

St George's Church Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2018

Background

St George's PCC has the responsibility of promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. In the Joint Covenant service in January 2008 an Ecumenical Welcome was jointly signed by the Methodist minister Rev Martyn Skinner, the Anglican Rector Rev Maureen Allchin, Mr Bob Norton as Churchwarden, and the Semington Methodist Secretary, Mr Eric Clifford (copy attached in Minute Book). Until 1999 St George's Church was a Chapel-at-ease in the parish of Steeple Ashton, although in living memory it has had its own Vestry and its own churchwardens with independent minute book and accounts. During the year 2000, however, it was granted parish status in its own right, an independent parish within the benefice of Steeple Ashton and Keevil to regulate the situation. On 28th March 2007 Semington was legally incorporated into the benefice of Hilperton with Whaddon, Semington, Staverton and Hilperton Marsh. The PCC has responsibility for maintenance of the church building and churchyard.

Rector

Rev John Rees was appointed Rector of the Canalside Benefice in June 2016.

Officers

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Church Meeting (ACM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Minister: The Reverend John Rees - Rector

Ex-Officio member: Marilyn Stubbs

Warden: Mr David Wildsmith

Representative on the Deanery Synod: Mr Nigel Gerdes

Elected Members: Mr Jack Woodward (Treasurer & Secretary), Mr John Burtenshaw, Mrs Angela Grodzicka, Mrs Victoria Shackleton, Mrs Pam Wildsmith, Mrs Bev Woodward.

Standing Committee: (only committee required by law, which has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to directions given by the Council) - The Rector, Churchwarden(s), Treasurer

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Angela Grodzicka

Village Hall Council of Management Trustees:

Mrs Bev Woodward and Mr Brian Smyth (PCC) along with 2 Social Club members and 2 Parish Councillors.

Church Attendance

The Deanery Share survey in April-May showed the usual adult Sunday attendance averaged 10 with 16 persons being counted overall – similar to 2017. The number increases at festivals and special services. Christmas saw the church comfortably full at all three main services.

Electoral Roll Report

The roll now numbers 25, one more than last year.

Review of the year

The Church Council met four times during the year, in February, May, September and November. There was one other brief meeting - to approve accounts in March.

Prayer A group meets each Friday morning to pray. The Christians in Semington group has continued to meet on the first Wednesday of the month to pray for the village and its inhabitants.

Services The range and type of service held is under frequent review, but remains similar.

Messy Church This has continued over the year with five main sessions at the school, and a BBQ in the summer at Brook House. Emily Wood, Anne Rees and Victoria Farmer are responsible for the crafts, with John and Anne Rees leading the worship sessions. We continue to have a good team of helpers (about 18 per event) and about 20 – 30 guests each time.

This continues to reach families of all ages who have not been regularly to Sunday Church. It is hoped that this outreach opportunity will continue to bring more people to hear the Good News of Jesus. We are grateful to the school for allowing us to use the building for these times together.

Prayer visiting continued through the summer months with two pairs of visitors, organised by Eric Clifford.

Fête This was held early in July on the School Field, which attracted a large crowd despite the very hot weather and England playing in the world cup. The Committee was made up of a mixture of Church representatives, villagers and Friends of St George's School. The money raised was shared between the church maintenance fund, the School, the Village Hall and a charity (Breakthrough Trowbridge).

Pastoral Care Bev & Jack Woodward and Victoria Shackleton as Lay Pastoral Assistants, along with others, are continuing to give the best care they can in visiting those who are elderly and in any kind of need in the village.

School Governor

John Rees has given increasing levels of support to the school during the year.

Harvest Supper was held again in the Village Hall in September. Michael Gamble returned and treated us all to an entertaining and educational evening "A-Z guide to the south west of England". This was followed by a Harvest Service the day after, with goods collected given to Melksham Food Bank.

Website Our entry on "A Church near you" continues. The www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk website is now fully operational and is well used.

Financial Review

Total receipts for 2018 were £18,036 and total payments £17,632, as detailed in the Financial Statement.

Costs relating to the running of the church were £14,717. There was no major expenditure on the building this year. We spent £141 on routine building maintenance.

Gifts and mission support amounted to £1,242.

30% of the profit from the fête has been allocated for general church maintenance, with 30% given to the Village Hall Management Council, 30% to the school and 10% to Breakthrough Trowbridge.

Fabric, Furnishings and Churchyard Report

The Quinquennial inspection which was carried out on 25th May 2016 identified no major issues, just the usual cyclical maintenance matters which will need to be programmed and undertaken. In this regard Brian Smyth continued the repainting of the guttering and downpipes.

