



**Saint George's**  
The Parish Church of New Mills

THE ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

2026

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL



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

### Meeting to Elect Churchwardens

For all those on the electoral roll of the parish, ecclesiastical or civil

1. Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of Churchwardens (1 vacancy)
4. Close of meeting

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting Agenda

For all those on the ecclesiastical electoral roll

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Reports

	Proposer	Seconder	for	against	abstentions
a. Electoral Roll Report		YB			
b. Secretary's Report		JB			
c. Financial Report		LM/JR			
d. Churchwarden's Report		YB			
e. Deanery Synod Report		GT/BK			
f. Safeguarding Report		JR			
g. Vicar's Report		OM			
h. GDPR Report		LS			
i. Fundraising Report		BK			
j. Parish Hall Report		RH			
k. Music & Choir Report		TH			
l. Children's, Young Persons and Families Ministry Report		OM			
m. Saint George's CofE Primary School Report		JR			
n. Bell Tower Report		LR			
o. Luncheon Club Report		SG			
p. Handcrafted with Love Report		GT			
q. Nurture Group Report		OM			
r. Martyr's Players Report		LS			
s. Volunteer Coordinator Report		BK			
t. MAP Overview of the past year		OM			

Questions received on these reports

Receive en bloc Proposer Seconder Votes for against abstentions

5. Elections and appointments

a. Deanery synod representative	(3 vacancies)
b. PCC nominations	(3 vacancies)
c. Auditor	
d. Standing Committee – Incumbent; Wardens; Treasurer; Secretary; a PCC member.	

6. Review and re-adoption of Parish Policies  
Proposer Seconder Votes for against abstentions

7. Any Other Urgent Business duly notified (in writing to Fr. Owain not less than 2 clear days before the meeting)
8. Close of meeting

### First Meeting of the Parochial Church Council Agenda

1. Appointments
  - a. Vice-Chair
  - b. Secretary
  - c. Treasurer
  - d. Electoral Roll Officer
  - e. Safeguarding Officer
  - f. GDPR Officer
  - g. Social Media Officer
2. Date, time and place of next meeting
3. Closing Prayers

### Item 2: Minutes of the 2025 APCM

#### **Meeting to Elect Church Wardens 2025**

Present: Jan Brown, Barbara Lord, Ena Bate, Kathe Harrison, Shirley Shaw, Adele Gould, Stephen Gould, Julie Addison, Bridget Kik, Gen Tarr, Maureen Austin, Hazel Hole, Pam Lawton, Tony Lawton, Christine Wild, Stephen Wild, Richard Hole, Maragaret James, Joe Darlington, David Wellens, Edwin Taylor, Helen Taylor, Gill Crosland, Linda Kendall, Leon Shufflebotham, Tim Banham, Jen Rackshaw, Louise Morre, Charles Bale, Yvonne Banham, Father Owain ( no voting rights)

1. Prayers.  
Fr. Owain opened the meeting with prayers.
2. Apologies for Absences  
Katrina Heyward, Jo Bale
3. Election of Church Wardens  
There is one vacancy. Yvonne Banham is to continue as warden for a further term. Julie Addison has been nominated. We accept her nomination and all are in favour. We welcome Julie as our second church warden.
4. Close of meeting.  
This part of our meeting was closed.

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025.**

1. Apologies for Absence  
As above.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting  
These were accepted as a true and accurate record.  
Proposed by Maureen Austin and seconded by Bridget Kik. Accepted by all apart from 4 who were not present at last year's meeting.
3. Matters arising  
None.
4. Reports: Questions were taken
  - Financial report.
    - Q. David Wellens asked why Martyrs Players donated rather than rent and whether other hall users were concerned that they did not have use of the hall when plays were staged.
    - A. None of our authorised church groups pay rent for the hall. There has been concern from one hirer however the weeks of none use are written into all hire contracts. This was pointed out to the user.
  - Church Wardens Report
    - Q. Gill Crosland asked when the clock will be reinstated and Tony Lawton pointed out that ingress of water due to the need for pointing on the church tower is causing concern about the bells and the brackets that support them. Both reminded us that these issues have been of concern for a number of years and that funds towards these works have been raised by church members and community fundraising activities.
    - A. The clock has been repaired and is in safe storage until pointing work and damp issues on the tower and steeple can be carried out. The PCC are well aware of the issues of water ingress and damp. We have a large list of jobs provide by the Quinquennial Report, the West End Development Project, the Organ Report and the Church Yard and Pathways Survey. All are expensive works and funds available will not cover everything. The PCC have been working hard this year to assess all the necessary and desired work. We have decided that a consultation with the whole congregation is needed and an information pack will soon be issued to everyone. Also a workshop to explore and prioritize works as well as how to raise necessary funds will be arranged. Some works, for example the driveway and the church grounds are the responsibility of HPBC and the church warden is negotiating and discussing work timetables with them.
    - Fr. Owain explained that doing jobs piecemeal is not best practice nor effective use of the funds we have. Stephen Gould asked whether monies that have been raised are ring fenced. It was confirmed that they have. David Wallens reminded us that imminent changes to VAT will mean we need more money than is thus far set aside.
- MAP Overview of the past year  
Fr. Owain reminded us that much excellent work has been achieved this year and he thanked everyone for their hard work.

Tim Banham proposed that we receive all these reports en bloc. Gen Tarr seconded and everyone agreed the proposal.

#### 5. Elections and Appointments.

- Deanery Synod Representative.  
There is one vacancy and no nominations. Therefore we must leave this post vacant.
- PCC nominations  
There are 3 vacancies and 3 nominations.  
The nominations are Tim Banham, Joe Darlington, and Jan Brown. The meeting accepts these 3 nominations.
- Auditor  
Louise Moore proposes we change our auditor as the current one has become expensive and seems to work in a very 'last minute' way. She proposes we use Vivienne Cross Accountancy. They have church and charity experience.  
David Wellens seconded the proposal and all were in favour.  
We ask the secretary to write to our current auditor informing him that he will no longer be needed and thanking him for his work with us.
- Standing Committee  
This subgroup is made up of the wardens, the vicar, the co-treasurer/safeguarding officer, and a PCC representative (currently Leon Shuffle Botham. The meeting is happy with the current make up of this group and wishes them to continue. Helen Taylor proposed Tim Banham and Seconded by Tim Banham. Everyone agree and Leon abstained as he is a member of the group.

#### 6. Review and Re-adoption of Parish Policies.

These have all been reviewed by the responsible officers and are all compliant.

Leon Shuffle Botham proposed that we re-adopt them, Julie Addison seconded the proposal and we all agreed.

#### 7. Any Other Urgent Business duly notified.

There was no other business

#### 8. Close of the meeting.

Grace was said to close the meeting.

### First meeting of the Parochial Church Council ( for members only)

#### 1. Appointments

- |                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Vice Chair             | Jen Rackshaw                          |
| b. Secretary              | Jan Brown                             |
| c. Treasurer              | Louise Moore and Jen Rackshaw         |
| d. Electoral Roll Officer | Yvonne Banham                         |
| e. Safeguarding Officer   | Jen Rackshaw                          |
| f. GDPR Officer           | Leon Shufflebotham                    |
| g. Social Media Officer   | Leon Shufflebotham                    |
| h. H&S Officer            | Maureen Austin                        |
| i. Church Hall Manager    | Richard Hole (with support team help) |

All above appointments were proposed by Gen Tarr and seconded by Louise Moore. All were in favour.

#### 2. Date Time and Place of next meeting.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 at 7pm at Millers Refillers

#### 3. Closing Prayer.

The Grace was said to end the meeting.

### Item 3: Matters Arising

None received

### Item 4: Reports

#### a. Electoral Roll Report

Y Banham

This year the Electoral Roll was for Revision only.

Our Electoral Roll stands as follows: -

Removed 5 Residents and 1 Non Resident

Added New 1 Resident and 0 Non Residents

Giving a Total of 45 Residents and 18 Non Residents = 63 Members

#### b. Secretary's Report

J Brown

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. This is to enable us to play our part in God's mission and ministry in New Mills, to steward our buildings and churchyard for the furtherance of God's kingdom and conduct ourselves in ways which fulfil best practice in safeguarding, finance, and employment. The PCC also seeks to contribute to the wider life of the Church of England, including the consideration and discussion of matters relevant to the Church.

We began the year with a second church warden, Julie Addison. Yvonne was supporting and training her when sadly, Julie, for personal reasons had to move away from the area. We thank Julie for her brief time in this role.

Throughout the year the PCC has met regularly and attendance has been good.

At the very beginning of the year we considered whether we could change our working patterns to help us become more effective and efficient. Together we devised a system of smaller working groups to concentrate on specific area of responsibility:

- Oversight (governance, synod, wellbeing)
- Finance
- Safeguarding
- Buildings ( fabric of the church and parish hall),
- Communications ( social media, publicity, GDPR),
- Fundraising

The full PCC has met regularly, but a little less often, to receive reports from each group and to consider and vote on proposals put forward. A recent review of this method of working showed that we feel we are more focused and concentrated and are getting on with and processing issues better.

