

The Foreword 2019

Looking back over 2019, the year might be summarised simply as a “year of change”.

After 14 years at Poynton Parish Church, Rob McLaren surprised everyone by announcing that he and Jean would be moving to Holmes Chapel in October 2019. When October arrived, we were able to give them a good “send-off” with four varied and well attended “leaving do’s”, with various speakers thanking Rob and Jean for their ministry amongst us and sharing some amusing stories.

Rob’s leaving meant extra pressure and an increased workload on Aled, our curate and our two part-time self-supporting associate ministers Andy and Christine. But apart from a brief spell when there was a significant increase in numbers of funerals, there have been few issues. The leadership team of Aled, Andy, Christine, Joe and the two wardens (Helen and I) have met weekly on Monday mornings; with Hannah and Val/Lucy and Stephanie on a monthly basis to ensure good communications and continuity.

Val Parry retired from her position as Parish Office Manager at the end of the year and we were fortunate that Lucy Carman could join us at the beginning of October for a productive 3-month handover period with Val. Expressions of thanks and a happy retirement were expressed to Val at one of the December services.

Russ and Alan finally “retired” from their work in computerising the graveyard records, having spent hundreds of hours in front of a P.C.

Thanks also to the St George’s monthly retired lunch team and Women’s breakfast team who have “retired”. Also, to the St George’s Church cleaning teams.

Also, not to forget the work that Eileen has done as Treasurer and David who now have a significantly reduced role as we enter 2020. Huge thanks to the new team for taking on the challenge under Mike’s leadership.

Brian continues to keep the graveyard and buildings in good order, don’t retire yet Brian.

With so much change, sincere apologies to any I’ve missed.

An important first step of interregnum is the creation of the Parish Profile, my thanks to the team for producing a great document in such a short timescale, enabling the search for a new vicar to have begun shortly after Rob’s departure, with a date for interviews being set for the 11th March 2020.

Our partnership with San Andreas, Salta, Argentina was strengthened by the visit of Rob, Joe and Ann during October and we look forward to a small team from Salta visiting Poynton in May.

The youth weekend away was a huge success, so to our first Holiday at Home.

There is much to give thanks for as we reflect on 2019 helped by the reports in the following pages; so, I encourage you to read through the remainder of the document.

As we look to the future and the arrival of a new vicar, we will continue to be busy serving our Lord in Poynton and beyond. Grateful thanks for all that you do in serving the church and the community.

Yours in Jesus’ name.

Dave

Chairman and Churchwarden
On behalf of the PCC
April 2020

Annual Report: January - December 2019

The Parochial Church Council

At the APCM in April 2019 Dave McClelland and Helen Bradley were both elected Church Wardens.

During the year there has been a number of changes to the PCC membership. The current members of the PCC are: Dave McClelland (Chair and Church Warden), Helen Bradley (Church Warden), Revd Andy Livingston, Revd Christine Buckley, Revd Aled Seago, Joe Hadfield (Youth and Children's Worker), Brian Clarke, Val Parry and Vivienne Metcalfe (Deanery Synod), David Alcraft, David Coleman, David Capener and Les Hutchinson (Readers), Linda Bell, David Brackenbury, Hannah Brackenbury, Mike Bradley, Joyce Corlett, Susan Dodd, Bill King, David Myers, Eileen Shore, Victoria Timothy, Valerie Vibrans, and Peter Walker.

At the first meeting of the newly constituted Council:

- Dave McClelland was appointed as Deputy Chair
- David Myers as Electoral Roll Officer
- David Coleman, Bill King and Eileen Shore as Treasurers. During the year Mike Bradley took on the role of Treasurer from David
- Susan Dodd as Secretary to the PCC

Susan Dodd

Finance & Standing Committee 2019

The current members of this committee are:

Dave McClelland (Chair), Helen Bradley (Church Wardens), Eileen Shore (Hon. Treasurer), Bill King and Mike Bradley (Treasurer's) and Susan Dodd (Secretary).

Matters discussed were predominantly financial but also included Church Bibles, Vicarage, Youth weekend away, new personnel for the accounting team, Safeguarding, Home Groups, Office Manager, and Parish Profile.

Susan Dodd

Finance report 2019

It is good to be able to report again that our finances is in a very sound position. The General Fund shows a surplus of nearly £31,000 (or when the cost of the Ministry Fund and Events is taken into account about £27,500) and over all funds a surplus of just over £23,000. We have had fewer large projects this year, just the purchase of the hall chairs which was covered by the harvest Appeal in 2018 by donations to the hall fund.

Income to the General Fund in 2019 has been enhanced by the building of a new wall in the graveyard to display memorial plaques and we continue to receive good revenue from St George's and St Martin's halls though we are finding the cost of maintenance increasing as we have to rely more on outside contractors for cleaning etc. Because of this we did increase the hire charges in 2019. Perhaps our main concern should be that giving has decreased slightly; giving by standing order increased very slightly but by pledge envelopes it decreased by over £3,000. A consequence of this is that our gift aid decreases. As our budget for the coming year includes some large property maintenance projects we hope that

this is a blip and that a good level of giving will be maintained.

In our expenditure it was a shock to receive a water bill for St George's Church which was back-dated 2 years. We were aware of inconsistencies in water company's practices so we appealed and got some mitigation with the back-dating but it was still a substantial bill. The installation of a water meter should help this in future years. In addition to our usual Mission Giving we have provided financial support to a new church plant in Crewe.

Our investment with Brewin Dolphin had a very good year increasing by over £74,000 to £647,000. We also have about £175,000 in the Vernon and the CBF deposit fund which give very modest returns but give us easy access to cash for funding larger projects.

Perhaps a more exciting aspect of the accounts is that in 2019 the PCC took the decision to change our account management system and we invested in Expense-Plus a software package designed for churches so that their tasks can be streamlined and will make the accounting simpler. A lot of preparation has been going on for this and it will be used for all accounting in 2020. Mike Bradley is currently overseeing this process along with Bill King who are our treasurers for 2020. They will be supported by Liam Grey who will input data into Expense-Plus and Mark Topham who will be managing payments and Mark and Chris Trueman will be responsible for the banking. Ruth Arthur takes over as Gift Aid Secretary. Our thanks go to Russ Pattinson who has performed this roll for many years. Special thanks go to the office where Lucy Carman has taken over from Val where they receive and organise a lot of our finance. There are many others who have contributed to the smooth running of our finances and continue to do so. We pray that we can all adapt readily to new routines and ways of managing our finance.

