



**The Parish Church of  
Saint George the Martyr  
Waterlooville**



**Annual Report and  
Financial Statements  
of the  
Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

**Churchwardens:**

**Sarah Canham, 101 Redwing Road, Clanfield PO8 0LX**

**Richard Spurgeon, 11 Sandy Brow, Purbrook PO7 5JP**

**Banks:**

**Lloyds  
Bank PLC  
272 London Road  
Waterlooville  
Hants PO7 7HN**

**HSBC Bank PLC  
312 London  
Road  
Waterlooville  
Hants PO7 7DX**

**Mr Paul Read FCA  
Independent Examiner  
9 Tamar Down  
Waterlooville  
Hants PO7 8QJ**

**THERE WILL BE A ST GEORGE'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
MEETING ON SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026  
IN THE CHURCH AFTER THE 10 am EUCHARIST**

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**A G E N D A**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
to elect two Churchwardens to serve for one year
4. MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS  
Report by Electoral Roll Officer
5. Minutes of 2025 APCM and Matters Arising
6. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report
7. Election of 3 PCC members
8. Reports from the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer and church groups
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of St George the Martyr, Waterlooville, held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in the church commencing at 11.15 am.**

**There were 34 persons present at the meeting.**

**Sarah Canham, Churchwarden chaired the meeting**

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**1 WELCOME**

- 2 APOLOGIES** were received from Ian and Jennie Gibson, Fr Ray and June Chapman, Rosemary Monk, Eileen Oades, Tony Shepherd, Pamela Shaw

**Introduction by Sarah Canham, Churchwarden**

Sarah welcomed everyone to the APCM meeting and explained that the reports are in the booklet which has been online for some time and hard copies given to people who requested them. She said a thank you to Jane Cook for all that she does, also to Malcolm Brewer and Sara Pask for their great work with the finances, Jo Horner who produces our Bulletin every week and to John Johnson for keeping the website and diaries up to date and producing the magazines.

Sarah said at a recent meeting with the new Area Dean, Emma we were offered a visit from Chris Parker who will give us a talk instead of a sermon one Sunday about Parish Share giving if this is something we would like to do. The majority of our parish share goes towards paying our vicar's salary, house etc not to the church. Paying our parish share will secure the future of our church.

**3 MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO ELECT TWO CHURCHWARDENS TO SERVE FOR ONE YEAR:**

Sarah Canham and Richard Spurgeon have completed their first year as Churchwardens and are happy to stand again unless there are any other nominations.

- Sarah Canham – proposed by M Haughton, seconded by Lynn Winter.
- Richard Spurgeon - proposed by Malcolm Brewer, seconded by Sarah Canham.

Sarah asked if everyone present is happy for these 2 people to be elected as Churchwarden and this was agreed unanimously.

They will be sworn in by the Archdeacon in due course.

4 **MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS / REPORT BY ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER**

Derek Strickland is the Electoral Roll Officer and has created a new Electoral Roll which has to be done every 6 years. He has received applications from 85 people to go on the Electoral Roll, 50 of these are from outside the parish. If anyone wishes to be added following this meeting Derek is able to do this and it will be agreed by the PCC. Thank you to Derek for his work on this.

The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2024, was 90 adults and 12 children including weekday services.

5 **MINUTES OF THE 2024 APCM AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and were signed by Sarah Canham, Churchwarden. They were agreed unanimously by a show of hands from everyone present.

6 **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.24:**

Sara Pask read out her report which is included in the APCM report and has already been circulated and put on the church website as follows:

“2024 has been another year in which we saw reduced income and increase in some outgoings. We ended the year with a small surplus of £600, however, this was only achieved by underpaying our Parish Share to the Diocese by £34,283.

Giving by standing orders, Parish Giving Scheme, pink/green envelopes and open plate is down in 2024 by £2,400. This reduction has been caused by regular generous givers leaving the parish and deaths in our congregation. Fundraising events brought in £5,400 in 2024 as against £7,000 in 2023.

The church hall is barely able to cover its costs and lettings are harder to come by. The PCC supports the Church Hall by paying the insurance and utilities. This poses the question of whether the Church Hall is financially viable???

Our utility bills for the church have come down somewhat, but remain relatively high as do our own domestic bills.

We have been unable to pay our full Parish Share for the past four years and in effect have an outstanding debt with the Diocese of £100,000. This is a situation that cannot continue if we are to thrive as a parish. Everyone needs to take a close look at what they give, has it been increased in recent years or if you do not give to the Parish yet please consider doing so by using the Parish Giving Scheme which is the most efficient. I have to say that we are in a very problematical situation and that the future of our Parish could be brought into question.

The Diocese has introduced a programme called Cornerstone to help parishes address the kind of problems that we currently have and over the next month/years we will be implementing some of the measures from Cornerstone to help our congregation understand our financial situation and to prayerfully consider our response of thanksgiving.

I know that the above gives a gloomy and downbeat overview of our Parish but there are many of our congregation who continue to give generously and regularly in their money and time and this is very much appreciated”.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Richard Spurgeon, seconded by David Cavey and agreed unanimously. Sara said if anyone would like full copies of the Audited Accounts to let her know and she is happy to provide them.

## 7 **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS / 1 DEANERY SYNOD REP**

First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met 6 times over the last year. We have had some interesting discussions. Thank you to those PCC members standing down - Malcolm Brewer and Sara Schillemore who have served for 3 years and Sue Hodgins who has served for only one year of her 2<sup>nd</sup> term covering a resignation from the PCC. Sue is able to stand straight away again as is Malcolm.

We have had 5 applications:

- Malcolm Brewer (Assistant Treasurer) who has agreed to stand for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term – proposed by Jane Cook, seconded by Linda Wainwright.
- Lynne McNeill – proposed by Patricia Taylor, seconded by Paul Taylor
- Sonja Renfrew (Safeguarding Officer) – proposed by Julia Spurgeon, seconded by Sarah Brewer

- Jackie Rossi – proposed by Sue Hodgens, seconded by Patricia Byrne
- Sue Hodgens – proposed by Marian Haughton, seconded by Jane Cook

Candy Williams has agreed to continue as our Deanery Synod rep and we have had 1 nomination for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Deanery Synod rep as follows:

- Elaine Shimbart – proposed by Margaret Symonds, seconded by Sheila Howard.

Sarah asked if everyone is happy for these 6 people to be elected onto the PCC and this was agreed unanimously.

## 8. **REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS, PCC SECRETARY AND TREASURER AND CHURCH GROUPS**

Sarah said that the APCM report has been available for a couple of weeks, both hard copies and on the church website so asked if anyone had any questions on any of the other reports.

- Richard Spurgeon stood up and extended his thanks to Sarah for producing the Churchwarden's report and also extended thanks to Jane for all her work. He feels a great sense of pride to be a part of St George's. We are facing challenges keeping our finances in order but every week see a congregation of about 90 people on a Sunday. Wonderful to have our young people join us halfway through the service from Sunday School, thanks to everyone who runs Sunday School and to Chris and his helpers for working with the Dragons which keeps growing. Our young people are a significant part of our worship.
- Richard said he would like to single out David Cain who works for the Diocese and is a great source of help and provides advice when needed. It is due to his help that we have secured a grant to replace the lights in the Church Hall and a grant to pay half of the cost of replacing the roof and the kitchen ceiling in the Hall. Thank you all for everything you do to keep St George's going.
- Fr Charles said that we are running out of room in the garden at the back of church for the Ashes. We need to look for another plot in the churchyard for Ashes.
- Fr Charles said he has noticed that the Thursday Market in the Church Hall is not very well supported. Given the regeneration of the town centre could we perhaps change it to a Friday to coincide

with the market in the town if our Market people were in agreement. Fiona said the Hall is available on a Friday.

Jane to add these 2 items to the agenda for the next PCC meeting.

