blue envelopes)	32,197	32,136	30,796
Collections (excluding special collections)	3,538	1,258	1,858
Donations (incl Alms, yellow envelopes)	4,962	4,186	11,572
Generous Giving Campaign			7,981
Gift Aid refund	12,332	11,170	11,425
Social Events (Net)	2,901	1,249	1,555
Church activities (Fees)	4,174	2,506	4,157

### **Notes on Expenditure:**

General expenditure has been controlled closely through the year and in most areas were below the budgeted amount for 2021. There were some unexpected charges, such as repairs to the ceiling in the church which partially collapsed and increased energy costs as both energy prices and energy use in the church increased.

### **Budget 2022**

The budget for 2022 in the Appendix was approved by PCC. This should leave us with a minor surplus at year end but a number of uncertainties remain on what social events can be run and increases in energy costs. We have reintroduced support for National Charities in 2022.

## **Independent Examiner's Report**

The independent examiners report, full accounts and balance sheet are at Appendix 1.

### **Reserves policy**

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments (including  $\frac{1}{4}$  or the value of the share payment but excluding charitable giving). This is equivalent to £15,000 and this was met as of 31 December 2021 when the general fund stood at £24,258, when it had not been met in the previous year

We currently maintain a relatively large Gift and Legacy fund. This fund is to be used on major projects some of which are currently entering final consultation and faculty stage whilst others are at early discussion stages but all of which will significantly reduce this designated fund.

*Alastair Barr, Hon Treasurer*

## Appendix 1

### Independent Examiner's Report

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL "THE PCC" (TRUSTEES)  
of  
St GEORGE'S CHURCH PRESHUTE  
Registered Charity Number 1184256  
Year Ended 31 December 2021**

I report on the Receipts and Payments Accounts, pages 12 to 19, which are attached to the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:



Date:

30/10/22

Roger Wheeler BSc Econ  
Accountant  
Roger John & Co  
1 Farrar Drive  
Marlborough  
SN8 1TP

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST GEORGE'S  
 PRESHUTE, MARLBOROUGH - **Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

Accounting policies are detailed at Note 1

**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>							
Planned Giving		30796		1945		32741	32681
Collections at Services		1858		933		2791	1808
All other giving / voluntary receipts	4a	19554		4991		24544	25681
Gift Aid Recovered		11425		69		11494	11252
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>63632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7937</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71570</b>	<b>71422</b>
Activities for generating funds	4b	2187		766		2953	1444
Investment Income	4c	347	602	121		1070	1241
Church Activities	4d	4157				4157	2506
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>70323</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>8825</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79750</b>	<b>76613</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church Activities</b>							
Parish Share		40164				40164	39560
Clergy and Staffing Costs	4e			9600		9600	2730
Church Running Costs & Improvements	4f, 7	16140	7481			23621	22873
Mission Giving and Donations	5	1123		5690		6812	4248
		57426	7481	15290		80197	69411
Cost of Generating Funds	4g	672				672	195
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>58098</b>	<b>7481</b>	<b>15290</b>		<b>80869</b>	<b>69605</b>
Excess of Receipts over payments		<b>12224</b>	<b>-6879</b>	<b>-6465</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1119</b>	<b>7008</b>
Transfer Between funds							
		<b>12224</b>	<b>-6879</b>	<b>-6465</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1119</b>	<b>7008</b>
<b>Gains / Losses on Investments</b>							
Realised							
Unrealised			2685		2308	4992	4587
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>							
Balance brought forward at 1 Jan 2021		12033	111348	22853	16130	162364	153198
Balance carried forward at 31st Dec 2021		24258	107154	16388	18438	166237	162364
Net change in funds in year			104469			3873	9167
Comprising							
Total Receipts		79750					
Total Payments		80869					
Investment Gains/Losses		4992					
Net change in funds in year		3873					

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund		Total 2021	Total 2020
		£	£	£		£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>							
Bank Current Account		10947	1900	2100		14947	16124
Deposit Fund		13311	83803	14288		111402	111344
<b>Total</b>		<b>24258</b>	<b>85703</b>	<b>16388</b>		<b>126348</b>	<b>127468</b>
	Note		<b>31-Dec-21</b>			<b>31-Dec-20</b>	
			£			£	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>							
Investment Shares CCLA General			21451			18766	
Investment Shares - Aspent Copse Trust			13657			11948	
Investment shares - Angela and William Whitrow			4781			4183	
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Cash on hand at bank			14947			16124	
CCLA Deposit Fund			111402			111344	
			126348			127468	
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>166237</b>			<b>162364</b>	
<b>Represented by:</b>							
Unrestricted funds			24258			12033	
Unrestricted designated funds			107154			111348	
Restricted funds -			16388			22853	
Angela and William Whitrow Fund			4781			4183	
Aspent Copse Endowment fund			13657			11948	
			<b>166237</b>			<b>162364</b>	
<b>Represented by:</b>							
Lloyds Bank Current Account			14947			16124	
CBF Deposit Account			111402			111344	
CBF Share Account			21451			18766	
Angela and William Whitrow Fund			4781			4183	
Aspent Copse			13657			11948	
			<b>166237</b>			<b>162364</b>	

## Notes to the 2021 Accounts and Further Analysis

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St George's Preshute, Marlborough, is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

#### a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK & Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16th July 2014.

The accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

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

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. The accounts do not include the accounts relating to any informal gatherings of Church members or small cash balances held by individuals such as the flower arrangers.

Rounding – the Accounts are prepared to the exact penny but for presentation purposes, and for ease of reading and understanding, are shown in rounded pounds. This can mean that some of the totals and/or sub totals do not appear as if they add correctly and appear to be £1 out.

#### c) Incoming resources

- Voluntary income - Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.
- Funds raised by any social events are accounted for gross, where practicable and costs for events included in expenditure, this is broken out later in the notes.
- Income from investments Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.
- Gains and losses on investments Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

#### d) Resources used

- Church ministry and services - The diocesan share/quota is accounted for when payable. Any diocesan share unpaid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.
- Grants made Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

#### e) Fixed assets - Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the rectors and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property and not valued in the accounts.
- All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is treated as an expense and written off.
- The fabric fund is maintained to cover the costs of major maintenance whereas minor works are funded through the general fund: the treasurer and PCC work to agree which should fund but broadly works of more than £200 are funded via the fabric fund.

#### f) Investments: Investments are valued at bid price at 31 December.

#### g) Current Assets

Cash held in a savings account with a bank is classified as cash at bank. Cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or held in a term deposit account with a bank is classified as a short term deposit.

h) Funds - Funds have been classified as Unrestricted, Unrestricted Designated, Restricted or Endowment.

- Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated by the PCC for a particular purpose are classified as unrestricted designated as the PCC has allocated them for a specific purpose although the PCC can re-designate these funds. This helps budget for the future.
- Restricted funds are funds received, collected by or given to the PCC for a particular purpose which was specified at or before the time of receipt. These funds have been restricted by the donor for a particular purpose and they cannot be used by the PCC for any other purpose except by agreement with the donor or as determined by the courts or the Charity Commission.
- Endowment funds are funds or assets given to the PCC with the specific instruction that only the income gained from the funds can be spent. The original endowment funds cannot normally be spent and must remain in the form of equivalent assets or investments.

St George's is the beneficiary of two funds:

The Aspent Copse endowment fund. The dividend income from the fund each year is added to our general fund and is not restricted in use. The fund itself is managed by the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance and the capital is not available to be spent (it is understood that in extremis the board could be approached to allow the funds to be transferred to our general funds but this would be a matter for them to consider not a right).

The Angela and William Whitrow fund where the dividend income gained is restricted to use on upkeep of the churchyard.

## **2. Explanation of Funds**

St George's has a number of funds where the PCC has allocated money for specific purposes to aid saving for projects and to manage our finances more effectively, e.g. to budget for organ maintenance. The funds and purposes are as follows:

- Fabric fund: To build up reserves for maintenance work in the church and churchyard.
- Legacy and Gift Fund: Used to ring fence money for major capital projects. Current ongoing and proposed work include: Provision of new resin path to church, new church gates, provision of meeting room and kitchen to rear of church.
- Boiler Fund: Maintenance and where required replacement of the church boiler and related heating system (last replacement was in excess of £9000)
- Ministry: To provide specific funds for ministry
- Church Hall: Specific fund with the long term aim to provide a church hall or annex to the church
- Organ Fund: Fund for maintenance and repair of the organ. The last major service cost some £20,000 and is required every 20-30 years.
- Worship Director Restricted Fund: a restricted fund to manage donations and payments for the worship director role.

## Note to the Accounts – Further Analysis Continued

The following pages further break down specific sections of income and expenditure.

