

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH BRITWELL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**Incumbent:**

Revd Neil McCathie  
St George's Church  
Long Furlong Drive  
Britwell  
Berks  
SL2 2LX

**Bankers:**

HSBC, 128 High Street, Slough SL1 1JF  
and  
Metro Bank, 2-24 Farnham Road, Slough SL1 3TA

**Independent Examiner:**

Ms R Bartholomew

## St George's Church Britwell – Annual Report 2019

Correspondence address: PCC Secretary, St George's Church, Long Furlong Drive, Britwell, Berks, SL2 2LX

### Background

St George's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent to promote the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the ecclesiastical parish. The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

### Responsibilities

Church accounting procedures require the members of the PCC to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC as at the end of the financial period. In preparing the accounts the members of the PCC are required to: select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently - make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent - follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts - prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will continue - safeguard the assets of the PCC and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities - consider the risks to which the PCC is exposed and to the establishment of systems to mitigate them.

### PCC (= Parochial Church Council) Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members:

Vicar & Chair	Revd Neil McCathie
Curate	Revd Jason (Griff) Griffiths
Wardens	Marina O'Brien (to April) Joanne Marshall (from April) Douglas Agyekum
Treasurer	Marina O'Brien

Deanery Synod representatives:

Teresa Carter	2020
Jean Binks	2020

Elected members:

Sarah Maina	2020
Mavis Murinyu	2020
Samson Kuponiyi (Lay Chair)	2021
Allan Mhasho	2021 ( <i>resigned 2019</i> )
Marina O'Brien	2022
Trish Shambrooke (Secretary)	2022
Peter Ngugi	2022
Toyin Ifekoya	2022

N.B. The year denotes the year of retirement.

### Standing Committee

This is the only sub-committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings subject to any directions given by the PCC. It is made up of the vicar, two wardens, secretary, lay chair, and treasurer. Membership is decided at the first PCC following the APCM.

### Public Benefit

The following reports detail the activities undertaken to further the charitable purposes of the PCC for the public benefit:

### **PCC Meetings**

The full PCC met 9 times during the year. Minutes were written by members in turn. The Standing Committee did not meet during the year.

The church wardens, vicar and curate meet up, as required, to discuss ongoing matters and pastoral concerns.

**Electoral Roll** – Joanne Marshall was our Electoral Roll Officer. A new Electoral Roll was produced in 2019, and at APCM in April 2019 was 62 in total; of which 14 were outside the parish.

## **Financial Review (Marina O'Brien)**

Our income in 2019 from envelopes, the collection plate and regular standing orders was £15,102 compared with £16,105 in 2018. We are also grateful for the income received from the regular weekly events of Coffee Morning, Totzone and Thursday Lunch Club; and the rental income from Kumon. The total income to General Funds was £47,227 (including £14,015 in reclaimed Gift Aid). We received £8,136 for the Building Fund and repaid £10,000 back to the Diocese, which they match-funded, thus reducing the loan to us by £20,000 again this year. The year ended with a balance of £2,672 in the Building Fund.

Total expenditure from the General Fund was £42,967. Our Parish Share, was £18,306 and was paid in full. In 2019, from our unrestricted disposable income, we again supported the national charity Christians Against Poverty; and also gave to OMF (Overseas Mission Fellowship) in support of Janice Whyne. We also held the annual Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The reserves policy of the PCC is to have six months' expenditure as free reserves. Cash at bank and gift aid claims due cover the amount of reserves needed.

All individuals who pay income tax are encouraged to make use of the Gift Aid scheme, as this increases each £1 given to the Church by 25p (at no extra cost to the giver). Please speak to Marina, our Treasurer, about setting up a Standing Order – it is very simple! – and ensures the church has a regular income, which is a great help with planning and budgeting. Or, if you prefer to give cash and are a tax payer, please consider joining the Envelope scheme so we may also reclaim the tax on those donations.

## **Wardens' Fabric Report (Douglas Agyekum)**

I remain grateful for the small team of helpers who regularly support maintenance days to care for the building. During the year all statutory checks have been made. Also, this year, the lightning conductor has been checked. The building has reached an age when fixtures installed are reaching the end of their serviceable life. Consequently, we have replaced the CCTV cameras, the fly killer in the kitchen and started to repair the grey water system. Also during the year, we had to repair a burst pipe outside.

