



THE ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

2020-21

SUNDAY 27TH JUNE 2021  
11.30AM

*"Offering a welcoming, God-centred environment to the people of New Mills".*

**St. George's Church New Mills**  
**Meeting to Elect Churchwardens**  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**27th June 2021**  
**Agendas**

**MEETING TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS – 11.30am**

1. To approve the minutes of the last Meeting to Elect Churchwardens on 11th October 2020
2. To elect 2 Churchwarden

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – 11.35 a.m.**

1. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 11th October 2020.
2. Matters arising from those minutes
3. Annual reports
  - a) To receive the Chairman's review.
  - b) To Receive the Parochial Church Council's review
  - c) To consider and approve the examined accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020
  - d) To consider the Revised Electoral Roll.
  - e) To receive the Churchwarden's report including a report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church.
  - f) To receive a report on the proceedings of the Peak Deanery Synod.
4. Elections.
  - a) To elect 7 parishioners to the Parochial Church Council
  - b) To appoint an Electoral Roll Officer
- 6 To appoint an Independent Examiner
- 7 Any Other Business
8. Chairman's closing remarks.

**Minutes of the Meeting to Appoint Churchwardens**

Held on Sunday 11th October 2020 in Church  
In the Chair – Fr. Owain Mitchell

32 People present  
Apologies – Stephen and Adele Gould; David Wellens; Peter and Kath Harrison; Philip and Linda Kendall; Jane Bailey.

Minutes of the last meeting have been circulated and were approved.

**Election of Church Wardens** – Richard Hole was elected, leaving one vacancy. No other nominations were received.

Proposed Tim Banham, seconded Megan Davies. Approved

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Held on Sunday 11th October 2020 in Church  
In the Chair – Fr. Owain Mitchell

32 People present  
Apologies – Stephen and Adele Gould; David Wellens; Peter and Kath Harrison; Philip and Linda Kendall; Jane Bailey.

Minutes of the last meeting have been circulated and were approved.

**Annual Reports and Accounts**

Proposed Barbara Lord, seconded Gill Crosland all reports be accepted. Approved.  
There were no other comments on the reports.

**Electoral Roll**

Barbara Matthews reported a loss of 5 and a gain of 3. There is a total of 98 – 68 residents and 30 non-residents.

**Elections**

Deanery Synod – 3 vacancies – David Wellens, Megan Davies and Gen Tarr were re-elected.  
Proposed Carol Wright, seconded John Hawksford. Accepted.

**PCC members** - John Lord; Leon Shufflebotham; Christine Butterworth; Maureen Austin.

Fr. Owain thanked all PCC members for their work during the past year.

**Electoral Roll Officer** – Barbara Matthews

**Independent examiner**

Mr Glenn Leathley of Chronicle Accountants, Whaley Bridge was appointed Independent Examiner for the ensuing year.

Proposed Barbara Lord, seconded Maureen Austin. Accepted

**Any Other Business**

None

Fr. Owain thanked everyone for their help in these strange times.  
The meeting closed with the Grace at 11.15am.

# ANNUAL REPORTS

APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021

## VICAR'S REPORT | FR. OWAIN MITCHELL

*This report covers the period between April 2020 and March 2021. Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) should, of course, have taken place in April, but has been postponed due to the Covid-19 Lockdown.*

### **My vision – what is God calling me to do for you?**

My vision for Saint George's is simple. It is to take the wonderful things we have already been blessed with and share these with as many people as possible. We have so many positives to offer, and there is so much encouraging work to celebrate. Saint George's is a precious gem which I want to share with everyone I encounter, rather than keeping it to myself.

I'm not an artist, but if I were, and I was to paint a picture of what I'd want Saint George's to look like, every single seat would be taken, people would be queuing outside the doors, waiting for our next service. The Choir would be crammed into the chancel like sardines in a tin. We'd have a Thurifer and Boat Boy, Crucifer and Acolytes, Servers and Chalice Bearers all gathered around the altar. I'd be looking out at a sea of joyful faces, people of all ages and backgrounds, as a member of a large Reader Team preached the sermon. We would need several stations dotted around the church for the distribution of God's holy gifts to His holy children. Having worshipped God, filled with faith, hope and love, we'd joyfully depart to serve Him in the wider community. Whilst all these things currently happen, wouldn't it be amazing to grow this seed one hundred fold?

We are God's good news here in New Mills and we have so much to offer to the wider community, who we pray will come into a loving and lifegiving relationship with God. We are

- a worshipping church – where we gather to adore God...
- a missional church – taking out what we receive in our worship and sharing it with others
- a flourishing church – filled with joy, happiness and peace
- a growing church – spiritually, faithfully and numerically
- a confident church – where God's confidence in us gives us confidence in ourselves,
- a contributing church – where every member contributes, and every contribution is valued and honoured

I believe that this picture fits closely with the vision given in the Parish Profile, To remain a lively and active congregation in our worship life and mission to the community.

If you were to paint a picture of your vision for Saint George's, what would it look like?

If you were to paint a picture of the ideal disciple, what would it look like?

Where are we now and how do we get to where we long to be?

How do we make all of this happen?

### **Looking back over the past year**

The twelve months between April 2020 and March 2021 have been extremely turbulent for us as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite all of the challenges, difficulties, pains and frustrations, we have much to thank God for and to celebrate. The list, Covid-19: Our Response and Celebrating our Successes, below gives the broad brushstrokes of the blessings we have received from our Father God.

Sadly, we have lost members over the past year. Yet we rejoice in that they have gone to be with our Lord, and we pray that their faith in His merciful salvation will be fulfilled. We thank God for all that Edna Holt, Myra Sculley and Peter Harrison contributed to our lives and to the life of Saint George's and New Mills.

We have also been blessed by those who have joined us over the past year. We have encountered many hundreds of people worshipping alongside us through our livestreaming and recorded ministry. The challenge for us now is to extend a good yet gentle welcome to those who may be considering joining us more permanently or in person. As well as reaching out to those who have joined us on line, we also look forward to welcoming back members of our regular congregation who have not yet felt confident to return.

You will see in this pack The Church of England's Five Marks of Mission, listing the ways we have addressed each mark over the past year. God has done amazing things for us and for the wider community He calls us to serve. Let's celebrate all of these things and reflect together on what we might do in the year to come to meet the five marks, to tell, teach, tend, transform and treasure God's creation.

I've also included the Seven Marks of a Healthy Church summary. This is a good measure of how we are being Church. It is helpful to stop occasionally and reflect on what we are doing individually and corporately, to ensure we continue to express the life of Christ in and through all that we do. Do you feel we are meeting the objectives and are a healthy church? Are there any areas you feel we are falling short? Regular and simple ABCD reviewing of the life of Saint George's will ensure that we remain a healthy church. What do we wish to Affirm? What can we do Better? What might we wish to Change? What do we need to Ditch?