### 3. Movement in Funds

We maintain a number of designated funds to help budget for future finance. At the end of the year these funds contained:

		Balance B/F	Receipts	Payments	Investment Gains / Losses	Bal/C/f
<b>General Fund</b>		12033	70323	58098		24258
<b>Restricted</b>	6					
Fabric Fund		2235	121			2356
Legacy and Gift Fund		5000	1000			6000
Worship Director Fund		15618	2014	9600		8031
Special Collections	5	0	1699	1699		0
Generous Giving Campaign (Restricted)	5	0	3991	3991		0
		<b>22853</b>	<b>8825</b>	<b>15290</b>		<b>16388</b>
<b>Designated</b>						
Fabric		8555				8555
Legacy & Gift Fund	7	91632	602	7481	2685	87438
Boiler		-1535				-1535
Ministry		5264				5264
Church Hall		1141				1141
Organ		6290				6290
		<b>111348</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>7481</b>	<b>2685</b>	<b>107154</b>
<b>Total (excl of Aspent Copse &amp; Whitrow Fund)</b>		<b>146234</b>	<b>79750</b>	<b>80869</b>	<b>2685</b>	<b>147799</b>
<b>Value of Aspent Copse Trust &amp; Whitrow Funds</b>		<b>16130</b>			<b>2308</b>	<b>18438</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>162364</b>	<b>79750</b>	<b>80869</b>	<b>4992</b>	<b>166237</b>
		£				
Value at 31/12/20		162364				
Value at 31/12/21		<b>166237</b>				
Value change in year		<b>3873</b>				
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>79750</b>				
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>80869</b>				
<b>Investment gains/loss</b>		<b>4992</b>				
<b>Net change in funds in year</b>		<b>3873</b>				

#### 4. Breakdown of Income and Expenditure

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>a) All other giving / voluntary receipts</b>					
Donations (including yellow envelopes)	11279			11279	4134
Legacies			1000	1000	4000
Alms	293			293	157
Generous Giving Campaign	7981		3991	11972	
Worship Director Planned Giving			1945	1945	545
Worship Director Capital Donations			0	0	16845
	<b>19554</b>		<b>6936</b>	<b>26489</b>	<b>25681</b>
<b>b) Social Activities Generating funds</b>					
Plant Sales	394			394	
Raj Night	0			0	167
Rugby Dinners	0			0	585
Village Fete	234			234	
Harvest Supper			766	766	
Quiz Night	540			540	692
Concert	1020			1020	
	<b>2187</b>		<b>766</b>	<b>2953</b>	<b>1444</b>
<b>c) Investment Income</b>					
Interest on CBF Deposit Fund		58		58	350
Dividends of CBF shares		544		544	526
Dividends of Trust Shares	347		121	468	365
	<b>347</b>	<b>602</b>		<b>1070</b>	<b>1241</b>
<b>d) Church Activities:</b>					
Fees for Weddings and funerals	4157			4157	2186
Fees refunded by diocese for service cover	0			0	320
	<b>4157</b>			<b>4157</b>	<b>2506</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
<b>e) Clergy and Staffing Costs</b>				Total 2021	Total 2020
Payment to clergy during interregnum	0			0	330
Worship Director Pay, NI, Pension etc			9600	9600	2400
				<b>9600</b>	<b>2730</b>
<b>f) Church Running Expenses</b>					
Working and Office Expenses	1926			1926	658
Honoraria and Secretarial	2030			2030	3634
Organ Maintenance & tuning	481			481	233
Insurance	2085			2085	1209
Printing and stationary	2428			2428	3050
Heating, Lighting and Water	1367			1367	1094
Repairs, Maintenance & Improvements	5104	7481		12585	10044
Bank Charges	287			287	255
Miscellaneous	432			432	2696
	<b>16140</b>	<b>7481</b>		<b>23621</b>	<b>22873</b>
Miscellaneous breakdown:					
Accounts examiners fees	432			432	422
	<b>432</b>				
<b>g) Costs of Generating Funds</b>				Total 2021	Total 2020
Harvest Supper	484			484	
Quiz Night	113			113	195
Concert	75			75	0
	<b>672</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>195</b>

## 5. Giving to Missions and Charities

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Special Collection Distribution</b>					
Jerusalem and Middle East Church			213	213	0
Sudan Link (Licensing Service)			0	0	50
Christian Aid			173	173	0
Royal Naval Benevolent Trust			0	0	0
Mission to Seafarers			194	194	0
RAFBF			109	109	65
RABI			766	766	82
Water Aid			0	0	0
GWH Neonatal Unit - Baptisms			0	0	0
SSAFA			0	0	0
Combat Stress			245	245	0
Crisis			0	0	113
Save the Children			0	0	60
Children's Society			0	0	60
Christian Aid			0	0	60
Age UK Wiltshire			0	0	60
			<b>1699</b>	<b>1699</b>	<b>550</b>
Due to COVID-19 and lockdown many services with special collections were not held					
Christmas 2021 collections for Crisis, Save the Children, Children's Society, Christian Aid and Age UK are distributed in January and accounted for in 2022 accounts					
	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2021	
	£	£	£	£	
<b>Generous Giving Distribution</b>					
Broad Hinton PCC			1330	1330	
West Overton Fyfield PCC			2660	2660	
			<b>3991</b>	<b>3991</b>	
1/3 of the total Generous Giving campaign amount was classified as Restricted and distributed 1/3 with Broad Hinton PCC and 2/3 West Overton Fyfield PCC. Remaining 2/3 was classified as Unrestricted General Fund					
	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Total Special Collection Distribution			1699	1699	550
Total Generous Giving Distribution			3991	3991	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>5690</b>	<b>5690</b>	<b>550</b>

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable Giving</b>					
<b>International</b>					
Church Mission Society	0			0	250
SOMA	0			0	250
USPG	0			0	250
Sudan Church (via Salisbury DBF)	0			0	250
Caldwell Trust	0			0	0
<b>National</b>					
A Rocha	43			43	0
Mothers Union	0			0	250
Bible Society	0			0	250
Church Army	0			0	250
Church Urban Fund	0			0	250
2019 Additional Tearfund					
<b>Local Charities</b>					
ARK	250				
Devizes and Marlborough Foodbank	0			0	250
Home Start Kennet	0			0	250
Jubilee Centre	0			0	250
MAPAG	0			0	250
Prospect Hospice	0			0	250
Friends of Salisbury Cathedral	30			30	30
<b>Emergency Fund</b>					
Tearfund - Yemen	500			500	0
Christian Aid - Haiti	300			300	0
RABI	0			0	59
Water Aid	0			0	59
Tearfund South Sudan Appeal	0			0	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1123</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>1123</b>	<b>3598</b>
Standing donations suspended in 2021					
<b>6. Note on Restricted Funds</b>					
We currently have £2,356 of restricted funds in the fabric fund, £2000 restricted to church maintenance and £356 on the churchyard					
We have £6000 in the legacy fund restricted to use on capital projects					
We have £8031 in the Worship Director Fund					
<b>7. Breakdown of Legacy Fund Income and Expenditure</b>					
	Income	Expenditure			
Interest Received from Investments	544				
CBF Deposit Acct retained interest	58				
Benjamin & Beauchamp Survey and Pre Faculty Work		7481			
	<b>602</b>	<b>7481</b>			

## 8. St George's Church Preshute – Budget 2022

	Jan-Dec		Jan-Dec	Budget		Budget
	2020		2021	2021		2022
<b>INCOME</b>						
Collections	1258		1858	2500		3000
Planned Giving	29622		29091	29000		30000
Envelopes	2444		1705	2500		2000
	<b>33324</b>		<b>32654</b>	<b>34000</b>		<b>35000</b>
Tax Refund re Planned Giving	11170		11425	12000		12000
Fees	2371		4157	3000		4500
Interest Received	1211		347	1200		400
Donations	3082		11279	5000		10000
Legacies						
Alms	157		293	200		300
Grants						
Miscellaneous						
Special Collections			7981			
Social Events	1249		1515	1500		2500
<b>Total</b>	<b>52564</b>		<b>69651</b>	<b>56900</b>		<b>64700</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Parish Share	39560		40164	40165		42385
Transfer to Fabric Fund						
Transfer to Organ Fund						
Transfer to Legacy Fund						
Transfer to Boiler Fund						
Church & Churchyard	4168		5584	5500		5500
Heat & Light	1094		1367	1200		1500
Insurance	1688		2085	2400		2400
Equipment & Consumables	1234		561	500		550
Social						
Publicity, Printing & Stationery	1816		1867	2000		2000
Working & Office Expenses	658		1926	2600		2000
Honoraria/Secretarial/Fees	3634		2030	3500		3500
Missions & Charities	3698		1123	3300		3300
Christian Council & Deanery				100		100
Education and Youth Work				100		100
Bank Charges	300		287	400		400
Miscellaneous	2696		432			
Special Collections						
<b>Total</b>	<b>60546</b>		<b>57426</b>	<b>61765</b>		<b>63735</b>
<b>Surpluses (Deficit)</b>	<b>-7982</b>		<b>12224</b>	<b>-4865</b>		<b>965</b>

<b>Missions and Charities proposed for 2022</b>		
<b>International</b>		£
Church Mission Society		200
SOMA		200
USPG		200
Sudan Church (via Salisbury DBF)		200
<b>National</b>		
Mothers Union		200
Bible Society		200
Church Army		200
Church Urban Fund		200
<b>Local Charities</b>		
ARK		200
Devizes and Marlborough Foodbank		200
Home Start Kennet		200
Jubilee Centre		200
MAPAG		200
Prospect Hospice		200
Friends of Salisbury Cathedral		30
<b>Emergency Fund</b>		
Charities to be nominated		500
	Total	3330

### **Notes on the budget**

1. Spending from legacy funds and related project work are excluded to allow year on year comparison.
2. Unless income increases, similar to 2021 we will not transfer any money to designated funds such as fabric fund. It should be noted that not designating these funds could lead to future funding challenges for say organ maintenance or work on the fabric necessitating future congregations to fund raise for such work.