We really began to get to grips with the issues highlighted in the Quinquennial Report and the West End Project by holding a consultation with the full congregation. Joe Darlington has agreed to lead us forward in this area. He and Yvonne are collaborating closely with our architect and we hope that soon work will begin on making the Spire watertight which was agreed by us all as a first priority.

Fr. John Bains died this year and those of us who could, attended his funeral in his own parish we also held a memorial service for him at St George's.

c. Financial Report and Accounts 2025 L Moore and J Rackstraw

St George Parochial Church									
Receipts & Payments Account									
For the year ended 31st December 2025									
<u>RECEIPTS</u>									
2025 TOTALS								2025	2024
GENERAL ACCOUNT	PARISH HALL	LUNCH CLUB	CHOIR FUND	ORGAN FUND	MARTYR'S PLAYERS	CHURCH DEV FUND	TOTALS	TOTALS	
<b>Regular Giving</b>									
Bank transfer	8380						8380	8111	
CMF Envelopes	10730						10730	11536	
Collections at services	3183						3183	2998	
<b>All other giving and voluntary</b>									
Other donations (including Sum up)	2279						2279	17168	
Lunch Club Donation	400						400		
Martyr's Players Donation	300						300		
Memorial candles/votive stand	256						256	199	
Gift Aid recovered	3768						3768	11983	
Legacies received	8461						8461	0	
<b>Grants</b>									
Warm Spaces								974	
East Midlands Business								249	
Fundraising activities	3263						3263	1306	
Missions & Charities	2418						2418	2076	
<b>Dividends, interest, property income</b>									
ST GEORGES CCLA INVESTMENT	885						885	865	
Mackie Trust Dividend	3545						3545	3463	
Business Reserve Account Interest	607						607	752	
St James CCLA Account Interest	466						466	518	
PCC fees	11870						11870	7315	
Trading activities (NOT fundraising)								0	
Parish Hall Income		16041					16041	22382	
Any other income								27	
Insurance Claim								0	
Refund from Eon	1132						1132	4746	
Refund from Waterplus								460	
<b>Restricted and Designated Funds</b>									
Martyrs Players					8903		8903	6178	
Choir Fund			50				50	682	
Organ Fund				260			260	240	
Lunch Club			170				170		
Church Development Fund						50	50		
PH Refurbishment		2448					2448		
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>61942.98</b>	<b>18488.75</b>	<b>170.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>260.00</b>	<b>8902.77</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>89865</b>	<b>104226</b>
<b>TOTALS without restricted income</b>								<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
								<b>£80,432</b>	<b>£97,126</b>
<b>TOTALS with restricted income</b>								<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
								<b>£89,865</b>	<b>£104,226</b>

St George Parochial Church										
Receipts & Payments Account										
For the year ended 31st December 2025										
<u>PAYMENTS</u>										
2025 TOTALS								2025	2024	
	GENERAL ACCOUNT	PARISH HALL	LUNCH CLUB	CHOIR FUND	ORGAN FUND	MARTYR'S PLAYERS	CHURCH DEV FUND	TOTALS	TOTALS	
17	Cost of fundraising	1896						1896	326	
18	Mission giving & donations	2798						2798	2256	
19	Diocesan Share	43885						43885	34000	
	Deanery Levy	25						25	60	
	Fees to diocese	2805						2805	3978	
20	Salaries, wages & honoraria									
	Fees paid out	3314						3314	1350	
	Audit fees	660						660	594	
	Honoraria	1300						1300	2600	
21	Clergy & staff expenses	1218						1218	1073	
	Training costs								100	
23	Church running expenses									
	Altar supplies	280						280	624	
	Copier	1063						1063	1503	
	Stationary/postage	935						935	329	
	RSCM	137						137	270	
	Parish Office								54	
	Parish Hall expenses									
	Internet	732						732	581	
	Phone (Plusnet)	706						706	692	
	CCLI License	328						328	387	
	Parish fees/deposits returned	180						180	390	
	Other payments								282	
24	Church/Parish Hall utility bills									
	Church gas	1781						1781	2947	
	Church electricity	1196						1196	2271	
	Parish Hall gas		1476					1476	1727	
	Parish Hall electricity		2594					2594	4188	
	Parish Hall Water		881					881	3640	
	Vicarage water	596						596	349	
	Repairs/maintenance to church	1038						1038	4329	
	Repairs/maintenance to parish hall		235					235	1086	
	Cleaner for Parish Hall (Bridgecare)		1405					1405	2135	
	INSURANCE CHURCH	3840						3840	3563	
	INSURANCE PARISH HALL		1920					1920	1782	
99	Miscellaneous (toilet supplies/cleaning)		329					329	722	
<b>Restricted and Designated Funds</b>										
	Martyrs Players					6786		6786	4841	
	Choir Fund			285				285	79	
	Parish Hall refurb		8933					8933		
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>70711</b>	<b>17773</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6786</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>95555</b>	<b>85108</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>61943</b>	<b>18489</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>8903</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>89865</b>	<b>104227</b>
<b>EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER REC</b>		<b>-8768</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>-235</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>2116</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>-5690</b>	<b>19119</b>
£360 paid to Merseyside Organ from Business Reserve										

St George's Parish Church Council  
Financial Statement December 2025  
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	HOW THE MONEYS IN THE ACCOUNTS ARE ALLOCATED										TOTAL IN ACCOUNTS	
	General Fund	Parish Hall	Lunch Club	Choir Fund	Organ Fund	Martyr's Players	P/H Dev Fund	Defib Fund	Church Dev Fund	2025	2024	
<b>BANK</b>												
Payments and Receipts	-17465	6658	2006	493	6415	6231	2599	1245	33686	42,133	49,479	
Capital Reserve	1840								53110	54,950	54,203	
ST JAMES CCLA	10,749									10,749	10,283	
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>												
CBF Fund income and Shares	30,589									30,589	31,863	
1378@MMV £22,1983												
<b>FINAL BALANCES</b>	25713	6658	2006	493	6415	6231	2599	1245	86796	138,421	145,829	
<b>MOVEMENT IN NET WORTH from 2024</b>												
Balances brought forward from 2024	8710	26896	1836	776	6155	4114	9084	1245	86746	145829	125856	
Movement in balance through 2025	-6723	4762	170	-283	260	2117	-6485	0	50	-8121	19260	
Change in Value of Shares in 2025	-1274									713	713	
Transfers	25000	-25000										
<b>FINAL BALANCES IN 2025</b>	25713	6658	2006	493	6415	6231	2599	1245	86796	138421	145829	

GIFT AID TO BE CLAIMED FOR April-December 2025

We would like to begin by acknowledging and sincerely thanking Margaret and David for their continued assistance in helping us to undertake the role of Treasurer. Margaret continues to manage the weekly banking and David is always willing to share his expertise.

**2025 Income**

Income from congregational giving was down this year at £33,328 (2024: £40,012). We didn't have any grant income (2024: £1,223). Fundraising raised an amazing £3262.73 (2024: £1,306) with associated costs of £1896 (though some of this is held in surplus stock for future events).

Gift Aid was £3768.34 (2024: £11,983). This low because of the problems changing the designated person to complete the returns, so we are now claiming from April 2025, which means in 2026 the figure will increase significantly as we receive a good portion of last year's money as well. As more of the congregation register with us as taxpayers so we can reclaim more gift aid money, which is very helpful.

Coffee after church raised £2418.41 (2024: £2,076) which has been dispersed to the nominated charities. A huge thank you to all who help in raising this money and providing such an important service to the congregation.

Our investment income was £4430.67 (2024: £4,328) and this includes the income from the Mackie Fund, which pays us a dividend although we do not hold the capital. Interest on our accounts was £607 (2024: 1,270). This decrease reflects the fall in interest rates. Now that the authorized signatories have been changed so that the Treasurers can manage the accounts, we are in the process of moving the Business Reserve account to an alternative account with a much better rate of interest.

The PCC received £11,870 in fees for weddings and funerals (2024: £7315) and £2,805 (2024: £3,978) of this has been forwarded to the Diocese.

Parish Hall income was £16040 (2024: £22,382) of which £1100 was a donation from Lunch Club and £300 was a donation from Martyr's Players. This expected reduction in income is due to the Parish Hall no longer being used by Youth Matters, New Mills, as they now have their own premises.

Our final strand of income was a refund of £1132 (2024: £5,226) from utility companies. This is due to the diligent efforts of Jen Rackstraw in again negotiating with and chasing responses from the companies earlier this year.

**Expenditure**

Our greatest expenditure in 2025 was the Parish Share. We paid £43885 (2024: £34,000) which includes a payment of £4367 which was for the 2025 Parish share. This means our 2024 contribution was £38,367 and our 2025 contribution was £39,518.

In fees, honoraria, expenses and for training we paid £6,628 (2024: £5,717).

The Church and Parish Hall running expenses came to £7,631.29 (2024: £5,112). Utilities cost £11,023.89 (2024: £15,122). This reduction is again due to better rates negotiated by Jen Rackstraw, and do not include the refunds we received.