### **Celebrating and Valuing Everyone's Contributions**

Despite all that has happened over the past year, and the challenging circumstances under which we have ministered, it is clear that we have done much to be the church we believe God is calling us to be, "Offering a welcoming, God-centred environment to the People of New Mills", and we have held fast to our vision "To remain a lively and active congregation in our Worship Life and Mission to the Community."

Hopefully, you will agree that a huge amount has been achieved during the past year by our PCC and members of Saint George's. God has truly blessed us in our worship, work and witness. From the overflow of what we have received from God, we have been able to touch the life of our community in many and various ways. For this I am extremely thankful. My thanks go to all who have made all this possible. My fear, whenever thanking anyone, is that I miss someone... if I have, I apologise and thank you, too!

On behalf of us all, I thank Richard for working so incredibly hard as our Church Warden and Parish Hall Manager, especially as he has been juggling these two roles without the support of a fellow Warden – I thank Hazel, who has quietly supported Richard and share the load. My thanks go to Leon Shufflebotham, who has assisted Richard as Deputy Warden, and has worked tirelessly on our publicity and communication, livestreaming and so much more. Jen Rackstraw has done an amazing job as our Parish Safeguarding Officer to ensure that we are a safe and compliant church. Megan Davies has once again given so much of her time and energy as PCC Treasurer to ensure that every penny that you generously donate is used wisely. David Wellens, our PCC Secretary has again done a wonderful job this year, especially given the challenges of the PCC not being able to meet physically. In addition to fulfilling his role as Secretary, David has been a huge support to Richard in addressing the many and various buildings issues which have arisen. Cheryl Hanson (General Data Protection Officer) and Maureen Austin (Health and Safety Officer) have both worked faithfully and quietly in the background to ensure that we continue to be a safe church, complying with the legislation under which we are required to operate. Our thanks also go to Tony Lawton for his hard work in keeping on top of the church yard, the field and overseeing our work with the Community Payback Scheme, and for all the jobs he has quietly done in the background.

Our worship continues to be greatly enriched thanks to the ministry of Tim Hawkins, Tim Banham and Mair Cornforth, and each and every member of the Choir who have shared their gifts and lifted our spirits. I would also like to thank the members of the choir who have temporarily stepped back during these difficult times whilst the numbers permitted to sing have been limited. We very much look forward to hearing you all in full voice when restrictions are lifted. I know that Tom Spire's ministry as our Reader has been greatly missed, and we look forward to Tom leading worship once he is able to do so.

I would like to thank all who have served in any capacity who now feel it is time to stand down, and those who will serve during the year to come. And of course, I thank each member of Saint George's for your prayers, support, encouragement and faithfulness to God and His Church, without which none of this would be possible.

### Looking ahead to the coming year

We look forward to the return of normality when the pandemic is controlled, and restrictions are lifted. Our liturgy that sustains us and shapes us as a community of believers. Our being in the liturgy shapes our doing through our mission and ministry. I look forward to celebrating the fuller liturgical round free of restrictions or compromise. And I look forward to being able to visit members, deepening relationships and serving you better... please do give me a ring and invite me for a coffee when you feel safe to receive visitors.

During the coming year we shall begin to reflect upon the Church of England's Living in Love & Faith. "How do 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?" There is a link on our website, under Life Events. These resources are intended to help us to reflect on the "Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage." Like many things, Living in Love & Faith has taken a back seat as the world has responded to the pandemic, but as things begin to ease, I believe we will benefit greatly as Christian disciples by exploring this.

The past year has given me space and time to reflect. I have used the opportunities to reflect on what you asked of your new priest in the parish profile, distilling these down into three key areas:

- nurture the existing congregation
- raise the profile of Saint George's within the wider community
- outreach to children and young families

I have produced a strategic plan to help keep me on track with these objectives over the next five years, which the PCC have given their support to. I have also developed a sub-strategy based on our ministry around life events (marriages, baptisms and funerals), again supported by the PCC. Focussing on life events will help us to address all three areas outlined above in several ways. Over the past year, we have already done a great deal address these aims (see Strategic Achievements in the Past Year, below).

We can build on the work done over the past year, highlighted in this report pack. We can work to build on the relationships formed online through our livestreamed and recorded services in the hope that some who have joined us virtually will join us physically. The two strategies I am working to will, pray God, help us address some of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and treats you highlighted in the Parish Profile. Using these strategies, I will continue to seek to nurture you, the existing congregation, raise our profile and draw in children and young families.

Pray God, by April 2022 we will have doubled the congregation!

For these and all His mercies, God's holy name be thanked and praised.

*Father Owain*

## Covid-19: Our Response and Celebrating our Successes

Our response during the Covid-19 crisis has had two key strands.

1. What is the unique work of the Church? The continued worship; prayer with and for our community; pastoral care and support and so forth
2. What is already happening within the community? How can we best support and complement the work already being done within our community, rather than competing with other organisations and institutions.

**First Lockdown** – The building was closed but the Church was still present and active ...

- Individual private prayer
- Delivering and distributing Helping Hands Flyers to local schools, congregants, neighbours, etc.
- Foodbank donations
- Pre-lockdown resources in church to take away and use at home – prayer booklets, DVDs, prayer beads, etc.
- Supporting and signposting the work of community groups and organisations
- Congregants volunteering for other community groups – Volunteer Centre, Helping Hands, etc.
- Telephone calls to elderly, isolated and those who were alone
- Congregant's shopping, collecting prescriptions for neighbours, and so forth
- Contact with care homes – resources for residents unable to attend funerals
- Continued fundraising/support for local, national and international charities
- Continued fundraising to keep the church open and running
- Prayer requests via website/Facebook
- On line activities – quiz night & virtual coffee mornings
- Zoom Worship on Sunday's and Feast Day Services
- Easter Garden – focal point in church yard for people to pray, reflect or add memories of loved ones
- Daily Mass celebrated at the Vicarage, praying for our community and offering worship on behalf of members during lockdown/isolation
- St. George's Day – zoomed Mass; pictures in windows; prayers in Churchyard
- Coronavirus prayers and Prayer Walks in Churchyard for those passing through
- Keeping members & community fully informed via noticeboards, website & Facebook
- Several requests from people who live away about graves – tidying, removing dead flowers, etc.
- Funeral ministry
- Prayers and resources on website, Facebook and hard copies in church

**Post-June 2020**

- Much of what we did during lockdown continued to be done during lockdown easing – supporting other organisations by volunteering, donating and so forth; continued telephone support, shopping, and so forth for the housebound/those who continue to isolate; livestreamed worship; prayer and pastoral care; etc.
- Preparing buildings for reopening – risk assessments, H&S, cleaning, social distancing, etc.
- Open for private prayers in interim between beginning lockdown easing and the resumption of public worship
- Spiritual Pilgrimage of Saint George's posted on website for member who don't yet feel safe physically entering the building
- Faithful disciples attending services each week, some in person, others accessing online provisions
- Members living out their faith in the wider community by word and example
- Hard working team of volunteers who have made all of our successes possible – cleaning/creating a safe environment for us to worship in; livestreaming worship; publicity; planning and implementing our pandemic response, etc.
- Parish Hall - hospitality to community groups
- Public worship – live in Church; livestreamed via Facebook; recordings on website