## Appendix 1

### Independent Examiner's Report

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL "THE PCC" (TRUSTEES)  
of  
St GEORGE'S CHURCH PRESHUTE  
Registered Charity Number 1184256  
Year Ended 31 December 2021**

I report on the Receipts and Payments Accounts, pages 12 to 19, which are attached to the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:



Date:

30/10/22

Roger Wheeler BSc Econ  
Accountant  
Roger John & Co  
1 Farrar Drive  
Marlborough  
SN8 1TP

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# Accounts

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# St George's Church Preshute – Annual Report 2020

Registered Charity Number 1184256

**St. George's Church** is situated on the Western edge of Marlborough on the South bank of the River Kennet. The Parish of Preshute serves the villages of Manton and Clatford, the Barton Park estate, part of the Western end of Marlborough and a rural area stretching both North and South. The church is in the Diocese of Salisbury and is part of the Marlborough Anglican Team, whose office is in Silverless Street, Marlborough. St. George's and the associated churchyard is open every day and anyone is welcome to visit the church for prayer, quiet contemplation or simply to enjoy the wonderful location next to the river.

## **Aims and Objectives – Making Jesus Known**

The Church is the family of Christians meeting together to worship God and to find fellowship together through prayer and learning. Our work is to spread the Good News of our faith by 'Making Jesus Known'.

St George's is well placed to serve the town of Marlborough and most of our mission has a two-fold strategy: to deepen and enrich our own worshipping life and also to find creative ways of making connections with the local community to both introduce the Christian story and deepen engagement with all in the local area.

## **St George Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Vicar in promoting, in the ecclesiastical Parish of Preshute, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The life of St George's is within the Marlborough Anglican Team, Marlborough Churches Together and the Diocese of Salisbury in the Church of England.

## **Membership:**

Members of the Parochial Church Council are either elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or co-opted by the PCC due to the functions they perform in the Church (provided the person is willing to be co-opted). The PCC is a charity, and the PCC members are its Trustees and are responsible for ensuring the Church is serving its community. This report shows how St George's engages with the local community.

Incumbent: Rev. Pete Sainsbury

Churchwardens: Charles Graham, Sally Cripps

Deanery Synod: Sarah Musgrave, Jeremy York, Simon Bonham

Members: Anne Notton (Secretary), Richard Denning (Treasurer), Judith Denning (Safeguarding Officer), David Beacom (Fabric and Churchyard). The other members are Lydia Bauer, Paul Lefever, Marcia Johnson, Robin Notton and Amanda Brown who take on responsibilities as needed. The Team Rector, Rev Christopher Smith is an ex officio member.

The PCC has met 5 times during the year either on Zoom or Live The most recent approved PCC Minutes can be found on tin a folder at the back of the church.. Past Minutes can be obtained from the Secretary on request.

The main items of business at each meeting is a consideration of our core task of 'Making Jesus Known'. Against this background, we have reviewed our worship, considered matters of finance and fabric, explored how we might best "grow" St George's, the way we welcome people, and discussed the social events that are offered. However, during the last year some of the options above have been limited

At the Annual Meeting in 2020, there were 120 names on the Electoral Roll of church membership, approximately 70 of whom are regular worshippers. The average number of worshippers each week has been approximately 40. However, since March numbers

## **Introduction from Rev, Chris Smith Team Rector**

I want others to reflect on last year in this report. Suffice to say that the last time services were stopped like this was in 1215 in the reign of King John.

The highlight of last year was the arrival of Rev Pete Sainsbury as Team Rector in September. Recruitment was start/stop in the pandemic but eventually we got our man. It's been heartening to see people warming to Pete's easy Irish charm and to see Pete getting his feet under the table.

I would like to add my thanks to Pete, Sally, Charles, Sarah, the PCC and everyone who has helped steer St George's through a tumultuous year.

I hope and pray God's blessing on St George's as we emerge from lockdown. May our love for God, our love for each other and our fruitfulness only increase in the year ahead

## **Team Rector's Report**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits to St George's this year. The congregation continues to be warm and welcoming and whether it's a Sunday service or Teddy Prayers I've always enjoyed being with you. The pandemic has been a challenge for us all and continues to take its toll. Numbers attending church are down across the board and we need to pray for a bounce back in 2021.

Having said this there have been blessings. For example, I have found our 5pm prayers a great source of solace and spiritual help – and who would have known a prayer meeting could be so much fun! I thank the churchwardens, PCC and Sarah Musgrave for their cheerful support and service through the year.

In February I remember the moment when the Archdeacon told me no one had applied for the post of Team Vicar. I had a wobble and remember some serious prayers asking for God's help.

Quite quicky though it seemed as if a more exciting door might open to us with the possibility of a full time priest joining the team. And we all know the happy ending to the story with Pete Sainsbury arriving in September.

After a long interregnum it will take time for everyone to adjust, but even in a few months I think Pete is doing really well. I really appreciate having him as a colleague and friend.

Let us pray he and the family continue to settle in well and that fruitful times lie ahead.

*Rev Chris Smith, Team Rector*

## **Team Vicar's Report**

Firstly, I wish to thank the people of St George's and the Anglican Team for such a warm welcome in September. At my licensing service, we couldn't gather in the way and strength of numbers we would have preferred, the mark indeed of so much corporate worship in 2020. But the sense of celebration back in September and again at Christmas was wonderful, in spite of the various restrictions.

The arrival of a new vicar inevitably follows an interregnum, a time which reflects a pause in leadership but no pause in the life of the worshipping family! This requires a great deal of work, and I wish on your behalf and mine too to thank Sarah Musgrave, our licensed lay minister for her very able leadership during the gap between the departure of Miri Keen in 2018 and my arrival. She together with the churchwardens, assistant warden, treasurer and PCC have kept things in very good order indeed. I would also like to record my thanks to David Beacom for leading so well on vicarage matters, and making sure that the house was well prepared for our arrival.

The autumn was marked by a second national almost complete lockdown of public activity, but the benefits of being part of a team are so evident here: the Anglican team's Zoom service was a lifeline for so many of you in 2020, and remains so at the time of writing in January 2021. With the suspension of lockdown over Christmas 2020, we were able to deliver the usual Christmas offer of services at St George's, with the exception of a Teddy Prayers Christmas Gathering. Some commented on the sense of quiet joy and holiness that scaled-down attendance created.

As a church family, we loved and lost in 2020 as we do every year, and I wish to hearten those who are suffering deep loss with the knowledge that the Lord is with you, and is *for* you. May you be literally encouraged.

I am so pleased to be here and we as a family, and I am very grateful for a significantly supportive colleague in our team rector Chris Smith. With those things in mind, and prayerful for the 'prevailing wind' of God's favour to be upon us, what is not possible?! We are reminded then, that God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good. With every blessing -

*Rev Pete Sainsbury Team Vicar*

### **Ministry Report : Jan – September 2020**

We ended 2019 looking forward with hope. Chris Smith, our Team Rector, had joined the team in October 2019 and we were feeling positive and hopeful that 2020 would be the year when we would be joined by a new Team Vicar. We had a Team Vicar profile ready and the advert had been agreed for a March interview panel. Sadly, the closing date for applicants came and went and no one had applied.

Our disappointment was short lived and soon there were conversations about making the post into a full time Team Vicar/Worship Leader post. Chris had already met Pete on retreat, with both sets of gifts, and so he was shortlisted and an interview was planned. However, a tiny virus was spreading across the world and the interviews on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> were cancelled; as Bishop Andrew was self-isolating and our first lockdown had arrived. The interview was rescheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Nobody knew the impact that the coronavirus would have on every aspect of our lives. Some people thought that it would never come to Marlborough, while others were naturally very concerned. On 17<sup>th</sup> March '20 our Archbishops suspended public worship, although we were free to leave St George's open for private prayer. Our contact with Preshute Primary School and Teddy Prayers was curtailed, our church clean-up was cancelled and our Lent groups studying Pilgrim's Progress struggled to continue. On 24<sup>th</sup> March '20, we received the sad news that our churches were to be closed even for private prayer. Andrew and Amanda Brown and I recorded an Evening Prayer for Palm Sunday but Easter had to be celebrated from the confines of our homes. Only funerals carried on and they were small but poignant. Many of us were deeply saddened by the loss of well-loved members of our congregation

However, we came out to support each other in creative ways. There were offers to collect prescriptions, buy food, make phone calls and generally a spirit of generosity and warm commitment to support each other. Worship went 'on-line' and we encouraged each other to hear the audio services, while learning to use Zoom for our PCC meetings and for mid-week Evening Prayer.