- Sarah said you will have noticed that we didn't manage to secure a donkey/colt for the Palm Sunday procession this year but she might have secured one for next year.
- Linda Wainwright asked whether anything further has happened regarding the sale of the Church Hall. She thought people would be interested to hear the latest. Richard said a consultation was held and plans and figures produced to demolish the Church Hall and replace with flats with the Parish retaining the bottom floor with approximately half the space we currently have. This would have produced a small amount for the church. We asked them to come back with different figures but it has all ground to a halt. Richard said they felt with Fr Colin not in a leadership capacity at the moment the decision making process should be deferred. We were just testing the water but this would have only provided a small income for one year and would certainly not have solved our parish share problem. Norma Kershaw said this would be a short term solution. Richard said obviously some of the money you give is going to maintaining the Hall. Any fact finding regarding the Hall would not only be discussed by the PCC but by everyone in the congregation. David Cavey said the Hall is an important source of income with the various fundraising events we hold in there.
- Fiona Ross asked what is happening regarding the replacement of the Fire Door in the Hall. Richard said they should be coming this week to do it.
- Kitchen roof and ceiling in the Hall – Richard said the contractor will begin work next month.
- Ann Hilliard suggested things for the Fete/Bazaar from her days of working in schools – wood turner demonstrating and selling his wares, dance troupe, crafts for children in the Hall (Ann prepared to fund card, pens etc), games to encourage children. It was pointed out that it is a lot easier to do these things in school with lots of parents to help. We struggle to get volunteers to help with these things. Adrienne suggested Maypole dancing. Sonja, Safeguarding Officer, pointed out that anyone running any of these things would need DBS checks in case helpers are left alone with the children if their parents wander off

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## **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

We are very grateful to Paul Read (who attends the 8am service) for again successfully examining the accounts for 2024. Sara said that Paul has indicated his willingness to do this again next year and

thanked him for all that he does. This was proposed by Sara Pask, seconded by Malcolm Brewer and agreed unanimously.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 12.15pm and was followed by the Parish lunch in the Church Hall.

# ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

## Background

St George's Church has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent (Fr Colin Lawlor) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the churchyard and church hall. Services were held every Wednesday at 10am and Sunday at 8am and 10am.

## Membership

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The following served as members of the PCC:

**Incumbent:** Fr Colin Lawlor (sick leave)

**Ex Officio:** Jane Cook (Secretary)  
Sara Pask (Treasurer)

**Wardens:** Sarah Canham, Vice Chair of PCC  
Richard Spurgeon

### Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Candy Williams  
Elaine Shimbart

### Elected Members:

Marian Haughton  
Anne Morgan  
Malcolm Brewer  
David Cavey  
Lynn Winter (Deputy Safeguarding Officer)  
Sue Hodgens (only stood for one year - 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Lynne McNeill  
Sonja Renfrew  
Jackie Rossi

## Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees/groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC – Fabric, Finance, Stewardship & Quinquennial, Pastoral & Mission Committee, Church Hall Committee, Social and Fundraising Committee, Eco Church Group Committee and we have reports at each meeting from Sonja Renfrew, our Safeguarding Officer and on Deanery Synod meetings from our Deanery Synod representatives.

## Church Attendance

Derek Strickland is the Electoral Roll officer. The list that is displayed now only has names on it because of GDPR. If anyone still wishes to fill in a form after this meeting they can do and hand it to Derek and it will be agreed by the PCC.

The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2025, was 90 adults and 12 children. This includes weekday attendances.

### **Review of the Year**

The full PCC met 6 times during the year with an average attendance of 80%. The PCC meets once every 2 months with Fabric, Finance, Stewardship and Quinquennial, Pastoral & Mission, Church Hall, Social and Fundraising and Eco Church sub-committees continuing to meet in the interim, to enable items to be discussed in more detail, and report back to the full PCC to get any items confirmed. Due to Fr Colin's ongoing absence through illness it was agreed that Mission should come under the Pastoral Committee and Stewardship under Fabric & Finance. The PCC will continue to invite outgoing Churchwardens to remain on the PCC for a further year to provide continuity.

Sara emails the monthly overview of the budget accounts to PCC members before the meeting to give people a chance to send any questions to her so they can be answered at the meeting.

We have supported over 12 wide-ranging charities, both at home and overseas, in particular £239.61 to the Children's Society, which included £150.51 from the Christingle service and continued support of three children under the African Child Trust Scheme. Other benefiting charities included Waterloo Food Bank, The New Blendworth Centre, Rowans Hospice, Four Paws, British Red Cross, Bishop's Lent Appeal, Christian Aid, Headway, Mission for Seafarers. These were all retiring collections. In addition 10 charities received donations from the Wednesday coffee mornings, including Hannah's Holiday Home, Elizabeth Foundation, Emmaus UK, Parkinson's UK and Kidney Research UK.

The giving through envelopes and banker's orders increased to £30,923 before Gift Aid Relief. The tax recovered on Gift Aid donations amounted to £9,219. Contributions on the collection plate were £4,456 for 2025 which was on a level with 2024. £97,009 was spent to provide the Christian Ministry from St George's Church, which includes the partial contribution to the parish share of £31,500

Our remaining fund balances are invested in a CBF Church of England Endowment Fund currently valued at £35,666 – we are allowed to spend the interest but cannot withdraw any of the capital unless it is to pay for a capital project.

Paul Read examined the accounts and has agreed to examine them again next year. The PCC are very grateful to him for the time he has spent on this.

The following has happened during the course of the year and most will be written about in more detail in the following reports:

- Sadly Fr Colin was still off sick for the whole of the year. We are so thankful for our retired priests Fr Charles, Rev Sandra and Fr Tyrone for keeping St George's going during this difficult time.
- The Waterlooville Music Festival took place in June for a week and was again very successful and well attended.
- A total of 15 of us again joined with our friends from Havant and Paulsgrove for our annual trip to Walsingham.
- A Summer Fayre and Christmas Bazaar took place along with several other events which will be explained in more detail in the following reports.
- Bible study groups meet regularly on a monthly basis along with a prayer group.

On behalf of the PCC

Sara Pask, Treasurer  
Jane Cook, Secretary

Signed: Sarah Canham Date 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
Sarah Canham, Churchwarden pp Fr Colin Lawlor, Incumbent

## Treasurer's Report 2025

Good morning, copies of the full Church accounts have been available at the back of Church for the past few week and there is a simpler breakdown of our income and expenditure for last year in this booklet. I do not intend going through the accounts in detail but if you have any questions please do ask. Here are some highlights from 2025:

**PARISH SHARE:** Our Parish Share for 2025 was set at £50,000 which was a reduction on the 2024 figure. We paid £31,500 to the Diocese which left a shortfall of £18,500. The Parish Share enables the Diocese to pay clergy salaries, their pensions, housing and Church schools.

**STAFF:** We currently have two staff on our payroll, the Administrator and the Director of Music. St. George's salary liability for 2025 totalled £10,400. Please note that the simplified accounts show the Director of music receiving £6,600 during 2025 which includes payments for playing for weddings and funeral and are covered by fees received.

**UTILITIES:** The PCC currently cover electricity used in the Church, gas and insurance in the Church and Hall. Our total liability for 2025 amounted to £8,800 as against £9,930 in 2024.

**CHURCH AND GROUNDS:** The total costs for the Church and Grounds, which covers maintenance/repair, pest control and window cleaning, amounted to £2,200 last year against a total of £3,500 in 2024.

**ST GEORGE'S CINEMA:** We see a steady income from the cinema which meant that, with PCC approval, we were able to use funds from the cinema to help pay for repairs to the Church hall as it is necessary to have safe conditions in the hall.

**DONATIONS:** During 2025 it was necessary to replace the emergency door in the hall as well as extensive repairs to the hall kitchen ceiling. Many of our congregation made generous donations towards these costs for which the PCC thanks them very much.

**PLANNED GIVING:** This was up from 2024 from £25,000 to £29,000. We are heavily reliant on giving from you our congregation to enable us to pay for the day to day expenses i.e. gas, electricity and water and also make our Parish Share contributions. Most people give via The Parish Giving Scheme. A monthly direct debit is deducted from their bank account and we receive the total donated back from the Parish Giving Scheme plus an amount in respect of Gift Aid (if the giver qualifies to Gift Aid). This is the preferred method of giving as there is very little administration involved as we do not have to make a separate claim to HMRC for these payments. We have a few people still giving by bank standing order and if this applies to you please carefully consider changing to The Parish Giving Scheme. Please ask me for

details if required. There may be new(ish) members of the congregation who have not yet thought about giving and I would like to urge you to help St George's financially in thanksgiving for all that God gives us.