- Kingdom Season – All Souls & Remembrance – such as the website Memories Page, painted stones, prayer cards distributed via local shops/the Church, livestreamed & recorded services for All Souls, church open for private prayer. Live Remembrance Sunday and Armistice day recorded and available on website, etc.
- Advent Wreath recordings
- Supporting St. George’s CofE School; recorded bi-weekly worship; Governor’s Roles, etc.
- Ongoing work with wider community offering support during Christmas period – NMYCP Toy and Clothing Bank and Christmas food parcel weekends; Shepley’s Butchers food hampers;
- One of only two churches in the area open for public worship on Christmas Day
- Mix of live and recorded worship over Christmas and Eastertide
- Service to mark the first anniversary of March 2020s announcement of national lockdown
- Service to mark the death of HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh; church open for private prayer
- Lent, Holy Week and Easter Worship; recorded Stations of the Cross, etc.
- Patronal Celebrations – Live service, livestreamed; prayer walk through church yard; colouring picture to take to family, friends and neighbours; card sent to each child at Saint George’s CofE Primary School
- Parish Hall links and ministry
- Thy Kingdom Come 2021 – resource packs, website resources & daily Facebook reflections
- Facebook occasional apologetics on seasonal themes ... What is Easter? What is Pentecost? What is the Holy Trinity?

**P.C.C. Responsibilities**

The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, social and ecumenical.

**Covid 19**

Following Government and Diocesan guidelines, services ceased on 15th March 2020 and did not restart until 12th July 2020. In the intervening period Fr. Owain conducted a number of eucharist services from his study, which were posted on to the church web site and You Tube and these were very much appreciated by those who tuned in.

The pattern of services from July 2020 was in a very different from the norm. Everyone wore face masks, we were all signed into church and we all sat separately from each other. Whilst we enjoyed Tim playing the organ there was initially no other music. Latterly members of the Choir have been singing a number of hymns, psalms and anthems, which have been much appreciated.

Services have followed a weekly pattern of a 10.00am eucharist on Sundays and a 9.15am eucharist on Wednesdays. In addition there have been a number of special services for Christmas, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day and to mark the death of HRH Duke of Edinburgh..

**Membership**

Members of the P.C.C. are either ex-officio or elected by the Church members at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All regular members of the congregation are encouraged to join the Electoral Roll..

Since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in October 2010, the following have served as members of the P.C.C.

**Priest:-** Rev. Owain Mitchell (*Chairman*)

**Churchwarden:-** Mr. Richard Hole

**Deanery Synod Members:-** Mrs. Megan Davies (*Treasurer*)  
Mrs. Gen Tarr  
Mr. David Wellens (*Secretary*)

**Elected Members:-** Mrs. Maureen Austin  
Mrs. Christine Butterworth  
Mrs. Cheryl Hanson  
Mrs. Katrina Hayward  
Mr. Paul Holt  
Mr. Tony Lawton  
Mrs. Barbara Lord  
Mr. John Lord  
Mr. Leon Shufflebotham

**Co-opted Members:-** Mr. Tim Banham  
Mrs Yvonne Banham.

**Reader:-** Mr Tom Spires (*permission to officiate*)

### P.C.C. Structure and Meetings

Since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting the full council has met on 2 occasions, once in October 2020 and once in May 2021. At the first meeting 11 members were present and at the second there were 14 attendees.

The only sub-committee which the PCC is required to have by law is the Standing Committee.

To deal with matters needing urgent attention, the Standing committee communicated by telephone or email and on a number of occasions where a full PCC decision had to be made, PCC members were also consulted by email or telephone.

A Fabric sub-committee had been established to prioritise repair work on the Church and Parish Hall. This sub-committee has met once remotely with the architect to discuss the Disabled Ramp/Toilet/ Kitchen Project..

### St. George's Church

In early February 2020, the weather vane was damaged by very strong winds and had to be taken down using a specialist crane. Steeple jacks and our architect were involved, and the weathervane was re-installed in February 2021. The cost of this work was covered by our insurance policy.

Unfortunately, shortly after being re-instated the weathervane was once again damaged by strong winds and had to be removed. Following further inspection work by the contractors and architect, it has been discovered that the reason for the failure was a design fault arising from the original re-installation of the weathervane some ten years ago. This does mean that work has been undertaken to overcome the original design problems. We await a final decision from the insurance company as to whether it will meet the costs a second time round.

### Parish Hall

Because of the Covid pandemic, the Parish Hall was only used in the early part of 2020 to any great extent, and much less frequently in the period between the lockdowns. Part of the shortfall in rental income was made up by a discretionary grant of £5000 from High Peak Borough Council.

We were pleased to receive a donation of £7000 towards the costs of refurbishing the hall..

### Focus of the PCC.

There continues to be a need to generate finance to maintain and improve the buildings in our care, however because of the pandemic there have been no fund raising activities in 2020.

The PCC has also continued to give serious consideration to the Safeguarding of everyone involved with the parish, and Jen Rackstraw has become our new Safeguarding Officer.

### Finance

Total receipts on the General Fund were £71727. Congregational giving amounted to £27747, which was only £624 lower than last year. Other donations were £8262, £1803 lower than 2019. The Gift Aid receipt was £408 lower than 2019, but Funeral and wedding fees were down £5992. Fund raising at £278 was £3056 lower than the previous year. Receipts also included £1197 for a refund on photocopier charges and £4535 for an insurance claim for work carried out on repairing the weathervane and steeple.

Payments on the General Fund amounted to £62135, £12922 lower than in 2019. The majority of this reduction was in the payment to the Diocese for the Common Fund. Our payment of £31815 represented 75% of what we had been asked to pay. Whilst repairs are shown as £4808 higher than last year, this is off-set by the insurance receipt referred to earlier.

The other funds showed receipts of £7557, most of which was in the Parish hall development fund which received a donation of £7000.

Total funds amounted to £118886. The General Fund had a balance of £17169. The other designated funds amounted to £101717, of which the major balance was in the Church Development Fund. (£85273)

### Outreach and Social Activities

In the early part of the year, the Lunch Club continued to meet on Fridays providing a welcome communion service and lunch to members of the congregation who are less mobile. However, because of Covid, the club had to stop meeting in March 2020.

Several members of the congregation take part in Open the Book Activities, which over the past year has been restricted again due to Covid. This is a joint enterprise by the churches in New Mills where local schools are visited and a bible story is acted out dramatically.

We also distributed some £1059 to a number of missionary societies and charities during 2019. Again, details can be found in the Financial Statements.