Repairs and cleaning for the Church and Parish Hall were £2,718 (2024: £13,617). The great reduction here is largely due to the volunteer group that clean the Parish Hall and we are very grateful for their contribution, and for the team that already clean the Church, arrange the flowers and do so many other acts of service that enable us to run so efficiently. A special thanks is due to Tim Banham, who does a lot of the daily maintenance on a voluntary basis.

This year, the Parish Hall has had a major refurbishment, at a total cost of £8933. Many thanks to the people who organized and coordinated this work.

**End of Year Position**

The Church still has £86,796 which has been given specifically for the Church Development Fund, and we will be using some of this in the near future on work to make the spire water-tight

Overall, the Church and Parish Hall combined have a positive balance of £32,636 (2024: £31,391). This would be the sum of money we had if we cashed in all our investments and paid out all the ring-fenced money. This means we are maintaining our financial position but our financial position continues to be vulnerable for day-to-day spending, as the parish share alone would more than wipe out all our assets in the current year. We are very fortunate that we do have money from donations and grants that has to be ring-fenced to spend on the buildings.

**Auditor's Report**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

**Section A Independent Examiner's Report****Report to the trustees**

Charity Name  
St George's Parochial Church Council New Mills

**On accounts for the year ended**

31 December 2025	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	
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**Set out on pages**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Receipts and Payments Account  
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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

**Signed:****Date:**

26 March 2026

**Name:**

Vivien Cross

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

FCA (Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales)

**Address:**

Bracken Clough, Start Lane, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, SK23 7BR

**d. Churchwarden's Fabric and Churchyard Report****Y Banham**

Once again it has been a very busy year which started on a high as Julie Addison was elected as second churchwarden, unfortunately the high was short lived as Julie decided to leave the area and resigned from the post once again leaving me as the only churchwarden, this may be a good time to mention that having served for four years I am only allowed to do six so in the next two years a replacement will have to be recruited, so if anybody feels they would like to assist in this role and gain some experience before I am required to leave please have a word with me

The church would not run smoothly without all the people who give their time and help in so many ways, I am so grateful to everyone who has helped me over the last 12 months to carry out my duties or helped in any way to make this a friendly welcoming place of worship that people are happy to return to

Our service attendance is still remaining steady and it is great to see some new faces in our congregation, we still continue to stream our Sunday morning 10am and also special services which still achieve significant views

I continue to attend diocese churchwarden training events which help me keep up to date with the latest information and also give me the opportunity to meet and discuss ideas with other churchwardens

In December we developed an electrical fault in the bell tower which affected the lights in the ringing chamber, on the stairs and also a small number of lights within the main body of the church, the decision was made under health and safety to close the bell tower due to lack of lighting, it took a lot of work and investigation to identify the problem but I am pleased to say the fault has been repaired the bell tower has been rewired and new emergency lighting installed enabling the tower to be reopened and ringing resume. A big thank you to Tim for taking the time and headaches rectifying this

I am pleased to report that we are moving forward with the work required to keep the church watertight, I would like to thank Joe Darlington for taking on the lead role in this process as he is now working closely with our architect and the diocese to move things forward, the initial task is to get repairs to the tower complete and having obtained quotes we hope this work will be undertaken soon, this will enable the clock mechanism to be replaced and we will be able to move forward on the other priorities highlighted by the consultation with the congregation and the quinquennial report

The payback teams continue to do a fantastic job not only in the churchyard but also working at the parish hall and the vicarage. We now have two teams who attend on Tuesdays and Saturdays and a big thank you to gen for providing them with your delicious cakes and buns which they really appreciate receiving

Although we have had several windy days this year I am pleased to report that no trees have been brought down, however some tree maintenance has recently been carried out, also the collapsed wall on the west boundary backing on to the cricket field has been rebuilt by A.E.S who have also complete the gravestone and monument topple test which has resulted in some remedial work being carried out

Over the past 12 months one of Fr. Owains vestments has been repaired and cleaned and new communion linen has been made by Leon and Hazel, this has allowed me more time to wash and iron them between services so a great big thank you to you both.

The alter frontals, silverware and ornaments are all in good order

**e. Deanery Synod Report**      **Canon Nikki Goodhew, Deanery Synod Lay Chair**

Dates of meetings held at Chapel-en-le-Frith Primary School  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Area Dean – Rev'd Dr David Mundy (retired 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025)  
Assistant Area Deans – Rev'd Mark Griffin; Rev'd Louise Petheram; Rev'd Fiona Kouble (from 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025)  
Lay Chair – Canon Nikki Goodhew

**2025 Peak Deanery Synod**

**House of Laity**

Number of Representatives as per Diocesan Formula – 76

Number of elected Representatives – 45

**House of Clergy**

Number of clergy: 19

**Synod 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025**

At our April meeting Nikki invited us to consider questions of pastoral care, including what is distinctive about Christian pastoral care, how it is organised in our parishes, and where the boundaries are between what we do as friends and what we do as church members. A lively discussion ensued! We also said goodbye to Rev'd Canon Tony Kaunhoven prior to his retirement, and David spoke warmly about the many ways that Tony had provided leadership and support to parishes, the Deanery and the Archdeaconry over many years.

**Synod 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025**

For this Synod meeting we were joined by Mandy Cornwall, Headteacher of St Andrew's C of E Junior School in Hadfield, and Liz Seymour, Deputy Diocesan Director of Education. Mandy led our opening worship and then talked about the difference being a church school makes, and about the MACAWS project in St Andrew's School which supports pupil wellbeing and mental health. Liz asked us to think about our church's mission with schools, and how churches and schools can work together in partnership. Later in the meeting we agreed the Deanery accounts for 2024 and the budget for 2026. We also welcomed Fiona as an Assistant Area Dean, and although David was unable to be with us we thanked him for his contributions to the Deanery over many years and wished him well for his retirement, which Nikki conveyed to him after the meeting.

**Synod 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

We welcomed Alison Fletcher from Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy to our November meeting to talk about the work of the chaplaincy, and some of the issues facing the agricultural sector in our diocese and how we can support it. We then split into small groups to discuss our parish's links with the farming community, and these discussions were then shared together. Mark also congratulated Nikki on her appointment as a lay canon of Derby Cathedral, and we heard a cautionary tale from one parish urging us to check our electrical systems are suitable before installing new appliances or heating systems!

At the end of 2025 we were still waiting for the appointment of a new Area Dean, and in February 2026 it was announced that Rev'd Fiona Kouble would be taking on this role. We look forward to welcoming Fiona as Area Dean at our next Deanery Synod meeting.

**f. Safeguarding Report**      **J Rackstraw**

Introduction

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is the key point of contact for safeguarding within the parish, supporting the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in fulfilling its safeguarding responsibilities. The PSO acts as the link between the diocese and the parish concerning safeguarding matters. Safeguarding continues to be a standing item on every PCC Meeting Agenda.

Authorised Church Activities – a reminder

In order for the PCC to authorise such activities the following need to be in place.

- Role descriptions for leaders and helpers
- A risk assessment for the activity
- Safeguarding training undertaken by the leader and helpers
- Safer recruitment process used when recruiting new leaders or helpers
- Agreement to follow the Church's Safeguarding Policy

Our current Authorised Church Activities are:

*Church Choir; Handcrafted with Love; Little Lights; Luncheon Club and Martyr's Players.*

The Parish Dashboard

The Parish Dashboard (the online pages where the work to promote effective safeguarding at the Church and Parish Hall is recorded and from where reports are downloaded) no longer judges the PCC by 'levels' and instead records a percentage showing progress towards 100%.

At the time of the 2024 APCM we were judged to be 79% compliant. We are currently 84% for the mandatory requirements

Mandatory requirements are found in:

- The safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops; and
- The new Safeguarding Code.

Progress towards 100% is shown online by 'dashboard lights'. Green is good - Amber for advance notice - Red means overdue.

This year some new lights have been added to the Dashboard to bring it up to date with Safeguarding requirements which does explain partly why we not higher than 84%.

Other actions / policies / procedures in terms of the Safeguarding Standards are Culture, Leadership and Capacity (80%); Prevention (68%); Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk – (100%); Victims and Survivors – (0%); Learning, Supervision and Support – (73%)

All of the actions we need to complete to improve this are reported in the Action Plan which is available to be seen at the APCM.

Safeguarding Reports

There have been two safeguarding incidents over the last twelve months. The details of these incidents are confidential. These are both now resolved.

One of these involved liaising with another diocese and the communication was straightforward and useful to both.

We have received one National Alert regarding a person of concern who could potentially pose a safeguarding risk and a further local safeguarding alert from Derby Diocese. Neither has impacted on us so far.

Jen Rackstraw is the Parish Safeguarding Officer, and also Safeguarding Governor at our school. She can be contacted via email [safeguarding@newmillschurch.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@newmillschurch.co.uk), by phone on 07790923549 or at Church.