**GRANTS:** St George's was fortunate to receive a grant from Portsmouth Diocese to help pay for repairs in the hall and church.

**HALL LETTINGS:** The amount raised from hall lettings has fallen in 2025 by £5,000 due to fewer hirers.

Are there any questions?

Sara Pask  
Honorary Treasurer

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2025 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2024 YEAR TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>					
Planned Giving S/Orders	28968		28968	27000	25443
Gift Aided Pink Envelopes	1955		1955	2000	2424
Gift Aid Tax	9219		9219	4000	7297
General Collections	4456		4456	3000	4244
	0		0	1500	2195
Donations & Appeals	10474		10474	1000	989
Liturgical Donations	63	721	785	900	1067
Bookstall	204		204	230	216
Parish Magazine Advertising	410	110	520	500	700
Fees received (PCC)	1861		1861	4000	3940
Social & Fundraising	6213		6213	4000	5439
Income from Investments/Bank	1317		1317	1000	1472
Church Hire	2810		2810	4250	4000
Unbudgeted items:					
	1574		1574	0	1556
Other Funds	141		141	0	5433
	15852		15852	0	20858
Toddler Group Income	678		678	0	0
Ex.ord Income	7346		7346	0	2500
Film Club	0	1713	1713	0	838
Pastoral funds received	0		0	0	0
Tea/Coffee	1264		1264	0	1255
Parish Magazine Sales	42		42	0	44
	141		141	0	140
Bulletin Sponsorship	0		0	0	0
Planned Giving Green Env	0		0	0	691
	610		610	0	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>95598</b>	<b>2544</b>	<b>98143</b>		<b>92741</b>

EXPENDITURE	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2025 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2024 YEAR Total
Parish Share	31500		31500	50000	35142
Gas/Elec/Water Insurance	8815		8815	12710	9928
Church and Grounds Maintenance	2249		2249	2500	3521
Clergy Expenses	1681		1681	2000	1140
Administrator	4728		4728	4600	4110
Liturgical Costs	1273		1273	1000	889
	850		850	850	745
Piano and Organ tune	0		0	450	306
Administration	1356		1356	500	2676
Photocopier Costs	528		528	1000	732
Capitation Fee	10		10	20	20
Fundraising & Social costs	1232		1232	800	745
Music Support	507		507	500	221
Sunday School	36		36	100	34
Mission	0		0	500	191
Director of Music	6618		6618	6500	6987
Vicarage Maintenance	0		0	50	0
	0		0	1000	0
Toddler Group	43		43	400	100
Assigned Fees	975		975	0	457
	19024		19024	0	2969
Hall Running Costs	15852		15852	0	20297
Hall Depreciation	3646		3646	0	0
Giving to Charities	2080		2080	0	2819
Quinquennial costs	0		0	0	1800
Toddler Group	43		43	0	100
Film Club	0	4717	4717	0	145
	204		204	0	180
Tea/Coffee	674		674	0	529
Fees paid out	100		100	0	675
Pastoral Costs	0		0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	103981	4717	108698		97358

## **Churchwardens Report**

Another difficult year has gone by at St George's without our vicar in an active role. Unfortunately Fr Colin remains unable to return to his job within the church and is in talks with the area dean, the archdeacon and Bishop Jonathon about his future plans. However, as Richard and I complete our second year in office, some things are settling down. Helen, our Parish Administrator, has proved to be an exceptional asset to the church and we thank her for all her hard work.

We have had another busy and active year within the church and this started during Lent with our usual Lent Lunches, consisting of delicious homemade soup, bread, cheese and pickles. Money raised from these lunches was split between the church and the Waterlooville Food Bank. Thank you to all who helped make the lunches such a success.

In April a group of our parishioners once again attended the Walsingham Pilgrimage and returned having enjoyed their visit and feeling spiritually refreshed.

June saw the regular Waterlooville Music Festival take place and although over a shorter period of time than in previous years it was nevertheless a great success. It takes a huge effort to run this type of event, but with David Cain and Richard at the helm along with the festival committee and a band of amazing stewards the whole event was outstanding.

Just before the festival, in May, a group of exceptionally hard working ladies put together the St George's Flower Show. The theme was to represent the various group activities happening within the church throughout the year in flower form. The show proved to be a great success and raised over £500 for church funds. My thanks go to all the ladies who prepared the beautiful arrangements, the stewards who helped during the three days of the show, providing information and refreshments and to Fr Charles who did meet and greet welcoming all our visitors.

The next event was our summer fete and once again the weather proved unkind to us and we ended up huddled in the church hall away from the elements. However, despite all this everyone worked very hard and raised a fabulous sum to help the church funds.

Early October saw us hold our usual Harvest lunch, this year was a bring and share affair and went very well thanks to Jane and Marion's great organisational skills.

November saw our Remembrance Sunday service which is always a poignant and special service giving all a chance to honour the fallen of both world wars.

December begins with our Christmas bazaar and once again we were lucky enough to have Fr Christmas in attendance along with one of his elves. This was again a colourful and attractive event and an outstanding amount was raised towards church funds. Congratulations to everyone involved.

There was another well attended Christingle service held on Christmas Eve and thanks go to some of the Dragons who were involved in the preparations. We at St George's are lucky to be a lively and busy church community with a lot of activities going on. Our thanks go to all those who volunteer their time to run these groups that mean so much to those who attend them. The Dragons and Toddlers groups have been a little quiet in recent months, but it is hoped these groups will be back in action before too long.

We are also blessed with a very good choir and a superb organist and director of music. The choir brings an exceptionally good musical element to all our services.

Our thanks go to Jane Cook our church secretary who works tirelessly in her role as well as playing such a major part in so many social and fundraising events.

Our thanks also to our retired clergy team, to Fr Charles and Rev Sandra for their continued help and support throughout Fr Colin's absence. They have both struggled with their own health issues during the past year, but are always ready with help and advice whenever needed. Their guidance has been priceless to us both. Thanks also to Fr Tyrone who helps maintain our regular Sunday services and to Marian our Anna Chaplain who is of invaluable support to our clergy and also organises monthly services at several of the local care homes. Support for the clergy from our excellent team of servers, our sides persons, chalice assistants and Wendy our Sacristan all help make the daily routine of church services run so smoothly.

May God bless you all  
Sarah and Richard  
Churchwardens

### **St George's Church Hall Report**

The Church Hall Committee have met five times during the year.

Sadly in recent years the use of the hall by regular and one-off outside hirers has reduced significantly. The karate club continue to hire each week and the hall is used several times throughout the year by the HATS group. The Heart Group hire once a month as does the Dementia Choir. However, hiring halls for activities such as children's parties is no longer a popular choice compared to a booking at McDonald's or an activity centre.

Nevertheless, the hall does have regular user groups from within the church community such as the Sunday school, St George's Dragons, Knit and Natter, the Book Club, the Friendship Group and St George's Ladies to name but a few. The Toddler Group who met every Tuesday in the Hall lost its leader in the summer and only met a few times in the autumn term but we hope to find a new leader soon so that this very popular activity can again restart. We also have regular use by the Thursday Market and the Film Club.

The hall is also used for once a year gatherings like the Waterloo Music Festival, the Harvest Festival lunch and the APCM luncheon. Also it is used for fundraising activities for St George's church such as the Summer Fete, if the weather turns inclement as it did this year, and the Christmas Bazaar. Sadly these events do not bring much money into the hall's coffers and they are, as a result, in a very sad state.

Fiona Ross is the Hall Manager. Fiona keeps a maintenance book in which all items requiring attention are listed. Some repairs /improvements have been undertaken during the year. The Hall kitchen roof and kitchen ceiling was redone during the year with half the money coming from a grant and half from the PCC. We also received donations from some members of the congregation. The fire door in the Hall was also replaced and paid for by profits from the Cinema and some of this will be repaid as and when we have the money. Some vandalism occurred when a brick was thrown and broke the window over the stage and someone went through the roof along the side path. This has been temporarily fixed and will be looked at when the better weather gets here.