David Wellens

## ACCOUNTS & FINANCIAL REPORT | MEGAN DAVIES

### New Mills Parochial Church Council

#### Financial Statement from 1st January to 31st December 2020

#### Statement of Receipts

	General Church	Lunch Club	Choir Fund	Organ Fund	P/Hall Dev.Fund	Church Dev.Fund	Defib Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>Congregational Giving</b>									
Collections	1783							1783	4649
Bankers Orders	4903							4903	3857
CMF Envelopes	20061							20061	19865
<b>Other Donations</b>									
Altar	40							40	145
Votive and Candles	233							233	97
Other Donations	7989							7989	9817
Memorial Candles									
<b>Other Income</b>									
Gift Aid Tax Refund	6713							6713	7121
Fees Fun/Wed	5553							5553	10545
Parish Hall Income	11895							11895	12852
Fund Raising	278							278	3334
Misc. Receipts	1526							1526	1383
Donations to Funds Mission/Charity		200	190	70	7099			7559	2272
Don.	812							812	2881
Copier	1197							1197	0
Insurance Claim	4535							4535	0
<b>Investments</b>									
CBF Investment Inc.	791							791	767
Mackie Trust Don.	3167							3167	3075
<b>Bank Interest</b>									
Deposit Account	251							251	72
CCLA Account						39		39	69
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>71727</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>7099</b>	<b>39</b>		<b>79325</b>	<b>82801</b>

**New Mills Parochial Church Council**

**Financial Statement of Payments and Receipts from 1st January to 31st December 2020**

**Statement of Payments**

	<u>General</u>	<u>L. Club</u>	<u>Choir</u>	<u>Organ</u>	<u>P/Hall</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Seq</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Church</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Dev.Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Diocesan Share	31815							31815	42420
Fees paid out	830							830	2360
Other fees									
<b>St. George's Church</b>									
Gas	1843							1843	2268
Electric	876							876	953
Repairs /Insurance	10091							10091	5283
Altar Supplies	182							182	592
Books								0	75
Clergy Expenses	858							858	0
<b>Parish Hall</b>									
Gas.	831							831	1225
Electric	1803							1803	1338
Wages/Water/Ins/Rep	4329							4329	6504
Deposit Return	90							90	300
<b>Office Expenses</b>									
Copier	2811							2811	2713
Parish Office	881							881	826
Stationary/Postage	237							237	353
<b>Other Expenses</b>									
Audit Fee	594							594	594
Honoraria	2000							2000	2000
Miscellaneous	1005							1005	2455
Misc. Payments Funds									21033
Missions	1059							1059	3083
Sequestration							285	285	
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>62135</b>						<b>285</b>	<b>62420</b>	<b>96375</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>71727</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>7098</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79324</b>	<b>82801</b>
Excess of Receipts									-
<b>Over Payments</b>	<b>9592</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>7098</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>-285</b>	<b>16904</b>	<b>13574</b>

**New Mills Parochial Church Council**

**Financial Statement from 1st January to 31st December 2020**

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

	<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b>									
	<u>General</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Choir</u>	<u>Organ</u>	<u>P/H</u>	<u>Defib</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Seq.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Dev.</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Dev.</u>	<u>Fnd</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Bank</b>										
Current Account	-11601	390	656	5355	9083	1245	34957	-285	40340	26724
Capital Reserve							40983		40983	37732
CCLA							9333		9333	9294
	<b>-11601</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>5355</b>	<b>9083</b>	<b>1245</b>	<b>85273</b>	<b>-285</b>	<b>90656</b>	<b>73750</b>
<b>Investments</b>										
CBF Fund Shares	28231								28231	26356
<b>Nett Worth</b>	<b>17169</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>5355</b>	<b>9083</b>	<b>1245</b>	<b>85273</b>	<b>-285</b>	<b>118886</b>	<b>100106</b>
	Movement in Net Worth									
Reserves B/ fwd.	5701	190	466	5285	1985	1245	85234		100106	109576
Excess of Receipts over payments	9592	200	190	70	7098	0	39	-285	16904	-13574
Increase in Value of Shares	1876								1876	4104
Reserves c/fwd.	17169	390	656	5355	9083	1245	85273	-285	118886	100106

## STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR

*N.B. (bracketed parts) not yet completed*

### Nurturing the Existing Congregation

- Online resourcing – FB Discussion Group; Discipleship resources on website; signposting resources
- Weekly service sheets to take away to reflect on readings, themes, prayers etc. (suspended during lockdown)
- Thank you reflections and celebrations of what we have been able to do during the current pandemic included in A Martyr's Message (Dec 20)
- 'Discipleship Resources' on Website – hard copies in church
- Children's Resources on website
- Facebook Discussion Group – private groups for bible study, nurture & encouragement – Launched Dec 2020
- Signposting resources (e.g. discipleshipkit.org).
- Celebrating successes and expressing thanks – section added to Continuity Plan; Leon has produced some Thank You cards for me to send out.
- Daily Prayer Intentions for Church and Community. LS has included this in March's A Martyr's Message. OM to print a batch to go into church
- OM has produced and distributed a Lent resource. Hard copies in church, weekly sections posted on

### At Home Resources section of website along

- Prayer card & candle to mark the first anniversary of Lockdown distributed to congregation. Recorded service posted on Facebook
- TKC 2021 Resources – hard copies & online; Daily Facebook reflection; Praying for five friends to come to faith, etc.
- A Martyr's Message – focus on a member – e.g. June 21, Tim H. our Organist, his mission & ministry, etc.
- 'Five Mark of Mission' successes

### Possible ideas for next year

- Invite members to send a pic and/or paragraph (max. 250 words) saying which their faith / Saint George's is so important to them (simple evangelism – sharing their faith) – produce booklet to share among congregation and with those who come for special occasions.
- Invite members to send if their favourite prayer and/or hymn and a few words about why this speaks to the and how it shapes their faith/discipleship – an occasional songs of praise service incorporating these. We could also produce booklet to distribute
- Produce Lent reflections resource – invite members to write short reflections and prayers on scripture, produce booklet to distribute for use during Lent.
- Produce Advent booklet – see Lent above.
- Post-pandemic, resume in person nurture groups

### Raising our Profile in the Wider Community

- quarterly magazine Martyr's Message
- New Mills Youth and Community Project Toy Bank
- Light up NM display in hall window (LS)
- Strong and constructive relationship emerging with Mark Jones (NM Youth and Community Project). See below...
- Facebook – praying daily for our community – invitation to send prayer requests on Website
- 05th October – met with Martyn Greaterox (NM businessman) – Discussion about Christmas Activities & Events – Lockdown prevented anything in 2020 ... what of 2021?
- A Season of Remembrance – Prayer resources for All Souls & Remembrance distributed to wider community through local shops; work with Town Council & British Legion in planning; etc. 15th Oct – telephone conversation with Veteran's Breakfast Group.
- (Catie-Ann Harper has contacted me to ask if the PCC would consider supporting and becoming involved in a Chaplaincy project to the town. See 'Ecumenical' on continuity plan.)