## **Safeguarding (Joanne Marshall)**

During the year we rigorously pursued a programme of training to bring all of our volunteers up to the standard required by the House of Bishops. We continue to monitor and strive to keep up with best practice.

## **Health and Safety Report (Dave Allen)**

There have been no major incidents that have had to be reported to the HSE during this period under RIDDOR.

PAT Testing was completed during this period and failing devices have been removed from site and disposed of correctly under WEEE guidelines.

Overall this has been a quiet year from an H&S perspective.

## **Audio Visual Team Report**

The team has not met during this period. There was one significant failure of the AV system that Michael Fitzgerald has managed to fix.

## **Coffee Morning (Doris Burton)**

Every Tuesday morning, we open up the church at 9.00am and have coffee morning. It begins at 10.00am but two or three people come soon after 9.00 before the urn has been turned on and tables laid. They come for a chat and companionship. It is a popular venue and we have a regular group of about 20 people. It is a very friendly morning. Occasionally we have a boring morning but the people just like to sit and talk with tea and cakes.

## **Dining Club (Jean Binks)**

Tuesday morning Teresa and I meet at the church, check what food we have in stock and on the milk supply. We do a shopping list and go to Asda for Thursday lunch club. We spend an average of £80, return to the church and put the shopping away.

On Thursday morning we all arrive at the church at 8.00 am. We prepare and cook the food. We now cater for forty people. When we first started we catered for twenty.

Our aim is to make people feel welcome, to help them make friends, to stop loneliness and to get people out of the house. We want people to feel comfortable in the church and wanted. Maybe they will like it and this leads to coming to church on Sunday, enjoy the service and have a cup of tea and a chat after. We have a Sunday diners club and we go to a local restaurant and have Sunday lunch. People can come along if they wish. If any profit is made on Thursday it goes back into church. Surplus food is sometimes used for other activities e.g. the Youth Club.

### **Children's Church: Jan – Sept 2019** (Rowena Griffiths)

Children's church continued to meet upstairs every Sunday (apart from the monthly Family Service). We now have two classes: one for years 1 – 5 and the other years 6 – 11. The numbers change weekly ranging from 3 – 16 children. A big thank you to the adults who loyally prepare/ teach or support the sessions and nurture our children in their Bible knowledge and faith in Jesus.

As the scheme we used came to an end the leaders spent a lot of time this year looking at different Sunday school schemes to find one that would match our children and group sizes. After trialling a number of them we have finally settled on Urban Saints Energize which provides engaging, dynamic weekly sessions for each age group. Special thanks to all those who took the time and trouble to look at all the different schemes.

For the summer holidays, a series of sessions were prepared and planned based on the story of Joseph, they included a short film clip, games, crafts and Bible teaching.

In September I went back to work and decided it was time to pass on the leadership of the children's church. Many thanks to David Beer who took this on in September, I am sure it will continue to bear faithful witness to all our children.

### **Craft Church** (Griff Griffiths)

Though numbers have been very sporadic throughout the year, the church is starting to see familiar faces returning, with comments from those families saying how much they have enjoyed the afternoon. One of the key roles we have tried to develop is building better relationships with those in attendance, with the long-term aim of teaching parents and children about the love of Christ. Many thanks to those who help and support this outreach.

### **Totzone Report** (Caroline Allen)

Totzone continues to run smoothly and this, as always, is due to our great team of volunteers. However, it would be good to have more, as we can find ourselves short on numbers through sickness or other commitments which can arise. Yvonne mainly sets up the toys on a Tuesday and does a fantastic job, with additional help too from our regular team. There is a limit of 50 children for the session and we have seen numbers vary between 25-45 approx. We have not reached our limit recently but have had an increase in new mums/dads/carers attending. This seems to be through word of mouth and also mums/dads/carers not realising a children's group

was running so close to them! Hester does a wonderful job as always playing various action songs and the children really enjoy this for the last 15 minutes of the session. Overall Totzone is running well.