In addition, work to repair some of the stonework around the windows was put in hand, with quotes being obtained from 3 firms. Although not the cheapest, Salisbury Cathedral Stained Glass (SCSG) was considered to offer the best overall value, as they would undertake work which others had not identified. It was therefore agreed to ask SCSG to carry out the work, once the necessary permissions had been obtained. This was put in hand, but permission was not forthcoming before the end of this reporting period. The work will therefore be undertaken in 2019.

Although organ music on CD is used for most services, the church organ was used for a funeral service this year. It sounded fine and has clearly kept in tune since its servicing in 2016.

A Building Vision Project Group was established, and met on 2 occasions to progress the possibility of providing a small toilet/washroom and separate galley kitchen inside the Church and producing a more user-friendly and versatile building. Consideration was also given to removing the organ and replacing it with an electronic keyboard, to provide more space for the proposed internal reorganisation. Sketch plans were drawn up by the Quinquennial Architect, Raymond Winrow, and an initial meeting was arranged with the Diocesan Advisory Committee for early in 2019.

Work to install a Commonwealth War Graves sign on the churchyard railings stalled, because of the need to apply for a specific faculty for this work. Good progress was made in the latter part of the year, and we are on track for obtaining the faculty in early 2019 – when the sign will hopefully be installed.

Archdeacon Sue Groom, accompanied by the Archdeacon of Winchester, attended the church to carry out a Triennial Visitation in December. All was found to be satisfactory, with just the Health & Safety Policy needing to be updated.

Two new noticeboards were purchased and installed, to replace existing noticeboards – one inside the church porch, and one at the corner of Church Street.

A couple of people left the pool of grass-cutters, but there was one new member, meaning that there was only one vacant fortnight – which was covered by existing grass-cutters.

Village Magazine

Gillian Airey has continued as editor and we are grateful for her hard work.

The cost is met by parishioners' donations, the Parish Council and from adverts placed in the Magazine. The income from adverts was less than anticipated. Many thanks to all those people who have contributed, and to the faithful band of volunteers, who have delivered the Magazine to every house in this village.

Housegroup

This normally meets twice monthly in different homes. We spend time getting to know one another, encouraging each other in our faith and praying. We continued to follow "The Pilgrim Course".

Rector's Report

It is very important at this time of year to reflect on God's Blessings on us during the past year and to give thanks for them; this in turn enables us to look to the future in confidence and with trust as we seek to be faithful in our prayer and commitment to serve the Lord in and beyond our villages.

My report reflects on 2018 using the framework of our Benefice Vision "Together in worship and Service, depending on Christ. In reviewing each of the priority areas there is much for which we can give thanks to God, as well as being a focus for our continued prayer and action.

1. Working together

The partnership between our Benefice Churches has continue to grow. The PCCs for St Marys and St Michaels have continued to work together and to meet jointly and have agreed in principle to merge to be a single parish from the beginning of 2020. This will both reduce administration and enable us to use both buildings for worship and serving the community to best effect

We have continued to take "Open the Book" Bible stories into Hilperton and Staverton Schools and are now doing so in Semington too. This ministry is much appreciated by participants, staff and pupils in each school. Our cross Benefice LPA team provides invaluable support to our pastoral ministry. LPA's have supported our many Baptisms, Marriage Preparation for our 8 weddings and more recently (thanks to a team led by Gill Guymer) have begun to offer bereavement support,

At the end of 2018 plans had been put in place to run a Benefice Alpha course in early 2019

2. Worship

We continue offer a wide range of informal and more liturgical worship which seek to inspire both regular worshippers and explorers to grow in faith and to be confident in using their gifts in service, both within and beyond our Church communities.

Messy Church has continued to be our key means of reaching out to families of primary school aged children. Semington and Hilperton Messy Churches are now planned jointly and now have a significant number of families who come most times and who clearly enjoy it. At Hilperton we have had up to 30 children. It has been good to have had some additional helpers. We have begun to explore how to build on Messy Church by offering all age services with a similar style (but shorter) at 4pm on a Sunday. I will research how such services have been developed in other Benefices during my sabbatical which will be from late April to the end of June 2019.

It was wonderful to celebrate with Dawn Farmer and Stuart Raymond when they were commissioned as Lay Worship Leaders in September following a 10 session Deanery training course. In Stuart's case this formally recognised a ministry he has given for some years. I'm sure you will join me in giving thanks for our retired ministers, Ray, Hugh, Tony and Ivor, to LLM's Catherine and Marilyn and to Anne, our first LWL for sharing in leading worship and other ministry. Tony and Ivor have stepped back from leading Sunday worship; their contribution was much appreciated.