- Thanks to Leon's wisdom, encouragement and skills, throughout the Kingdom season, we've raised the church's profile massively and positively through All Souls/Remembrance on line (posts reaching over 4,000 views, many likes, even some comments of thanks/support) – see Insights on our FB page.
- Toy Bank – working with NMYCP (5/6 & 11/12 December). OM chatted to many members of the wider community - some were quite deep conversations. Also met the new Derbyshire County Council Youth Worker and we're going to talk at some point about how St. George's can work with her. (c.f. Children & Young Families).
- (Leaflet drop post Covid-19)
- We have included, in December's A Martyr's Message the piece entitled A huge thank you... (below) to flag up some of what we have been doing.
- NMYCP Christmas Grab Bags – 19th & 20th Dec in Parish Hall (packing day Friday 18th December). Food & activities distributed to those in need.
- Composter – simple thing, but well received by wider community. Shows we care about their concerns (environment) and take seriously (misguided?) comments about the churchyard.
- Daily Prayers for Church and Community in March 2021 A Martyr's Message
- Recorded Stations of the Cross on Facebook Page during Lent 21
- A couple of funerals for congregation members have been livestreamed and got good response from wider community. (N.B. this has only been possible whilst LS available during lockdown.... how might this be continued as something we can offer post-covid?)
- Positive and constructive response to online comments about the wall
- (LS's idea about post-covid monthly churchyard tidy mornings .... )
- Recorded service to mark first anniversary of lockdown posted on Facebook
- Prayer opportunities around the death of HRH Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
- Online & physical ways to support the community in our celebrations of Patronal Festival
- Our work with NM Youth Matters group
- Occasional FB apologetics videos
- Saint John's Drama Group

### Possible ideas for next year

- Booklet/Facebook Posts/Webpage where members share what St. George's means to them and why they attend.
- Pudding Club – could be monthly; advertise well & sell tickets; people come along and just eat puddings – we bake half a dozen, attendees eat them and vote on best ... lots of fun, banter and so forth.

### Outreach to Children and Young Families

- Created a webpage for children's resources
- Life Events Strategy 2021-2026
- Life events gathered together on website
- Toy Bank event enabled OM to chat with many young families - several opened up about personal issues ... emerging relationships
- See Saint George's CofE Primary School – OM recording collective worship fortnightly
- Children's section on website – currently using links to other resources
- NMYCP Toy Bank/Christmas Bag weekends (above) meeting children & young families who come along and forming initial relationships
- Parish Hall as distribution centre for NMYCP Holiday Grab Bag weekend (19th/20th December) – providing activities / resources and sustenance sufficient to see people through the half-term [Christmas holiday] period.
- (Lynne Allen & OM exploring how we can work with Derbyshire County Council's Children's Services here in NM)

- If children & young families is to be an area of focus, and we wish to attract expand our ministry to, and draw in children and young families, we must be 100% on top of our governance. (Are we fully compliant and constantly reviewing our safeguarding practices, GDPR, policies, Health and Safety and so forth. Those we seek to attract must be assured that we are a safe space. – annual safeguarding audit!!! Jen Rackstraw (PSO) has begun a review of all this.)
- Life Events – Baptisms/Thanksgiving for the gift of a child & weddings
- School – meeting with Head to discuss how best I can support her & the school
- Environmental issues are at the heart of many younger people – could we invite school to develop a nature area in Church yard?
- Again, through schools, could we develop a prayer/reflection area (and/or memorial garden) in church yard?
- (Focused invitations – e.g., personal invitation to hear banns, pray in preparation for marriage; pray for parents/godparents in weeks after baptism; bereaved in weeks after funeral or on years mind, etc.)
- St. George's CofE Primary's recorded acts of worship
- LS produced a card for each child at Saint George's for our Patronal Festival... picture to colour, info about Saint George & prayer, with best wishes from us
- Growing relationship with NM Youth Matters – hall hire on Monday & Friday evenings – (request from NM Youth Matters to set us some raised flower beds on the field)
- OM has produced a 'Life Events Strategy' ... PCC have given support and OM has begun implementing
- LS/JR – weekly after school Song Club

*Possible ideas for next year:*

- Produce our own baptism/wedding anniversary cards – personalised and linked to St. George's
- Cut labyrinth into the grassy area with simple prayer stations for family, friends, teachers, pets, world, etc.

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**REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL ROLL | BARBARA MATTHEWS**

<b>2020</b>	RES 68/NR 30 = 98		
<b>2021</b>	Removed from Roll:	RES 4	NR 2
<b>2021</b>	<b>Total: RES 64 NR 28 = 92</b>		

**RES = Resident**  
**NR = Non-Resident**

**CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT | RICHARD HOLE**

There isn't a lot to report on since our last AGM in October. We have been fortunate in that we have been able to carry on with our twice weekly services in church and not resort to using Zoom. We are also lucky to have had the services of Leon and Tim Banham to stream our weekly Eucharist on Facebook, feedback shows that this has been popular with those who have not been able to come to church for whatever reason.

Apart from services the only noticeable activity has been cleaning which has been an important in so much as it keeps our church safe for our worship. Thank you to those who have been involved especially Fr Owain who is often the first one to roll his sleeves up and get down to the nitty gritty.

The saga of the weather vane continues which more from David in his report. The boundary wall is awaiting a second visit from the contractors after the failure of much of the mortar they used to repair the wall. (Watch this space). The vicar's vestry store room roof still leaks during heavy rain, hopefully this will be sorted out by the contractors when they come to replace the weather vane. Hopefully we can get the clock repairers on site at the same time to get our wonderful time piece back in action.

We have been fortunate in having the services of the community Pay Back team who have done sterling work in the church yard, thanks to Tony Lawton for organising this.

The church vestments, linen, altar frontals and ornaments remain in good order with the exception of one of the ciboriums which has been damaged, a new ciborium has been purchased whilst we await repairs of the damaged item.

My thanks again to those of you I have not named (you know who you are) who have worked behind the scenes including help with some churchwarden's duties to keep the place in good order and a point of focus for the people of New Mills.

Richard  
*Churchwarden.*

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT | JENNIFER RACKSTRAW**

At St George's we recognise that there are some who are determined to harm children or adults, deliberately seeking out groups or organisations where they can meet children or other vulnerable people. The Church is particularly vulnerable to these people. Creating and maintaining a safeguarding culture will discourage them from becoming involved for the wrong reasons and make it difficult for them to harm or abuse children or adults if they do.

In order to assist with the creation of a safeguarding culture the PCC has:

### **Appointed:**

- A designated Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with Fr Owain and PCC due to the vacancy left following Jan's move. The PSO is also the DBS administrator for church officers who work with children or vulnerable adults. The PSO has completed the induction training (March 17th 2021) and Co (April 29th 2021).