Much to our joy, St George's was opened again for private prayer on 15<sup>th</sup> June and for worship from 5<sup>th</sup> July. Risk assessments were done, singing was cancelled, hand sanitiser was introduced, one baptism and one wedding went ahead and we all sat at a safe distance from each other in our masks – but it was wonderful to be back in our church amongst familiar faces.

In July, there was further good news, when Pete Sainsbury was appointed. We have always been a prayerful church and our faith has been even more important to many of us this year, as we've struggled with difficult times. However, numerous acts of kindness and Pete's appointment were both answers to many hours of prayer. From this moment onwards, we started to plan for Pete's licensing on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and while only a few people were able to attend, it was a special moment for St George's. After two and three quarter years without a priest, we were delighted that we could look forward to the next part of our journey.

May I thank all of you who have contributed to the smooth running of our wonderful church and I offer a particular warm welcome to Pete, Nance and their family, as they join us in Marlborough.

*Sarah Musgrave – Licensed Lay Minister*

## **Electoral Roll Report**

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, postponed from April and finally held in September, I reported that there were 119 names in the Electoral Roll, one fewer than in 2018. Four new names were added in 2019, but sadly we had to mourn the loss of Jesse Pomfret, Gillian Watson, Maurice Cooper and Tom Cridland. Debi Evans, formerly Deputy Churchwarden, has left Marlborough. Since that meeting one more person has been welcomed onto the Roll, so the total now stands at 120 again. Once the Covid threat has eased, Linda Sims has kindly agreed to take over as Electoral Roll Officer.

A reminder that regular worshippers at St George's who are not yet on the Roll are encouraged to get an application form from one of the Churchwardens. The main benefit is the entitlement to vote at the Annual Meeting, but it is also useful for the Church Officers to have names and contact details, so that we can keep you informed of services and other church events.

*Charles Graham*

## **Church Attendance**

Church attendance at St. George's remained good until March when the Church was closed due to coronavirus. Unfortunately Teddy Prayers and Picnic has been suspended due to the virus though a small number of Teddy Prayers members have attended the few All age Services there have been, Teatime and Evening Prayer on a Wednesday is now on line. ns popular. At Easter we were in lockdown and the Church was closed for public worship though the Church was opened for private prayer and there were on line Services. At Christmas the major services were ticket only and well attended. We can only look forward to things improving and the Church being fully open again

## **Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

During the last year one wedding has been celebrated at St. George's. There has also been one baptism and sadly 6 funerals, and one burial of ashes.

## **St. George's in the Community**

Until the first lockdown in March, once a month a dedicated team conducted Songs of Praise Services at Merlin Court and Savernake View Care Homes, and at Christmas we also took Carols to Highfield Residential Home and the Oddfellows Inn in Manton. Holy Communion was taken regularly to care homes and to housebound individuals. St George's members are involved in the life of Manton village, the Jubilee Centre, St. Peter's Trust etc. Our links with Preshute School are continuing. The St. George's monthly Newsletter is available on line and in the Church porch to collect. We hope and pray that in the near future that all the activities will be able to resume

Despite its fairly isolated setting, St. George's receives a regular trickle of visitors, and there is a history of the church on sale at the back, as well as a free Walk-Round Guide.

*Anne Notton*

## **Safeguarding**

St George's Preshute policy and practice for Safeguarding children young people and vulnerable adults is based upon the Guidelines from the Church of England House of Bishops and is updated annually. A summary of our policy is posted on our website and on the notice board in the porch. A full hard copy is kept in the church, and vicarage.

The safeguarding and protection of children, and adults at risk is everyone's responsibility, not just parents, guardians and carers. St George's Preshute is committed to:

- The safeguarding and protection of all children and young people.
- Safeguarding adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect
- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with all adults and children.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Judith Denning, she is the first line of contact if there are any concerns. The Parish DBS Verifier is Marcia Johnson.

There are no safeguarding issues to report. Currently due to COVID 19 all Safeguarding Training is being carried out remotely, the Basic Awareness course (C0) and Foundation course(C1) can be accessed via the Diocese of Salisbury website. Ideally all church members who come into contact with children, young people and adults who may be at risk need to undertake the basis awareness course.

*Judith Denning- Parish Safeguarding Officer*

### **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

St. George's is fortunate in that it has a rich support network which during the interregnum has risen to the challenge. We have as a congregation continued to support and be a good neighbour to one another. Recognition and thanks should go to all those who help with Baptism support and visiting, home visiting, and Teddy Prayers and Picnic.

*Judith Denning*

### **Website**

We continue to operate a website in conjunction with both St Mary's and Mildenhall churches. This is used to provide information on the church, services and provide contact details for ministers, the office and key posts such as churchwardens. Rev Chris Smith spent much of the first lockdown updating the site and it now looks much more modern with links to the new Love Marlborough site and YouTube channel.

*Richard Denning*

### **2020 ACTIVITY REPORT2020**

#### **Open the Book**

Early in the year our two teams of amateur thespians were able to go in to Preshute School to "open the book" and act out Bible stories. There were a few gasps when Solomon, judging between two mothers in dispute over a baby, declared "Cut the baby in half", but as usual the children proved to be an appreciative audience. After March 23 the Book remained closed, and we are hoping for a resumption of activity sometime in the not too distant future.

*Charles Graham and Sarah Musgrave*

#### **Home Group**

Home group has 11 members (9 from St George's and 2 from St Mary's) and meets on Monday evenings, fortnightly. We moved into the virtual arena just before lockdown 1 and after a slightly shaky start trialling conference calling, we changed to zoom meetings. The zoom meetings have been very successful and most members of the group have been able to join us regularly. We also send out, via email, a summary of the session and prayer requests for anyone unable to attend the meeting. Over the course of the year our home group sessions have been led by Michael Dain, Charles Graham and Keith Fryer (St. Mary's). We have studied John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress and stand-alone sessions including Acts Ch4 v8-14, Psalm 37 v1-11, and Exodus. We have also spent time thinking about social issues and linking them into passages from scripture, the meaning of advent and our final session of the year was a 'bring and share' evening with music, poetry, quizzes and a lot of laughter.

*Julie Conlen*

#### **Teddy Prayers and Picnic**

Sadly, due to the COVID restrictions, we have been unable to hold any TPP gatherings since March. Thankfully, our families have been able to attend a small number of the Sunday All-Age Services which have been very special. Fingers crossed TPP will be able to recommence in the latter part of 2021.

*Lydia Bauer*

## **Messy Church**

It was with much regret that, due to the pandemic, it wasn't possible to hold any Messy Church meetings in 2020. However, Messy Church is not forgotten, nor the opportunity that it offers to welcome families to St George's, particularly those who perhaps have not considered coming to church before. If circumstances allow, it is very much hoped that Messy Church can be back in action in 2021.

*Amanda Brown*

## **The Flower Group**

During this difficult year we have managed to keep fresh flowers in St George's every week during periods when the church was open for private prayer and later, for services. My thanks are due to all our team but particularly those who helped decorate for the significant services, some sad, some joyful. As always, we would welcome more volunteers to contribute towards making our church as welcoming and beautiful as usual.

*Prue Groffman*

## **Music**

Firstly a warm welcome to Pete! As I write soon after Christmas, we have already benefited from his singing and playing "Love shone down" in the Crib Service video, and from his organ playing on Christmas Day. We look forward to his gifts enriching St George's music in the years ahead.

With restrictions on acts of worship imposed in March, we had to rethink the place of music in our worship – quickly realising that we wanted both singing and instrumental music to continue live and human-centred wherever possible, while maintaining our balance of contemporary and traditional music. Between March and June we contributed to the Team audio services: several morning services were streamed on the Team website, and even two Choral Evensongs! In the second lockdown in November, the video services included music from St George's together with contributions from St Mary's and St John the Baptist's musicians.

With services resuming in July, hymns and reflective Taizé chants were included. A soloist has sung each Sunday, and we have introduced new hymns and contemporary settings alongside well-known pieces and traditional hymns. My thanks to our soloists who maintained our music through the second half of the year.

A priority was maintaining the enthusiasm of the Junior Georgians. Although Mothering Sunday preparations had to be halted, we held a Zoom workshop during the summer holidays to continue the children's musical training. In December we recorded the Crib Service, which was streamed on Christmas Eve. Fifteen singers performed carols and the special choir piece "Torches" by John Joubert. The first verse of "Once in royal David's city" was sung by Kate and Olivia Hawthorn: other members of the choir recorded readings.

At the Christmas Carols by Candlelight services, two quartets of sopranos from the Georgians sang: as well as the carols, the choir pieces were "Jesus Christ the apple tree" and "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day". Members of the Georgians also sang in small groups for the Christmas Day services. My thanks go to all who have helped in this way: I was only sorry that social distancing rules prevented the full choir from singing at any point in 2020.

With our annual musical outreach at the Oddfellows not possible, we took carol singing outdoors. A choir of 24 spent an enjoyable evening shortly before Christmas singing carols in Barton Park, raising over £960 for Crisis – a truly splendid achievement. My grateful thanks to all involved.