### **Wednesday Youth Group** (Griff Griffiths)

Over this reporting period, we saw average numbers coming to the Wednesday youth group of between 6 to 10. This group mainly consists of those who have no connection with any faith organisations. The young people started to develop their programme of interest, this included, pizza making, film nights and the church subsidising the cost for them to go to Clip & Climb and a day out on a narrow boat (Aylesbury church group). We have also had the opportunity to see two of the older members be nurtured towards an assistant leader role.

### **Saturday Youth Group** (Cassie Fitzgerald)

This year has been a great year of growth for the Saturday youth group. We are still meeting every fortnight on a Saturday for a few hours of fun and fellowship along with holiday time based socials. The young people are showing good commitment, a growing interest and testing of the passages that we study from the Bible.

We have had a few year 7's join in September along with more youth from the local area and slightly further afield who have heard about the group and have wanted to join. Everyone who has joined has been well accepted and respected and it's an honour to see how well the young people who attend make new members feel welcomed.

Over the summer we took some of the youth group to the final Soul Survivor which was enjoyed by all who went. The experience gave the young people a greater awareness of Christianity nationwide and will have given them memories which will last a life time.

We would love people to pray for all our young people and the development of their identity and identity in Christ. Please pray for them as growing leaders, pray for wisdom of the adult leaders and a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's guide on the group. As well as ways we can continue to expose the group to wider Christian communities and events.

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* Romans 8:28.

### **Beechwood School** (Griff Griffiths)

The weekly visits to Beechwood school have continued throughout this year, building various relationships and chances to talk to pupils and teachers alike. When the Interactive learning assistant moved on in September, a few teachers thought I was part of the staff, when they started sharing the responsibilities of covering the lunch hour. It has been a great opportunity to be able to talk about Christian with the staff and young people.

### **Light fair** (Griff Griffiths)

This event has continued to grow, seeing numbers increasing further as more and more families are hearing the news that there is an alternative to trick or treating. Also, this year saw an increase in numbers from the differing churches getting involved on the night, though more help is still needed in sharing the preparation between the churches. Overall, this is our biggest combined outreach activity with the other local churches.

### **Night Shelter**

The church started operating again as a night shelter for the homes in October, in conjunction with the London and Slough Run. The number of guests is down slightly on previous years, as is the volunteer base. Never-the-less the provision meets an urgent need.

### **Deanery Synod Report** (Teresa Carter, Deanery Synod Representative)

The Deanery Synod met for four meetings in 2019:

The first of which was in February at St John Evangelist Church Eton; it was said that Rev'd Darcy Chesterfield-Terry was instituted, inducted and installed at Colnbrook and Datchet.

Also, Reverend Andrew Parry has been appointed to Wexham and licensing will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Burnham officially goes in vacancy from 1<sup>st</sup> April. And that the Reverend Mike Cottrell is retiring from St Paul's Slough in September.

The Area Dean officially thanked all the clergy who have been and are covering services during the vacancies. The Annual Report and Accounts for 2018 were accepted and approved.

The second of which was in June at Christ the Worker Church Langley. Where there was a report given on the High Leigh Conference Pulling Out into Deep Water – Common Vision held by Bishop Steven.

The third was held in September at St Peter's Church Chalvey, where our speaker was the Leader of Slough Borough Council talking about the redevelopment of Slough.

The fourth was held in November at St Peter's Church Burnham. Our speakers were from SHOC and Foodbank on the needs in Slough.

### **Vicar's Report** (Neil McCathie)

St George's clearly remains an active church. The big event of the year was clearly the 10th Anniversary, with the MP, the Mayor, contributions from the local schools and various charities with whom St George's is associated, and a Sunflower competition. It was a great day and shows that St George's can connect with the community. This sort of connection takes a great deal of effort. During the year a significant number have completed safeguarding training and some have completed food hygiene Certificates. It is good that people are willing to take responsibility and I am particularly grateful to those who have accepted the roles of Wardens and Assistant Wardens. To ease the burden, we are also making plans to recruit a sessional worker, if funding can be secured.

A possible addition for 2020 is a plan to pilot a Monday Toddler Group, focused on the needs of carers.