### **Adopted:**

- The House of Bishops' Safer Recruitment practice guidance (training booked for Monday 5th July)

### **Provided:**

- Access to a hard copy Parish Safeguarding Handbook (A5 size small purple book – please ask if you'd like either a hardcopy, or the link to the online version)
- Signposted access to a hard copy of the Diocese Safeguarding Manual

### **Responded by:**

- Encouraging the creation of an environment, which is welcoming and respectful and enables safeguarding concerns to be raised and responded to openly, promptly and consistently;
- Having a procedure in place to deal promptly with safeguarding allegations or suspicions of abuse in accordance with the relevant policy and practice guidance and in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser;
- Reporting all new safeguarding concerns (or allegations against church officers) to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. During the year there have been no new safeguarding reports made. Two previous reports have been reviewed with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser as part of the PSO induction training.
- Ensuring that known offenders or others who may pose a risk to children and/or vulnerable adults are effectively managed and monitored in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser;
- Ensuring that an "activity risk assessment" is completed and reviewed regularly for each activity, which is associated with either children or vulnerable adults, and run in the name of the Church.

### **Reviewed and Reported Progress:**

- Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting.
- The PCC has complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding.
- The online Safeguarding Dashboard is maintained and an action plan generated.
- The Parish Safeguarding Audit Tool was completed :
  - o Section 1: Publicity & Promotion of Safeguarding in Church
  - o Section 2: The Diocesan Safeguarding Policies
  - o Section 3: Responsibilities within the parish church
  - o Section 4: Keeping safe

This resulted in a list of tasks to be completed and which will be shared with the PCC.

*June 4th 2021*

### **Diocesan Safeguarding Contact**

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Hannah Hogg,  
Derby Church House, Full Street, Derby, DE1 3DR  
Tel: : 01332 388682

DBS Discloser and Barring Service  
PCC Parochial Church Council  
CO Basic Awareness Training (Safeguarding)  
PSO Parish Safeguarding Officer



**St. George's Parish Safeguarding Officer**  
Jen Rackstraw. Tel: 07790923549

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## **HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT | MAUREEN AUSTIN & JENNIFER RACKSTRAW**

As a church we understand that we owe a duty of care to ensure the safety of those who visit or use our church, hall or churchyard.

We also know that, where we are an employer or control premises in certain circumstances, we have to meet the requirements of health and safety law.

### **General statement of policy**

Our policy is to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that our activities are carried out safely and do not pose a risk to the health of our employees, volunteers, congregation, visitors and others who may use the church, churchyard or any other building we are responsible for. This will be in accordance with good practice and any relevant statutory provisions where they apply.

### **Organisation and Responsibilities**

The new Health and Safety Officer, Maureen Austin, took over the post just before lockdown.

Actions completed this year are as follows:

#### **First Aid**

- Three new St John Ambulance first aid boxes have been bought and are ready to put up in Church, and the Parish Hall. They are the medium first aid kit for the workplace, conforming with British Standard BS 8599-1:2019 for a working environment of 25 to 50 people. It is proposed to put them at the back of Church; in the Parish Hall chair room and the Parish Hall Office.

#### **Monitoring Slips and Trips**

- A periodic check of steps and slopes revealed potential trip hazards. White tape has been put on step edges (balcony; stairs to balcony; bell tower steps; font surround; carpet area near the choir stalls and the organ; steps to lectern)

We are happy to be informed of any Health and Safety issues (potential or actual) that you might have noticed.

## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Due to the pandemic, the Deanery Synod only met once during the year March 2020 to April 2021, via Zoom.

Canon Christine McMullen, Lay Chair, welcomed Bishop Libby, Matt Barnes and Archdeacon Carol to the meeting.

Philip Layland was appointed Treasurer of the Synod, and thanks were given to his predecessor, Canon Jack Cooper. For 2020 we had a very generous donation of £1580 that covered the full amount of the Deanery Levy. As we have a healthy bank account and limited outgoings due to the ongoing pandemic, there will be no Levy charged for 2021. The amount of Levy for 2020 was agreed at £20 per place on Deanery Synod. The current balance as of 14th October 2020 on the Deanery account is £3779.35.

Marian Overton, the Deanery Safeguarding Lead, expressed thanks to Sue Griffin, Acting DSA following Julian Hodgson's departure. Mrs. Hannah Hogg, his replacement, started work on 5th October. At this time, all Safeguarding Training can be accessed online and via zoom.

Bishop Libby, Venerable Carol and Canon Matt Barnes shared the Diocesan Vision and the strands of work that are emerging:

1. **Equipping Gods people for mission.**

Not just trying to back fill any voids but inhabiting new spaces and places where God is moving. This may be in Church, or new places and spaces. Resources and training and a shift in thinking needs to take hold. This is challenging us to do things differently for both Lay and Ordained. Ordained will be stepping into being an enabler of ministry. Laity, stepping into new space of new church where the things God is calling. The iceberg is flipping, historically the church has been clerically led, in the future the church will be lay led and supported by ordained ministry.

2. **Effective structures for mission**

Part of getting behind what God is doing is to have effective structures in place for mission in the diocese, exploring moving from 2 Archdeacons to 3 Archdeacons. Structure is important – just look at our bodies – they need a skeleton to build on. Having an additional archdeaconry – we can focus for mission on 3 key expressions of community life: city & urban, rural & market town, and transforming industrial. This will give us additional capacity – support clergy, area deans etc

3. **Buildings for mission**

Covid-19 has taught us that we can be church without walls and there other ways of being church. We have incredible holy places that need to become life belts for the church not millstones around the church. What is an appropriate use of our buildings and what is an appropriate way to sustain our built assets? We need to be more agile and flexible and it is likely that in some places there will be an endpoint. But we believe there is death and resurrection, and we hope that they can be reused by the community. We cannot have these conversations without the archdeaconry capacity.

4. **Sustainable resources for mission**

We need to build a diocese that is resilient, robust, fit for purpose, agile, being led towards building a lower cost model of church. Financial resources are being evaporated. Diocesan Synod agreed a budget for 2021 – 2025, there is a £4 million deficit as a diocese. That is not sustainable. We need to make decisions to release the vision and make us sustainable for the future. 70% of budget is expended on stipendiary clergy, we have to be wise stewards. We do not want to deny the fiscal truth that there are difficult decisions to be made. We need to do this to grow a healthy church for the future to fulfil God's plan. We have 1m people in the Derby diocese of whom 10,000 are Anglicans, we are in a minority and need to do things differently to reach out and transform lives.

The meeting of January 2021 via Zoom was postponed.