The hall committee relies heavily on the goodwill of people like Malcolm Brewer and Fiona and Glynn to sort out any problems. If it is beyond their skills he and Fiona work to call in the appropriate expert, but this of course can prove very costly for the hall finances.

Sarah Canham  
Hall Committee Chair

### **Christ Church Portsdown Mothers' Union, including members from St George's**

Our first meeting in 2025 was an informal get together for "tea and chat" at Ros' home. All other meetings were held in the hall or church itself, at Christ Church Portsdown. Our February meeting was a talk on the invaluable work of Chaplains at the QA Hospital. The AGM, on Tuesday 4th March, was chaired by Rev Andy Wilson; afterwards with our usual refreshments, we had a "Bring and Buy" table and MU cards for sale. There was a Communion service for members in the Church on 1st April. The speaker in May was Rev Coleen Jackson talking about her "Time on Mission in Rwanda" where a team of 12 people, with mixed skills and experience worked on a wide range of projects including building much needed water pumps, delivering medical services and helping in schools. In June Mr Graham Olway, Chairman of Purbrook & Widley Area Residents Association, or PAWAR as it is known, spoke about the founding of the association and its continuing work. Our always popular annual summer tea party in July had around 50 guests. We enjoyed a buffet tea, table quiz, stalls for bric-a-brac, and MU merchandise and a large raffle. After a break in August, we returned in September with a

Communion service in Christ Church. In October we learned about the Blue Pilgrims, a Christian Fellowship founded by Beatrice Hankey in 1902. Our meeting in November co-incided with an exhibition in the church to commemorate the ending of World War 2. Steven Cass gave a most interesting talk with slides on the history and work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Our last monthly meeting of the year was our Christmas tea party with guests, another buffet meal, lots and lots of tea, a bring and buy table, MU merchandise, raffle and seasonal themed quiz. Also during the year the Mothers' Union service for Lady Day was held at Christ Church on 25th March, Mary Sumner Day was celebrated on 9th August at Holy Trinity Church, Blendworth and our branch entered the Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival with a tree decorated with "baubles" naming most of the many countries where the MU is active – a tree full!

Janet Johnson

### **Pastoral & Mission Committee Report**

Committee Members - Marian Haughton, Anne Morgan, Lynn Winter, Lynne McNeill, Rosy Stone, Jackie Rossi, Tricia Taylor, Sarah Canham (Chair).

Sadly last year Patricia Byrne decided to step down from organising the Pastoral team. Sarah Canham offered to take on the role of Chairman at future meetings.

There have not been any Pastoral Care Team meetings recently, but everyone has been working away behind the scenes visiting and contacting parishioners.

Jackie Rossi is now an established Anna Friend and regularly attends the local care homes with Marian Haughton, our Anna Chaplain, to provide Holy Communion to those who have requested it.

Members of the team, along with other members of the congregation and Rev Sandra conduct regular services at both Two Beeches and South Africa Lodge care homes. These services are much appreciated by the residents and members of staff. The team conducted special carol services at the homes at Christmas and thanks go to all the members of the congregation who attended these services and helped to swell our numbers and voices.

Members of the Pastoral team regularly visit or phone those who are sick and unable to attend church services.

St George's continues to host Sunday Baptisms on a frequent basis and a member of the team always contacts the family to make the necessary administrative arrangements in addition to being in attendance on the day.

The Pastoral Care Team play a very vital role within the church community and provide invaluable support to the retired clergy who are working hard whilst the vicar is on extended sick leave.

Thanks go to all who are on the team who work tirelessly ensuring that all members of the congregation receive the care required.

Sarah Canham, Chair  
Pastoral & Mission Committee

### **Anna Chaplaincy Report**

Over the course of the last 12 months I have visited several parishioners in their own homes and taken regular communion to a few who are no longer able to attend church on a regular basis. I also arranged bi-monthly church services to South Africa Lodge and Two Beeches. These services are also supported by members of St George's Church where hymns are sung, prayers said and a short reading given. Many thanks goes to Rev Sandra and Sarah Canham for leading the services. I have also take communion to several residents at South Africa Lodge prior to the church service.

I arranged Christmas services for both South Africa Lodge and Two Beeches care homes, which were warmly received and well attended by residents, staff, family members and several of St George's congregation who support Anna Chaplaincy. We gave out little knitted Angels to the residents after each service that had been made by myself, Jackie Rossi and Dawn Hyett.

I also continue to take communion to a lady who has requested that Barney, my daughter's dog, visits at the same time and I am pleased to report that he generally settles down quite happily whilst communion is being given. It was a real pleasure to attend the commissioning of Jackie Rossi on the 16th November 2025. As an Anna friend, Jackie has accompanied me on visits to parishioners in their own home and to Nightingale Court care home and attended the church and carol services at the other two homes.

I would like to thank everyone on the Pastoral Team for their time, hard work and contributions.

Marian Haughton, Anna Chaplain

### **Knit and Natter Report**

2025 has seen the Knit & Natter Group consolidate its position within the local community, with weekly attendees consistently numbering around 25-30 - something that St. George's Church should rightly be very proud of, especially as the running of this group forms part of the "Outreach" programme that the Portsmouth Diocese put great store by. I have been especially pleased to learn of several new friendships that have been formed at Knit & Natter, which in turn have led to a number of the group's members

meeting up at other times during the week. It has also been most gratifying that the Group has not only continued to see many of its long-established, stalwart members coming along each week, but that last year we saw a number of new members also join us.

In addition to the very broad range of handicraft skills that are learned and shared within the group, we are currently busy replenishing the poppies at the hugely popular “Standing with Giants” installation.

Due to the generosity of the ladies in the group donating their spare change, we were able to pass on £232.55 towards the heating costs of the church hall

Patricia Byrne

### **Eco Church Group Report**

It's now two years since we gained the A Rocha bronze award for all the work that goes into making our church greener, more environmentally friendly and environmentally conscious, but we've had another quiet and, sadly, less productive year.

This year our aim was to maintain the changes we put into place over the last two years and work towards our Silver award. We've only met a couple of times and our requests for help with clearing grass for planting wild flower seeds and cutting and clearing the long grass in the wild areas of the church yard have been met with no response from the congregation so the seeds were not planted and the mowing team cut the grass but Eco church were not able to support this by clearing the grass afterwards. The St George's Churchyard Land Management Plan which was adopted a few years ago recommends clearing the cut grass to give the wildflower seed the best chance of success over the vigorous growth of the grasses. Having said this, the wild area has more flowers – oxeye daisies being the most prolific this year – a stunning display.

As last year, the bird boxes and bug hotels have been used and I'm sure, if we were to probe, the 'dead hedge' would also be full of happy minibests! All the meals served by St George's social committee this year continue to include vegetarian and options, use local produce where possible and have promoted use of leftover food and no waste.

Our thanks to the Dragons for making the beautiful Easter card and Sunday School for making the beautiful Christmas card for the whole congregation to use to reduce paper waste

Ongoing projects:

- Making and installation of planters by the lych gate for herbs and bulbs
- Installation of hardstanding and bike racks to the left of church entrance

- Use of Fairtrade products
- Continuing investigation into cheaper and more environmentally friendly methods of heating the church.

Malcolm Brewer, David Cain, Jane Cook, Sara Pask, Mo Peters, Alice Pitney, Lynn Winter.

## **Safeguarding Report**

Safeguarding continues to be a central and essential part of parish life at St George the Martyr. The parish remains committed to ensuring that children, young people and adults are able to participate in worship and community activities safely, in accordance with the Church of England's national safeguarding policy and the guidance of the Diocese of Portsmouth.

Safeguarding within the parish is led by the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Sonja Renfrew (Registered Social Worker – SW154755), supported by the Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer, Lynn Winter, and the PCC, which maintains safeguarding as a standing item at all meetings to ensure ongoing oversight and accountability.

