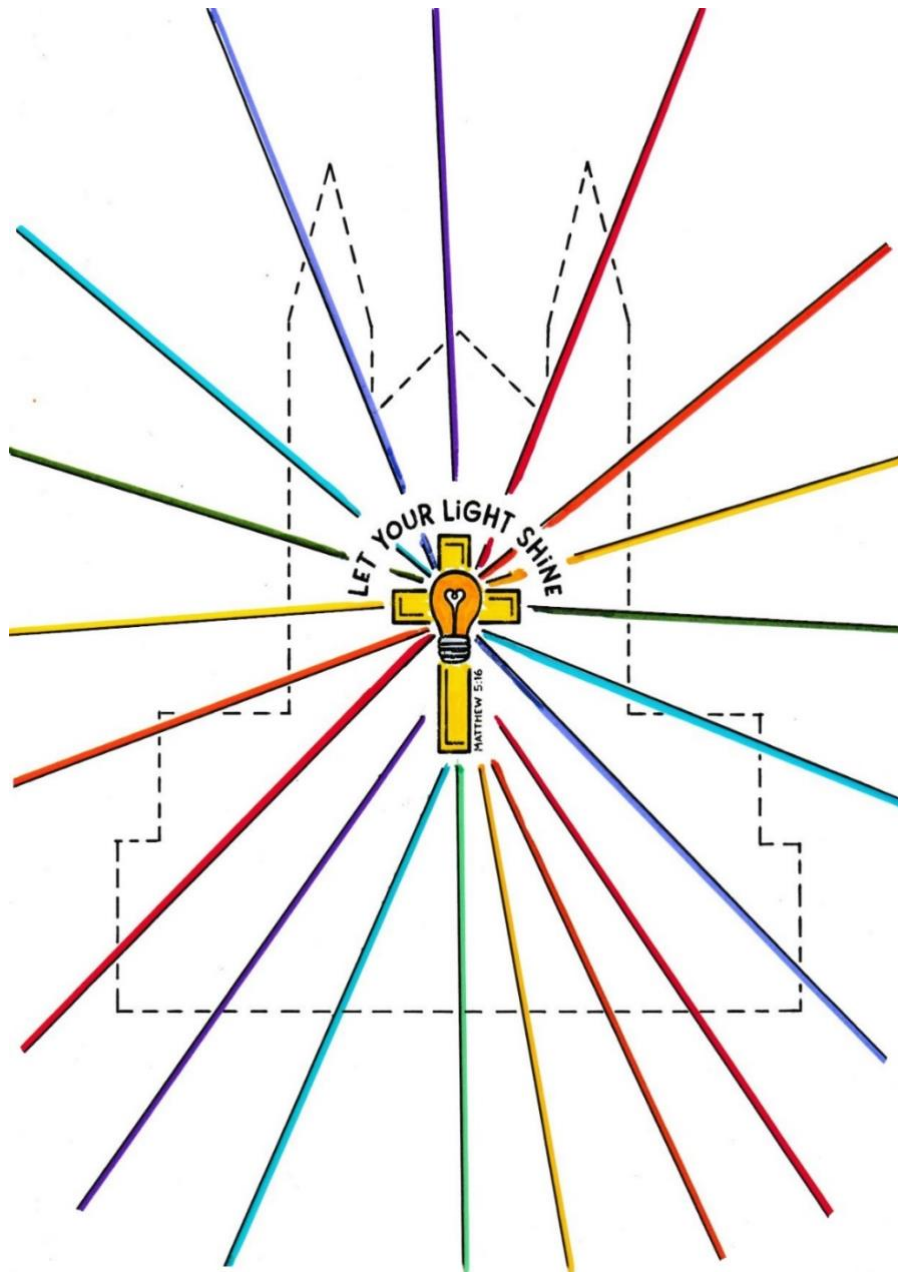


The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Saint George with
Saint Mary Magdalene Worcester

Annual Report & Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2022



This image represents that we at St George's strive to radiate the refracted light of God's love for us all, bursting out wide and far!

Registered as a Charity No: 1128943

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Introduction

The PCC members ('The Trustees') present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022, which comply with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 and the Charity Commissions Statement of Recommended Practice.

Administrative Information

The Parish Church of Saint George is situated in Saint George's Square, Worcester WR1 1HX. It is part of the Worcester Deanery in the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England.