Special services included a Pet Service at St Mary's, Fete Songs of Praise at St George's and an Evensong led by Keynsham Church choir. I have continued to take a monthly Communion at the Old Vicarage in Staverton, supported by Di Lavis.

3. Service in our villages

We are developing our support to the community life of our villages in many ways. Let's do Lunch and Drop in for Coffee continue to be appreciated and a Thursday afternoon Friendship Group was launched in St Mary's January. Anyone can bring games, knitting or just chat. It is proving very popular.

Staverton Cygnets also flourished in 2018 and provided a gathering place for parents and pre-school Children at Staverton Village Hall. As Anne's report explains, numbers have now dwindled and we plan to re-launch it in the autumn.

We have had numerous social events through the year, including an excellent Fish and Chip Supper at St Marys and a Harvest Supper at Semington. December saw the launch of Tree Fest at St Michaels. There were many wonderfully decorated trees and lots of people came to admire them. It is hopefully the first of many! Many thanks to the Hilperton/Staverton Social Committee and everyone in the Benefice who has contributed to this ministry. It has been good to support community events, including marking the 60th Anniversary of the Marshmead self-build project in Hilperton. I have also been very pleased to be appointed Chaplain to Wiltshire Air Ambulance since they moved to Semington in May and to 1st Hilperton Cubs and Scouts later in the year.

4. Depending on Christ

In May Sister Debbie Orriss, Diocesan Discipleship Advisor, joined us for a really helpful weekend to help us reflect on our Discipleship: It is so important that everything we do is rooted in our life of prayer and desire to grow in our life of faith and service. Key to this are our Home Groups which provide an opportunity for people to share in

fellowship, exploring scripture and pray together. During Lent and Advent we continued to have study groups following on from our midweek Communion service in St Michael's Room. One of the most helpful resources for these groups has been the C of E Pilgrim course.

5. Infrastructure

Our Church buildings are warm places of welcome; both literally and spiritually. In St Michaels we have much appreciated the new boiler – and many attending Baptisms and Weddings have commented on the warmth of the Church. Even more importantly, at all our Churches visitors have commented on the quality of the welcome they have received. At St Mary's many have commented on the attractiveness of the new roof and bell tower and on the community garden developed by the cubs and scouts.

At St Michaels the clock face has been refurbished: it now looks lovely

At both St George's and St Michael's we have continued to develop re-ordering plans. At St George's we wish to install a toilet and small kitchen and remove some pews, replacing them with chairs; while at St Michaels we intend to level the nave floor and create additional space at the rear and top of the nave, again replacing some pews with chairs. We also plan to move the Last Supper carving lower so it can be properly admired. In both cases we have outline drawings prepared and now need to prepare detailed specifications and costings. Many thanks to Mike Townley, Tony Roddis and David Wildsmith for their hard work.

Stewardship

Many thanks to all those who give so generously of their time, talents and money to the ministry of our Churches. At St Michaels and St Marys we have had a formal campaign inviting us all to review our giving in response to God's love for us. This is reported elsewhere, but I would like to thank those who worked so hard on this, particularly the members of the Stewardship Committee.

Thank you

I would like to thank you to all who contribute to our worshipping life and ministry; to our musicians, intercessors, readers, those who make drinks after services, bell ringers, flower arrangers and cleaners; to those who support our ministry in schools and with young people, to those who maintain and help to improve our buildings; to those who organise our much appreciated social events, to our PCC members and our Lay Pastoral Assistants.

I would like to especially mention our Treasurers Mike, Michael and Jack, our PCC Secretaries Jack, Sandie and Stella, our Churchwardens, Barrie Lovell, Val Legg and David Wildsmith and the Hilperton Deputy Wardens Sandra Harding and Val Lovell. Many thanks, too, to Michael Gamble, who has very ably taken over the role of Administrator from Emma.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Anne for all she does in sharing ministry with me, emotionally, practically and spiritually.

As we give thanks for last year I very much look forward to discovering how we are called to share together in serving our Parishes and worshipping the Lord together in the coming year.

John

Revd John Rees March 2019

Open the Book

During 2018 the team has been regularly into Hilperton, Staverton and Semington School two or three times per term. On the days when not an Open the Book story telling session then either Rev. John Rees, Rev. Hugh Hoskins, Anne Rees or myself provide a collective worship assembly. These assemblies are linked to the theme for the term.

We are always made very welcome at all the schools by their staff and we look forward to being with the children and adults to share with them the incredible true stories from the Bible.

We rehearse in advance of going into schools generally two stories at a time and then hope we remember what we had planned! Rehearsals are always great fun with lots of laughter as well as getting our props list and who is doing what role organised.

