



Treasurer

Mr Derek Harbottle,

31 Green Street,

Brockworth, GL3 4LU

Parish Priest

Rev. Mike Smith,

The Vicarage, 42 Court Rd,

Brockworth, GL3 4ET

Secretary

Elaine Marsh

St George's Church Brockworth

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Monday 13th March 2023 at 7pm in the Church Centre

A total of 20 people attended the meeting: Rev. Mike Smith, Lizbeth and Derek Harbottle, Liz Ashenden, Dave and Liz Hopkins, Brian and Linda Vogwell, Ann Delves, Pat Hartwell, Chris and Claire Sandys, Jenny Farmer, Michael Owens, John Mayne, Louisa Messenger, Wendy Rodwell, Tom Poulton, Phil Blake and Claire Otter.

The Rev. Mike chaired the meeting. All members of the PCC had been emailed a pack prior to the meeting with the Annual Report and Accounts (which had previously been approved by the PCC) and a copy of all the reports which were to be presented.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Vestry Meeting

Churchwardens update

Mike formally thanked Linda Vogwell and Chris Sandys on behalf of everyone as they formally stepped down from their Churchwarden roles.

Linda said the role had been a privilege and rewarding and thanked everyone for their support.

Chris also thanked everyone for their support saying he had learnt a lot and will still be around to help, especially IT support!

Mike gave a prayer of thanks.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Apologies received: Coralie Slade, Sarah Smith, Ally Morgan, Judy Baldwin, Tony and Pat Woods.

1. Elections to the PCC

Ex Officio members:

Derek Harbottle (Treasurer)

Liz Hopkins (Safeguarding)

Louisa Messenger (Reader)

Liz Ashenden (Synod)

Lizbeth Harbottle (Synod)

Re-elected members:

Pat Hartwell (Vice Chair)

Nominated Linda Vogwell

Proposed by Louisa Messenger and

Seconded by Liz Hopkins

Linda Vogwell (Electoral Roll Officer)

Nominated John Mayne

Proposed by Liz Ashenden

Seconded by Dave Hopkins

Continuing to serve:

Dave Hopkins

Mike Owens

John Mayne

Claire Otter

Newly Elected Members:

Nominated Allyson Morgan

Proposed by John Mayne

Seconded by Sarah Smith

Co-Opted:

Tom Poulton

Nominated Brian Vogwell

Proposed by Dave Hopkins

Seconded by Phil Blake

Mike prayed for new formed PCC

2. Approval of previous minutes - Held on Monday 9th May 2022

Minutes of the previous APCM were drawn to everyone's attention. There were no comments made and these minutes were accepted as a correct record proposed by Liz Ashenden and seconded by Jenny Farmer.

3. Secretary's report - no comments made

4. Report of the Work of the PCC - no comments made

Development of Glebe Land

Mike is arranging to meet Ray Otters to draw up plans that would work with the land.

5. Treasurer's Report

Derek Harbottle presented the Annual Report and Accounts to the meeting. These were approved by the PCC at the meeting on 26th February 2023.

Derek confirmed independent examiners checked and signed report reference P.5/6 of the Reports and Accounts booklet.

Our attention was drawn to the fact that it had been a third difficult year with a deficit of £5,000 and that accounts are not yet back to their pre-pandemic limit.

To deal with the deficit the PCC agreed to the actions highlighted in the Accounts and Reports booklet page 6.

Our current commitment to the Parish Share 2023 is £55,215. The Diocese has requested a 2% increase of that figure.

Parish Giving Scheme

There was a discussion around the Parish Giving Scheme and if you have the option to increase the amount you give. This can be done via email or via the internet account or you can set up a regular standing order/direct debit. If you require any information about this scheme then Derek is more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Nominated Harper Sheldon

Proposed by Pat Hartwell

Seconded by Dave Hopkins

A huge thank you was given to Derek as we are grateful and appreciate all the hard work he puts into his role of Treasurer.