## DIOCESAN VISION

### Archdeacon's questions about the Diocesan Strategy and vision:

Our Vision is:

**The Kingdom of God – Good News for all**

Our purpose is:

**To proclaim afresh in this generation the good news of the Kingdom**

Our resources are:

**God own people equipped for every day, everywhere faith**

Our outcomes will be:

**Transformed Lives, Growing Church, Building Community**

The values that characterise us are:

**generous faith, courageous hope, life-giving love**

There are three key elements to the diocesan strategy intended to achieve this:

**increased lay leadership and ministry**

**a reorganisation of Archdeaconry's and a third Archdeacon**

**deployment – reducing stipendiary clergy numbers and rethinking how we use our buildings**

Venerable Carol has asked the Clergy to initiate a discussion on the three key aims of:

**Transformed lives;**

**Growing Church;**

**Building Community**

by considering the following questions:

**Where do we see ourselves fitting into these aims?**

**How have we been doing this historically?**

**What are the next steps for us?**

**What do these three mean to us individually and corporately.**

**Any responses?**

There has been much to be thankful for since the last APCM:

- We have managed to produce a four-part choir from six voices almost every Sunday and holy day. We are fortunate to have such loyal, talented and good humoured choristers, and while we can't wait to welcome back the rest of the choir, it has been remarkable how the chamber choir have grown in confidence while singing in a smaller group, socially distanced. We wish Tom a speedy return to the choir stalls and thank Jen for singing tenor in the meantime.
- The carol service, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter had some musical content, as did some holy days such as Ascension Day and St. George's day.
- We hope to welcome all the choristers back as soon as government/diocesan guidance permits, and look forward to hearing the congregation singing with us very soon.
- We are looking to reinstate the choir festival at St. George's (depending how other choirs have survived the pandemic), and we intend to sing in Chester cathedral at the diocesan choir festival on 16th October.
- We have had some enquiries about joining the choir which are being followed up as restrictions are lifted.

The organ continues to cause significant problems. All these problems are within the organ case. (The money spent on the organ a few years ago was invested in the console).

In summary:

- The wind supply is often seriously unstable rendering the organ virtually unusable
- Several notes are not working, and the number is increasing
- The stop mechanism has had some temporary repairs. Some leather work is perishing.
- The only way to deal with many of these problems is to empty the organ case, because with the pipe work in place, the organ builder cannot get to the broken part.
- Lots of pipe work is in a poor condition. Some larger pipes (c8 feet tall) are bent over and relying on neighbouring pipes to hold them up, creating a domino effect.
- Totally, one stop is far too loud and 'screams', and the associated pipes are inaccessible. The organ builder would replace this stop with second-hand pipes adjusted to blend more musically.

At some point soon we will have to commission an overhaul to address these issues.

- We much value the support and encouragement we receive from the church community. Many churches and cathedrals will emerge from lockdown in a seriously weakened position.

St George's emerges with confidence

- a team of practicing organists (Mair and Tim B - both ready to engage once more. Mair accompanying the choir and deputising for me, Tim playing for Evensong - my thanks to them both and to Leon our head chorister, for his tireless support and practical help in numerous ways.
- a well resourced choir in a strong position to grow.

When Covid restrictions were introduced in March 2020 our Eucharist celebrations were simplified to essentials; the assistance of Servers was no longer called for. Since then there has been regular communication between the members of the serving team. They are, anyway, a small bunch! At the start of that period Gwyn Bowers hung up her alb after many years of faithful duties. So we are now seven – the seven dwarfs? We would gladly welcome a snow-white! Anyone who is interested in learning to be an altar server should have a word with either Phil Kendall or Bridget Kik. This would be a good time to get in some basic training ready for the eventual lifting of Lockdown restrictions. Serving is a great privilege and an enjoyable contribution to our Eucharist.

## **FIVE MARKS OF MISSION AS SEEN AT SAINT GEORGE'S**

*The five marks of mission have been used since 1984 as an understanding of what contemporary mission is about. Put simply, mission is to carry on the work of Christ in the world; it is God's mission, and we are invited to join in, working to build God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. The five marks were adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996 and many dioceses and other denominations used them as the basis of action plans and creative mission ideas.*

### ***In what ways do we join with Christ in God's mission here in New Mills?***

#### ***To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (Tell)***

- preaching and teaching, hymns and music at our services
- interaction with the wider community
- a welcoming church
- pastoral offices – weddings, baptisms & funerals
- work with the schools
- website & social media presence
- Lunch Club
- our visible presence in the community
- Kingdom Season 2020 resources – prayer cards & candles distributed through local shops; prayer stones & cross, etc.
- occasional prayer walks around the churchyard
- Fr. Owain's Strategy for 2021-26
  - o nurture the existing congregation
  - o raise the profile of Saint George's within the wider community
  - o outreach to children and young families
- A Martyr's Message – quarterly magazine
- Live and livestreamed services for special events, e.g. Anniversary of first lockdown, death of HRH Prince Philip, etc.

#### ***To teach, baptise and nurture new believers (Teach)***

- sermons
- magazine articles in A Martyr's Message
- by word and example
- schools work
- pastoral offices
- online presence
- children's & adults discipleship resources on website
- Thy Kingdom Come 2021 – online and paper resources; Facebook reflections, etc.
- occasional apologetics pieces on Facebook – e.g. What is Easter? Thy Kingdom Come reflections, etc.
- recorded Collective Worship for St. George's CofE Primary
- Life Events strategy 2021-26
- Discipleship resources – printed and on website
- Recorded pieces such as series on the Advent Wreath; Spiritual Pilgrimage of Saint George's, etc.

#### ***To respond to human need by loving service (Tend)***

- we seek to work collaboratively with community groups, rather than to compete against them
- members of Saint George's are involved in the work of local groups and organisations e.g. the Volunteer Centre, visiting care homes, the foodbank, Wellspring (Stockport) etc.
- Lunch Club
- our work supporting New Mills Youth & Community Project and Youth Matters
- offering free or low cost Hall hire for community groups to have somewhere to meet
- daily prayer calendar for Church & Community – shared through A Martyr's Message
- Our response to the pandemic

*To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation (Transform)*

- our outward looking attitude
- charitable giving
- support and help given to local voluntary groups and organisations
- supporting the Community Payback Scheme
- seeking to work collaboratively with, rather than competing against, existing provisions by signposting what help is available

*To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth (Treasure)*

- energy saving lightbulbs
- work done by the community payback scheme and congregants
- Compost area in churchyard
- recycling waste from the church and the hall
- Youth Matters proposed flower beds on The Field
- using local business and labourers where possible to reduce our carbon footprint

Please do contact Father Owain if you know of anything we've missed so that we can celebrate all of the ways we are responding to these five marks of mission.

## CHURCH GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND THE COMMUNITY PAYBACK SCHEME

TONY LAWTON

Part of our Christian 'Mission' is to engage with many aspects of our local community and one example of this, is our involvement with the Derbyshire and High Peak Community Payback Scheme. The 'team' work one day per week under the direct supervision of 2 professionals. Numbers attending are between 2 and 6 and we have been pleased that during their time since last October they have made considerable progress in our extensive grounds. Vast amounts of fallen timber, holly overgrowth, ash saplings, brambles and litter have been removed. They have also cut back large amounts of 'epicormic' growth, which springs annually from our large number of lime trees. They have also carried out tasks – drystone wall building, strimming and mowing. This will greatly help the general appearance and add to the 3 strims per year which is done around the graves by the Council.