We involve the children as much as possible and get them playing a part in the story, lighting candles at the start of the assembly, singing the song chosen for that particular story or calling out phrases we provide them with. Those that have helped get a special Open the Book sticker – which they love to receive.

Each term there is an overall theme within schools and the prayer said at the beginning of each assembly is linked to this with three candles being lit as well.

Children often ask us if they see us in school "is it Open the Book this afternoon Miss"? Which is totally wonderful and goes to prove how important it is that we are going into all three schools and they are really enjoying and taking on board the stories.

The author of the Lion Storyteller Bible, Rev. Bob Hartman, lives in Hilperton and last year went into Hilperton School and took an assembly and the children loved it and really engaged with all the stories he told. He has kindly offered to do this again, diary permitting.

If you would like to discuss OtB with me or explore the possibility of joining the team and what this might entail then by all means do talk with me I would be delighted to share with you. It is GREAT!

In 2019 Open the Book is celebrating its 20th anniversary, which is outstanding, and there are various events planned up and down the country. The nearest ones are in Gloucester Cathedral on Tuesday 14 May @ 14:00 – 16:00 and Wells Cathedral on Saturday 18 May @ 17:15 for an hour. If you would like to know more or attend then please do talk with me.

Dawn Farmer March 2019

Safeguarding

As the Canalside Benefice Safeguarding Officer, I am pleased to report that our Parish safeguarding policies are up to date and I am checking that all those working with children and vulnerable adults have up to date DBS clearance and have attended appropriate safeguarding courses. Each church displays appropriate safeguarding notices.

Anne Rees

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

On 25th May 2018 the new GDPR came into force and was designed to modernise laws that protect the personal information of individuals. Therefore, all data we hold about people who have contact with our churches is only used for church purposes and with the permission of the individuals involved. Privacy notices are displayed in the churches and on the Benefice website.

Anne Rees

Benefice Data Protection Officer

Deanery Synod Report

Synod met three times in 2018 in February, June and October.

February - Emma Heath of the Christian charity Recovery Two spoke. This charity was established to reach those suffering from the effects of addiction. Emma spoke from her own first hand personal experience of addiction. Emma explained how the charity helps people with courses and practical support. Literature was available for those attending the meeting to take away with them.

June - Sarah Keen who is the Programme Manager for Renewing Hope in Rural Ministry spoke. The National Church is fully supportive of this mission. In the Diocese of Salisbury 90% of parishes and 50% of the population is rural. Rural Churches have a unique dynamic and are deeply rooted in the wider community. Sarah's PowerPoint was emailed to all synod members.

October - the Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum, spoke in his capacity as working for M4M – Ministry for Mission. Alan's PowerPoint was emailed to all synod members as it contained really key and interesting information and shared exciting developments and activities taking place across the Diocese.

Clergy comings and goings

Rev. Shona Hoad moved to a different Deanery and Diocese

Rev. Oliver Learmont Welcomed to North Bradley

Rev. Alastair Wood Welcomed to Upper Studley

Deanery Share - David Robinson the Deanery Treasurer was pleased to report that the 2018 share had been paid in full.

Elections - In June 2018 elections were held for the Diocesan Synod and Board of Finance. There were four lay members and one clergy who were nominated and appointed.

Sudan - Dave Lewis provided regular updates either in person at Synod meetings or via reports sent on email to representatives. These were very informative and up to date on matters of concern, funding, health care and education provision. A significant project for the year was to fund raise for the Peace Primary School, which is being built. There have been a number of events and collections across the Deanery to help with this wonderful project.

Lay Worship Leaders - In 2018 sixteen lay people from across the Deanery completed a ten-session course to become Lay Worship Leaders. Rev. Rob Thomas, Rev. Ann Keating and Rev. John Rees led the course with one session being led by Ben Jarvis, which was about "including music in worship". A commissioning service took place on 30 September 2018 at Christchurch, Bradford on Avon.

Lay Pastoral Assistants - In 2018 four lay people from the Deanery completed a Lay Pastoral Assistants course and were licensed for this role on 9 January 2019 at St. Katharine's Church, Holt.

Eco Church - A number of churches have been successful in gaining awards for being an Eco Church and a very successful "Greener Bradford on Avon" took place on the 8 September 2018 with various stands, stalls and speakers. Congratulations to everyone.

Synod meetings - Synod is open to all those who wish to attend. Meeting dates and locations are arranged well in advance and every effort is made to meet on different days of the week. The intention is to share good practice around the Deanery, and for it to be a place where ideas can be shared.