6. Safeguarding Report

Liz Hopkins kindly gave us an update regarding Safeguarding. Below are her key points:

- Anyone with a DBS certificate needs to be rechecked every 3 years instead of 5 years.
- All of the PCC need a DBS check and are required to do some online training.
- The online training consists of Basic Awareness, Foundation and Domestic Abuse and can be found on the C of E training Portal. This needs to be completed by July this year.
- The Basic Awareness training video should also be completed by Bellringers who do not need to be DBS checked.
- Bellringers who are going to ring in other parishes have been required by those Parishes to have a DBS check. Two members of our Tower have been checked so they can ring.
- The Tower Captain and Liz both have to do the “Leadership “ training which is not on line and has to be applied for.
- The C of E are also including a self declaration form for Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service. This will be needed beside the DBS. This form is confidential and will be sent to Kate Peake.
- We continue to use the Parish Dashboard which flags up safeguarding issues and those completed.

7. Presentation from Mike Smith.

Mike commented that over the Christmas period we had 300 guests coming to our services and questioned how do we now stay connected with them? Mike went on to say that the 9am service continues to grow and maintain and that here at St George’s we have 2 types of worship. A formal and informal style and that 2 years ago the 10.30am service wasn’t there but is now going strong. The 9.45am Wednesday service continues. Other activities at St George’s are the Women’s Ministry breakfast and light party and film nights where all ages can come together.

Covid has taught us a lot, things are not better, not worse, just different and the way some people worship has changed. We need to get more creative and resilient. How do we get the word of god out to everyone?

Mike also mentioned that we only have a small group of volunteers but this isn't different to other churches for example St Andrews, so how do we get more volunteers and utilize the ones we have? Giving continues to be a challenge.

ACTIONS:

Mike - Giving Sunday for all services before July 20th

Liz Ashenden - To capture all jobs that need to be done around St George's. This list can then be put up for anyone to put their names against anything they are able to help with. ***Mike asked for help to present this information but no offers yet.***

So how do we move forward? - Mike reiterated our mission statement ***"To journey in faith and share God's love"***

Our Messy Church is a great idea as it fits with our thinking regarding maintaining a connection with our guests. It's a stepping stone towards making it easier to access church. Church can be scary for some, daunting for others so lets make it fun!

Not everyone wants to worship formally but they still do want to worship. Some people would like to worship but don't know where to start. How can we help with this? One way is to offer an Alpha course as this is one program which allows people to explore faith. Mike has already been contacted by two people who have asked him if he will be doing an Alpha course. However these activities do come with a consequence.

Some Facebook interviews have been carried out recently with 6 members of St George's describing their faith to encourage people in the wider community that faith is for all.

Mike mentioned that he had seen the Bishop and she was delighted to hear the growth of St George's and is very excited about the messy church and is coming along to the 9.30am session on Good Friday. She was very keen to hear all about the facebook interviews and was thankful we are open and willing to do what the Lord is calling us to do next.

ACTION: Mike - set up time away with PCC to look at the vision for St Georges.

8. Any other business

Mike will be having a meeting with Derek and Louisa to discuss further elements of the 9am worship services.

ACTION: Derek to provide Mike with dates.

Phil Blake raised the importance of men meeting together to form friendships. **ACTION: Mike** to meet with Phil to develop this idea.

Liz Ashenden mentioned the Deanery Synod meeting to raise awareness for local youth work. **Date of Next Meeting APCM: 29th April 2024**

Closing in Prayer

PCC Members @ April 2024

Vicar: Mike Smith

Licensed Readers: Louisa Messenger

Elected Members –

Deanery Synod:

Elizabeth Ashenden re-elected March 2023

Lizbeth Harbottle re-elected March 2023

PCC:

Derek Harbottle (Treasurer) re-elected March 2023

Elizabeth Hopkins (Safeguarding) re-elected March 2023

Pat Hartwell (Vice Chair) re-elected March 2023

David Hopkins elected April 2018

John Mayne elected May 2022

Claire Otter elected May 2022

Linda Vogwell re-elected March 2023

Ally Morgan elected March 2023

Tom Poulton elected March 2023

Mike Owens re-elected 2021

With 102 names on the electoral roll we currently have 5 vacancies on the PCC.

Secretary's Report

This information is included in the Annual Report.