*Dave Coleman
Bill King
Eileen Shore*

Cheadle Deanery Synod Report

The purpose of the Synod is to provide a link between the local church and the Diocese, so that every church member has the opportunity to make their views on matters of importance to the Church of England more widely known. The representatives for St. George's and St. Martin's are Brian Clark, Vivienne Metcalfe and Val Parry. There are usually 3 meetings each year where a variety of current topics are discussed. The March meeting was cancelled, but in June the Rural Dean gave a presentation on the workings of the Deanery Synod, its form and purpose and led the subsequent discussion. In October there was a presentation on **A Passion for Cheadle**, an outdoor event on Saturday 4th April 2020 aimed at bringing the community together and telling the story of Easter.

Val Parry

Electoral Roll

A year ago the existing Electoral Roll for St George's and St Martin's was dissolved and re-created. This is the practice within the Church of England every six years. Renewing it this way helps to maintain the relevance and accuracy of the Electoral Roll. It comprises a list of people who are baptised, over the age of 16 and regular worshippers. It is a requirement for people who hold certain roles within the church, e.g. Electoral Roll officer, church wardens and sidespeople etc to be registered on the Electoral Roll. Each person named on the Roll entitles them to vote and speak at the Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM). At the last APCM in April 2019 the number of people on the new Electoral Roll was 279.

David Myers

St. Martin's

The congregation has been in good heart throughout the year and their fellowship is strong. New attenders and visitors receive a warm welcome. The many volunteers ensure that all necessary tasks are done well. Lunches for the Retired are well attended and much enjoyed. The annual Carols and Cake service on Christmas Eve attracted a number of visitors and children - the hall was well filled and the service much appreciated.

David Alcraft

Fundraising Phase 3

The 2018 AGM Phase 3 Questionnaire left us in a quandary as there was similar enthusiasm for 3b (a glass room in the prayer corner for quieter prayer, a refuge for parents of babies and toddlers, a useful room for worship and meetings during the week) and 3c (toilets/servery in a small west end extension). We are committed to improving our church facilities and we hope to revisit these options later in 2020/2021 following the appointment of our new vicar.

The replacement of new chairs in St George's church hall was well received, the proposed lighting improvements were delayed but it is hoped the project will complete during 2020.

Dave McClelland

Child Protection/Safeguarding

Joe Hadfield, Gill Golding, and Hannah Brackenbury are the safeguarding officers at St George's Church. Hannah has worked and compiled an updated Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy as in keeping with the Diocese and Church of England guidelines. This past year Gill led a short but comprehensive session on basic safeguarding and practice for all those who work with children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This was well attended and greatly informative in helping all volunteers and workers to carry out good safeguarding as we seek to care for our church family and those who attend our various ministries.

Joe Hadfield

Sunday Groups for Children

Sand

This year St Georges Sand group (formally known as creche) has continued to enjoy a strong and regular attendance from our 0-3 age group. It has been lovely to see new babies welcomed into the group which has

brought our typical attendance on any given Sunday between 5-9 children.

We are so grateful for our team of 7 volunteers, welcoming two new team members this year. Our team members take turns to set up, lead and help with the running of Sand.

In the midst of a growing group of children I am on the lookout for more leaders and if you are interested in joining this committed team please speak to Beth Hadfield.

Each Sunday the children enjoy both a combination of free play with a range of toys as well as some structured activities. These include a bible story from our all age church curriculum, reflecting that even the littlest of Children can be encouraged by the powerful Word of the Lord in the bible. We enjoy singing well known and new simple children's Christian songs which is great method for children to learn bible truths, as well as colouring activities. We continue to be blessed and benefit from the overall guidance and prayerful support of Joe Hadfield.

Beth Hadfield

pebbles

Pebbles is a group which meets during the 11am Sunday Service for children aged 3-5 years. We regularly have between 8-12 children coming each week.

This year between January and July we have been learning about Jesus and his life. More recently (September and October) we have looked at being rooted in Christ from Colossians. Each week we checked how our bean plant was growing and putting down roots. During November and December we learned about Isaiah's message of warning to God's people.

As well as a bible story, we enjoy craft activities, singing and a variety of games.

Several of our regular Pebbles moved up to Rocks in September, but our numbers gradually increase as new and younger children join us from creche as they reach 3 years old.

Sarah Capener

rocks

Rocks has been a lot of fun this year, with a big influx of 5 year olds meaning we have around 10-14 children each time. We've looked at Jesus in John's gospel, life in God's family from the Sermon on the Mount and Colossians and Isaiah this year. Highlights have been learning Bible verses together and a great summer BBQ at the Colemans. We are very grateful for Giles Reger joining the leadership team and for Sarah Williams stepping in when we needed last summer. Please join us in praying for the Rocks to be rooted and established in Jesus.

Bizzy Bowles

boulders

Boulders is the Children's group for 8-11 year olds on a Sunday. This year we have averaged about 5 young people per week. In 2019 we have looked at Jesus' "I am" statements in John as well as looking at how we are to live as Christians waiting for Christ's return from

Ephesians and Revelation. This autumn we have followed Colossians and Isaiah with the whole church. Whilst this has been a challenge at times it has been great to focus on some great Christian truths. Thanks to Sarah Alddabagh and Steve Kennon who lead the group with me. Please pray for us to continue teaching the children faithfully and relevantly.

David Brackenbury

pathfinders

Pathfinders is the Sunday morning group for School years 7-9 (11-14 yrs) led by Joe Hadfield, Jo Seago and Michael Cairns. As with all the children groups since the Autumn term 2019, the Pathfinders have followed the preaching series being taught over in church with the adults, to help promote family discussion as part of supporting and developing the whole church family in spiritual growth. So far, we have studied Paul's letter to the Colossians, Isaiah ch1-12, and we have now started looking into Luke's Gospel account. In each series all groups have learnt a memory verse which helps to remember the main point or theme of what we've been studying. This half term as we look at Luke's Gospel, we will be memorising Luke 1:4 which shows us his purpose of writing; that we may be certain of the things we have been taught concerning our LORD Jesus. The Pathfinders have also been asking great questions and it has been really encouraging for us as leaders to see them desire to know God from His Word and seek to live and speak for him in their daily lives.

Joe Hadfield

pulse

Pulse meets every Sunday night during term time, and is led by Joe Hadfield, David Capener, and Vicky Timothy. Pulse is for school years 10-13 (14-18 yrs) and focuses on encouraging the young people to continue to grow as young disciples of Christ as we gather around God's Word. During the last two terms at Pulse we have looked at various topics, including idolatry and Christian ethics, where we looked at the topic of abortion and euthanasia, helping the young people build a Christian worldview as we see what God says on these topics, and then discuss how we might begin to discuss these things with our friends, seeking to care and love others.

More recently, we have also looked at the Old Testament book of Jonah where we saw how God has the ultimate right to judge, but also how in his character he chooses to show mercy and forgiveness to those who repent. In this we reflected on how in Jesus we see God's judgement carried out as well as his mercy and grace for all who humble themselves, like the Ninevite King (Jonah 3:6) and turn to Jesus in repentance and faith.