## **Safeguarding Reminder for all at Saint George's**

"The parish of New Mills: St George is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. We follow the House of Bishops guidance and policies."

If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm, please contact the PSO or DSA. If you have immediate concerns about the safety of someone, contact the police and your local authority Children or Adults Services." A guidance pack for reporting concerns or allegations of abuse is available at the back of church, along with the Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

**Parish Safeguarding Officer** Mrs. Jen Rackstraw 07790 923549 or [safeguarding@newmillschurch.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@newmillschurch.co.uk)  
**Diocesan Safeguarding Team** 01332 388678 **National helpline** 0800 80 20 20

### **1. Lone Working with Children and Vulnerable Adults -**

***The PCC complies with the Church of England's safeguarding guidance regarding lone working with children or vulnerable adults and reminds all members of our Lone Working Practices:***

'Lone working' from a safeguarding perspective includes:

- An adult being on their own with one or more children (under 18). This might occur before, during or after a church activity (e.g. giving lifts home).
- An adult being on their own with one or more vulnerable adults (e.g. during home visits).
- The online equivalent of the above situations (e.g. a one-to-one online chat or direct messaging).

The Church of England's safeguarding guidance regarding lone working is found in Safer Environment and Activities. Please especially see pages 8-9, 17, 18, 21, 23-24, 28 and 34. (Link below)

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/safer-environment-and-activities-oct19\\_0.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/safer-environment-and-activities-oct19_0.pdf)

### **2. Appropriate Boundaries –**

***The PCC complies with the Church of England's safeguarding guidance regarding appropriate boundaries with children or vulnerable adults and reminds all members of our Appropriate Boundaries expectations:***

The core of safeguarding relies on an understanding of the dynamics of power and vulnerability in relationships. Within this context, appropriate boundaries may include:

- Interaction between people (especially if one person has a position of responsibility). This might be face-to-face or online.
- Acceptable touch (e.g. sharing the Peace, or hugs by the Welcome Team).
- Confidentiality.

The Church of England's safeguarding guidance regarding appropriate boundaries are found in Safer Environment and Activities. Please especially see pages 6-7, 23-24 and 28. Pages 8-10 of the above-mentioned guidance also refers to the Church of England's Code of Safer Working Practice. This includes guidance about acceptable touch. (Links below)

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/safer-environment-and-activities-oct19\\_0.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/safer-environment-and-activities-oct19_0.pdf)

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/code-of-safer-working-practice-02.07.2021.pdf>

### **3. Responding Well to Victims & Survivors -**

Section 2 of the Church of England's Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse states that:

***The Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC aware of the requirements and reminds all members that:***

"Following a disclosure, the Church Body where the abuse took place or is alleged to have taken place must take such reasonable steps as it is permitted by law to provide the support set out in the "Summary of the Church's Support Offer for Victims and Survivors" table in Section 3 of the CoFE's Safeguarding e-manual. This applies even if the victim or survivor lives in a different area or is no longer connected with the relevant church." (Link below)

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual/responding-well-victims-and-survivors-abuse/section-2-co-creating-support-victims-and-survivors-church-based-abuse>

## **g. Vicar's Report**

**Fr. Owain**

The past year has once again been a great blessing as we have sought to worship God and serve our neighbour. We have done the basics well, and have sown several seeds for the future, which, pray God, will bear much good fruit. Alongside the regular pattern of services, we now have a Children's Mass on the First Sunday of each month, which is also available to those who may struggle to get to the morning services, or who just fancy a simpler service occasionally. On the Second Sunday of each month, we have a Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion service in place of Evening Prayer. Joe Darlington has led some wonderful reflective services of meditation, and more are planned.

Alongside our worship comes our ministry. Our regular groups and activities have continued to enrich the life of Saint George's and our wider community. Over the past twelve months we've put a huge amount of effort into revitalising our Children's work, and in recent months I've been taking part in some training to develop some skills to reach out to young people of Secondary School age (See Children's, Young Persons and Families Report). We've explored a few possible outreach opportunities but wisely realised that now is not the time to take on new projects and initiatives (see MAP Review).

Looking back over the past year, we have so much to celebrate. The various reports included in this pack reflect the huge amount of amazing work being done. We thank God for all that we do and for everyone's contribution. However, there is a danger that we ask too much of one another, and risk doing too much. In recent years, we have perhaps started new initiatives without asking what we can let go of; we may have taken on new tasks without considering our existing commitments. So it seems timely that we remind ourselves of the *Seven Marks of a Healthy Church*, take a step back and reflecting on where we are now.

Are we doing too much and expecting too much of ourselves and others? Is what we currently do sustainable, beneficial, does it glorify God, serve our neighbour and enrich our common life? Are we giving due consideration to everyone's mental, physical and emotional well-being, their home, work and other community commitments? Have we got the balance between our worship, work and witness right. Are we so busy 'doing' that we have lost sight of our 'being' before God and alongside one another? I would encourage the newly elected PCC to give serious thought to these questions in the coming months.

Being mindful that the vast majority of what we have done over the past year is only possible because of the good will of our volunteers the PCC have appointed a Volunteer Coordinator to support you well. I'm extremely grateful to Bridget Kik for taking on this role.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to our worship, work and witness in any way. A huge thank you goes to Tim Hawkins and his team of Deputy Organists Mair, Tim Banham, Carolyn and our organ scholar Phillipa and to the choir who enrich our worship so beautifully. I thank our Lectors and Chalice Bearers, our Sidespersons, refreshments team to those who prepare the church for worship by serving on cleaning, brasses and flower rotas. And of course, thank you to every faithful soul prays and worships at Saint George's.

I would like to thank our Authorised Activity Leaders and their helpers for their ministry. Our Bell Ringers, Little Lights team, Luncheon Club team, the Martyr's Players and Handcrafted with Love team provide many ways that people can get involved at Saint George's. These activities provide opportunities for fellowship and fun. But we are an outward looking church, a church which seeks to our wider community too. So I thank everyone who is involved our mission through Open the Book, supporting the Food Bank, Well-Springs, those who volunteer at our charity shops, schools or in any other way.

On behalf of everyone, I thank those who have served on the PCC in the past year. Firstly, thanks to our Churchwarden for her hard work over the past twelve months. The new PCC year looked so hopeful with the appointment of Julie Addison as our second Churchwarden. Julie's appointment meant that Yvonne would no longer be carrying out two people's roles in addition to her many other roles, such as Electoral Role Officer, Payback Team Coordinator, Messy Church helper and so on. We began the year believing that many of the outstanding priorities and projects would be moved forward and at pace. But whilst we wished

Julie every blessing in the new chapter of her life soon after her election, her leaving the area meant the pressure was soon back on Yvonne as lone warden. We are hugely grateful to Joe Darlington for taking much of the slow and often frustrating buildings work from Yvonne's shoulders when his time and other commitments have permitted. We thank Louise and Jen for their care of our monies and for maintaining clear, understandable and accurate accounts and for all that they have done as our co-Treasurers. We also thank Jen for her continued hard work to ensure that we remain a safe and compliant church and for ensuring that those who minister among us do so in a safe environment. We thank our PCC Secretary Jan, who enables the PCC to carry out its functions in a timely and efficient manner, and for the gentle wisdom she brings to our discussions. And we must thank Maureen (Health and Safety Officer), Leon (Publicity Officer, GDPR Officer and Social Media Officer), Gen and Bridget (Deanery Synod Representatives), and Richard (Parish Hall Manager). I also wish to thank each member of the PCC for all that they do on our behalf. Sadly, three valued members of the PCC will be stepping down this year, Richard, Leon and Louise. And so we thank all three not just for their hard work and support over the past year, but for their many years of service and for all that they have contributed.

And I would like to say a special thank you to those among us who do so much, often unnoticed, those who prepare rotas, clean the church between services and the Parish Hall between bookings, those who wash the linens, those who pick up litter as they walk through the church yard, those who bake cakes and provide refreshments, those who go down into the Parish Hall cellar to drain floodwater or spend weeks during in freezing weather resolving issues with the building... the list goes on. Your generosity of spirit is hugely valued, and without you, Saint George's would feel and look very different. Thank you!

I would like to acknowledge the often unseen contributions of three such people. Tony and Pam have stepped back from their active ministry of doing so many things quietly in the background, and Margaret James stepped back from her role as bookkeeper. Over many decades all three have done so much, which has been hugely valued. So I'd like to say a huge thank you to all three on behalf of us all.

Sadly, as well as those whom we have lost as they moved away from the area, several much loved members of our Church Community have died. William Temple wrote that the Church is the only institution that never loses a member through death. So our sadness is tempered by our faithful hope that John Parkin, Margaret Wood, Helen Laithewaite, Diana Milling, Evelyne Spires, Ken Austin, Patricia Hill, Muriel Robinson and Father John Baines are all now resting in peace with all who have gone before us and will rise in glory.

The PCC and I are aware that there are now fewer people doing more things. We would welcome any offers of assistance from anyone who can regularly spare an hour or two to take some of the smaller jobs off the shoulders of those who are already giving so much.