Treasurer's report (Mr Derek Harbottle)

Report & Accounts for 2023

The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023, prepared under the Charities Act and Church Accounting Regulations, were approved by the PCC on 18th March 2024. The Accounts have been checked by the independent examiners, Harper Sheldon, and their report is at page 5.

The Accounts are available to be downloaded from our website, or if anyone would like a hard copy please ask Karen in the church office who has a copy for printing.

The General Fund – After three difficult years, the deficit was reduced to just over £1,500 for 2023.

Income -

The planned giving from members of the church was slightly down on 2022 at £32,800. With fewer weddings and funerals, fee income was down, but service collections and gift aid are up on last year. Hall lettings have increased strongly to just above £14,000. Fundraising events achieved £7,300.

The total income on the General Fund was just below £77,500

Expenditure -

There has been a general all round increase in expenditure, the main item being staff costs. However, there was a small saving for electricity, gas and maintenance. We have benefitted from a five year contract term for both electricity and gas, but this will need to be renewed in January 2025, so we are likely to see a substantial increase then. Churchyard upkeep has continued to be carried out by volunteers. The amount committed by the PCC for parish share in 2023 was £55,215, the same amount as in 2022, and this was paid in full.

The total expenditure on the General Fund was just under £79,000.

To deal with this deficit, and in order to maintain the balance on the General Fund, the PCC agreed the following -

1. Not to increase our Parish Share commitment for 2023, the Diocese had requested that we considered a 2% increase for 2023, but the PCC decided we could not afford this. The amount committed was paid in full.
2. Allocate £2,000 from the Brockworth Church Charity to the General Fund. The annual repayment to the permanent endowment is currently being funded by investment income, therefore the balance on the PCC's account can be utilised for other costs from the general fund. This allocation would still leave a balance of just over £18,000.

Other Funds – see note 16 on page 11.

The main items were :

Centre maintenance - a grant was received from Gloucester Diocese towards the Centre kitchen project and this is carried forward to 2024.

Restricted donations - a donation to cover the costs of developing Messy Church was received and the unused balance carried forward to 2024.

General Fund for 2024

The PCC will continue to review the figures for 2024 as the year progresses, but this year is likely to be again difficult to balance the books, with wages and several areas of expenditure increasing. The Parish Share commitment for 2024 has been initially set at £59,080, an increase of 7% as requested by the Diocese and Deanery.

The budget figures for 2024 show that fund raising needed to achieve a breakeven position on the General Fund is £12,000, and at present, the planned giving is also below budget as a number of regular donors leaving our schemes is more than the number of new donors joining in 2023. Please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme – please ask the treasurer for details or use the QR code below.



DJH 4th April 2024

Safeguarding Report April 2024 (Mrs Elizabeth Hopkins, Safeguarding Officer)

Gloucestershire is the first diocese to have a safeguarding audit. The iNEQE Safeguarding group has been contracted by our national safeguarding arrangements to undertake audits of all dioceses and Cathedrals over the next few years. The reason for this is to make sure dioceses, cathedrals and palaces are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

We can as a church take part in this and there is a PowerPoint presentation that we can download and watch. Our opinions can also be given and all this information is confidential.

At present we are nearly up to date with all our outstanding DBS checks. These now include members of the PCC. A greater emphasis has been put on training and nearly all the PCC members have completed training sessions through e learning on Basic Awareness, Foundation and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. Our clergy and reader have received further training and the PSO now needs to complete two further training sessions. The dioceses now are becoming concerned about Modern Slavery. This will probably be the next training session I look into this further. We continue to use the Parish Dashboard which is very useful to keep us up to date with safeguarding matters.

Fabric Report (The Reverend Mike Smith)

General maintenance continued in 2023/24 on both the Church and the Church Centre

The Church Centre redecoration continued with the refurbishment of the entrance hallway.

In 2024, with a £22k grant from Enover, a new kitchen will be designed and installed.