We were deeply saddened by the deaths of Jesse Pomfret, a former organist whose support of St George's music and care for our beautiful organ over many years have been hugely appreciated, Gillian Watson, a long-standing member of the Georgians, and Michael Cripps, an irrepressible supporter of St George's choral and organ music. A fitting tribute to him was the call of "Encore!" at the end of the organ voluntary as his coffin was carried from the church. We were sorry to say farewell to Debi Evans, a much-valued alto in the Georgians, as she moved away in the summer. Finally, we congratulate Annabelle Moody, who started as a Junior Georgian in 2014 and now sings in the Georgians, on her choral scholarship in October to Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

*Andrew Brown*

## **Social Committee**

The year started very well with a successful Night at the Raj, followed by ‘Rugby and Beer’ which saw us cheering on our teams in the Six Nations Cup, and then a very successful Quiz Night squeezed in before lockdown. In total these events raised £1249. Unfortunately, COVID 19 meant the last couple of Rugby and Beer parties had to be cancelled, as did all the other planned events for this year. However, we look forward in eager anticipation of being able to meet up again to enjoy good food, wine, conversation and companionship.

*David Beacom and Judith Denning*

## **Bellringing**

Un fortunately there has been no serious bellringing at St. George’s since March due to Covid.. There have been no problems with maintain ace as the bells have not for been used very much, they are inspected once a month to check for problems.

I am as ever trying to recruit new members for the bellringing team.

I am investigating the history of our bells and have found that the “back five” bells were originally cast at Aldbourne in 1710. This project continues !

*Richard Metters*

## **MARLBOROUGH, the DEANERY and the DIOCESE**

### **The Deanery Synod**

In February, pre-Covid-19, we revisited the Deanery Strategic Plan and had two presentations. Kay Short, of Ecclesiastical Insurance, spoke about the training that she offers, alongside numerous grants that are available to our parishes. These include heritage grants, roof protection grants, foundation grants for maintenance and Cornerstone grants for urgent and essential structural repairs. She shared a wealth of knowledge and can be contacted at <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/church>. Stephen Inglis, the Diocesan Resource Officer for Mission and Ministry inspired us to see and recognise the wonder of God in our everyday lives. He encouraged us to work in collaboration, pooling resources and giving each other mutual support. He can be contacted at [steve.inglis@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:steve.inglis@salisbury.anglican.org). In October ’20, our meeting had moved onto Zoom and we discussed the diocesan budget and the financial concerns, aggravated by Covid-19. The budget deficit had been projected at around £900k but due to Covid and the associated loss of Share (down 6.5% on 2019) and Parochial Fees (weddings, funerals) the repercussions were far more significant, while the operating deficit was around £1.8m. Action had already been taken, including the sale of bonds early in the year, borrowing to ensure liquidity, cutting all non-essential expenditure, the reorganisation of Church House, use of the furlough scheme, investment and property review, scenario planning, increased IT expenditure to adapt to new ways of working and finally, reviewing property sizes of vicarages, their gardens and paddocks.

There was a follow-up meeting with Bishop Andrew, in November, when we considered ‘Beyond the Present’, listening and looking together at how we can move beyond the present and approach an uncertain future with confidence. This is the link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJyk9L05FEc&feature=youtu.be>

*Sarah Musgrave LLM*

### **Diocesan Synod**

This has been a challenging year for all of us and this was certainly reflected in Diocesan and Deanery Synod discussions. In February, Synod members voted to refresh our commitment to ‘Renewing Hope’ and discussed ‘Developing Discipleship and Evangelism’, ‘Encouraging dynamic and collaborative leadership’ and how we might ‘Transform Lives and Communities’.

We also considered a ‘5 Year Financial Framework’ as a way to eliminate the diocesan financial deficit. Some synod members thought that the proposed increases in Share were unachievable, while others felt that church members could increase their giving levels if they saw that it resulted in visible local resources. There was concern over the proposed reduction of 10 clergy posts, both from the point of view of the effect on parishes and the additional strain placed on remaining clergy.

In September, the meeting was moved on to Zoom, and Revd. Jonathan Triffitt was licensed as the new Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry. We revisited the Diocesan Budget, and found that the

deficit had grown dramatically over the previous 6 months, as a result of the covid-19 virus. The options we discussed included a far greater reduction in priests and a significant increase in Parish Share. The details of this meeting were presented to the Deanery Synod in a meeting in October'20 (see below).

We met again in October, to continue the discussion. The Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) introduced the budget which he described as a transitional, holding-steady budget and which included proposals to start by reducing clergy posts by 4 and central staff costs by 10%. We also considered the need to develop new ways of raising income from congregations, in the new, online Church situation; the need for more work on a diocesan Vision that people would want to support, including a strategy for mission and ministry and a corresponding pastoral plan; and the importance of maintaining morale.

If you would like to be a voice on the Diocesan Synod, do contact me and please put yourself forward before 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021. New members on the Diocesan Synod will be elected from Deanery Synod members, in June 2021.

*Sarah Musgrave - Licensed Lay Minister*

## **THE FABRIC**

### **Fabric Report**

Boiler – The new boiler that was installed in early 2018 had warranty work carried out in October and is now working well.

New Car Park Entrance gates – These were replaced in March just before we went into full lockdown. It has been agreed to leave one gate open at all times unless we need to lock the second gate for security reasons. Necessary hedge and tree trimming to Churchyard was carried out by Conservation Contractors at end of February.

Church and Churchyard tidy up – This happens usually in April and October and many thanks to all the helpers that come to help keep our Church and Churchyard looking pristine. We are very lucky to have Wiltshire Council cutting the grass for us during the summer and the additional help we get from volunteers is essential.

Also many thanks to the Musgrave, Bonham and Metters team for keeping the weeds under control. Thank you again to Robin Notton and his tool box for carrying out various maintenance jobs.

Due to lockdown we had to cancel our April tidy up but we were able to carry out a lot of jobs at our October tidy up including tackling some tree works ourselves.

Other Projects like the new path down to the Church, the new glass south porch doors and the proposed new Meeting Room are on hold until a certain form of normality returns to our lives.

*David Beacom*

### **Churchyard Records**

The electronic version of the 'New Area' was updated in August 2020. Copies are held by the Church Wardens, the Team Office, the Team Vicar and me. This is updated when required. There continues to be a fewer burials each year; usually the interment of ashes. In 2020 there were two interments; all of ashes. Only one new grave was allocated; the other burial was in an existing plot.

The electronic format of the lists from the 1930s and 40s, handwritten, and 1953 in a typed format were completed and now held with the records. The details cover a lot of the main churchyard and will be useful to anyone seeking information about their ancestors buried in the churchyard.

Again it has been possible to help people making enquiries as to the location of relatives buried in the Churchyard which makes all the work rewarding. One such enquiry related to the older lists which makes this work worthwhile.

There is a file copy of the records kept in the vestry.

The process for notification and recording of burials is running more smoothly and with the appointment of a vicar should be more under control going forward.

*Laurien Carter*

### **Cleaners**

The volunteer cleaning rota system continued to operate until the first lockdown in March 2020. During July and August a small team undertook cleaning at the end of the day to allow private prayer in line with Government restrictions. This group included other parishioners not involved on the rota.

In September it was agreed to employ Melanie Rolfe as a paid cleaner. The rota cleaners had diligently cleaned the church for many years for which we are all very grateful. Mel has started well in the role and our thanks go to her for taking on this important role

Brass cleaning has been very limited and thanks go to Charles Graham for undertaking most of this work during 2020.

Anyone interested in becoming a brass cleaner is welcome to join the team – please let us know.

*Laurien Carter*

## **Archives**

Whilst lying largely dormant during the Coronavirus Pandemic the Archives did provide our Chief Bellringer, Richard Metters, with a “Marlborough Times” full 2 page account of the re-casting and re-hanging of St. George’s Church bells in March 1925

*Jeremy York*

## **FINANCE**

### **Financial Review**

The following provides an overview of the accounts for 2020 which have been examined by Mr Froud of Bew and Co and are prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Similar to many other organisations, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused us many difficulties in terms of finance. Whilst we are fortunate that most of our parishioners continued with their regular giving we lost income in terms of collections, fees (e.g. from weddings), and income from social events. In total our overall deficit rose from a planned £6567 to £12880 although of this £4849 was money spent on capital project work from the legacy fund so the general fund deficit was £7,647. Unfortunately we also raised substantially less through special collections which give to various charities. We look forward with hope to 2021 although we still expect a substantial deficit of around £7000 – hopefully we can have some socials later in the year to help reduce this figure.

As many know our new vicar has 2 roles, vicar of Preshute and Worship Director in conjunction with the Marlborough team. To this end Preshute committed to fund half of the Worship Director role for 3 years and an appeal was run to raise funds to cover these costs. The response was fantastic. Through one-off donations, money being gifted monthly and expected future reclaimed Gift Aid, we raised the full amount required, some £29,000! This is detailed separately in the accounts as a restricted fund (as we can only spend it to pay salary and expenses) although please note we will not receive the gift aid on donations until later next year so the actual funds received by end 2019 was some £18,000.