Next half term from February, we will be looking in-depth at the book "Battles Christians Face" by Vaughan Roberts, again seeking to help one another to live as Christians as we battle sin in our daily lives.

Joe Hadfield

4 B's

4 B's stands for Boys, Bacon Butties and Bible. This group is for School years 10-13 males and seeks to stretch the guys in the group in their discipleship of Christ. It is led by Joe Hadfield and meets every Tuesday after

school. It usually kicks off by playing various games, before eating copious amounts of bacon, and then finishes with a Bible study.

This term we have been looking at what it is to live for Jesus in our schools, or workplaces, and in particular how we might begin to share our faith with our friends. We have looked at 1 Peter where we have been challenged to be modelling Christ in our words and by our actions as it creates opportunities to share the gospel. To help with this we have looked at the "Two ways to live/the choice we all face" booklet which helps us understand the message of the gospel and gives us a clear and helpful outline which we can share with our friends.

Joe Hadfield

the base

The Base meets every Wednesday evening in term time and is run by Joe Hadfield and Dave Brackenbury. The group is for children in school years 3-6 (ages 7-11 yrs). It is a youth club with lots of energetic games and activities, followed by a Bible study and discussion to encourage the young people to learn more about who God is from the bible, with an opportunity for the young people to ask questions. Since September we have looked at answering various big questions that we hear asked when it comes to God. This has included the evidence for the bible, why God allows suffering, and the topic of science and God.

We have also been studying Jonah in the Base, seeing again God's right to judge those who turn their backs on him, but also the amazing grace he offers to all who turn to Christ and repent, because God is a God who is compassionate and slow to anger, abounding in love, wanting all to turn to him and not perish.

Joe Hadfield

the mix

The Mix also meets every Wednesday evening in term time and begins after The Base finishes. The group is run by Joe Hadfield, Jo Seago and Beth Baguley and is for school years 7-9 (11-14 yrs.)

The group runs similarly to The Base, with lots of games and activities for them all to enjoy, and we have also run the same teaching programme covering the apologetics questions and the book of Jonah but applying it more in-depth and age appropriate to the MIX.

Both these groups (the base and the mix) have more of an evangelistic focus to them, allowing plenty of time for questions and discussion. The aim is to create an environment where the young people can feel safe, to enjoy themselves, but also to make it easy to invite their friends from school, so that many unchurched young people can hear the gospel and have an opportunity to get to know Jesus and believe in him.

Joe Hadfield

Assemblies and Schools Work

Joe has been going every week on Wednesdays into Poynton High School along with the youth worker from PCF (hopefully also when the Baptist church appoint someone, they too can join us). Last term we looked at a series called "changing lanes" which seeks to help the students think about who God is, see the evidence of scripture, and see why we need Jesus. The lunch time

group is run to encourage those who attend to think about who Jesus is from God's word, and to discuss and ask any questions they have on Christianity. We also eat lots of cookies and doughnuts.

Before Christmas Joe also went in to run eight RE lessons for the year 9's on 'How Christians make ethical decisions' and answering the students' questions about Christianity. This was a fantastic opportunity to get to know the year 9 students as well as the RE teachers, building on relationships made throughout the year, as well as explaining the gospel to those who have never heard it.

As well as this, Joe and other members of the staff team went into year 8 lessons to answer students' questions on baptism and what happens after death. The school invite representatives from the different church denominations from Poynton for the students to see how our views vary or are similar. This was a great chance to present the gospel in an engaging way and for the students to hear God's Word on these issues.

Joe has also been in to give assemblies at Vernon Primary school, as well as helping out with various projects run by Sarah Williams (who works for CIST).

Joe is also hoping to go regularly to "mini v's preschool" to speak about who God is and who he is as our Creator. This will be to help the preschool meet the EYFS Curriculum guidelines, so is a great opportunity to offer our church's support with this, as well as teaching many children about God.

Joe Hadfield

Open the book team

Our ever loyal team of volunteers have visited Lostock Hall and Worth Primary Schools regularly this year. The schools love seeing us, and relationships are building strongly. Praise God for this opportunity – and we're always looking for extra volunteers for this fulfilling work.

Revd Aled Seago

Sandiley

Everyone who knows me knows that I love this camp. But what are my favourite things about it?

- *The leaders:* They are a dedicated bunch of people, most of them young enough to enjoy a laugh and join in with the silliness camp inevitably demands. Many of them have been planning their Sandiley games, evenings, workshops, talks etc for months beforehand. They work hard. But my favourite thing is that they live out their faith in such a loving and caring way, putting the young people first, going the extra mile, demonstrating God's love for the youngsters who attend.
- *The atmosphere:* There's such an atmosphere of love and support, encouragement and fun fun fun on camp. Everyone learns quickly that we get along with each other there and we help and support our neighbours. Friendships are forged there, and we count down the days until we can see our friends again the following year.
- *The music:* We are so blessed to have an abundance of talented musicians amongst our leaders - the band is hardly ever the same on two nights. They work hard to provide an atmosphere that makes it easy to

praise and worship God freely and in an uninhibited way.

- *The food:* Where else in a field would you be presented with a home-made lasagne followed by home-made baked Alaska.... I ask you?!!
- *The evening meetings:* We meet with God. Ask anyone who has been and they will tell you that camp is not just about the water slides, the barn dance, the trips to flamingo land, the four balls tournament, the competitions, the workshops, the craft sessions, the tuck shop, the swimming pool trips, the beach games, hunt the leader, the after-hours games, the film nights, the bonfire, the night wide games, the team chants, the Sandiley song, the Wagers performance, the friendships we renew and make there.....although these things are all amazing! We meet God there. We are taught, we worship, we are given space to question, and we learn that God sees us, He knows us and He loves us.

Do you know somebody who fits into the 10-16 age bracket who would love to join us? Give me a call! Julie Briggs 07769938269.

Julie Briggs

Holiday Club

This August we joined the superhero academy in a fun packed week where Stupidman, Captain Marvellous and Batman learned about Jesus the only true superhero. This was a very different format to normal as rather than using a book we used material written by Aled. We moved away from talks and used an extended drama to illustrate the Bible stories which were then discussed in groups. Many thanks to all leaders who gave up their time to help make the club a great success.

David Brackenbury

Pancake Party



The Pancake Party will be held on Shrove Tuesday (25th February). We are hoping that a number of families attend for games and activities for the children, followed by pancakes and ice cream for everyone.

Joe Hadfield

The Treat

The Treat is an event we host as an alternative to Halloween for families of the church and for the wider parish community. This year The Treat was well attended by families and was organised by Dave Brackenbury. It was a great chance to invite some of the people who attend groups like Brightstars, and other groups/events that seek to reach out to families. The Treat this year involved a variety of stalls, ranging from apple bobbing, glow in the dark bowling, and painting. Families went home with buckets of sweets, but also hearing something of who Jesus is.