SEVERN VALE DEANERY - SYNOD REPORT FOR 2023 - Mrs Elizabeth Ashenden

The Severn Vale Deanery consists of 12 Benefices, mainly to the North of Gloucester on both sides of the River Severn; it borders the Forest of Dean to the West, Herefordshire and Worcestershire to the North, and Cheltenham to the East; and it covers mainly rural areas but also the larger “semi-suburban” communities of Churchdown, Innsworth and Brockworth. It is currently led by our Area Dean, the Reverend Canon Jacqui Hyde, and our Lay Chair, Sue Padfield, with Steve Riddick serving as Secretary and Derek Wright as both Parish Share Officer and Treasurer.

Deanery Synods are usually held three times per calendar year, to share matters of common interest across our Benefices and to act as a conduit with the Diocese. Details of Synods held in 2023 are as follows:

Tuesday 14th March 2023 *(at St Mary the Virgin, Dymock)*

After a brief update on the Deanery Strategic Planning Process, the main focus of the meeting was a talk on Youth Work across the Diocese by Barrie Voyce (Senior Youth Connector) and Charlotte Butcher (West Deaneries Youth Connector). It was noted that the Church generally has good contacts at Primary and Junior schools, but less so amongst the 11-18 age group – which is therefore the current focus of the Youth Connect programme. Various issues affecting this demographic in our Deanery were then discussed. Barrie’s view is that young people’s key concerns nowadays are not dramatically different from those we all encountered in the past, but manifest themselves in different ways (due to things such as social media, more focus on mental health etc). Opportunities exist for us all to work better together, and to ensure proper link-ups with e.g. Sportily where appropriate. Meanwhile the work we do must always seek to remind and reassure our youth that we are all children of God.

Wednesday 19th July 2023 *(at Holy Innocents, Highnam)*

This meeting was the first of our new three-year Synod cycle (or “triennium”); so after welcoming new members, we re-elected Sue Padfield as Lay Chair, while Steve Riddick and Derek Wright were confirmed in their positions. Jacqui Hyde then gave a brief overview of the Deanery, following which we discussed the continuing development of the Deanery Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Organisation and Communication. It was noted that the Diocese have advised us against spending much time on improving the Deanery website due to the relatively small number of users, but minor enhancements may be pursued. Meanwhile we are investigating improved use of social media, with certain groups such as churchwardens and treasurers being likely first steps. Derek Wright also presented the Synod accounts for 2022.

Thursday 16th November 2023 *(at All Saints, Longhope)*

The principal topic of our final meeting of the year was a presentation by Robert McNeil-Wilson on the Church of England’s General Synod (on which he is one of our lay representatives). Robert noted that General Synod has a total membership of over 450, being 52 in the House of Bishops and approximately 200 in each of the House of Clergy and the House of Laity. General Synods are quite formal and sometimes frustrating. Meanwhile there have been many significant issues recently, including on Governance, Safeguarding, alleged mis-management, and most recently Living in Love and Faith; very different views continue to be held on many of these topics. Robert himself is passionate about the importance of parishes, while also having a particular interest in Church finances; he is happy to discuss these and other matters with anyone from across the Deanery. Following Robert’s talk, the Reverend Dan Button advised us on current developments and new courses at Gateway Theology School, encouraging us all to further deepen our understanding of scripture and related topics; we had a brief update on the Deanery Strategic Plan; and Derek Wright talked us through the proposal for the 2024 Parish Share.

Full Synod minutes and other information on all the above can be found on the Deanery website, or via the Secretary.

*Steve Riddick, Secretary to the Deanery Synod
February 2024*

Vicar's Report (The Reverend Mike Smith)

While we seem to have moved on from the immediate effects of Covid we still live in a very unsettled demanding world, with unprecedented demands on our time, money, and energy, but this has not affected our worship or a wonderful, generous, awesome, loving God. Some highlights which stand out from this PCC year, a wonderful gathering of over 70 children and adults at the Good Friday Messy Church to our delight and the delight of Bishop Rachel. The Christmas Fair and Treefest were incredibly well supported events from our local community, Christmas Eve midnight communion with 70+ guests, and 140+ people at the Christingle service blessed us enormously.

We also ran an Alpha course which we hope would be the start of many, and seeing the Men's and Women's ministries flourish has been exciting.