Whilst many people will enjoy reading the approved accounts detail presented in the appendix others will appreciate a summary of key information. Hopefully the following covers the key points:

### **Are we paying our way?**

The situation this year is somewhat complicated but even without the pandemic we continue to spend more than our income. If we exclude project work the general fund is around £8,000 in deficit - around £2,000 more than expected. If this continues there are a number of things we can do to manage the deficit rather than fund from reserves. It has been agreed that for 2021 we will reduce our charitable giving by £1,000 and this will be reviewed once we see how 2021 progresses. We also intend to increase our social activities once rules allow and this will again help reduce the deficit. In the meantime this situation required careful monitoring and more significant actions may be required when planning for 2021 as we will not have

sufficient in the general fund and we will otherwise have to redesignate reserves in say the legacy fund to meet our outgoings.

### Notes on Income:

Excluding legacies, significant one-off donations, Worship Director donations and special collections over the year income was £54,000 and compared to £62,000 in 2019. This year we were very fortunate to receive a legacy of £4000 with a request to invest so that we use the income to help maintain the churchyard. This money is invested in the Angela and William Whitrow CBF share fund which will provide income with potential long-term capital growth. The income is tracked in the fabric fund to pay for work in the churchyard. Planned giving was broadly the same as 2019 but otherwise general income was down in several areas as can be seen below.

	2019 (£)	2020 (£)
Planned Giving	£32,197	£32,136
Collections (excluding special collections)	£3,538	£1258
Donations (excluding restricted)	£4,962	£4186
Gift Aid refund	£12,332	£11,170
Social Events (Net)	£2,901	£1,249
Church activities (Fees)	6000	4000

Despite Covid, the Ride and Stride event provided very welcome additional funds of nearly £600. Full details are at Appendix 1.

**Notes on Expenditure:** General fund expenditure was some £2,000 less than expected largely due the extended closure of the church during which time we used no heat or power and some utilities waived charges.

As many will have noticed the car park gates have been replaced, funded from the legacy fund. The fund also funded some preparatory work for other projects including a full survey of the site to provide details of ground levels and layout. The actual works have been delayed until Covid restrictions are eased.

### Budget 2021

The budget for 2021 in the Appendix was approved by PCC. This should leave us with a significant deficit compared to 2019 but less than 2020. PCC has agreed to drop support for National Charities for 2021 only to attempt to reduce the deficit. PCC has been informed that if necessary we will need to redesignate money in the legacy fund to cover the deficit which can be done with PCC approval.

### Independent Examiner's Report

The independent examiners report, full accounts and balance sheet are at Appendix 1.

### Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments (including  $\frac{1}{4}$  or the value of the share payment but excluding charitable giving). This is equivalent to £15,000 but **was not** met as of 31 December 2020 when the general fund stood at £11,563. This is not critical at the present time as we are now paying our share monthly as the Diocese no longer provides a discount for annual payment. The current level is expected to be sufficient to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies although the situation will be watched closely and if necessary the PCC will be asked to redesignate some other funds, e.g. move money from the designated legacy fund to the general fund. This is acceptable as the PCC is able to use these unrestricted but designated funds for use as it wishes. It is the PCC's hope to increase the general fund reserves over time, as and when investment income recovers.

We currently maintain a relatively large Gift and Legacy fund. This fund is to be used on major projects some of which are currently entering final consultation and faculty stage whilst others are at early discussion stages but all of which will significantly reduce this designated fund. As noted projects have been delayed by the pandemic but key projects in planning are:

1. New resin coated paths – We are in detailed planning prior to faculty to lay a new resin based path down to the church.
2. New Glass Doors to South Porch – A statement of need and faculty application is in preparation to install glass doors outside of the main door. This is intended to improve heat insulation of the church and provide a more welcoming entrance at service times when the heavy oak door could be left open.
3. Meeting Room – Discussions are at an early stage to investigate the options and likely order of costs to provide a meeting room and small kitchen area to the rear of the church.

*Richard Denning, Hon Treasurer*

### **The Dominy and Turner Trust**

In 1888 H.B. Turner invested £55 for blankets to be lent to poor parishioners. In 1938 Ethel Dominy gave money for a former Mission House in Manton to be rented by an old person. The house was sold in 1973 and the proceeds invested. In 1994 the two charities were amalgamated and its purposes defined as a) the advancement of religion; b) the relief of the poor; c) the advancement of education; and d) general charitable purposes of the inhabitants of the parish of Preshute. The Trustees are the Vicar and Churchwardens of St George's Church.

After 2019, when the Charity disbursed more than it received in income, 2020 was a quiet year. Just two grants were made, both to Preshute School. All of the Year 6 leavers were presented with a copy of the Good News Bible, and at Christmas booklets presenting the story of the birth of Jesus in a lively and imaginative way were given to all pupils.

The Trustees are always ready to consider applications for grants from anyone in the parish for causes which comply with the purposes stated above.

*Charles Graham*

### **Missions and Charities**

The PCC decided that, despite the considerable drop in income, we should nevertheless pay out the budgeted £3,500 to the Missions and Charities that we support, all of which will have suffered as a result of Covid-19. The many additional charities that usually benefit from our "Special Collections" during the year are the ones that have lost out most, though we were able to support "Crisis", thanks in particular to money raised from the roving Carol Singing organised by Andrew and Amanda Brown. Full details of the year's giving to Missions and Charities can be found in the Accounts Appendix at the end of this Report.

*Charles Graham*

### **Churchwarden's Report**

You may well have had enough of the doom, gloom and Zoom that feature prominently in assessments of the year 2020, not to mention the risk assessing, pew cleaning, mask wearing and other coronavirus-related extras that came the way of churchwardens, so let's put those aside and focus on ten positives:

1. We have a new Vicar after an interval of two-and-three-quarter years. Welcome to Rev. Pete Sainsbury.
2. We kept the church open, unlike many others in the neighbourhood, every day except during the first lockdown. Grateful thanks to all who helped enable this to happen.
3. We had five well-attended and well-liked Christmas services, and we are most grateful to Marcia Johnson for her help in organising the ticketing for these services, and to Prue Groffman and her team of helpers for decorating the church beautifully.
4. Sarah Musgrave's commitment to St George's has been unstinting; she has inspired us to keep going during the interregnum and handled many pastoral issues in a year when we were sad to lose several members of the congregation.

5. As ever Team Brown has given us some wonderful music, appreciated all the more in the absence of an opportunity to sing. Big thanks to Andrew and Amanda (and to those who stepped in to avert a crisis at Christmas).
  6. Our Treasurer, Richard Denning, has kept a keen eye on the finances and been ready to suggest ways to manage the unfortunate reduction in income.
  7. Deputy Warden Jeremy York suffered from a very nasty bout of Covid 19 but, once recovered, he was quick to resume the many tasks which he readily and unassumingly undertakes behind the scenes.
  8. Before the arrival of Pete in September we were again fortunate to be able to count on retired clergy to lead our worship, in particular Henry Pearson, Keith Lamdin, Janneke Blokland and Jeremy Creswell. We thank them sincerely.
  9. Thanks to a lot of hard work from Laurien Carter we now have a fully digitised catalogue of the graves in the churchyard and their occupants.
  10. We now employ Melanie Rolfe, a member of the Teddy Prayers congregation, to clean the church twice a month. We are very pleased with what she is achieving.
- There are others we would like to thank, but to quote the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews: “What more shall I say? I do not have time to tell of ....” We are just grateful to all who contribute to making St. George’s what it is.

*Charles Graham and Sally Cripps*

## Appendix 1

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Parish of St. George's Preshute - Registered Charity Number 1184256**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, which are set out in Appendix 1 pages 14 to 23, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s. 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

#### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.145 of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

#### **Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - (b) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*B. K. Froud*

B. K. Froud FCA  
Bew & Co Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
130 High Street  
Marlborough

Date: 25/3/21

## Receipts and Payments Accounts

### THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST GEORGE'S PRESHUTE, MARLBOROUGH - Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Accounting policies are detailed at Note 1.

#### Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>							
Planned Giving		32136		545		32681	32197
Collections at Services		1258		550		1808	7083
All other giving / voluntary receipts	4a	4186		17495	4000	25681	12141
Gift Aid Recovered		11170		83		11252	12332
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>48749</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18673</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>71422</b>	<b>63753</b>
Activities for generating funds	4b	1444				1444	4996
Investment Income	4c	335	876	30		1241	1455
Church Activities	4d	2506				2506	4174
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>53034</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>18703</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>76613</b>	<b>74378</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church Activities</b>							
Parish Share		39560				39560	39252
Clergy and Staffing Costs	4e	330		2400		2730	2073
Church Running Expenses	4f	16764	6109			22873	16354
Mission Giving and Donations	5	3698		550		4248	8191
		60352	6109	2950		69411	65871
Cost of Generating Funds	4g	195				195	2095
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>60547</b>	<b>6109</b>	<b>2950</b>		<b>69605</b>	<b>67966</b>
Excess of Receipts over payments		-7512	-5233	15753	4000	7008	6412
Transfer Between funds							
		<b>-7512</b>	<b>-5233</b>	<b>15753</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>7008</b>	<b>6412</b>
<b>Gains / Losses on Investments</b>							
Realised							
Unrealised			1207		951	2159	4587
		<b>-7512</b>	<b>-4025</b>	<b>15753</b>	<b>4951</b>	<b>9167</b>	<b>10999</b>
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>							
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2020		19545	115373	7100	11179	153198	142199
Balance carried forward at 31st December 20		<b>12033</b>	<b>111348</b>	<b>22853</b>	<b>16130</b>	<b>162364</b>	<b>153198</b>

## Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Balance Sheet	Note	31-Dec-20			31-Dec-19
		£	£		£
Fixed Assets					
Investment Shares CCLA General			18766		17559
Investment Shares - Aspen Copse Trust			11948		11179
Investment shares - Angela and William Whitrow			4183		0
Current Assets					
Cash on hand at bank		16124			23467
CCLA Deposit Fund		111344			100993
		127468			124460
There are no debtors or creditors					
<b>Total Assetts</b>			<b>162364</b>		<b>153198</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Unrestricted funds			12033		19545
Unrestricted designated funds			111348		115373
Restricted funds -			22853		7100
Angela and William Whitrow Fund			4183		0
Aspen Copse Endowment fund			11948		11179
			<b>162364</b>		<b>153198</b>

## Notes to the 2020 Accounts and Further Analysis

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St George's Preshute, Marlborough, is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

#### a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK & Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16th July 2014.

The accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

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

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. The accounts do not include the accounts relating to any informal gatherings of Church members or small cash balances held by individuals such as the flower arrangers.

Rounding – the Accounts are prepared to the exact penny but for presentation purposes, and for ease of reading and understanding, are shown in rounded pounds. This can mean that some of the totals and/or sub totals do not appear as if they add correctly and appear to be £1 out.

#### c) Incoming resources

- Voluntary income - Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is received.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.
- Funds raised by any social events are accounted for gross, where practicable and costs for events included in expenditure, this is broken out later in the notes.
- Income from investments Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.
- Gains and losses on investments Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

#### d) Resources used

- Church ministry and services - The diocesan share/quota is accounted for when payable. Any diocesan share unpaid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.
- Grants made Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

#### e) Fixed assets - Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the rectors and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property and not valued in the accounts.
- All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is treated as an expense and written off.
- The fabric fund is maintained to cover the costs of major maintenance whereas minor works are funded through the general fund: the treasurer and PCC work to agree which should fund but broadly works of more than £200 are funded via the fabric fund.

#### f) Investments: Investments are valued at bid price at 31 December.

#### g) Current Assets

Cash held in a savings account with a bank is classified as cash at bank. Cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or held in a term deposit account with a bank is classified as a short term deposit.

h) Funds - Funds have been classified as Unrestricted, Unrestricted Designated, Restricted or Endowment.

- Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.
- Funds designated by the PCC for a particular purpose are classified as unrestricted designated as the PCC has allocated them for a specific purpose although the PCC can re-designate these funds. This helps budget for the future.
- Restricted funds are funds received, collected by or given to the PCC for a particular purpose which was specified at or before the time of receipt. These funds have been restricted by the donor for a particular purpose and they cannot be used by the PCC for any other purpose except by agreement with the donor or as determined by the courts or the Charity Commission.
- Endowment funds are funds or assets given to the PCC with the specific instruction that only the income gained from the funds can be spent. The original endowment funds cannot normally be spent and must remain in the form of equivalent assets or investments.

St George's is the beneficiary of the Aspen Copse endowment fund and receives the income from the fund each year which is added to our general fund and is not restricted in use. The fund itself is managed by the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance and the capital is not available to be spent (it is understood that in extremis the board could be approached to allow the funds to be transferred to our general funds but this would be a matter for them to consider not a right).

We also now have a new (from 2020) Angela and William Whitrow fund where the interest gained is restricted to use on upkeep of the churchyard.

## **2. Explanation of Funds**

St George's has a number of funds where the PCC has allocated money for specific purposes to aid saving for projects and to manage our finances more effectively, e.g. to budget for organ maintenance. The funds and purposes are as follows:

- Fabric fund: To build up reserves for maintenance work in the church and churchyard.
- Legacy and Gift Fund: Used to ring fence money for major capital projects. Current ongoing and proposed work include: Provision of new resin path to church, new church gates, provision of meeting room and kitchen to rear of church.
- Boiler Fund: Maintenance and where required replacement of the church boiler and related heating system (last replacement was in excess of £9000)
- Ministry: To provide specific funds for ministry
- Church Hall: Specific fund with the long term aim to provide a church hall or annex to the church
- Organ Fund: Fund for maintenance and repair of the organ. The last major service cost some £20,000 and is required every 20-30 years.
- Worship Director Restricted Fund: a restricted fund to manage donations and payments for the worship director role.

## Note to the Accounts – Further Analysis Continued

The following pages further break down specific sections of income and expenditure.

### 3. Movement in Funds

We maintain a number of designated funds to help budget for future finance. At the end of the year these funds contained:

3. Movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

		Balance B/F	Receipts	Payments	Investment	€ Bal/C/f
General Fund		19545	53034	60547		12033
<b>Restricted</b>	6					
Fabric Fund		2100	135			2235
Legacy and Gift Fund		5000				5000
Worship Director Fund		0	18018	2400		15618
		7100	18153	2400		22853
<b>Designated</b>						
Fabric		8555				8555
Legacy & Gift Fund	7	95657	876	6109	1207	91632
Boiler		-1535				-1535
Ministry		5264				5264
Church Hall		1141				1141
Organ		6290				6290
		-				
		115373	876	6109	1207	111348
Total (excludes value of Aspen Copse Trust and Angela and William)		142019				146234
Value of Aspen copse trust + Angela and William		11179	4000		951	16130
<b>Total</b>		153198	76063	69055	2159	162364

#### 4. Breakdown of Income and Expenditure

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>a) All other giving / voluntary receipts</b>					
Donations (including yellow envelopes)	4029		105	4134	9906
Legacies			4000	4000	2000
Alms	157			157	234
Worship Director Planned Giving			545		
Worship Director Capital Donations			16845		
	4186		21495	25681	12140
<b>b) Social Activities Generating funds</b>					
2019					4996
Raj Night	167			167	
Quiz Night	692			692	
Rugby Dinners	585			585	
	1444		0	1444	4996
<b>c) Investment Income</b>					
Interest on CBF Deposit Fund		350		350	620
Dividends of shares		526		526	510
Dividends of Trust Shares	335		30	365	325
	335	876		1241	1455
<b>d) Church Activities:</b>					
Fees for Weddings and funerals	2051			2051	2544
Fees refunded by diocese for service cover	320			320	1630
	2371			2371	4174
<b>Payments</b>					
<b>e) Clergy and Staffing Costs</b>					
Payment to clergy during interregnum	330			330	2073
Worship Director Pay, NI, Pension etc			2400	2400	0
				2730	2073
<b>f) Church Running Expenses</b>					
Working and Office Expenses	658			658	2288
Honoraria and Secretarial	3634			3634	2122
Organ Maintenance & tuning	233			233	227
Insurance	1209			1209	2125
Printing and stationary	3050			3050	3084
Heating, Lighting and Water	1094			1094	984
Repairs and Maintenance	3935	6109		10044	4972
Bank Charges	255			255	387
Miscellaneous	2696			2696	167
	16764	6109		22873	16354
Note miscellaneous category includes vicarage redecoration so excluded from main accounts					
Vicarage Redecoration	2274				
Accounts examiners fees	422	Increased from 2019 (£167) due charity commission registration			
	2696				
<b>g) Costs of Generating Funds</b>					
2019	-			-	1926
Raj Night	0			0	
Quiz Night	195			195	
Rugby Diners	0			0	
	195		0	195	1926

## 5. Giving to Missions and Charities

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>5 Mission Giving and Donations</b>					
<b>Special Collection Distribution</b>					
Sudan Link (Licensing Service)			50	50	447
Christian Aid			0	0	130
Royal Naval Benevolent Trust			0	0	110
RAFBF			65	65	191
RABI			82	82	241
Water Aid			0	0	241
GWH Neonatal Unit - Baptisms			0	0	277
SSAFA			0	0	163
Combat Stress			0	0	163
Crisis			113	113	426
Save the Children			60	60	356
Children's Society			60	60	356
Christian Aid			60	60	356
Age UK Wiltshire			60	60	356
			550	550	3811
Due to COVID-19 and lockdown many services with special collections were not held					

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable Giving</b>					
<b>International</b>					
Church Mission Society	250			250	250
SOMA	250			250	250
USPG	250			250	250
Sudan Church (via Salisbury DBF)	250			250	250
Caldwell Trust	Cashed cheque from 2019				250
<b>National</b>					
Mothers Union	250			250	250
Bible Society	250			250	250
Church Army	250			250	250
Church Urban Fund	250			250	250
2019 Additional Tearfund					50
<b>Local Charities</b>					
Devizes and Marlborough Foodbank	250			250	250
Home Start Kennet	250			250	250
Jubilee Centre	250			250	250
MAPAG	250			250	250
Prospect Hospice	250			250	250
Friends of Salisbury Cathedral	30			30	30
<b>Emergency Fund</b>					
RABI	59			59	200
Water Aid	59			59	300
Tearfund South Sudan Appeal	200			200	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>3598</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>3598</b>	<b>4380</b>