If you are considering volunteering at Saint George's, it's important to remember that every single role requires some degree of Safeguarding Training. Most roles only require Basic and Foundation training (approximately 2 to 3 hours every three years). At the heart of all safeguarding training is one simple objective... responding well. Pray God it never happens, but do we know what to do if someone, knowing that we are members of the church, made a safeguarding disclosure to us? What should or shouldn't we ask? Who should or shouldn't we tell? When must we report this? It's vital that we all know how to respond to a disclosure. Anyone is welcome to do safeguarding training for peace of mind, regardless of whether you have a role or not.

As I have said before, I thank God frequently for calling me to be Vicar of your wonderful Church Community and to serve the wider community of New Mills. I am blessed by being surrounded by a wonderful, prayerful congregation who give so much to glorify God and serve our fellow humanity. And as ever, I share with you my prayerful hope that by this time next year, we will have doubled the congregation.

May God bless each and every one of you, and may all that we do here at Saint George's be done for God's praise and glory, the good of His Church and the benefit of all people.

## Springboard 'Seven Marks of a Healthy 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

#### **h. GDPR Report**

**L Shufflebotham**

I am pleased to report that during this period there have been no reported incidents relating to the handling, storage, or use of personal data within the church's activities that required escalation under the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

However, due to other increasing personal and work commitments and to help me focus on my other church roles such as Publicity Officer, Head Chorister, Martyr's Players Leader and the limited time I can dedicate to the responsibilities associated with the role, I will be stepping down as GDPR Officer at the forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This will allow the PCC to appoint someone who is able to give the role the appropriate level of attention and oversight going forward.

I would like to thank the PCC for their support during my time in this role.

#### **i. Fundraising Report**

**B Kik & G Tar**

Fundraising started with a bang this year as Elvis (Respectfully) paid us a visit. A hugely successful evening was held, thanks again to all who helped out, and a shoutout to James Ruffell, who provided his talents free of charge.

Just recovering from this exciting evening, along came the Pet Shop Boys tribute, thanks to Owain and Leon's organisation, who gave us a wonderful evening of dancing, singing along, and just sheer enjoyment.

Tony Vino will be performing his "clean" comedy on 24 October, and we are really excited to be putting on a great evening of laughter with this Christian comedian.

Although we do tend to talk about money in hushed tones, it's really important that while we are creative, fun, and welcoming, we also produce a good return on all our efforts.

Gen and Bridget are considering re-instating the £100 club, an effortless and fun way to raise some funds and have a lucky prize winner each month... more later.

Again, a huge thanks to everyone who puts so much effort into these events for us, from setting up tables. Booking tickets, publications, raffles, working the bar and kitchen and providing exceptional lighting effects ... you know who you are.

#### **j. Parish Hall Report**

**R Hole**

I can't believe it's almost 12 months to the day since our last AGM, so it's true I am getting old!

Not a great deal has occurred that is any different from previous years. Hirings for birthday parties has continued much the same as before and are our regular weekly clients have held steady with only a couple falling by the way side with the opening of the old youth club building on Longlands Rd.

Martyrs Players have played to capacity audiences and from all accounts been very well received.

A new floor covering had to be laid in the old kitchen area when rotten flooring was discovered in front of the fire exit.

Much needed redecoration was carried out in the hall and toilets during the school holidays, thanks to Paul Bowers for his efforts, I had many favourable comments from hall users when this was finished.

New chairs have been purchased to replace the old ones which have served us well for many years. Thanks to the generous donor.

You will have noticed that the Parish Hall gate is back in use.

I have decided after many years that now is the time for me to make way for some fresh blood. Old age takes no prisoners in this life and I find that it is becoming more of a chore rather than a pleasure. Who ever takes on the job will have my full backing and support, I won't ride off into the sunset and will be there for advice and assistance when wanted. My thanks to those of you who have helped in many ways over the last 12 months. It is much appreciated.

## k. Music & Choir Report

T Hawkins

The choir continues to flourish – it's very exciting to have such a competent four-part choir.

Our annual Choir Festival was a success and it was a delight to welcome Alex Binns (DoM at Derby cathedral) to direct the music.

We have purchased and performed more new music during the year to broaden our repertoire to include music composed by contemporary composers (including women) and music representing other cultures. I highly value the hard work, commitment and good humour which characterise our rehearsals.

The organ is in urgent need of restoration or replacement. Many notes do not work, and the occasional irregularity of the wind supply makes the organ unplayable. There is no musical reward or satisfaction to be gained performing on it.

I don't practise at church anymore, and I teach my organ pupils at the Music Studio.

I have been in touch with the Diocesan Organ Advisor but I am not in a position to pursue organ builders and potential sources of funding at the moment. We have commissioned advice on the best course of action and I need to discuss this with the advisor.

[In summary one builder told us that it will cost £250,000 to restore the organ. Another estimated £40,000 to deal with the most significant faults. An electronic replacement would cost around £40,000.]

I must express my sincere thanks to:

Mair for accompanying the choir. To do this, she puts in many hours of practice in a cold church on a dysfunctional instrument. By so doing she allows the choir to tackle more challenging music as I am able to conduct. I also appreciate Mair covering for me when I've been ill, both playing services and rehearsing the choir

Tim for playing weekly evening services and substituting for me on Sunday mornings during my absences

Carolyn for occasional performances of music too difficult for me!

Leon for his excellent support in countless ways as head chorister

Our Samuel Renn organ scholar, Philli, continues to make great progress and is developing the essential skills to lead music in worship.

## l. Children's, Young Persons and Families Ministry Report

Fr. Owain

Ministry and outreach to Children, Young People & Families (CYP&Fs) is one of our Mission Action Plan priorities. New Mills is a town of about 12 thousand souls (plus the surrounding villages) and with several fairly large new build housing estates currently being built or in the planning stage. According to the last census, there are in the region of 2,000 souls under the age of 18 years. The town has a large comprehensive school, and three primary schools, including a CofE Primary School. The Church has strong links with the Church School but very little contact with any of the other schools.

### Children (0-11 years – Primary School age and under)

- a monthly Messy Church, *Little Lights*, regularly attended by two sisters and their dad
- a monthly Children's Mass – attendance varies between 1 and 8 children and their parents
- provisions at the Parish Eucharist – typically between 0 and 5 children attend
- Three young boys at Evening Prayer regularly
- Kevin the Chorister
- also see the section on C,YP&Fs under MAP 2022-2027 review
- intend to repeat the 'Picnic on the field' again this summer holiday
- Collective Worship & Open the Book in school; governors, etc.

Despite Children, Young Persons and Families (C,YP&F) work not being a gift of mine, I currently lead our Messy Church, supported our Yvonne. JR kindly covers the sessions I am unable to lead. The opportunities are there, but the right person to lead on this is not!

### Young Persons (11-18 years – Secondary School age)

Whilst we have focused on our outreach to children in recent years, outreach to young persons may not have received the attention it deserves. I intend to address this in the year ahead. I am currently doing some training to help with this <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/>

### Opportunities:

- Secondary School next door
- Hundreds pass through churchyard each day; several congregate by church before & after school
- Our desire to include them
- Potential skills, ideas and resources gained through Launchpad
- Uniformed groups in the Parish Hall

### Thoughts

- Do those currently attending *Little Lights* feel they've outgrown it? Would they value something more mature? If so, what? Conversation needed.
- What can we offer Yps? What do they want? How can we find out?
- What skills, wisdom and experience do we have within the congregation and wider community?
- Three strands – Children, Young Persons and Families. How do we balance provision for each without overwhelming ourselves?

What might we offer to kickstart a ministry to the Secondary School aged children...

1. Consider after school discussion group
2. Conversation with St. George's CofE Primary School about what we can do to support the Yr 6 children as they prepare to move onto secondary school.
3. Could we offer a Homework Club to the Secondary School? For many YP, their parents either don't have the gifts, and some don't have the time, to support their children practically with homework. Can we offer something?

Ministry to Families flows primarily from both our work with the Church School and with baptisms, but baptism numbers continue to be low. There are other things we do (See C,YP&Fs under MAP review).

Jen Rackstraw, Gen Tarr and Fr. Owain continue to serve as Trust Members (formerly Governors) of Saint George's CE Primary School. The school is part of the Derby Diocesan Academic Trust (DDAT).

We have continued to support our Church School in their vision of COURAGE (written by pupils, staff and governors and updated September 2020)

'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1.9

By the time our children leave us, we want them to show or have experienced the following attributes:

- Communicate
- Opportunity
- Understanding
- Respect
- Achievement
- Growth
- Enjoyment

Saint George's CE Primary School is a happy, welcoming and inclusive place, where everyone is treated equally and expectations are high, providing a safe, caring and stimulating environment in which every individual is cared for spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. High standards combine with a broad, balanced and rich curriculum which encourages creativity and inspires a commitment to lifelong learning. Teaching and learning focused on the needs, abilities and enthusiasms of individual pupils, providing a tailored approach to supporting pupils with additional needs and giving extra support to those pupils that need it most. The school works in partnership with parents and stakeholders such as our Church to place our school at the heart of the community it serves.