Joe Hadfield

Youth weekend away

September also saw the very first St. George's Youth weekend away held at the Quinta centre near Oswestry. This was for all those of school years 7-13 (11-18yrs). This was very encouraging as we saw over 30 young people attend the weekend, all who either regularly attend

pathfinders or Pulse on a Sunday, or from the Mix youth group on a Wednesday.

The weekend consisted of many fun activities and games such as outdoor wide games (capture the flag), swimming, inflatable bungee run and gladiator competitions, football and other sports, a campfire (in the rain), and other fun and silly challenges.

As well as all the high-octane activities, and the copious amount of food cooked by a brilliant servant-hearted team led by our very own Helen Kershaw, we also spent a good amount of time in God's Word discussing who God is and how we can relate to him. Aled, as our "guest" speaker, went through how God is one God in three persons (Father, Son, and Spirit), and why that matters. We had lots of discussion on God's love to us in Christ, and him being our only hope of being in the New Creation.

We also had some small group discussions spending time in Psalms 1 and 2, seeing how we all have a choice to make in either accepting or rejecting God, and the consequences of this.

The whole weekend was greatly received and enjoyed by all who came along (both leaders and young people) and we will for sure be making it an annual event from this point on.

Joe Hadfield

Parenting Group

As a church we are very much seeking to partner with parents in the raising of their children and young people to live and speak for Jesus. Parents have the primary responsibility in raising their children to know and love the LORD and as a church we want to help and support them with that.

Last term (in November) we ran a parenting course which covered many topics including identity, gender, technology, sexualisation, media, and relationships. Mel Lacy from "Growing Young Disciples" organisation, spoke over three consecutive Thursday evenings discussing the above topics in relation to teaching parents how to engage with the confusing world our young people face. The course helped to train, equip and resource the parents who attended to be raising their children to build a Christian worldview, to enable them to know: who they are in Christ, how they relate to others, and how to discern for themselves to be living and speaking for Jesus in every aspect of their lives.

Joe Hadfield

BrightStars

BrightStars is the St George's toddler group that runs every Wednesday during term time. It is busy, noisy, full of fun and a most exciting ministry to oversee. Our main play area is in the hall where there are lots of different zones for the children to play in. We also have another room upstairs where there is craft, painting, sand/water play and a book corner. Each week at 10.40am we also gather together to hear a bible story (or a book based on a Christian story) and then have a time of singing. The group is very popular with over 40 families coming every week, with some of them attending WLDO once a month. Over the last year at Christmas and Easter, we have made a real effort to share the good news of the gospel with the families who attend, by doing stories and songs that tell

of these truths. We have also purchased a number of Christian children's books to give away as gifts at these events. We want to ensure BrightStars Christian ethos is reflected in all we do.

We have organised a couple of socials for the Mums and other female carers who attend BrightStar's to come along to, as way of trying to build stronger friendships, however these have mostly only been attended by church mums. This is something we continue to prayerfully consider how we can best befriend those in our community.

BrightStars would not run without our fantastic group of volunteers and we are so grateful to all who help. There is a lot of behind the scenes work involved in serving refreshments, preparing and running craft, maintaining and setting out the toys, registering folk as they arrive... the list goes on. It is a fantastic, servant hearted and committed group of people and we are so grateful.

We always need more helpers so if you would like to join in this exciting ministry please do speak to Beth Hadfield.

Beth Hadfield

Who Let The Dads Out?

This group meets at St George's Church Hall, 9.30am-11am on the second Saturday of each month (except August) and is run by Joe Hadfield along with help from Peter Walker. The group is attended by many dads and their children from the local area and over the last several months it has been encouraging to see a significant growth in numbers and regular attendance.



Throughout the morning the children can play, eat toast, hear some bible stories and do some singing. The dads/male carers can play with their children, meet with other local dads and enjoy bacon butties cooked by Wes and Vicky Timothy.

The hope also from this is to invite those who come to the church men's events such as men's breakfast for opportunities to hear how the gospel is at work in people's lives.

Joe Hadfield

1st Poynton Scout Group

It is another year of growth here at 1st Poynton. We now have a 2nd Scout Troop that runs on a Thursday night. This now means we have 2 Beaver Colonies, 2 Cub Packs and 2 Scout Troops and a waiting list for several of the sections.



In these unprecedented times, all of our sections are currently suspended due to COVID-19; but we're continuing to work with our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts through online meetings, videos and activities using our Facebook Groups. This week, we've launched 'Badges at Home' encouraging the children to complete a variety of different activities such as art, craft, cooking and helping at home; to keep them busy and to help parents during this time. It all counts towards badges they earn and are rewarded with!

All our Leaders are volunteers and enjoy the work we do. It's an enjoyable activity for adults with their peers as

much as it is with the children and I'd suggest anyone who has an interest in any of the things we do to come along and experience it with us. It rewards with as much as you give and more.

*Sue Wardle & Steve Gale
Group Scout Leaders (acting) 1st Poynton*

1st Poynton (St. George's) Brownies



2019 was another happy and successful year at Brownies during which the girls experienced plenty of varied activities. The new Brownie programme has taken off, and as part of it, the girls have undertaken three of the Theme awards, these being "Know Myself", "Express Myself" and "Be Well", during which they undertook 4 hours of unit activities and badges appropriate to each Theme.

One of our Young Leaders held a dance night, we had a visit from a dentist in Poynton who gave a talk to the girls on oral hygiene, we made theatres out of tents, one of our fellow Guiders and County Archivist brought old uniforms for the Brownies to try on. We had a treasure hunt, sports night, held an evening learning lots of new songs, made crafts and generally had a really fun time.

Tree climbing, crate stacking, orienteering, adventure grounds baking and decorating cupcakes, handicrafts, disco with 100's of glo sticks, lots of food, fun and laughter but not too much sleep. This is a resume of our pack holiday which was held at Whiteley Woods Girlguiding Activity Centre in Sheffield, in September.

Eating chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate sounds a good way to spend a wet Sunday in October. Our Brownies joined 4th Poynton Guides on a trip to Cadbury World, which was really successful.

We attended Harvest Church Parade and provided lots of tins and packets of food for Wellspring. We paraded in the Remembrance Sunday Parade, and once again, prior to this special Sunday, we decorated six of the windows in the Church Hall representing thanks to those who died in Wars.

During the Church Parade in December, the Brownies gave toys for Wood Street Mission, and also made an enormous effort and filled 15 rucksacks for the Rucksack Appeal at Wellspring.

Christmas crafts are always welcomed and lots were made. Father Christmas made his annual visit handing each Brownie a present.