We were also awarded £22k to redevelop our kitchen and an invitation to join Bishop Rachel's pioneering project 10:10 Circle exploring how we might engage better with our local community.

Adapting to a new environment or circumstances can be difficult, but engaging with change can help us explore new things and learn from different experiences. When we adapt to changing situations, we learn to grow in our faith: our prayer life increases as we lean into God for support and comfort, our compassion and our dependence on God increase. This is what life as a disciple is all about: growing in trust, as our saviour Jesus Christ demonstrated. Change is difficult for some, and traditions are the dam that can hold back change.

"For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition."

Mark 7:8 (NLT)

If a tradition doesn't demonstrate our fundamental calling, "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength", then it is a futile human exercise: it maybe longstanding and important to us, but if it is not manifesting the Kingdom of God then surely we need to ask ourselves the question, 'should we be investing our time and energy in this'?

*But **the eleven disciples** proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but **some were doubtful**. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.*

(Matthew 28:16–20)

There are significant demands made on families and communities. Families struggling with finances, and the demands (physical, emotional, and financial) of caring for family and friends, and the effects on our lives of a buckling NHS service. With all these demands we could be exhausted – again physically, emotionally, and financially.

However, God is doing so much in our community that we can tell stories of a wonderful, generous, powerful, abundant God and what we see him doing in us and among us – look at the selection of highlights – God is good. Amen?

There will be challenges ahead, but challenges are just an opportunity and invitation to pray more(!), and an opportunity to rely and unite as a community around our faith in Jesus Christ: we are most powerful when we are united sharing the lovingkindness of Jesus with each other: speaking more words of encouragements and life than words of criticism and judgement.

Inclusion within the Diocese leadership project, 10:10 Circle, is a fantastic opportunity to think and pray strategically about growing our presence in Brockworth, how we grow as disciples, and how we can become more financially fruitful with the resources we have.

As disciples of Jesus, growth looks like the kingdom of God increasing in its manifestation around us, as we deepen our relationship with Jesus. In more earthly terms growth might look like more people connecting with God through events and worship times at St. George's.

Numerical growth is a complex issue and the motivation for it runs the risk of, far too easily, becoming self-serving. For a healthier view and engagement with the subject of numerical growth it is better to start with the Old Testament command, which Jesus endorsed(Mark 12):

“Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (NLT)

We are people who live in the knowledge that our lives are eternal, and that our eternal life has already begun. We live in two ‘kingdoms’. We simultaneously live in the kingdom of God; in which justice and righteousness flow like rivers. We also live in the current kingdom of this world, in which money and fear seem to have such power. Numerical growth in the church comes when our friends, families, neighbours, and colleagues discover that they also live in two kingdoms, and consciously choose to step into the Kingdom of God.

Spiritual growth is the process of becoming more truly the person you are called to be. One test of this is what we are willing to give and do for God and for others – not just the people we like, or who are ‘like us’, but responding to those we meet even if they are not our friends. Just as Jesus did on the cross. Like all of us, I’m not there yet. I have a long way to go to become Christ-like and I have a lot of Spiritual growth still ahead of me. I hope that we can be companions in our discipleship as we grow together.

As part of the Deanery Strategic Plan we continue to partner with the Greenway Benefice (Badgeworth, Shurdington, and Witcombe with Bentham) to form a Cluster.

I am very aware that this year has been incredibly difficult for some in terms of enduring serious illness, bereavement, and personal struggles.

Let us all continue to love and pray for one another, showing loving-kindness whenever and wherever we can. AMEN?

We prayerfully give thanks for:

- Louisa Messenger, Adrian Slade, and Steve Newnes for their ministry and support leading services.
- The 1030am leading and preaching team: Claire & Chris Sandys, Neil Drake, Raymond Otter, and Phil Blake
- The leaders of our Children's groups: Claire Otter, Ann & Tom Poulton, Ally Morgan, Rachel Green, Sarah Smith .
- Derek Harbottle and the incredibly efficient, faithful, and steadfast commitment to management and development of St. George's finances.
- All the members of the PCC, for the time and energy they give to serving the community of faith at St. George's
- Liz Hopkins in the important role of Safeguarding Officer.
- Elaine Marsh as she takes on the role of PCC Secretary. We pray that as she takes up this new role we can support and encourage her as she settles in.
- The Flower Ladies: for the wonderful and creative designs they produce which bless all that see them.
- The Coffee team: Neil Drake, Sarah Smith, Phil Blake, Ann Poulton, Mike & Cathy, John & Sue, Chris & Claire,
- The bell ringers and the wonderful service they give to the community.
- Karen's role in the office, thank you for being so welcoming to all our clients.
- Judy Baldwin and the Toddlers Team for their dedication to encouraging parents and toddlers in our community – including Brian Baldwin who does an amazing job of maintaining the church centre.
- Pat Hartwell and the Magazine team and all who contribute. Thank you for producing wonderful monthly content which keeps so many people connected.
- The grass cutters.
- The church cleaning team.
- The Churchyard tidy-up team.

If I have missed anyone out from this list, I hope you know that it wouldn't have been intentional, and we are very thankful as we work and serve together.

PCC Time Away 11th May 2024 930am-12pm ... location

St George's Church Brockworth Revision of Electoral Roll 2024 (Mrs Linda Vogwell)

I certify that the number of names on the revised Electoral Roll in preparation for the APCM on 29th April 2024 is 102.

6 new names have been added to the Roll.

Sadly three members have died.

Fundraising for 2023 (Mr Brian & Mrs Judy Baldwin)

Tea Dances

Twelve dances were held in 2023 taking place on the second Friday of every month with an average of about 40 dancers attending each session.

We play recorded music for ballroom, Latin and sequence dancing. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided during the break.

A big thank you to Jan and Trish who come month by month to run the kitchen for us and several other ladies who have also helped when needed.

A total of £2,808 was raised and shared between the church and the church centre with the money coming from outside the parish.

Musical Evenings

Originally our Musical Evenings were going to stop after the Christmas one in 2022 but we were asked to do more and so in April we did a Patriotic evening celebrating the forthcoming coronation and all things British and then in October we took another trip down memory lane.

We would like to thank all those who contributed their favourite songs or music, we had a rich variety of musical genre from old to new, from traditional to ballad from opera to ballet and many more.

Also a big thank you to those who helped in any way to make the evenings successful, Keith Stacey with his monologues and songs, Brian Vogwell who provided and manned the bar, all those who provided home made cakes, the many helpers in the kitchen and Brian Baldwin for his technical expertise.

Finally there is the added bonus that we raised £542.50 much needed funds for our church.

Bell Ringers report for APCM 29th April 2024 (Mr Derek Harbottle)

Ringling continued throughout 2023, we rang before the 9am service on Sundays and continued our Thursday evening weekly practice.

We rang the bells to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla on the morning of the coronation in May.

We also rang for three weddings in 2023 and welcomed two groups of visiting ringers during the year. We hosted a Gloucester branch practice in February.

The tower ringing room was open on the two afternoons of the Christmas Tree Festival in December, and we welcomed 15 visitors on Saturday and 11 visitors on Sunday.

Our local association, the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association, has again organised a number of events and in particular, the popular training days were recommenced in 2023.

The Gloucester Branch now has a number of regular practices at Maisemore, St Mary de Crypt and Barnwood.

There are only 7 or 8 local members of the St George's band, who make up the usual Sunday service team. Practice nights are supported by a couple of ringers from Churchdown with occasional visitors from elsewhere. We would welcome hearing from any returning ringers who are interested in joining us, or anyone interested in finding out what happens up in the tower, so we can keep the Brockworth bells ringing in the future.

Brockworth Bell Ringers

Mothers' Union Report (Mrs Coralie Slade)

The Brockworth branch of the Mothers' Union continues to meet on the fourth Monday of each month, except August. There are 19 members and the branch is fortunate to have Enid Lovell as the Branch Leader to keep everyone informed and enthusiastic. We welcomed 7 speakers, covering a variety of topics, covering such diverse interests as social history and community concerns.

We are part of a global organisation that works to improve the quality of life for all, at home and abroad. This includes topics such as mitigating poverty, gender violence and injustice.