The school is led by the Executive Head, Sarah Craig, and the Head of School, Fiona Hall. Because of the roll (93 children and 8 in nursery) both are split between Saint George's and Bishop Pursglove CE Primary School, Tideswell. Small schools often use this model to share the costs of high-level leadership and specialized staff, such as School Business Managers, which makes the schools more financially sustainable.

The Trust Board currently meets termly but will be moving to twice termly meetings once a formal joining of the two schools is complete, probably in September. We are led by the Chair of the Local Trust Board, Jen Rackstraw, who brings a vast amount of wisdom and talent to our meetings.

Prayer and spirituality are at the heart of the school's life. Prayer is said in classrooms at the start and end of the day and Collective Worship for the whole school takes place each day. Father Owain and Open the Book continue to lead Collective Worship on alternating Tuesdays. The school has joined us in Church for their Leavers Service, Harvest Festival and for Christmas and Easter Services.

This year, Jen and Father Owain attended the Annual DDAT Conference on the 06<sup>th</sup> November, where they learned about changes to the OFSTED process. They also attended workshops on various subjects.

You can learn more about our Church School and the amazing things that the school community does by visiting their website <https://www.st-georgescofe.co.uk/>

Our Report this year focuses on 3 sections – the Spire and water ingress into the Bell chamber, - the Ringing Chamber, - and our Ringers.

### **1. The Spire, Water ingress and 'conditions' in the Bell Chamber**

There continues to be an issue with water ingress, it was much improved following the re-fixing of the weathervane. However, during the electrical fault in November (Storm Claudia) the lights failed in the belfry, 2 of us went up into the spire and conditions were the same as reported during Storm Babet in 2024. I have therefore left details about the water ingress and refer to our detailed letter to PCC (13.01.24) when, during Storm Babet – driving rain and a SE wind – 3 of us went up into the spire where the actual bells hang, to see what was happening. Weather conditions were atrocious and we all were getting wet from constant heavy drips of water. These were falling from high in the spire with most drips hitting the top surface of a wooden plank, which was soaked. Water then fell off that plank and down onto the bells, wheels and ropes – and us. Most water penetrates when the prevailing weather is from the West or South West.

The bells do not suffer from being wet, but their bearings can be affected. More worrying is water falling on the wooden bell wheels and 'stays'. We have replaced a broken stay which simply rotted from constant soaking. (cost just under £100 and paid for by your ringers). The cost of replacing a bell wheel would run into £000's.

We know, and this is confirmed by the architect, that the lime mortar holding the stone spire has perished and the whole spire needs re-pointing. But a partial fix was suggested on the day the Weathervane was replaced. There are gaps where mortar should be and moss, growing on other joints which absorbs more water. In frost conditions significant damage is done. The whole spire needs attention but the top 8.5 metres from the Lucerne windows upwards should be repointed urgently. This was measured and quoted for, but of course requires funding. Lissie, Fr Owain, Yvonne, Tim and Jen met in November 2025 as there were concerns that it was not safe to ring due to the water ingress. Lissie explained the difference between the belfry and spire (where the bells are hung) and reminded the meeting that the bells have been in place since 1899 and it is perfectly safe to be in the belfry. The bells were inspected by the Derby Diocesan Church Bellringer volunteers in 2022 and a report provided and sent to the PCC. Fr Owain made Lissie aware of a fundraising group that has been established to hopefully raise funds for repairing the spire. Following the meeting it was deemed acceptable for ringing to carry on, once the electrical repairs had taken place, to ensure adequate lighting.

**Clock** – We should never forget that much funding was raised by New Mills residents a few years ago. We constantly receive bad press that our clock is not working.

### **2. Ringing Chamber (Belfry)**

We are delighted that the belfry has been completely rewired after the lights in the belfry and spire stopped working and the emergency light did not kick in, back in November 2025 (see above). Luckily this was after the muffling and ringing for Remembrance Sunday had taken place. We are extremely grateful to Tim for his many hours of hard work and expertise in all the electrical work he has carried out. His work has no doubt saved the church a large sum of money (probably into the thousands) for labour costs if an external contractor would have had to be brought in. Tim and Yvonne were fantastic at clearing the belfry so we could ring on the first Sunday of the month, which meant the bells kept moving and we were able to still ring. We recommenced Friday night ringing in March 2026, though the work was completed before this.

The tower could definitely do with a coat of paint as it was last painted 20 plus years ago by one of our now 'retired' ringers and her husband, who had been a decorator. There is new signage up for an emergency exit, leading down the original belfry spiral staircase and the keys for this are next to the door. This staircase has not been in use since 2013, when, under the previous incumbent, it was deemed unsafe by a Health and Safety church inspection. The belfry remains locked so no access can be gained without the key.

### 3. Our Bell Ringers

We are pleased to inform you that we currently have a learner. However we are in need of more ringers as we are a small band (mostly of retirement age) and do not always have enough (six) people to ring for practice nights or services. We ring the first Sunday of each month. **IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO 'LEARN' WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED.** Please contact Lissie Rawson – our Tower Leader on 07786 016649. We practice almost every Friday from 7.30 to 9.00pm. Ringing a church bell is a lovely skill of balance and timing. It is great exercise but not over strenuous. One of our ringers actually rang from the age of 5 – he is now 84!!

Only 2 of our ringers are New Mills residents, while the remainder are from nearby Hayfield, High Lane, Disley and Hazel Grove. We are regularly helped by a visiting ringer from Glossop – a very competent lady who is an active ringer across the whole of Derbyshire. All of us are registered as St George's ringers with the Derbyshire District Association of Ringers.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the death of Margaret Wood. Margaret and her husband rang for very many years at St George's. Our 5<sup>th</sup> bell is known as 'Margaret's bell' – it was her favourite. At the request of Margaret's grandson, we were able to ring half muffled for her funeral. The band included our previous tower captain and the lady who was headteacher at St George's primary school, when Margaret's grandsons were there. It was a privilege to be able to ring and toll 'her bell' as she left to make her final journey.

Lissie Rawson – Tower Leader

### p. Handcrafted with Love Report

G Tarr

We finished the collage and the Mans Shed helped us with the framing. We approached the Town Hall committee and it's now with them to hang it in their reception room.

We made a banner for Fasion Activists and they joined us to help. Spent time making Christmas tree decorations for the festival

Had a donations of Easter Eggs which we gave to the Payback Boys also made Easter cakes for them and our service on Easter Sunday.

The group is well supported and hope to have another project soon.

### q. Nurture Group Report

Fr. Owain

Around fifteen members of Saint George's meet in the Lady Chapel every Wednesday from 12.15 until 1.15 for our nurture group. We have a lot of fun, as well as sharing our wisdom, deepening our discipleship and sometimes grappling with the parts of our faith that we struggle with. The atmosphere is relaxed in this safe space where we can ask questions, share our doubts and feed our faith.

On the first and second weeks, we explore faith questions. Over the past year, we've discussed evangelism, how our church is shaped by its mission, the various Titles of Our Lord, and we are currently exploring the Seven Deadly Sins and their opposite virtues. Bridget and Yvonne both led sessions on Matthew's gospel, offering very different perspectives, and Linda led a couple of helpful and informative sessions on how the Church can use Artificial Intelligence constructively. Linda is now working on a couple of follow up sessions to deepen our understanding and calm our fears around AI.

On the third Wednesday, sessions focus on ways of praying, as we chew over spiritual matters. We have explored in depth the Eucharist, intercessory prayer and are currently working through the Seven Sacraments.

And on the fourth Wednesday, we have Bible Book Club. Using the Bible Society's *Bible Book Club* resources, we are working through the books of the New Testament.

We would love others to join us as often as you are able to. There's no need to be at every session! Copies of the scripts for each session can be found in the black Nurture Group folder, and anyone is welcome to flick through and see if there's any you'd like to use. Just let me know and I can print copies off for you.

### o. Luncheon Club Report

S Gould

Another successful year for the Friday Lunch Club, providing the Eucharist, fellowship, joy and a meal for all who attend.

We have celebrated many milestone birthdays, and we also had a special lunch club to commemorate VE day in May. We finished the year with our annual Christmas party.

Sadly we have lost quite a few of our long serving parishioners this year, all of whom dedicated their time, energy and commitment to St Georges Church, here in New Mills. We remember John Parkin, John Banes, Margaret Wood, Diana Milling, Evelyn Spires and Ken Austin. They are sadly missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to their family and friends.

This year in June we are looking forward to celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lunch Club.

I would like to thank Fr Owain for taking the service each week and also John Overton who is always happy to cover when Fr Owain isn't available.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who help on a Friday as without all these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to provide this special weekly event of church fellowship.

Stephen Gould

## **r. Martyr's Players Report**

## **L Shufflebotham**

Over the past year, the Martyr's Players has once again demonstrated what can be achieved when dedication, talent and teamwork combine.