We look forward to another year of activity and adventure in 2020.

*Shirley Ross, Guider
1st Poynton Brownies*

Pastoral Care Hub

The Pastoral Hub meets three times a year, coordinated by Stephanie Rookwood, bringing together the leaders of the different areas of pastoral care at St. George's:

visiting at home or in hospital, bereavement visiting, home groups, the Retireds' Lunches, Afternoon Chat and Teas, Make and Take and Living Well. A new team led by Kryss Turner took over the running of the Retireds' lunches in September and these are going well.

Stephanie Rookwood

Afternoon Chat 'n' Tea Groups (ACT)

There are four of these that meet monthly in member's homes. People who would not normally want to be in a home group or come to a 'Christianity Explored' type group are encouraged to come to one of these. Currently there are thirty three members. Each group has its own host, leader and co-leader. The main reason for the meetings is to encourage us all to understand more about our faith and our walk to follow Jesus in a lighthearted and fun way. At the moment study of a particular text in the bible is not done. So ice-breaker questions such as 'What impresses you most about Jesus Christ' and other similar ones are used. We also learn more about people in the bible and learn to pray together. All the talk is low-key and non-judgemental and done in an encouraging way. People also may realise that to move on to a home group could help them. It also helps us to keep in touch with and pastorally care and pray for each other. New members are always welcome. Hosts, leaders and co-leaders meet annually to exchange ideas and to encourage each other. Thanks go to them for their commitment to the idea of the groups as we serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

Margaret Goode

Prayer Ministry Team

At the end of the first Sunday morning service at St George's members of the 0930 Prayer Ministry team make themselves available to pray with and for any people requesting prayer. As we do so we endeavour to listen with care, pray with concern, and keep



everything we hear confidential. The 09:30 team consists of Jayne Boden, Katie Briggs, Margaret Goode, Alice Lees, Ann McClelland, Colin and Stephanie Rookwood.

Once a month on a Monday night this team meets up to pray as a group for those within the whole church family who are known to be in need of prayer. As this meeting is open to all we are often joined by members of the 11:00 Prayer Ministry team.

At least three times a year there is a service of prayer for Healing and Wholeness led by the 09:30 and 11:00 teams in turn. Whether people come forward on these occasions, or go to the back for prayer, many express thanks at the end for the benefit that praying in silence for themselves or others brings.

The team which prays specifically at the 11am service, continues to meet for prayer, admin issues and fellowship. We are currently keen to think further about how to raise the profile of prayer ministry after the service, which we understand can be hard to request when families are often collecting young children. We hope that a prayer ministry service to be organised for the 11 o'clock congregation in the next few months, will help people see more value in this fundamental ministry. We would love to hear any testimonies or answers to prayer that people would be happy to share to encourage others. We give thanks to

God for what He is doing and for the team, which consists of Les Hutchinson, Sue Coleman, Anne Harwood, Brian Harwood, Alan Tokeley, Francis Cooke, Alison Moverley, Hannah Brackenbury, Christine Buckley, Mike Holt, Helen Livingston, and Fiona Kennon.

*Colin Rookwood
Fiona Kennon
Les Hutchinson*

Business Chaplaincy

Over the past year, 2019, I have spent some time getting to know new shop-keepers and inviting them to our services and activities. It has been good to be able to get alongside people with particular problems such as last summer's flooding which did quite a lot of damage in Park Lane. Shop-keepers were grateful for our concern. As mentioned in last year's report it's helpful if we can have invitations printed for other major church festivals as well as Christmas, Easter, Guest Services and Harvest Thanksgiving. These can be a basis of my conversations with people, give them information about St George's and make them feel welcome. It never ceases to surprise me how willing people are to accept an invitation card or talk to me.

Revd Francis Cooke

Alpha 2019

No Alpha courses were run in 2019.

Revd Christine Buckley

Christianity Explored

No courses were run in 2019.

Revd Aled Seago

Northumbrian Quiet Services

We have been leading quiet services based on the Northumbrian Community Evening Prayer liturgy on an alternate monthly basis during the year, with a break during the summer months. This takes place in the prayer corner at the back of church. Attendance is around 15, and those who come along seem to value the opportunity to have a period of unhurried quiet reflection which is welcomed in our busy lives.

Meryl & Peter Stowe

Home Groups

There are currently fifteen small groups which meet at various times on Monday to Friday each week during term time. The primary purpose of the groups is Bible study and prayer, but, in addition, the groups are usually the first line in pastoral support. This has been particularly encouraged over the last twelve months with a good deal of success.

Approximately one hundred and fifty people from St George's and St Martin's regularly attend a home group. A new daytime group was created in the autumn as part of the plan to grow this ministry within the church.

Each group has its own particular 'flavour' so it is usually recommended that anyone wishing to join a group visits two or three in order to find the one which is most suitable for them.

Please have a chat with me if you would like to find out more about home groups or are interested in joining one.

Susan Coleman

Parish Weekend – Grange-over-Sands

In April 2019 we enjoyed a Parish trip to Grange over Sands – a regular biennial residential trip shared by our various congregations at St Martin's and St Georges.

We were delighted to welcome Steve James, vicar of Holy Trinity Platt, to lead us through various themes arising from Matthew's Gospel: the presence, the blessing and the provision of Jesus through his church, among others. Preaching directly from the Bible, Steve led with warmth, humour and authority and left us all feeling both deeply encouraged and also challenged.

The children studied and shared the same themes and our thanks go to staff and volunteers for their time and spiritual investment in our children and young people.

We were blessed with good weather. Activities included swimming, hiking, geocaching, rounders, local sight-seeing and tea drinking!

Sadly, our usual venue of Abbot Hall (now known as Lambert Manor Hotel), where we have stayed for many years now, will not be available or suitable for our next Parish Weekend, provisionally pencilled in for April 2021. Discussions will take place following the interregnum with the new incumbent as to the preferred pattern and style of residential weekends in the future.

Peter Walker

Keswick Convention 2019

In 2019 a group from St George's went to Keswick to enjoy the annual convention there. The hardier amongst us camped whilst the rest of us used self-catering accommodation or similar. This year the morning studies were from Romans 8 and were a great encouragement. We also found time to enjoy the beauty of the lakes as well as finding a gap in the rain to all enjoy a barbecue together.

David Brackenbury

Churches Together in Poynton

There has been an influx of change amongst the churches in Poynton. The Baptist welcomed Rueben and the Methodists welcomed Ros as their new ministers, whilst of course our church said goodbye to Rob McLaren in October. Our church is now represented by Aled Seago and Dave McClelland. Andrew Allen serves as the chair of CTiP, and the ministers have met a number of times over breakfast. Due to all these changes, we postponed the joint midnight communion service until 2020. In the meantime, we have been helping with joint initiatives such as attending RE lessons in the High School.