During 2025, all volunteers in roles involving vulnerable groups have been expected to complete the required diocesan safeguarding training, and all new appointments followed safer recruitment procedures, including DBS checks and suitability assessments. Any safeguarding concerns that arose were managed promptly and appropriately and were escalated to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team when necessary. No concerns remain outstanding. Parish practice continues to follow the diocesan expectation that any safeguarding concern must be reported within 24 hours.

The wider diocesan context in 2025 included a significant independent safeguarding audit carried out by the INEQE Safeguarding Group. Their report, published in September 2025, concluded that the Diocese of Portsmouth has undergone "a substantial and positive transformation in its safeguarding culture," recognising strengthened leadership, a highly skilled professional safeguarding team, and widespread confidence across parishes in raising concerns. The Diocese has accepted all recommendations from the audit and is continuing to develop best practice into 2026.

Safeguarding work across the Diocese in 2025 also emphasised trauma-informed practice, explored in depth at the annual Diocesan Safeguarding Conference. Key themes included understanding different forms of trauma, the theology of trauma, mental health and wellbeing, and pastoral responses within church communities. Delegates were encouraged to embed the five trauma-informed principles of safety, choice, collaboration, trustworthiness, and empowerment, all of which continue to influence safeguarding culture at parish level.

The parish remains committed to supporting survivors of abuse with compassion, sensitivity, and respect, offering signposting to specialist agencies as needed. Survivors also have access to Safe Spaces, the national independent support service (0300 303 1056, [safespaces@firstlight.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@firstlight.org.uk)). Alongside this, the parish continues to raise awareness of domestic abuse, displaying discreet information about available support services and upholding the Church of England's guidance on responding to domestic abuse.

Inclusion and accessibility remain key priorities, in line with the Church of England's Disability Project, with ongoing efforts to reduce barriers to participation for deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent people. Emergency safeguarding advice remains available outside diocesan hours via thirtyone:eight (0303 003 1111), with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team following up all contacts.

Overall, safeguarding remains firmly embedded in the mission and ministry of St George the Martyr. With the leadership of PSO Sonja Renfrew, the support of Deputy PSO Lynn Winter, and the oversight of the PCC, the parish continues to uphold high safeguarding standards and remains committed to being a safe, welcoming, and supportive place for all.

Parish Safeguarding Officer, Sonja Renfrew  
(Registered Social Worker – SW154755)

### **George's Men**

Due to my work commitments nothing has been organised for George's Men this year although some of the men did join the ladies for a train evening at Tony and Mo's in August.

Chris Gadd

### **St George's Holy Dusters Report**

Once again, last year saw The Holy Dusters Team swinging into action every 3 weeks to ensure that St George's Church was kept spick and span.

The stalwart members of the cleaning team are Sue Hodgens, Rosy Stone, Pat Mitchell, June Diaper, Ian Gibson, Sharon Hillary, Anne Morgan, Christine Culley, Jackie Rossi, Jane & Steve Cook, Marian & Barry Haughton and Patricia Byrne.

I would like to offer my personal thanks and gratitude to each and every one of the team, who have turned out come rain or shine, polish and mops in hand, ready to "do their bit".

Patricia Byrne

## St George's Fly-fishing Club



We are a group of friends, loosely based at St. George's, who go fishing once or twice a month, mostly on still waters and mostly within a few miles of Waterlooville.

The picture on the left shows the Moorhen Fishery, which is in the Meon Valley. Since new owners took over last October, Moorhen has been greatly improved, and, apart from free tea and coffee, the little café in the club house offers beans on toast for £3.50!



The picture on the right shows John Love at Moorhen fishery with the second biggest fish we caught this season, a Rainbow Trout just short of six pounds. John also caught the biggest, a 6¾ lb Rainbow at Northbrook Farm in December – well done John!



On the left, below, is a picture of David Druce with a 2 lb Grayling that he took from the Test in December. Grayling are perhaps the most beautiful of all the salmonids, but very wary, and difficult to catch. This picture shows off the Grayling's beautiful dorsal fin

We communicate by way of a WHATSAP chat group, and once we have decided where to go and when for our next trip out, a typical day goes like this: Arrive about 0745 and tackle up in the car park. Check in at reception and then start fishing around 0800. 1000 meet in the clubhouse for a coffee break, 1230 lunch together and 1600 tea break, then fish on till dusk or when you think you've had enough.

As well as our regular days out, we are planning a four-day boat fishing holiday in June on the Anglian Water fisheries of Rutland, Draycote, Pitsford and Grafham, all beautiful naturalised reservoirs, varying in size from around 600 to 3,500 acres, all stocked with Rainbow and Brown Trout as well as the possibility of a large Pike. The



picture on the right shows S. Matthew's Church Normanton. It looks a bit stumpy, because, when the Gwash Valley was flooded to create Rutland

Water in the 1970s, the bottom of the Church was filled with concrete, raising the floor about two feet above the high water level.

We welcome members of all ages and any gender. We will happily lend you kit and offer basic “get-you-started” help, though none of us is a professional instructor. An entry level set of Fly-fishing kit costs around £120, and a day’s fishing £30 – 50, (depending on how many you catch!)

If you would like to come and join us talk to Fr. Charles (07711 787 237), or catch one of us at Church (Fr. Charles, Richard Spurgeon, Tony Shepherd, Patricia Byrne and Norma Kershaw).

Tight Lines! Fr. Charles, March 2026.

### **St George’s Ladies report**

St George’s Ladies have a Facebook group which keeps people up-to-date with what is going on and anyone not on Facebook is sent an email by Rosemary. Any ladies in the congregation are very welcome to join us. You don’t have to come to every event but if you are interested please have a chat to one of us.

On Wednesday 22nd January we had our Post Christmas meal at No 73 Waterlooville with our Secret Santa which was very enjoyable.

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February we held a social session with beetle drive in the Hall and planned the year’s programme

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March we had a talk about Hope and Soul, a charity supporting children in Tanzania with a cream tea.

Our annual Bluebell walk was held at Little Hyden woods in Clanfield on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April with a drink after at the Rising Sun Pub.

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May Norma held a Cheese and wine evening at her house.

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June a trip was organised to Fort Cumberland Distillery, Eastney which was very enjoyable with a tour around the award winning rum and gin Distillery and tasting afterwards. Fortunately husbands were on hand to bring us home afterwards!

An afternoon tea was held at Sue and Liz’s in Catherington on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July provided by Caroline from Hope and Soul and raising money for the Hope & Soul orphanage.

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August we had an evening at Tony & Mo’s. Tony had his trains running and jacket potatoes with various fillings and puds were provided. We were joined by some of George’s Men for this event.

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September an evening of Childhood Memories in the Hall was held to share memories of childhood toys, games, books or music.

A crafting evening was held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October in the Church Hall when we were asked to bring along something we are working on or

something we have always wanted to try and someone will be able to help you with it or just sit and have a natter!

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November the poppies were put up in readiness for Remembrance Sunday.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December was our Christmas get together in the Church Hall with food, singing of carols, a quiz and the ever popular Snatch raffle.

Another busy year!

Jane Cook / Rosemary Monk

### **Walsingham Cell Report**

The St George's group of 15 pilgrims set out on the Friday after Easter and as usual we travelled with our friends from St Albans, West Leigh, St John's, Rowlands Castle, St Faith's, Havant and St Michael and All Angels, Paulsgrove - 44 in all. The Havant Cell were again led by Bishop John Hind and Paulsgrove by Fr Hugo Deadman. We had a stop at Bury St Edmunds en route with a lovely Eucharist service held in the St Edmundsbury Cathedral organised by Fr Hugo.

The St George's pilgrims were very fortunate to have Fr Charles Howard leading the Waterlooville Cell. St George's serving team again enhanced the wonderful outdoor processions and we again experienced the beautiful liturgies and the fantastic food.

On Saturday morning we had our usual visit to the Slipper Chapel and Catholic Shrine which was a bit more rushed than usual as we had to get back for the Solemn Pilgrimage Mass in the Shrine Church which they had changed to 12 noon.