### **Calendar Girls**

A particular highlight of the season was our highly successful production of Calendar Girls by Tim Firth in May 2025. This warm, humorous and deeply moving play, based on a true story, tells of a group of women who create an alternative calendar to raise funds for charity following the death of a loved one. It resonated strongly with audiences, offering both laughter and poignant reflection. From the first rehearsal to the final curtain call, the cast and crew worked tirelessly to ensure that the production was both sensitive to its subject matter and thoroughly entertaining.

One of the most rewarding outcomes of staging Calendar Girls was our ability to support an important cause. Thanks to the generosity of our audiences and the hard work of all involved, The Martyrs Players were delighted to donate £400.00 to The Christie, one of the leading cancer treatment and research centres in Europe.

The response from the church members and the local community was overwhelming. Performances were extremely well attended, with enthusiastic audiences filling the hall and offering glowing feedback. Many commented on the professionalism of the production, the strength of the performances, and the warmth and authenticity that shone through in every scene. The camaraderie among the cast was evident on stage, and this sense of shared purpose extended to everyone involved behind the scenes – from set builders, lighting, sound and costume coordinators to front-of-house volunteers. It is often said that having an active group such as The Martyr's Players, Handcrafted With Love, Luncheon Club adds greatly to the life of a church and strengthens its connection with the wider community and raising the church's profile within the town, and we can certainly see this with the number of comments we receive following our productions.

### **Nominations and Awards**

We have also been able to celebrate the groups achievements with the several nominations and awards presented by NODA – The National Operatic and Dramatic Association.

In January we attended the awards night for the District 1 NODA's in Manchester where we proud to be flying the flag for St. George's Church and The Martyr's Players.

### **We came away with two awards:**

**Best Female Actress in a Drama** – Kathryn Sinclair – Calendar Girls

**Best Programme Design** – Leon Shufflebotham – Calendar Girls

These awards mean we will be entered into the North West Regional Awards in May 2026

### **Giving Back**

Financially, the group remains in a healthy and responsible position. At the time of writing this report, The Martyrs Players currently have £6,231 in the account. From this, we are pleased to be able to donate £1,500 to the church. We are particularly grateful for the use of the church and hall, which provide us with a space for rehearsals and performances. At the same time, we are mindful of the need to maintain a secure financial base. We aim to hold at least £4000 - £5000 in the account at any given time to cover essential upfront costs for future productions, including performance licences, purchase of scripts, set materials, props, costume hire, lighting and sound equipment, and printing and publicity costs. Maintaining this reserve ensures that we can plan confidently and continue without financial uncertainty. We have also been able to support the Parish Hall in paying for the PPL Music License which allows all users of the hall to play recorded and live music. A requirement for all public venues.

When the PCC approved the formation of the Martyrs' Players in 2021, the primary objective of the group was to help raise the profile of the church within the town and to give back to the church wherever possible.

This remains our guiding principle, and we are pleased to be in a good position to be able to give this donation back to St. George's Church.

### **Breaking The Code – Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th May 2026**

Not all plans, however, have unfolded as we had hoped. It was with genuine disappointment that we had to postpone our planned September 2025 production of Breaking the Code by Hugh Whitmore. Due to a combination of cast illness and unavoidable last minute cast work commitments, it became clear that we would not be able to stage the production. While this decision was not taken lightly, the wellbeing of our cast always come first. We are grateful for the understanding and patience shown by our supporters, and we are happy that we are able to go ahead with the production in May this year.

### **The Last Quiz Night On Earth – Wednesday 23rd to Saturday 26th September 2026**

In September this year, we will be performing a play called 'The Last Quiz Night On Earth'. The audience becomes the participants in a final quiz night hosted by a pub landlord and quizmaster, as it's revealed that a catastrophic asteroid is about to destroy Earth. Despite the impending doom, the characters carry on with the quiz—complete with rounds, prizes, and banter—using humour and trivia as a way to cope with the inevitable.

### **Thank you...**

We would like to thank Richard for allowing us to use the Parish Hall for rehearsal and performance space and to Fr. Owain for allowing us to use the church for rehearsal space. We also want to thank Yvonne and Gen who have helped us at rehearsals over the passed weeks. Looking ahead, The Martyrs Players remain enthusiastic about future productions and supporting the church.

s. Volunteer Coordinator Report

B Kik

What can one possibly say in appreciation of our incredible volunteers? St. George's could not function without the amazing efforts and sacrifice of our volunteer teams. From cleaning brass, cleaning the church, keeping the hall pristine, the coffee teams, flower arrangers, running the Friday Lunch club, recording the service, the choir, Sidespersons, lectors, bell ringers, PCC, and the open the book team... you folks are the beating heart of our spiritual home, quietly and unobtrusively keeping everything ticking over.

Along with formal teams, we have church members who give up their time and efforts in "one-off" capacities such as fixing dodgy wiring, building Easter gardens, catching tables being dropped from a dizzy height for the Christmas Tree festival, and simply stepping up when needed.

Thanks to everyone, and it is my intention to feature every aspect of volunteering in the Martyrs' Message over the next few editions.

There is always room for strong backs, creative minds and resourceful folks who have a few hours to spare. Training is available for all aspects of safeguarding for volunteers easily and freely on the church website, and help is available to anyone who needs it. Please ask Jen Rackstraw or me where these are located or visit <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

On the subject of Safeguarding Training for volunteers, there may be some reluctance to complete this; however, I do want to stress that it aligns with the biblical principles of defending the vulnerable, protecting the weak, and creating a safe, loving community. It ensures the church complies with national legislation, and it trains volunteers on how to handle complex situations with vulnerable people.

I do encourage those thinking of volunteering not to be put off by "yet more training" - we are here to help. The more we volunteer, the easier it makes it for everyone.

So once again, a huge thanks to you all, and if I have missed anything out, I apologise most sincerely.

t. MAP Overview of the past year

Fr. Owain

	Nurturing Discipleship	Raising our Profile	C,YP&Fs
In addition to the regular services, activities and events (Luncheon Club, Open the Book, Bell Ringing, Choir Practices, post-service refreshments and so forth) the following are particularly noteworthy:			
APCM Report Pack – 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar – more reports and much more to report than previous years	✓	✓	✓
Discipleship Resources folder in Church	✓		
Parish Hall Decoration – 07 to 17 Apr		✓	
School Patronal Festival – 23 <sup>rd</sup> April – Lay planned & led – cancelled due to illness	✓	✓	✓
BCP EP OOS – booklet with OOS for those who struggle to follow/read the service books	✓		
Commemorating 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day	✓	✓	
Bell peel – 08 May; Luncheon Club celebrations – 09 May; EP – 11 <sup>th</sup> May 25			
NMTC Parks and Open Spaces five year project. Three members representing Saint George's	✓	✓	
TKC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>resources from TKC (collected after Chrism Mass)</li> <li>at home resources shared through OOSs over recent weeks</li> <li>Prayer board in church, on which people can add names of those they long to see come to faith, return to the Church and their streets and roads, with prayers... members invited to pause and pray for these as they make way up to High Altar.</li> </ul>	✓		
Thorsett Primary School Churchyard Visit – 05 <sup>th</sup> June – Cancelled due to weather	✓	✓	✓
Emailed Aidan Watson asking for advice and guidance on our Children's work and enquiring about funding for Children's workers – 14 <sup>th</sup> June.	✓		
Growing Younger Church Conference – Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> June – GT & YB representing	✓		✓
Handcrafted with love nurturing relationship with NM fashionActivistas – social justice through sustainable clothing, recycling etc.	✓	✓	
One World Festival Stall – 05 <sup>th</sup> July		✓	
Unable to attend Youthscape launch (10 <sup>th</sup> July). Added to list for future cohorts. <a href="https://www.youthscape.co.uk/">https://www.youthscape.co.uk/</a>		✓	
Attended Launch Day with Bishop Malcolm (14 Feb 26) and was selected to join the cohort being trained in March/April.			
Brownies Bell Tower Evening – Session with Brownies learning about the bells – 16 <sup>th</sup> July 25			✓
Emailed Aidan Watson again, following up from email on 14 <sup>th</sup> June, and registering interest for both the Children's Ministry Essentials Course and Catalyst Course – 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2024			✓
Renaming Godly Play as Little Lights LS putting details on Facebook with repeat scheduling for each month – 22 <sup>nd</sup> July		✓	✓
Nurture Group on Facebook repeat scheduling for each week – LS 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	✓	✓	
Drop in Picnic – Mondays from 11.45 until 1.15 during school summer holidays. Invitation to turn up with picnic lunch to meet with others; School sending text to parents	✓	✓	✓
Consider relaunching Song Club			
Place of Welcome – discuss with PCC etc. over coming weeks and look to launch after hols. GT suggests that we run this at the same time as Handcrafted with Love, offering this as an activity to any who attend) PCC Agenda Item – 06 Oct 24			
Martyr's Players – Phil Gibbons awarded best male actor for 'Every Brilliant Thing' at Greater Manchester Drama Federation		✓	
Another plea for CYP&F Lead & request for prayers – OOS 27 <sup>th</sup> July & following weeks	✓		✓
Signpost Children's Ministry Experience Scheme and Catalyst courses to PCC – 23 July 25	✓		✓
Conversation with 6.30 EP Cong re: HC – they'd like monthly HC. Need to facilitate this.		✓	
VJ Day 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 15 <sup>th</sup> August – Service at High Lea Park with NMTC		✓	
Festival of Choirs – 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept. 40+ choristers from around area; Cathedral Organist and Director of Music; Fr. John Overton lead and preached.	✓	✓	
PCC Proposal – That the second Sunday of the month evening service reverts to BCP HP (06 Oct) – Agreed at PCC 06 <sup>th</sup> Oct	✓	✓	
PCC Proposal – That we consider joining the Inclusive Church Network (06 Oct)	✓	✓	
PCC Support – survey congregation; PCC to revisit at Dec meeting – only one letter of concern Discussed but low attendance therefore vote deferred until next meeting (Feb 26) 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 26 – PCC agreed to apply to join. LS taking lead and completing application – Feb 26			
PCC Proposal – That we explore establishing a 'Place of Welcome' (06 <sup>th</sup> Oct) <a href="https://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk/">https://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk/</a>	✓	✓	
Agreed at PCC – 06 <sup>th</sup> October. OM to speak to GT. Invitation in OOS (All Saints) & information table in church inviting Coordinator, leaders & helpers – 4 trained leaders; no positive response to plea for helpers			
PCC Suggestion – OM suggests that the PCC identifies and appoints a Volunteer's Coordinator to oversee the safer recruitment, training and ongoing support of our volunteers (06 <sup>th</sup> Oct)	✓		
PCC agreed – 06 <sup>th</sup> October – BK considering taking on the role			
BK agreed – Jan 26 – exploring how we recruit, train & support new Sidespersons			
Producing 'An interview with...' for Martyr's Message, introducing our volunteers and explaining their roles (Feb 26)			
CofE's JOIN project – signposted at PCC 06 <sup>th</sup> Oct <a href="https://www.churchofengland.org/JOIN">https://www.churchofengland.org/JOIN</a>	✓	✓	✓