Revd Aled Seago

Sunday Services

2019 has seen us studying what it means to be human, one to one encounter in John's gospel and a book called 'Caring for One Another.' After a season of more topical subjects we returned to our bread and butter in the Autumn with Colossians and Isaiah. These have been received well.

We are two churches of four congregations, and as such it can be difficult to feel like one family. Despite this, numbers across all our services maintain healthy numbers, and following Rob's departure we are grateful

to our lay readers and other volunteers to help us with leading services and preaching.

Revd Aled Seago

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

This ministry continues to flourish and we regularly have enquiries about baptism from our own members and others who do not attend church. We held 5 courses during the year led by clergy. The first meeting of each course helps parents decide between a baptism service and a thanksgiving service. We look at both services and particularly the promises that parents make on behalf of their child. For those who choose baptism there is a four-week course where we study Mark's gospel together and cover the basics of the Christian faith. A few couples do not follow through with their enquiry possibly because of the requirement to attend the course. However, we believe that we are responsible for helping parents to understand the promises that they are making on behalf of their child. During 2019 we had 14 baptisms and 3 thanksgiving services. We are pleased that following the study and a service for their child, some of the couples become members of the church and attend church regularly.

Revd Christine Buckley

Weddings and Funerals

Over the past year we conducted approximately 50 funerals shared between Macclesfield/Stockport Crematorium and St George's Church. We continue to have an excellent working relationship with our local funeral directors. Our bereavement team are an important part of this ministry and provide follow up visits if requested. The remembrance plaques on the new wall at the Garden of Remembrance have been very well received and we now have a large number of new plaques in place with a number on order. This new option has proved to be helpful for grieving relatives.

Last year the clergy team conducted a total of 9 weddings at St George's Church which is up on last year. St George's Church is still seen as a good 'venue' for a traditional church wedding whilst offering flexibility when more contemporary items are requested. We support marriage by providing a Marriage Preparation Day which all couples attend. This is very well received by the couples.

Revd Andy Livingston

Bereavement Visiting Team

During the year the Bereavement Visiting Team continued to offer support to the next-of-kin following the funeral or cremation service that a member of staff had taken. This came by way of a phone call to ask how they were getting on, and whether they would like a follow-up visit. Although not everyone took up this offer, those we spoke to appreciated the contact, and several came to the Service to Remember in November, and some to the 'Blue Christmas' service in December.

During the year the Bereavement Visiting Team comprising of Patricia Dye, Viv Evans, Colin and Stephanie Rookwood, was joined by Peter Allcock.

Colin Rookwood

Music Report

May I take this opportunity to express our thanks to Carole Ball, who after many years of service has stepped down from her role as co-ordinator of hymns for the 9:30 service, and we thank Catherine Silman for taking on this role in conjunction with leading the choir. We too continue to see David and Peter working well as organists, and following Mike Grist's retirement, we welcome a new ensemble led by Elizabeth Walker once a month.



11am music has been well led and coordinated by Louise and Rick with Andrew also taking turns to lead the groups. The St Martin's rota of keyboard players are very much appreciated and it's going well. At Midweek 10.30 we have one hymn accompanied by CD which serves us well.

Revd Aled Seago

Puppets



Christmas 2019 marked the 16th year of us running the Puppet Ministry and it still proves to be a popular fixture during the crib services. The team has had various members over the years, including a turnover of youth volunteers. The performances involve modern pop songs with Christian lyrics and a biblical message. The current team consist of myself, Hannah Capener, Charlotte Capener, Olivia Capener, Charlie Kershaw and Daniel Kershaw.

Claire Harwood

Christian Aid

Christian Aid week 2019 was very successful for both St. George's and St. Martin's, collecting a total of £2,269.36. This figure though, was a little down on the previous year due to one or two collectors being unable to take part and therefore a few rounds were not covered. This year I would appeal to church members to consider joining thousands of volunteers who take part in the UK's longest running fundraising week.

My grateful thanks go to all the fantastic collectors and my great team who helped to count all the money. If you can spare some time this year to post out and collect the Christian Aid envelopes, I would be delighted to hear from you. Please give me a ring or tap me on the shoulder, so we can look forward to another successful collection for the 2020 Christian Aid Week 10th to 16th May.

Linda Bell

Direct Mission Partners

Our planned visit to our partner church of San Andres in Salta, Argentina, took place in October. Rob McLaren, Joe Hadfield and I visited for 2 weeks, enjoying a great opportunity to gain insight of the running of an urban church in the Anglican Communion, sharing the love from our church to theirs and their love for the people of Salta. A return trip by a team from Salta is planned for May this year. We have struggled to support the people of the forest as we have been unable to visit and it is difficult to send financial help. Garry Ion continues his extraordinary and supportive role in Uganda and South Sudan.

Ann McClelland

St. Martin's Bonfire Party

Remember, remember the 5th of November, perfect weather, great team, brilliant event. Excuse my slight paraphrasing of the infamous nursery rhyme but it perfectly sums up the 2019 St Martin's Bonfire and firework extravaganza. Cold, crisp, clear conditions saw hundreds and hundreds of folks turning out – we literally had them queuing along the roadside waiting to get in. Such was its popularity the firework start time had to be delayed to ensure everyone got to enjoy the show. And boy what a show! We spent a little more on the whizz, bangs this year and it showed in some truly magnificent displays which had the crowd oooohhing and aaaahhhing! Inside the throng devoured the multitude of burgers, sausages, cakes and soups on offer with next to nothing left at the end of the night. Thankfully the new hall floor survived unscathed.

This event relies on the many volunteers who burned, exploded, cooked, baked, served and BBQ'd on the night – so massive thanks to them. The bar has been lifted high for the 2020 event – can't wait to push it even higher!

Steve Kennon

Women's Breakfasts

We hold two breakfasts each year, spring and autumn in the church hall. The attendance averages 70 and is open to church members and their guests.

Our last speaker was Stephanie Rookwood who gave us an inspirational talk about her journey as a Christian, sometimes difficult and painful but also full of joy.

The ladies are offered cold meats, cheeses with fruit depending on their dietary requirements, it's always enjoyed.

The core team who have served in this ministry for 16 years have just retired and the next breakfast due in March is to be headed by Deborah Myers and her team, we wish them every success.

Jayne Boden

Women's Events

Our Women's Events have had another positive year meeting every few months to encourage friendship, welcome ladies new to the church and provide opportunities to invite friends along. As in previous years we have found our film evenings and book swap events to be very popular. Our Christmas event was again most enjoyable and tested our creativity, while also giving time and space for us to reflect on Advent. As we start the new

year we are excited to be taking on the running of the women's breakfasts, alongside our other events and look forward to our first breakfast in March. This and all our events are aimed at women of all ages in the church, and we would encourage you to come along and also to invite your friends.