<b>6. Note on Restricted Funds</b>			
We currently have £2,235 of restricted funds in the fabric fund, £2000 restricted to church maintenance and 235 on the churchyard			
We have £5000 in the legacy fund restricted to use on capital projects			
<b>7. Breakdown of Legacy Fund Income and Expenditure</b>			
	Income	Expenditure	
Interest Received from Investments	876		
Gain / Loss on investments	1207		
New Church Gates		1450	
Benjamin & Beauchamp Survey and Pre Faculty Work		1838.76	
Lewis Brown Site Survey		2820	
	<b>£2,084</b>	<b>£6,109</b>	

## 8. St George's Church Preshute – Budget 2021

ST GEORGE'S PRESUTE BUDGET 2020						
	Jan-Dec		Jan-Dec	Budget		Budget 2021
	2019		2020	2020		
<b>INCOME</b>						
Collections	3538		1258	3500		2500
Planned Giving	28201		29622	28900		29000
Envelopes	3997		2444	4000		2500
	<b>35735</b>			<b>36400</b>		<b>34000</b>
Tax Refund re Planned Giving	12332		11170	10000		12000
Fees	4174		2371	3000		3000
Interest Received	1455		1211	1000		1200
Donations	4906		3082	4500		5000
Legacies						
Alms	234		157	200		200
Grants	-					
Miscellaneous						
Special Collections						
<b>Social Events</b>	4729		1249	2250		1500
<b>Total</b>	<b>63566</b>		<b>52564</b>	<b>57350</b>		<b>56900</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Parish Share	39252		39560	39560		40165
Transfer to Fabric Fund	0			0		
Transfer to Organ Fund	0			0		
Transfer to Legacy Fund	0			0		
Transfer to Boiler Fund	0			0		
Church & Churchyard	5198		4168	5500		5500
Heat & Light	984		1094	2500		1200
Insurance	2125		1688	2200		2400
Equipment & Consumables	291		1234	300		500
Social	2095					
Publicity, Printing & Stationery	2763		1816	2600		2000
Working & Office Expenses	2288		658	2350		2600
Honoraria/Secretarial/Fees	4196		3634	3000		3500
Missions & Charities	4380		3698	4300		3300
Christian Council & Deanery	0			100		100
Education and Youth Work	30			100		100
Bank Charges	<b>387</b>		300	400		400
Miscellaneous	167		2696			
Special Collections	<b>3811</b>					
<b>Total</b>	<b>67966</b>		<b>60546</b>	<b>62910</b>		<b>61765</b>
<b>Surpluls (Deficit)</b>	<b>6413</b>		<b>-7982</b>	<b>-5560</b>		<b>-4865</b>

Notes on the budget:

1. Spending from legacy funds and related project work are excluded to allow year on year comparison.
2. Insurance is now paid monthly by direct debit (at no additional cost) which started in mid 2020. This reduced the 2020 insurance cost but it will revert to the full year cost from 2021.
3. Unless income increases, similar to 2020 we will not transfer any money to designated funds such as fabric fund. It should be noted that not designating these funds could lead to future funding challenges for say organ maintenance or work on the fabric necessitating future congregations to fund raise for such work.
4. Office expenses are expected to rise as we now have a new incumbent we would expect to see office expenses increase but this is likely to be offset by additional money from fees.
5. Previously changes in the CCLA investment fund have been shown in the budget tables but as investment values change erratically this can distort the financial view (on paper they were down £169 last year and up £2800 this year although neither loss or gain has been realised by selling the shares). The value is included in the balance sheet.
6. As noted in the annual report, the PCC has agreed to reduce charitable giving by £1000 by excluding National charities. This is intended to reduce the 2021 deficit and will be reviewed when setting the budget for 2022.

## Appendix 2

St. George's Church, Preshute  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
to be held in the Church on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 12md in the Church

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (See Appendix 3)
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Report of the proceedings of the PCC
6. Finance: a) Treasurer's Report  
          b) Adoption of audited accounts  
          c) Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church
8. Safeguarding
9. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
10. Any Questions

### ELECTIONS

- a. Churchwardens
- b. PCC Members

### Appendix 3

## St . George's Church, Preshute Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in the Church at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Present: Rev Chris Smith (Chair), Simon Bonham, Amanda Brown, Andrew Brown, Howard Cripps, Sally Cripps, Charles Graham, Diana Hony, Nicholla Huckle, Christine McColl, Chris Musgrave, Sarah Musgrave, Lyn Whatley, Jeremy York.

Apologies: Lydia Bauer, David Beacom, Laurien Carter, Heather Croucher, Neil Croucher, Brian Crowe, Judith Denning, Richard Denning, Sue Elks, Prue Groffman, David Harding, Kath Harding, Kate Martin, Anne Notton, Robin Notton. Marcia Johnson, Michael Cripps, Kay Cripps, Paul Lefever

1. The Rector **welcomed** everyone and opened with a prayer.
2. **Apologies** are listed above.
3. The **Minutes** of last year's meeting had been published in the Annual Report and were taken as read. They were approved unanimously and signed. Proposer: S. Musgrave; Seconder S. Bonham.
4. Charles Graham, standing in as **Electoral Roll** Officer, announced that the number on the Roll had decreased by one to 119. He was sad to record that four good friends had died (Jesse Pomfret, Gillian Watson, Maurice Cooper and Tom Cridland). Debi Evans has moved away. 4 new names have been added to the Roll: Rosemary Hawes, Nicky Huckle, Clare Maclean and Chris Watkins.
5. In the absence of the Secretary there was nothing to add to the Report of the **Proceedings of the PCC** in the Annual Report, but the Churchwardens wished to express their sincere thanks to Sarah Musgrave for all she has done to hold things together during the long interregnum.  
The Rector asked for any comments/questions on the reports in the Annual Report of the various church activities. It was pointed out that since March most of these activities have not been possible. Other comments included:
  - We need to find more LPAs;
  - The website has been refreshed;
  - The Rector likes our choice of hymns;
  - The Night at the Raj and the Quiz Night took place successfully before lockdown;
  - The Home Group is meeting on Zoom; and 112 were present at the Diocesan Synod Zoom meeting recently.
  - A £100,000 legacy has been left to the Devotion Youth Group to provide for a Youth Worker.
6. **Finance:**
  - a) The Treasurer, unable to be present, had sent an update, showing that the expected shortfall at the end of the year is around £12,500. The meeting expressed its support for the Treasurer and grateful thanks for all his hard work.
  - b) The Audited Accounts were adopted unanimously. Proposer: S. Cripps; Seconder: J. York.

c) It was agreed to re-appoint Brian Froud as Independent Examiner. Proposer: C. Graham; Seconder: S. Musgrave.

7. Report on the **Fabric, Goods and Ornaments** of the church.

Following David Beacom's detailed report in the Annual Report, it was confirmed that the Fabric is generally in good condition. Regular cleaning has taken place to comply with Covid regulations, and a paid cleaner has recently been engaged. The Churchwardens have carried out the annual inventory check, the main addition being a quantity of NRSV Bibles kindly donated by St. Mary's.

8 and 9. There was nothing to add to the written reports on **Safeguarding** and the **Deanery Synod**.

10. A **Question** was asked about how the legacy to Devotion would be spent. The Devotion Committee is exploring possibilities.

In his **Closing Comments** the Rector thanked Sarah Musgrave not only for what she has done for St George's but also for the help she has been to him personally since his arrival. He praised the St George's PCC and urged it to keep good relationships going. Looking ahead at the new chapter with the arrival of Pete Sainsbury as Team Vicar, he encouraged us to look for new ways to draw people in and "pass on the flame".

Sarah Musgrave expressed her thanks and support for the Rector as he leads the three churches in the Team.

## **ELECTIONS**

The following were elected with unanimous approval:

**Churchwardens:** Sally Cripps Proposer: C. Graham; Seconder: L. Whatley  
Charles Graham Proposer J. York; Seconder: H. Cripps

**Deputy Churchwarden:** Jeremy York Proposer: S. Cripps; Seconder: C. Musgrave

**Deanery Synod Reps:** Simon Bonham Proposer: S. Musgrave; Seconder: C. Graham  
Sarah Musgrave Proposer: A. Brown; Seconder: H. Cripps  
Jeremy York Proposer: A. Brown; Seconder: H. Cripps

**PCC Members:** David Beacom Proposer: H. Cripps; Seconder: A. Brown  
Amanda Brown Proposer: S. Musgrave; Seconder: C. Graham  
Robin Notton Proposer: L. Whatley; Seconder: C. Musgrave

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Linda Sims Proposer: C. Graham; Seconder: S. Cripps

**Secretary, Treasurer and Sidespersons** are appointed by the PCC.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 12.10 p.m.