Members encouraged to look at webpage, resources and watch the recorded webinar, 'Recruiting Volunteers for Children's & Youth Ministry'. Pray, reflect & consider how this might be used at St. George's in preparation for a conversation at our next meeting Signposted at PCC 06 <sup>th</sup> October – Agenda item for meeting on 01 <sup>st</sup> Dec; Deferred to Feb 26 because of low attendance. 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 26 - PCC sees benefits but feels it's one step ahead of where we currently are. Revisit in future once BK has recruited from cong.			
School Harvest Festival in Church – 02 <sup>nd</sup> Oct		✓	✓
Simple Pocket Prayer Book for the Faithful Simple seasonal Office Booklet for the Laity	✓		
Bishop's Badge Awards – John Richardson & Katrina Hayward (05 <sup>th</sup> Oct)	✓		
Register Little Lights with Messy Church (09 <sup>th</sup> Oct) – we now appear on their directory		✓	✓
Elvis Evening (11 <sup>th</sup> Oct) – Amazing evening and great lay leadership	✓	✓	
Lighthouse Ministries Zoom session on Children and Youth Ministry (20 <sup>th</sup> Oct)			✓
Order crayons; resume producing weekly children's sheets			✓
BCP HC – Second Sunday of each month, 6.30 p.m. from November	✓		
Request for weekly Children's Mass on Sunday Afternoon – need to action and trial Agenda Item for Dec PCC 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month; 5 p.m. in Lady Chapel	✓	✓	✓
Plea for Places of Welcome team, C,YP&Fs Team & School Governor in notices – 23 Nov 25 & details on information table	✓	✓	✓
Pet Shop Boys Actually – 05 <sup>th</sup> Dec - Great evening, well supported by wider community; Great discipleship displayed in planning & running	✓	✓	
Silent Night: Contemplation by Candlelight – 08 <sup>th</sup> Dec – Joe D. (Lay planned & led) Several people from other churches attended.	✓	✓	
Festival of Christmas Trees & Cribs – 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec (set up 11 <sup>th</sup> /take down 15 <sup>th</sup> ) Good response from wider community Great discipleship & Lay Leadership displayed throughout Someone with Leadership Training present at every session; still need to tighten up on helpers Carolyn's flautists were very well received (Sat afternoon)	✓	✓	✓
School Nativity – 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 9.15 – Flyers for Christmas services distributed; Gen T. & Yvonne B. did fantastic job of welcoming and engaging with parents and children.	✓	✓	✓
Carols by Candlelight – Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	✓	✓	
Deputy Organist's covering Tim H.'s convalescence.- Dec & Jan – outstanding teamwork and high standard of playing	✓		
Joe D. taking lead on Buildings Project (Lay Ministry & Buildings priorities from my MDR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaising with architect</li> <li>• Exploring funding streams</li> <li>• Made contact with Gareth Greenwood &amp; Steve Johnson at Diocese</li> </ul>	✓		
Children's Mass – Launched 04 <sup>th</sup> Jan 25. First Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple Mass booklets produced</li> <li>• Use PE activity sheets for the sermon slot.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
Epiphany Carol Service - 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan. Fantastic feedback, few unfamiliar faces joined us.	✓	✓	
Quite Period - 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan; space and time for the faithful to recharge and 'be' rather than 'do'	✓		
Volunteer Coordinator – 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan - Bridget K and I met. BK to ensure foundations for Safer Recruitment are in place and robust, 2) explore how we honour current volunteers, and 3) recruit from wider community. First priority to recruit new Sidespersons. BK to speak to PSO & Churchwarden	✓		
Report on Post-Service Refreshments from Treasurer – OOS 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan 26. £2,112.00 raised for various charities (Jan-Nov). Dec figure to follow.	✓		
Warm Hub – Conversation with Gen T. (26 <sup>th</sup> Jan). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared RDs, RA &amp; Application for PCC Authorisation and sent to Gen for tweaking</li> <li>• Follow up email 16 Feb</li> </ul>	✓	✓	
Review Worship provision – PCC 02 <sup>nd</sup> Feb – ABCD review. Could we offer more pastoral services, e.g. monthly healing service?	✓	✓	✓
APCM Planning Doc – completed and circulated to full PCC (12 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	✓		
Reauthorisation of Church Activities in prep for APCM – All Activity leaders reminded and asked to begin preparations via email (13 <sup>th</sup> Feb); included in OOS (14 <sup>th</sup> Feb) for volunteer helpers. Printed copy on literature table 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb). PSO to send out packs ready for PCC to authorise at 23 <sup>rd</sup> March meeting.	✓		
Contemplation on The Lord's Prayer – 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Joe D. (Lay planned & led)	✓	✓	
Saint George's is now a member of the Inclusive Church network.	✓	✓	
Pastoral Conversation w. Ven. Nicky Fenton – 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb. C,YP&F's... consider the <i>What next?</i> that we can invite current contact into. Think about the individuals rather than the group ... what's the next step we can invite picnic families to, bridging the gap between initial contact and membership? Film night (watch film/discuss from faith perspective)? Labyrinth on field, etc.	✓	✓	✓
Launchpad Parish Visit – Debbie Patrick – diocesan Children's & Young Persons team (26 <sup>th</sup> Feb). Sees great potential due to our location by the Senior School and links through the primary school (May not have any activities, yet or contact with school, but many of the children know us from their time at Primary School.) Very impressed with our resources & current work.			✓
Our keeping of Lent, Holy Week and Easter – Outstanding!!!	✓	✓	✓

## Item 6: Review and re-adoption of Parish Policies

### POLICIES AND STATEMENTS 2025/26

Policy	Person Responsible	Committee Reviewed by
Baptism Policy	PCC	Oversight
Bullying and Harassment Policy	PCC	Oversight
Complaints Policy	PCC	Oversight
Conflicts of Interest Policy	PCC	Oversight
Cookies & Privacy Policy	Social Media Officer	Communications
Data Protection Policy: GDPR Privacy Notice	GDPR Officer	Communications
Domestic Abuse Policy	PSO	Safeguarding
Equal opportunities Policy	PCC	Oversight
Equality and Diversity Policy	PCC	Oversight
GDPR Data Breach Policy	GDPR Officer	Communications
Health and Safety Policy – Church & Parish Hall Policy	H&S Officer, Warden & Hall Manager	Fabric
Legacy Policy	Treasurer	Finances
Parish Safeguarding Policy – See Promoting a Safer Church Safeguarding Statement	PSO	Safeguarding
Personal Safety Policy: Ecclesiastical Personal Safety Plan for Church People	PCC	Oversight
Promoting a Safer Church Safeguarding Policy (Safeguarding Policy)	PSO & PCC	Safeguarding
Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy	PSO & PCC	Safeguarding
Social Media Policy	Social Media Officer	Communications
Whistleblowing Policy	PCC	Oversight

The above policies were adopted at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Signed



(Chair of the PCC)

Review Date: APCM 2026



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