Dates and locations for 2019

13 February, St. Barnabas, Beanacre

11 June, Holy Trinity, Trowbridge

17 October, St. Michael & All Angels, Hilperton

St George's Church Semington

Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31 December 2018

General Fund – Receipts & Payments Account

		2017	2018
<u>Receipts</u>		£	£
Voluntary Income	Collections & Gifts	9,687.00	9,234.38
	Tax recovered	1,648.00	1,997.97
 Fees & Rents	Fees	3,536.00	481.00
	Land rents	1,870.00	1,870.00
 Designated [D] & Restricted [R] gifts	Churchyard	210.00	260.00
	Magazine	1,643.00	1,460.07
 Events & Activities	Fête	3,804.00	2,675.00
	Messy Church	21.00	23.21
	CD & Book Sales	15.00	35.00
 Total Receipts during the year		22,434.00	18,036.63
Cash Book bal 1st January		9,482.69	27,619.32
 Less Total Payments (from page 3)		<u>21,622.00</u>	<u>18,350.31</u>
Cashbook bal c/f		<u>9,169.01</u>	
 Bank balance 31st December		9,582.69	9,423.01
less uncleared cheque 399			254.00
 Cash Book balance (c/f to next year)			9,169.01
 Bank Balance at 31st December		9,582.69	
less unpresented cheque 356 (Messy Church)		100.00	
 Cash book balance c/f to next year		9,482.69	

		2017	2018
<u>Payments</u>			
	Overseas missions	1,386.00	734.00
	Home missions	478.00	508.00
Gifts	Village Hall re Fête	1,049.00	717.45
	Julian House re Fête	349.00	0.00
	Breakthrough re Fête	0.00	239.17
	School re Fête	1,049.00	817.45
	Other gifts	0.00	32.00
Church Activities	School Leavers' Bibles	127.00	100.91
	Messy Church	200.00	-100.00*
	Bradford Deanery	10.00	10.00
	Deanery Share	6,871.00	7,642.04
Church Running Expenses	Heating & Lighting	182.00	379.28
	Insurance	1,552.00	1,597.06
	Organ & Organist	10.00	0.00
	Churchyard	574.00	241.69
	Maintenance	112.00	141.34
	Flowers	0.00	27.98
	Fees	2,179.00	359.00
	Magazine	1,728.00	1,738.00
	Admin	87.00	94.49
	Miscellaneous	97.00	378.98
	Fete	308.00	183.48
	Benefice Expenses	941.00	997.43
	Rev Rees Expenses	694.00	643.22
	Fire & safety	277.00	74.58
	Website	270.00	0.00
	Study Books	<u>43.00</u>	<u>75.31</u>
Sub total		20,573.00	17,632.86
	Transfer to COIF Accounts	1,049.00	717.45
Total Payments		<u>21,622.00</u>	<u>18,350.31</u>

* Previous year chq never presented

Statement of Restricted Funds as at 31 December 2018

	2017 £	2018 £
COIF funds		
COIF Roof fund (note A)		
Shares value at start	35,746.26	41,275.31
Gain/loss during year	4,480.22	198.52
Transfers from General fund	<u>1,048.83</u>	<u>717.45</u>
	41,275.31	42,191.28
COIF Reserve/Restricted fund		
At start	16,860.86	16,900.17
Interest	39.31	76.77
	16,900.17	16,976.94

Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31 December

Lloyds bank (General Fund)	9,483.00	9,423.01
COIF Reserve fund	16,900.17	16,976.94
COIF Shares (Roof fund)	<u>41,275.31</u>	<u>42,191.28</u>
	67,658.48	68,591.23

Church Lands estimated current

Open market value (note B)	80,000.00	80,000.00
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Other disposable assets (estimated value)

SABA mower	20.00	20.00
Honda mower	66.00	66.00
Stihl strimmer FS40C	103.00	78.00
Stihl strimmer FS40	40.00	30.00
Homelite strimmer	60.00	45.00

NOTES

Poor Fund (included in General Fund)	219.00	219.00
Church Maintenance (Included in Roof Fund)	11,262.00	11,979.45
	11,481.00	12,198.45

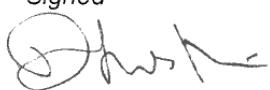
A. 18.9 units x £154.327, value £2916 (31/12/18) identified as Designated funds

B. Subject to existing tenancies but not professionally assessed

Declaration

Based upon the information and records provided I confirm
the "Annual Report and Financial Statement 2018"
prepared by the Parochial Church Council is a fair
representation of the financial affairs of St George's
Church Semington.

Signed



Date

19/2/19.

David Weston
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