The Covid pandemic caused a stop to the work during lockdown, but work has now resumed. All being well we will have up to 7 more visits by mid-October, but this is dependent on Covid and the availability of the Parish Hall.

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## LUNCHEON REPORT | BARBARA LORD

It was wonderful to be able to welcome Father Owain to our Lunch Club meetings at the beginning of this year, but he only had two services with us before we had to close down. So we have not met since March 2020.

Unfortunately, during this time, three of our members have died---Jean Ford, Myra Sculley and Edna Holt and four of our members are in care homes.

In July we were unable to celebrate the 100th birthday of Dorothy Bleakley and neither have we been able to celebrate Diana's 80th birthday or the 80th birthdays of three of our helpers---Megan, Maureen and Tony.

I took over the organisation of Lunch Club from Christine Murdoch in 2005 and I am extremely pleased that Stephen and Adele are willing to take over the responsibility when we begin again.

Hopefully we will be able to meet again in the not too distant future.

## OUR WORK WITH SCHOOLS

*Sarah Brown, the Diocesan Children's Advisor is carrying out a survey of the work being done in our schools. Below is the reply Gen Tarr and I have submitted, which you will hopefully find encouraging and informative.*

Whilst I cannot speak to what took place under my predecessor, or during the two years of interregnum, I am happy to share with you that which we have done since my induction as Vicar in mid-February 2020.

We have a very close working relationship with Saint George's CofE Primary – bi-weekly recorded collective worship; Our livestreamed/recorded special services (e.g. Principal Festivals, All Souls, Remembrance, Advent Wreath reflections, Anniversary of first Lockdown; Death of HRH Prince Philip; Spiritual Pilgrimage of Saint George's, etc.) have all be flagged up to the school who have made use of some of these; myself and congregation member on board of Governors; congregants involved in the establishing and running a breakfast club for the children. We had begun exploring what help and support I can offer, but these ideas were parked as coronavirus impacted upon the world. Patronal Festival – we designed, printed and delivered to the school a card for each child with a picture of Saint George to colour, a very simple biography and prayer, and our warmest wishes on our feast day. Prayer walks in churchyard – e.g. patronal 2020; prayers during pandemic; Kingdom Season. Easter 2020 – created Easter Garden with prayer tree. Displays in Parish Hall window (Christmas – Nativity scene; Easter – Easter Garden; Patronal – Statue of Saint George; Light up New Mills display, etc. all of which most children saw each day as them made their way to school. Currently working on series of recordings about what we do in the Mass and why which will. Again, these will be posted on our Facebook, website and YouTube pages for the school to access.

Due to the pandemic breaking within weeks of my induction, links with the other schools so far has been limited to my contacting them in early March 2020 to introduce myself and offer my support, but we got no further as lockdowns, etc. impacted. During the early stages of the first lockdown, I was able to deliver Helping Hands cards (New Mills group offering help and support with shopping, collecting medication, telephone calls to the lonely, etc.) and during these visits, I offered each of the schools my help if desired. I was on the 'community group' of interviewers for the position of Head at New Mills school (via zoom) earlier this year. Whilst visits in church have not been possible, several of our primary schools have visited over the past year and explored/done projects on the churchyard. There is an 'ecumenical open the book team' who send out bi-weekly recordings for the schools to use. Many children at New Mills School pass through the churchyard on the way to/from school, so have been able to access the churchyard prayer walks/parish hall window displays we've put up.

The young people of our parish and our schools are prayed for regularly both in private prayer and public worship.

During the past year, I have prepared a strategic plan to shape my own ministry focuses, with three key areas – nurture the existing congregation, raise the profile of Saint George's in the wider community & outreach to children and young families. These three areas came from the parish profile and the PCC have agreed to support them. Subsequently, I have produced, and the PCC have given support to, a sub-strategy centred on Life Events. Children, young families and our schools have a central place in both of these strategies. To begin addressing some of the aims and objectives of these, some PCC members have been working to set up an after school song club for children running weekly during term-time, which launches soon once the governance and Health and Safety elements have all been put in place. Other members of the PCC are considering the viability of offering a 'Café' space to parents in a morning, around the school run, where parents can meet up, have a coffee and chat.

Form completed by:



Vicar

Date: 28th May 2021

# THE SPRINGBOARD SEVEN MARKS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

*Expressing the life of Christ through the local church*

## 1. ENERGISED BY FAITH

- rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive
- worship and sacramental life move people to experience God's love
- motivation: energy comes from a desire to serve God and one another
- engaging with scripture: in creative ways that connect with life
- nurturing faith in Christ: helping people grow in, and share their faith

## 2. OUTWARD-LOOKING FOCUS

- with a 'whole life' rather than a 'church life' concern
- deeply rooted in the local community, working in partnership with other denominations, faiths, secular groups and networks
- passionate and prophetic about justice and peace, locally and globally
- making connections between faith and daily living
- responding to human need by loving service

## 3. SEEKS TO FIND OUT WHAT GOD WANTS

- rather than letting our own preferences set the church agenda
- vocation: open to the Spirit's leading about what we should be and do
- vision: developing and communicating a shared sense of where we are going
- mission priorities: consciously setting both immediate and long-term goals
- able to call for and make sacrifices, personal and corporate, in bringing about the above and living out the faith

## 4. FACES THE COST OF CHANGE AND GROWTH

- rather than resisting and avoiding failure
- while embracing the past, daring to take on new ways of doing things
- taking risks: admitting when things are not working, and learning from experience
- crises: responding creatively to challenges that face the church and community
- positive experiences of change, however small, are affirmed and built on

## 5. BUILDS COMMUNITY

- rather than functions as a club or religious organisation
- relationships are nurtured so people know they are a part of a community of faith (often through small groups) with opportunities for service
- leadership: both lay and ordained work as a team to develop appropriate expressions of all seven marks of a healthy church
- lay ministry: the different gifts, experiences and faith-journeys of all are valued and given expression in and beyond the life of the church

## 6. MAKES ROOM FOR OTHERS

- being inclusive rather than exclusive
- welcome: works to include newcomers into the life of the church
- children and young people are helped to belong, contribute and be nurtured in their faith
- enquirers are encouraged to explore and experience faith in Christ
- diversities: coming from social and ethnic backgrounds, mental and physical abilities and age differences are seen as a strength and sought after

## 7. DOES A FEW THINGS – AND DOES THEM WELL

- focused rather than frenetic
- doing the basics well: especially public worship, pastoral care, stewardship and administration
- occasional offices: make sense of life and communicate the faith
- being good news as a church in our attitudes and way of working
- enjoying what we do and being relaxed about what is not being done

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## NOTES





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