Deborah Myers

Men's Events

The Men's Events group had a further diverse programme of events during 2019 which saw the customary breakfasts with testimonies and curry-based evening, as well as an inaugural chef's demonstration evening with Scott Surtees.

Over the summer there were more varied events scheduled including a trip and meal along the canal aboard the Judith Mary II as well as a visit to Poynton's local microbrewery and meal at the Legion. The close of the year provided the opportunity for us to compete to get out of an Escape Room against the clock.

We welcomed Mike Bradley to our team of organisers during the course of the year, and we hope that 2020 will provide renewed opportunities for men from St George's and St Martin's to meet together and have fellowship in the Lord's name.

Rhys Williams

Make & Take Team

We are two teams - one from the 9.30am service and one from the 11am service, and our aim is to serve those who are finding it difficult to prepare meals for a short time. They may be sick and on their own, or just out of hospital, maybe they've just had a baby, or perhaps they've broken a limb and need help. Or simply that they are just not able to summon up the energy to prepare food for themselves right now. Our teams prepare lovely meals and deliver them on a rota taking into account any dietary requirements. We might do alternate days for a couple of weeks until they are back on their feet, or every day for a week, whatever suits. If you hear of anyone who needs our help please contact either Krys Turner for the 9.30 service or Julie Briggs for the 11am. Many thanks too to our lovely teams for volunteering their help!

Julie Briggs

Higher Poynton Tennis

Shortly after the clocks go forward at the end of March, playing tennis on a Tuesday evening at Higher Poynton can begin again. The two clay courts are available to members of St George's and St Martin's and their friends each week throughout the spring and summer months. The courts are very well maintained and the emphasis is very much on having fun. 2019 was a good year with a successful annual tournament taking place shortly after Wimbledon. New members would be very welcome – look out for the start of the season in the weekly notice sheet. You can turn up and play on a weekly basis or join the club for the season. For more information contact David Myers on 07767 237196.

David Myers

The Bellringers'

Ringling for the 9.30am service on Sundays has again been fully supported by our regular ringers. During the year rang for 7 weddings and tolled a single bell for a funeral.



We thank the Friends of St. Georges who made a generous donation towards the purchase of two new handbells to make the top octave of our set fully chromatic.

In October we rang a quarter peal and call changes as a farewell to Rob and Jean McLaren. Rob's interest and support for our ringing during his incumbency is much appreciated.

Our social events included our Annual Dinner, Ten Pin Bowling, Poynton Players, a walk around Wilmslow, an afternoon outing to ring at four churches in Derbyshire, and a "Ding and Dine" evening at Chapel-en-le-Frith.

Rosemary Spencer (Tower Secretary)
David Friend (Tower Captain)

St George's Wine Society

The Wine Society meets once a month on the fourth Friday. During the year we have been on a Trip Over the Andes, A Wander Around Portugal, South Africa and also the Antipodes. We held our usual Spring Dinner at Arighi Bianchi an event which is always well attended. Our regular BBQ was held in August and again the attendance was excellent. Our Hogmanay wines for each course took place in December, together with food to accompany each wine. We usually taste three red and three white wines and sample wines we have not had before. The meetings start at 7.45pm with wine tasting at 8.00pm.

We are always looking for new members so why not bring your friends along and taste some wine, a little food and good friendship.

Valerie Vibrans

Twenties & Thirties

The TnT group is designed to be a place for people in our church in their twenties and thirties to have fellowship together. In 2019, the group met twice: a summer social and a Christmas social. Original plans for more regular get togethers haven't quite worked this year as we're a busy bunch, so this is something we hope to look at in 2020.

Revd Aled Seago

Refreshments, Altar Linen and Purificators

Refreshments have been served after church services and on many social occasions. These are much appreciated. Our thanks go to Linda Stevenson and Kath McAllister who have arranged tea and coffee rotas on Thursdays, and Sundays at both services respectively, ably helped by their teams. New volunteers are always welcome.

Our thanks also go to Ann Booth, Marjorie Trueman and Anne Decker, who've kept our altar linens and purificators in such good order.

Jenny Cooke

Church Flower Team

2019 Another year of Serving God through flowers, our small but hardworking team: Kath McAllister, Anne

Davies, Linda Bell, Val Vibrans, Pat Dean (with the added help of Kevin Bell, Brian Clarke and Malcolm Wood) have decorated the Church to the best of their ability. I am proud to be part of such a caring and talented team and I thank them for their constant support to me and one another. If anyone would like to join us, either to water or flower arrange, you would be most welcome.

We thank those of you who have donated money for flowers in memory of a loved one; it is very much appreciated. If anyone would like flowers arranged for them in memoriam let us have your request, date and donation and we will do our best to accommodate you on the anniversary requested.

Jeannette Wood
Church Flower Team Coordinator

Friends of St George's Church

Membership of the Friends continues to increase slowly and our programme of events attracts members and non-members alike. Day trips are always popular and this year included both Howarth and the Bronte Parsonage, and the National Waterways Museum. An Afternoon Tea with our bellringers proved particularly popular and we enjoyed a demonstration of handbell ringing and an interesting talk by Peter Dyson on the history and skills of campanology.

Susan Warrington

The Walking Group

Every month on the second Saturday, a group of stalwart and hardy walkers from St George's, plus a few well behaved dogs, head out to the hills and valleys of Cheshire and Derbyshire. Our walks are varied, with different people leading, of between 4 miles long in winter to 8 miles long in summer, to suit daylight hours. Our reward is often a cosy pub or cafe at the end. If you like exercise, fresh air, friendship, fun and maybe mud and would like to join us you would be very welcome.



Ruth Howitt

Property Committee

It is a fact that the smooth running of our buildings is carried out all the time by committed members of the Property Committee. Such work goes unnoticed unless something goes wrong! I am extremely grateful to Hannah Brackenbury, Steve Brain, Brian Clarke, David Myers, Eric Sanderson and Malcolm Wood.

St George's

We are preparing for a quinquennial inspection and a preliminary visit has taken place. The perimeter walls need repointing and one quote has been obtained; a further one is being sought. It is many years since any work was done on the wall and frost and moisture have meant the work needs to be carried out. A new noticeboard with a stainless-steel cross has been made by Men in Sheds and installed near the lychgate and is clearly visible by those passing and has been commented on.

The walkway from the Church to the Hall installed a little time ago had become a hazard as the non-slip inserts had begun to fail. The company who provided the anti-slip lengths replaced them, at their expense. We were grateful

for their response. New security lights have been fitted with replacement LED's.

St Martin's

A fire inspection for both church and hall has been carried out by Cheshire Fire Services in November. The minor recommendations made are being implemented.