In the afternoon our coach driver took us into Kings Lynn where we had a lovely walk around this beautiful old historic market town and seaport.

During 2025 the Walsingham Committee comprising representatives from all the churches met on 5<sup>th</sup> January to discuss and firm up details for our Pilgrimage. Pilgrims were invited to join St George's Candlemass Service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and then met at St Faith's on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April for a Cream Tea/Prayers. Pilgrims gathered at St George's on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July for Compline followed by a BBQ. Due to the inclement weather this had to be held in the Church Hall but was enjoyed by everyone. This annual trip is always the weekend immediately after Easter and costs approximately £270 per person. Linda Wainwright currently does all the admin for this with some help from Jane Cook. We have 18 people booked from St George's on the 2026 Pilgrimage. If you are thinking about joining us in 2027 (the dates will be 2-4 April 2027) or if you would like more information about this weekend please do talk to one of us.

Linda Wainwright / Jane Cook

## **Church Flower Fund Report**

First of all it is appropriate to pay tribute to the huge contribution that June Diaper has made in taking care of the floral arrangements and flower fund over very many years. This includes ordering florist's foam and real flowers for Easter, the Music Festival and for Christmas amongst other tasks. I do not know of anyone who does not enjoy seeing our Church adorned with flowers each week. They can lift and inspire us. However, floral arrangements do not just happen (as some of you who were involved in the Flower Show last year may have discovered). June would religiously clear away all the old greenery each time and cut new ready for our arranging 'stint'. Often preparing the florist's foam too. When I was working, this gesture was incredibly helpful. June needed to step down from being one of the main arrangers last autumn although hopes, in the future, to make small practical contributions when and where she can. Thank you so much, June, for all your guidance and endless hard work. You are very much missed.

Most of you will know that with the exception of Easter, the Music Festival and Christmas, artificial flowers are used each week with fresh greenery. We are very fortunate to have an extensive range of artificial flowers to use (together with many shrubs and trees in the Church gardens}. We certainly would not been able to fund fresh flowers every week. Thank you everyone who kindly contributed to the Flower Fund for Easter and Christmas last year, it makes such a difference to have real flowers. Special thanks to the small team creating the Easter arrangements and to Dawn, Sheila and Sue for their equally invaluable help in creating the Christmas displays.

Lynn Winter

## **Bible Reading Fellowship Report**

During 2025 thirteen people subscribed to the Bible Reading Fellowship New Daylight notes. The booklet, which can also be supplied via a computer or mobile phone, gives a daily printed passage from the Bible with comment and prayers written by a wide range of theologians. Every 10 days or so the themes and writers change.

Personally I enjoyed recent themes about "Animals of the Bible", and "Bible Chemicals" exploring references to salt, bitumen, caustic soda, charcoal, copper and lead to name a few of those included. The notes are published 3 times a year in January, May and September and the group subscription rate for 2026 is £5.99 per copy. I deliver copies to several parishioners unable to

attend church. I can supply sample copies and organise new subscriptions at any time.

Linda Wainwright

### **Havant Deanery Synod Report**

There have been 3 meetings throughout the year.

**The 204<sup>th</sup> meeting** was held on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March** at Hart Plain Church, Cowplain. Andrew Sheard welcomed members and visitors. Revd Emma Racklyeft was licensed as Area Dean by Acting Archdeacon Bob White and Jonathan Jeffrey will be licensed as Assistant Area Dean in the future – date to be confirmed. Thanks was given to Rev'd Andrew Sheard and Rev'd Kate Macfarlane for time and care dedicated to Havant Deanery in recent years as Area Dean and Associate Area Dean respectively and gifts were given.

### **Parish and Deanery Staffing Update**

- Welcome to New Clergy - Revd Nick Todd Interim is Priest in Charge, Hayling Island, Revd Clare Challis is half time Priest in Charge, Rowlands Castle, Revd Joy Windsor has been licensed as Priest in Charge for Blendworth, Chalton and Idsworth and as Horndean Missioner, Revd Deborah Curram, Associate Minister on Hayling Island, has given notice of resignation. Parish News: Revd Colin Lawlor is in hospital. The support of the retired clergy and laity at St George's Waterlooville were praised for their contribution in sustaining the church in Colin's absence. Colin was prayed for.
- MP & SF Committee Vacancy: Shelley Saunders has stepped down, there is a vacancy to be filled. Andrew asked the meeting if someone felt they could join this committee; there was no response at the meeting. An email will be sent out to synod members, Alice Todd will give more information of the role if required.
- Havant Deanery Plan Update: The first tranche of SMMI bid has been received; the deanery is encouraged by Flourish worker at Horndean and delighted at the expansion of Joy's role as Horndean Missioner.
- The Deanery Youth and Children's Implementation Committee has organised a Diddy Disciples training session to be held on the afternoon of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025; the training material is for young children, but it can be adapted as all age material. Information will be circulated soon.
- A WhatsApp group has been set up by Revd Bruce Watson for young people and children's ministry in churches, contact Kate Macfarlane, Andrew Sheard or Bruce Watson through parish vicars to join.
- Prayer spaces in schools are being developed, as a deanery it is hoped this will be developed further.

Deanery Synod reps were reminded that part of their role is to pass information from these meetings to the parish.

**Thy Kingdom Come – 4th June 2025** - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year of Thy Kingdom Come. The diocese is planning 7 pilgrimage walks, in 7 deaneries, in 7 days from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025 amongst churches and schools. Whilst on the walk, those participating will pray for the community they are in. Each evening there will be a prayer gathering in the respective deanery for the Thy Kingdom Priorities – for Havant Deanery the walk will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The evening service will be held in Denmead at 7pm. Route in the Havant Deanery is approximately 11 miles (18km).

### **Diocesan Vision and Strategy - Andrew Hargreaves (Interim Director of Ministry and Discipleship)**

Vision of the diocese is Revive, Revitalise and Renew

Challenges in Portsmouth Diocese:

1. Lack of children and young people
2. Declining attendances
3. Unfit buildings for mission
4. Stretched clergy and staff
5. Budget deficits

The strategy brochure is available on the diocesan website:

<https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/documents/diocese-portsmouth-strategy-brochure/>

**The 205<sup>th</sup> meeting** was held on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June** at All Saints, Denmead. Revd Emma Racklyett welcomed members and visitors and Karen Rose was welcomed and introduced as Minutes Secretary for all Deanery Synod meetings. Worship was led by the Deanery Band. The Revd Jonathan Jeffery was licensed as Assistant Area Dean by Acting Archdeacon Canon Bob White.

Angela Herring gave an update on the **Ghana and Portsmouth Link**. A water project began in 2018 and now the completed project includes a filtration system to remove impurities from the water which is then pumped into plastic bags. The Maternity Project was gifted a building which included a clinic and this is being renovated to become a maternity clinic. The Piggery at Kwabeng has been supported by grants from Portsmouth and 14 piglets born at the end of May. 12 years ago it was suggested that if each parish in Havant could donate £50 a year we could build up a fund for emergencies in Koforidua, a godsend during Covid when we sent £3,000 and last year we realised that clergy training had ceased and were able to send £2,000 over and there are now 3 full time ordinands in training. Angela will continue to visit Ghana every year.

Kathy Gunn, Lay Chair introduced five clergy to present on some new ways their ministry is taking:

- Bubble Church – Revd Jo Lorimer from St Nicholas, Bedhampton a favourite with young children.

- Tea and Praise – Revd Sue Moss at Hart Plain shared details of the 30 minute Sunday afternoon service for the elderly.
- Wild Church – Revd Bruce Watson, St James Emsworth talked about a once a month outside event suitable for families.
- Anna Café Church – Revd Lizzie Davidson, St James Emsworth – a dementia friendly short service once a month followed by soup and cake.
- The Lunch Group – Revd Canon Karina Green – a friendship group meeting at the Heron Pub.

Thy Kingdom Come walk from St Peter's Hayling Island to All Saints Denmead stopping at various churches on the way on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Keep praying for Fr Colin and the wider community of St George's Waterlooville.

Havant Deanery Plan is currently in the initial stages of being revised.