Our meetings are open to all, visitors are welcome to attend regardless of age, gender or family circumstances.

Carers and Toddlers (Mrs Judy Baldwin)

We meet every Monday morning in term time and have a loyal group of about ten families that regularly attend and many others that come and go. We offer a happy environment for the children to play in and the room is divided into different areas eg. home area, craft area, baby area etc to ensure the greatest safety for all the children. There is also a designated space where the carers can enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit away from the childrens play area.

The children also enjoy a musical time together followed by a snack and we like to cover our board at the back of the hall with examples of the craft work that the children and their carers have been doing.

Sadly this year our bouncy castle failed to arrive but we still enjoyed our summer party and of course we had our Christmas party and a present from Father Christmas.

None of this would be possible without the wonderful help of Jan, Pat, Rita, Ann D, Sue, Enid and Ann M who come along each week and without whom we could not function.

Also a big thank you to Mike and his helpers who set up the hall for us each week and Brian who comes to set out and put away the equipment.

We are self funding and provide for all our own needs but we were still able to give £800 towards church funds.

Church Centre report 2024 (Mrs Pat Hartwell & Miss Karen Leach)

The Church Centre committee has not met for many months after some personnel stepped down. We hope to resume meetings after the APCM.

Karen Leach, as Church Centre manager, is responsible for the day-to-day management and upkeep of the Church Centre, dealing with regular and occasional lettings, maintenance issues and much more.

All hire fees increased with effect from 1st January 2024.

All regular hirers continue to use the Church Centre generating a regular weekly income.

There continues to be many one-off hire sessions and some block bookings.

Brockworth Link (library) continues to pay an annual fee for use of four parking spaces (Monday to Thursday). The fee for 2023: £210.00 and 2024: £220.00. Two spaces are used daily and the other two are used occasionally.

For financial information, please see 'Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023'.

Health and Safety checks are carried out daily, weekly, monthly etc and are signed off each time.

Regular cleaning of the Church Centre continues. There have been some issues with the Church Centre not being left clean and tidy between hirers. Karen is monitoring this.

Grass mowed and weeds cleared (down church office side) regularly by Bryn. He also carries out other gardening and general maintenance on an ad hoc basis.

Many thanks to Brian Baldwin who is always on hand to fix one-off maintenance issues encountered by Karen and is always done very quickly.

A new online system is being used called 'Hallmaster' to manage all Church Centre bookings and to produce invoices.

A grant has been obtained to upgrade the kitchen to catering standard. The project is being managed by John Boulton and Claire Sandys. To be completed during summer 2024.

Hall lighting will also be revamped with much more environmentally friendly LED spotlights. This is to take place on 5th and 6th June.

We are grateful to the team of volunteers who decorated the entrance hall. It is hoped that a team can be assembled to redecorate the main hall in the summer holidays.

The grounds outside the hall around the car park are getting overgrown and in need of attention. Again, it is hoped that volunteers can tackle this. The notice board by the road is in particular need of attention.

St George's Flower Arrangers 2023/2024 (Mrs Anne Banting)

Despite the rising living costs, we were still privileged to have the opportunity to provide the floral displays for some of the weddings at St. George's.

In addition, we were asked for a funeral arrangement and also an "in loving remembrance" tribute.

Possibly our busiest week occurred when we prepared to decorate the Church to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 111. Red, white and blue flowers were everywhere, together with certain regalia, and some spectacular crowns created by Dick Compton.(Thank you, Dick)

The Christmas Tree Festival again proved to be a popular event for the local community and here we must pay tribute to Linda, who, despite enormous health worries, kept the show on the road. Massive love and thanks, Linda.

We continue to meet on Thursday mornings to ensure St George's has its usual displays, and we are so encouraged by the kind words we receive. Ann (C), Ann (W) and Mary continue to produce amazing arrangements. Mary never missed a session even though her home responsibilities were so demanding. What a star!

Last but not least, there is a new kid on the block on special occasions! We have had the pleasure of Karen's daughter, Freda, helping us. Not only does she have a lovely natural talent – but the average age of the team takes quite a drop! Thank you , Freda.

Love and prayers, Anne