The link area between the church and the hall is in a poor condition and a feasibility study is being carried out. The roof has leaked and damaged the internal door into the church. The room under the Hall was flooded once again during the heavy rains in July. The floor was dried out and replaced. We have taken remedial action to try and prevent a recurrence. It is a fact that the climate is more unpredictable as far as rainfall is concerned. The Hall floor was refurbished and re-polished.

Vicarage

Since Rob left the Diocese have carried out an inspection of the property and are considering what to do for the future. The Vicarage and grounds need some considerable work to bring them up to standard.

Ivy Road

A new back door has been installed and is fitted with a secure lock.

Barnaby Road

A considerable amount of work last year has meant that only internal decoration has been carried out this year.

Graveyard and Churchyard

We continue to monitor the state of the trees in the churchyard which are under Tree Preservation Orders and a quinquennial inspection by Cheshire Woodlands has highlighted some trees which need removing; suitable replacements will take place in due course. A new wall for commemorative plaques has been erected around the Garden of Remembrance and plaques have been purchased by families of those whose ashes have been interred there. The whole project has been well received. The gravestones had their annual safety check.

The Hall

The cooker is beyond its reliability date and we are examining possible replacements.

Valerie Vibrans

Church Buildings Usage Committee

The committee met less frequently during 2019. However, we do aim to ensure that the buildings continue to be a welcoming and pleasant venue for Users. Bookings remain at a high level for both church halls.

During 2019 a new fridge was purchased for the kitchen at St George's and we are hoping to replace the cooker with a more efficient model in the not too distant future. A Food Hygiene course was held in the summer for all relevant personnel. Defibrillators have been checked at St George's and St Martin's to ensure compliance. We are currently awaiting further quotes re hall lighting.

Our thanks go to all the volunteers who help to clean and maintain our premises.

Helen Bradley

The Sound and Vision Team

Since the AV provision underwent significant changes and upgrades, we thankfully seem to have less technology glitches during services and the system has proved to

make the job of running the desk a little easier. New microphones are in use and work on the radio mics are required this year.

To further the AV provision, we would benefit from more volunteers to run both the sound and vision desks. A call out is planned for 2020.

Finally I would like to thank those who have volunteered and assisted on the AV team. Your work is much appreciated.

Hayley Whittaker

The Church's Website

In the year 2019 the Home Page of the website was viewed 7,426 times. After this the most popular pages were Events and News (2,971), Sermons, Talks and Studies (2,123), Details and Times of Services (2,006), Alec Motyer Archive (1,914). Other popular pages were the About Us, Contact Details and Church Groups details.

I have a couple of requests:

- If you run a Church Group, then please check it regularly to see that it is up to date. If you wish to alter anything then please email me with the changes that you wish to make.
- If you have not already done so, then please fill in a consent form, either on-line from the home page of the website or on a paper form which I can provide, outlining which contact details you will allow to appear on the website. If I don't have permission, then I have to blank out your contact details on the on-line notice sheet.

Finally, I would like to thank those people who have let me know about errors or out of date information on the website. It's not easy to keep on top of everything and your vigilance is greatly appreciated.

David Coleman

Church Cleaning

During the year we began to use the company who clean St Martin's to do so monthly at St George's as well, while reminding church users of the need to Hoover/sweep up after themselves. Towards the end of the year it was recognised that a monthly clean at St George's was insufficient, so this is being changed to fortnightly at the beginning of 2020.

Dave McClelland

St George's Church Hall Cleaning

A wonderful group of 11 dedicated people come in every Monday morning to clean the Church Hall – floors, walls, windows, toilets, kitchen and tables; dusting, scrubbing, polishing – and all done in the most cheerful manner. Good friendships and support have developed alongside the cleaning – and of course, we continue to celebrate special occasions by going out for lunch together. New volunteers are always welcome. The Hall is also cleaned later in the week by an excellent commercial company, Maid2Mop, so hopefully between us we can maintain an environment that is a pleasure for you to use.

Joyce Corlett

Grapevine

The editor is grateful to the clergy who unfailingly produce a monthly letter and the prayers for Grapevine, and to those who agree to write a variety of articles. We

feel that the magazine is a useful outreach contact as many are delivered to people no longer able to get to services or to those who take an interest in the progress and programmes in St Martin's and St George's. Particular thanks are due to the editorial team and to those who deliver their round so faithfully each month.

Susan Warrington

Church Office

Life in the church office continued to be busy and challenging throughout 2019. Recent legislation on data protection, in particular, made the administration of the new electoral roll especially demanding, and has delayed the production of a new Who's Who. However, Hannah Brackenbury was appointed as the Operations Manager in the Spring, and her role is to formulate and implement policies to ensure that we comply with government regulations. Meanwhile, the general business of producing newsletters, service sheets, organising funerals, wedding and baptisms and a myriad of other administrative tasks continued at pace.

It was with great sadness that I tendered my resignation in July, as it has been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve God, and our churches in this way. I handed over the reins to Lucy Carman in December and I pray that she will enjoy being in the office and meeting so many lovely people as much as I have. Thank you to everyone for all the help and encouragement you have given me over the last (almost) seven years.

Val Parry

St George's Living Well

St George's Living Well Group, launched in February 2017, and what a blessing this has proved to be.

We meet fortnightly in the Church Hall and since the group's inception, our numbers have been in the range of 22 to 32, (this includes the carers of those living with dementia).

Our volunteers are central to the success of Living Well, and their commitment and cheerfulness is plain to see. Many of the carers who come have fed back to us that it is such a lovely happy and friendly group to come to, and their loved ones very much enjoy the sessions.

At the end of December 2019, Mike and I "stepped down" from leading the group, as our circumstances have changed over this last year. We now look after our granddaughter full time on a Tuesday, and this has meant that it is now more difficult to give our full attention to the group. Dave and Ann McClelland, Colin and Stephanie Rookwood, and Helen Livingston will continue to lead the team of volunteers.

It has been such a privilege to be part of something that has definitely been God's plan, and we are very mindful that it is His group. Our prayer is that the group continues to show His Love as they reach out into our community, and the surrounding areas.

Mike & Helen Bradley

Lunches for the Retired

There are nine volunteer members of the retired lunch team who plan and serve lunch every 1st Thursday of the month. It is held in the church hall at 12 noon. We cater for an average of 50 people and offer a hot two-course

lunch for £4 per person in the colder months and soup and sandwiches when the weather is warmer.

We arranged a Christmas themed lunch in December, for 65 people and had Aled, our curate speak about what Christmas signifies to Christians.

The team have been in operation for 5 months and we have really enjoyed the fellowship, friendship and fun resulting from this service.

Krys Turner

Dave

Chairman and Church Warden
On behalf of the PCC.
April 2020

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