**The 206th Meeting** was held on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November** at St James' Church, Emsworth.

### **Parish and Deanery Staffing Update**

There are still clergy and lay vacancies for the MP & SF Committee. Mary Attwood was nominated by Revd. Kate Macfarlane, and seconded by Revd. Janette Smith, to join the MP & SF Committee as a lay member.

Parish News – a Pioneer Youth Worker at Park Community School is going to be appointed as part of the Deanery Plan. St Wilfrid's now has solar panels and battery storage, making it the first church in the Diocese to take this step. Revd. Clare Challis, from St John's at Rowlands Castle, reported that exciting things have been happening with younger people in the church, including a young lady who affirmed her faith with Baptism by full immersion.

### **Update and How I can Support Your Parish from Heather Powney, Diocesan Children's, Youth and Families Officer**

Revd Kate Macfarlane introduced Heather to Synod. Heather's presentation showed the strategy of her role, which is to prioritise children and youth, and how she would provide support to clergy, training and resources, strategy and culture change. There are currently 29 paid Children, Youth and Families Officers in the Diocese and hundreds of volunteers. There is a need to build networks and communities for them all through regular meet ups, newsletters, and training courses, to prevent feelings of isolation, enable the sharing of best practice, and provide a general sounding board for ideas, challenges, and next steps.

There is a national church project promoting children, youth and families work, with potentially 3,000 new paid workers across the country. So, what can we do in our parishes? Make use of free resources, celebrate the work of Children, Youth and Families Officers during the recognition week (7-13<sup>th</sup> July 2026), look at The Way UK podcasts for teenagers and grow faith through schools, homes and church.

Heather finished with the message that she is here to help in whatever way she can to encourage, resource and support each parish.

### **Additional Diocesan News from Tim Pike**

The Diocesan Synod met on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and matters arising from the meeting were:

- Oil fired heating systems – replacing these is a priority and there will be some support from the Diocese.
- Budget – the Parish Share will have a 3% increase which is based on collecting 88% of Parish Share.
- Grants – these are being targeted by the central church to dioceses such as Portsmouth, and will be applied where appropriate.

Some members raised the point of affordability of the Parish Share. The advice is to contact the Finance Team as soon as possible.

Thanks was given to Revd Andy Wilson, who is retiring at the end of January 2026, for his work in the Deanery.

Candy Williams / Elaine Shimbart

### **St George's News and Website Report**

Website: <https://www.stgeorges.church>

The Church Magazine continues to be produced four times a year, reporting on church life with colourful photos of recent events, and varied articles of interest. In that regard, the flow of interesting material for publication has slowed down considerably to what it used to be, with several regular and reliable contributors that we used to have sadly no longer being with us.

So any help and support in filling this gap will be greatly appreciated! How about trying your hand at writing something for publication... it can be on any subject, not necessarily to do with the church; maybe about a hobby, or an interesting holiday, or a society or organisation outside of the church that you are involved with (and perhaps might like to publicise and promote).

Especially though anything covering the activities of church organisations, please let us have a report on your meetings and what you have been doing (with photographs if possible). Please do be aware though that material for publication does need to be original or carry the author's permission to publish, in order to comply with copyright.

Turning to the website, this is kept up to date on virtually a daily basis, with a comprehensive calendar of forthcoming events, an advance copy of the Sunday Bulletin (usually posted on Thursdays), and the opportunity for a fascinating journey down memory lane, perusing past church magazines going back for nearly 30 years.

Just about anything you may need to know about St George's and what is going on should be on the website, so make it your first point of call. (If it's not there, let us know, we will aim to fix it!)

You can also subscribe to our mailing list and receive important announcements. Go to [stgeorges.church/maillinglist](http://stgeorges.church/maillinglist) and type in your email address and name.

To find the website is easy – we have a very special memorable address! – simply type in: [stgeorges.church](http://stgeorges.church)

If you are involved in running any church groups, or organising any event, please remember to let the magazine team know so that it can be included on the website and magazine events calendar.

Email [feedback@stgeorgesnews.org](mailto:feedback@stgeorgesnews.org) - that's also the address for sending anything for publication.

Also if you have a business, or know someone who does, we are always welcoming new advertisers, the rates are very reasonable, we do all the artwork if required, and the advertising fees all go to help the church finances.

John Johnson

### **St George's Companionship Group with Bereavement support**

The Group generally meets twice a month (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays) from 10.00am until 12 noon. This can be changed depending how Bank Holidays fall in the calendar.

It is a friendship group including bereavement. All are welcome whatever their circumstances ie bereavement, seeking a break from caring for a loved one or just friendship.

Each meeting we have a raffle and an activity. This ranges from playing bingo, board games, quizzes or general discussions whatever the topic may be (this can be something special that has happened, general reminiscences etc). Also some members bring in books they have read to exchange with others who enjoy reading.

The middle Monday between meetings we encourage members to group together for a lunch. The venue and type of menu is their choice.

Eileen Swetland

### **St George's Choir Report**

Musically, 2025 was another good year of melody making with the choir singing at all the Sunday services, and festivals such as Candlemas Carols, Ascension Day and the full round of Easter Services. This year also saw the addition of an evening service in June for Corpus Christi.

The first Sunday in November included a Requiem for All Souls' where the choir prepared Faure's Requiem as the mass setting, accompanied this year

by our wonderful Hill, Norman and Beard organ. An article on the organ appeared in the Christmas Parish Magazine

Services in the latter part of the year included the Advent Carol Service at the end of November, and in December it was great to welcome a good-sized congregation for the Christmas Carol Service.

I'd like to thank the churchwardens and clergy for all their help and support; all the members of the choir for their hard work and dedication and also to you all for your kind words and encouragement for all we do musically together, it is very much appreciated. We are always on the lookout for new recruits in the choir, do let me know if you want to get involved, you will be most welcome.

David Cain, Director of Music

### **St George's Servers Report**

As usual, many thanks to all the servers at St. George's who provide such a good service. We currently have 5 servers for Wednesday mornings, which is great! Thank you to Tony who still comes back every 5 weeks to take his turn. Thanks to my other 3 stalwarts too.

On Sundays we now have 6 new servers - 2 for 8 o'clock and 4 for 10 o'clock, which is great. They have all attended training and been added to the rotas.

Over the past year the serving team has continued to play an important role in supporting our Sunday services and other church gatherings. Our team helps ensure that services run smoothly and that everyone feels welcome and able to participate fully. Their quiet and faithful service often happens behind the scenes but it is essential to the life and worship of the church. Members of our serving team are always welcomed and available to serve at our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham.

As head server, I would like to thank all those who have served on the team this year for their commitment, reliability and willingness to help. The serving team helps create a warm, welcoming environment for regular church members and visitors. We are always keen to welcome new people to the serving team. Please see Anne Morgan or Dawn Trimby if you would like to become a server. Full training is given to new servers. Thank you to all who give their time and energy, as servers, to help and support the ministry and mission of St. George's.

Our full serving team are:

Wednesdays: Anne Morgan, Sandra Hewett, Norma Kershaw, June Chapman, Tony Rice-Oxley

Sundays: Anne Morgan, Dawn Trimby, Sandra Hewett, Marian Haughton, Amber Gadd, Abigail Woodford-Richens, Sonja Renfrew, Candy Williams, Norma Kershaw, Mabel Maginn, Alfie Jasper, Precious Ama, Osas Konate, Destiny Konate, Flora Konate, Andy Williams, Ian Gibson, Jo Horner,

Anne Morgan, Head Server

## **Youth Ministry at St George's Reports**

### **Dragons**

St Georges Dragons was formed in 2023 as a meeting of our young people twice monthly, once in the church hall and once at High Tide.

We see it as an essential part of our church as we look to nurture our young people post Sunday School and into adulthood.

Our meetings are modelled on youth groups of days gone by with the evening starting with food (always popular with teenagers!), some games followed by some sort of bible activity.

We always end our evenings by singing some worship songs.

We also try to attend High Tide which is organised by the Diocese and moves between different churches. We take our older members to this.

We met through the early part of 2025 and had some fabulous evenings together – sometimes in the church hall, other times in the church itself, and (when the weather was warmer) outside in the church grounds. We also invited All Saints in Denmead to join us for an evening of fun, games and worship.

In the summer, we waved goodbye to Andrea, Ty and Tarry as they returned with Garvin back home to the Turks and Caicos. They all contributed enormously to the success of Dragons. Andrea has helped me so much in leading the group and I was very blessed to enjoy her wisdom and guidance.

We will miss her very much as we will also miss Ty (who Alfie and Coby loved to play sport with) and, of course, Tarry's cheeky smile and laughter.

Regrettably, towards the end of the year I have become submerged with work and we were not able to meet until December when we had great fun running the Christingle service. We look forward to doing that again as well as resuming our monthly meetings when work allows.

If you have children or grandchildren who are in year 5+ please encourage them to get in touch and join us. They will have a fabulous time.

Chris Gadd

## **Sunday School Report**

During 2025 Sunday School has continued to meet each week, formally during term times, and informally, for colouring, simple crafts and puzzle sheets during the holidays.

We are delighted to report that we continue to expand. During the year we welcomed little Elijah with Mum, Charlotte and Flora and Andy and their children Ben, Arthur and Millie. Just before the end of the summer term, Baby Lloyd, Leo's then new little Brother, also joined us. A warm welcome to you all! Ages continue to range from a few months to sometimes 13 years. Not all children are able to attend each week but all are welcome whenever they can come. We are always pleased to welcome the grandchildren of our Church members and have indeed seen several during the year.

We continue to follow the Church year and mark the important festivals in the Church. This year we were fortunate to have real daffodils on Mothering Sunday and the children were pleased to help with their distribution to the Church family. The children also took part in a delightful presentation explaining the origins of Mothering Sunday. We believe this was a first. This year seemed to be a year of firsts as our children were invited to contribute to the Flower Show in May. They each created artificial floral displays that were arranged around a miniature maypole. Our display made the front cover of Saint George's News!

Also in the spring, one of our older girls left us to take her place in the choir. Whilst we missed her quiet presence and contribution, we were absolutely delighted she had found her niche. Congratulations Flora!

In July, we bid a sad 'goodbye' as Taryn along with brother Tyler and Mum; Andrea who all left the Church family to return home to the Turks and Caicos Islands. Hopefully we will see them all again when they visit but, meanwhile, thank you, Taryn, for the fun you brought when you were with us.

Another first happened in September, when two of the children started school! Congratulations to Joy and Eleanor!

Despite having good numbers, there are still not enough children in a particular age group to work in groups so we have continued to work in one group. This continues to be challenging, trying to aim teaching at appropriate levels. The Gospel Reading for each Sunday is considered first as a basis for the lesson. Resources used include Stepping Stones, Twinkl and Pintrest amongst others.

Additional help is always welcomed. (DBS check required). An example would be someone to set up (and put away!) a play corner for any babies / toddlers present, with colouring items, toys and books.

Yet another 'first' happened on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, at the Nativity, when two special guests joined us. Two-month-old Baby Connie took the role of a very smiley Jesus whilst Jenny the donkey became the special donkey who 'carried' Mary to Bethlehem. Despite the excitement of the presence of our guests, the children performed exceptionally well and we are very proud of them. A Big Thank You to Father Charles, for organising the guests, Jess, who wrote and directed the play, all who helped with costumes and to Sheila and Marian for kindly providing the chocolate and peppermint canes respectively.

We look forward to encouraging your children in 2026.

The Sunday School Team

### **St George's Parent and Toddler Group Report**

When Dawn Hyett stepped down from running the Toddler Group, I took over at the beginning of 2025 but due to work commitments had to stand down at the end of the summer holidays in August.

The St George's Carer and Toddler Group was thriving in the welcoming space of our Church Hall. The past few months have been full of growth, joy, and connection as we've welcomed many new families to the continuously growing group.

Each week, the sessions have been full of sensory play, messy activities, music, stories and creative crafts, offering the children a stimulating and nurturing environment to explore the world around them. Using a tuff tray to create different messy play activities has been highly popular with our children and is often the best part of the morning! From safari themes using different textures, role play using pasta and utensils, slime, shaving foam and all sorts of fun filled messy play!

These activities encourage children to get involved and progress their development. These activities link to the Early Years Foundation Stage, promoting children to learn and develop through play. Each activity is carefully planned in order to provide interest for the children and to progress the Characteristics of Effective Learning - Playing and Exploring, Active Learning and Creative and Thinking Critically.

I was very pleased to see the numbers steadily increase. This growth has been fuelled by positive word-of-mouth within the community and the continued success of our social media pages, which help promote the group.

On the last session of the summer term we enjoyed a celebratory morning to recognise the children leaving to start school in September. We will enjoy a Teddy Bears Picnic, games, music, parachute games, bubbles, messy play, hook a duck game, and all of our children will be given certificates to commemorate the time they've had at St George's Toddler Playgroup.

Toddlers met a few times at the beginning of the autumn term but very few children turned up. The Churchwardens are currently looking for someone to take over as Leader of the Toddler Group which it is hoped will start up again soon and start to thrive again.

Amber Gadd

### **St George's Social and Fundraising Committee Report**

The Social and Fundraising Committee is without a Chair as we couldn't find anyone to take it on so a different member of the Committee chairs each meeting.

Lent lunches took place for 5 Wednesdays from 12<sup>th</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> April when we served homemade soup, bread, cheese, pickle etc. and raised £515, £257.50 to The Rowans Hospice and £257.50 to St George's.

On 13<sup>th</sup> April the APCM took place and this was followed by a Parish bring when we served Bolognese, Chilli, Vegan Bolognese, Cheese and Beans and a jacket potato followed by the ever popular ice creams with a raffle and a profit of £337 was made for St George's funds.

The Summer Fete was held on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Again the weather was not kind and we had to move indoors towards the end. Despite this around £1,500 was raised.

A Car Treasure Hunt organised by Sara Schillemore was due to take place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July but due to a huge amount of roadworks and roads closed on the route it was postponed and we hope to hold it in 2026.

On 24<sup>th</sup> September at Fr Charles request we provided lunch for the AGM of the Portsmouth and Winchester Chapter of the Society of Catholic Priests which was enjoyed by all. The priests all donated towards the food and £35 was given to church funds.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September we held a Quiz Night in the Church Hall with 35 people attending. Our Quiz Master was Iain Renfrew. We provided wraps, chicken, halloumi, roasted peppers and salads and a variety of puddings and a raffle and made a profit of £317.50 for church funds.

The Harvest Festival service took place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October when we had a bring and share lunch with a raffle. This went very well and made a profit of £88 for church funds.

The Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Fr Charles again kindly agreed to be Father Christmas and had a grotto in the Hall. Parents could take a photo of their child with him and the child got a chocolate bar. There were lots of stalls and bacon, sausage and egg rolls and refreshments. An amazing £2,000+ was raised.

If anyone would like to come and join the Social and Fundraising Committee you would be received with open arms!

Social and Fundraising Committee

### **St George's Bonus Ball Fundraiser Report**

The St George's Bonus Ball has been running since 2008, and, for a nominal weekly fee, awards a prize to the person who matches the bonus ball in each Saturday's weekly National Lottery draw. If an unselected number is drawn, the prize rolls over into the following week. Currently, we have 50 members, but there are a total of 59 numbers available, so more players are always welcome!

In 2025, we had 27 different winners, with the lucky participant pocketing around £40 on each occasion. We also had 11 people who won multiple times, with one person picking up the prize on four occasions! More importantly, this fundraiser donated just over £500 to the church over the course of the year, so a big 'thank you' to all those who take part.

At the time of writing this report, St George's Fundraisers are currently in the process of changing the bank account from a Community account to a Charity account, which should stop us being charged monthly fees to use the account. It is not anticipated that any of the account numbers will change, so those who participate in the Bonus Ball should not need do anything different, but they will be informed as and when any changes are made.

Iain Renfrew

**[www.stgeorges.church](http://www.stgeorges.church)**



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Waterlooville**

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