Public and working address of the PCC is: 38 Blanquettes Avenue, Worcester WR3 8DB

Emails may be sent to the PCC Secretary: stgpccsec@gmail.com

The PCC website is: www.saintgeorgesworcester.org.uk

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint George with Saint Mary Magdalene, Worcester is the name of the charity, registered as a charity number 1128943 in England and Wales. The charity also uses the name PCC Saint George with Saint Mary Magdalene, Barbourne, Worcester.

Church Officers

Incumbent: Reverend Jo Musson

Associate Priest: Reverend Peter Davies
Reverend Jennie Hayward

Church Warden(s): Pam Summers
(vacancy)

Assistant Church Warden(s): Chris Bishop
Trish Greenwood
Margaret Stokes

Membership of the PCC

Chair: Reverend Jo Musson

Ex-Officio: Pam Summers – Churchwarden
(Vacancy)

Representatives of the Deanery Synod: (Vacancy)
(3 year term, max. 2 consecutive terms) Vacancy)

Elected Members: Alex New (2023) – Lay Vice Chair
(3 year term) Alison Clarke (2023)
Margaret Stokes (2023)
Patricia 'Trish' Greenwood (2024) – Treasurer
Robert 'Bob' Rolison (2023) – Health & Safety Officer
Lyn Crowther – Secretary (2025)
Chris Bishop – (2025)
Mark Hugill – (2025) – Parish Safeguarding Officer
(Vacancy)

NB. retirement at APCM during year shown in brackets

Co-Opted:

Advisers

Bankers: Lloyds Bank PLC
The Cross
Worcester WR1 3PY

Independent Examiners: Douglas B Lee TD, AIB
270A Birmingham Road
Bromsgrove B61 0EZ

Architect: Nick Joyce Architects LLP
5 Barbourne Road
Worcester WR1 1RS

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC was formerly an excepted charitable organisation but registered as a charity in its own right on 1st April 2009. The method of appointment of PCC members and church wardens is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC has adopted a resolution requiring one third of its members to retire annually on a rota but being eligible for re-election. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and nomination to the PCC is open to all members on the roll. Information about being a member is made available throughout the nomination period. Decisions are made by majority vote at PCC meetings. The first meeting of the PCC after the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) elects the Vice-Chairman, PCC Secretary, Treasurer, and Electoral Roll Officer. There are also three Assistant Church Wardens appointed. Day-to-day Fabric matters are actioned by the Chair of the Fabric Committee.

By the nature of sharing our Vicar with Claines we are developing a close working relationship with them. This is formally managed through weekly Ministry Team meetings, weekly joint Online Worship and occasional away days. The PCC meets a minimum of 4 times a year and also operates through a number of sub-committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. A Standing Committee meets between each PCC meeting.

Risk Assessment

The members of the PCC regularly review the risks to which the Council might be exposed and recommend action to mitigate or to manage appropriately. The PCC reviews its Child Protection, Vulnerable Adults, and Health and Safety Policies on an annual basis, but the PCC Safeguarding Officer and the PCC Health and Safety Officer have delegated authority to manage these areas on a day-to-day basis. Financial risks are regularly reviewed by the PCC and are under the day-to-day control of the Treasurer.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mark Hugill
Health & Safety Officer: Bob Rolison

Insurance

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Office PLC provides the PCC with insurance cover. The Parish Guard Insurance policy was renewed on 1st January 2022 to provide cover on Saint George's Church and Magdalene Room and of the contents, after revaluation, for a total (index linked) figure of up to £14,000,000. In addition, the policy covers other types of risk, such as Employers' and Public Liability, and Personal Accident.

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit

Embracing difference, living as one, mirroring the likeness of Christ.

Saint George's is different. No pews. We sit in a circle with the altar in the centre because the Eucharist is at the heart of our worship and Saint George's is at the heart of the local community, offering peace, prayer and practical support. Saint George's is an inclusive church, we welcome every person because we believe everyone is made in the image of God. No exceptions.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Its primary objective is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the churchyard, boundary walls and church gates by reason of the closing of the churchyard by an Order in Council dated 6th June 1859. PCC members confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the PCC's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The agreed objectives for the sub-committees working under the authority of the PCC are as follows:

Standing Committee

Consisting of the Vicar, Church Warden(s), Treasurer and PCC Secretary, the committee has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any direction by the PCC. The committee also supports the Treasurer by reviewing the basis on which accounts are prepared. It identifies ways to improve income and reduce costs and considers matters of a financial nature which are reported to the PCC. This committee meets between PCC meetings.

Fabric Committee

The Fabric Committee reports to the PCC on all matters relating to Saint George's Church building, churchyard, Magdalene Room, fabric and Health & Safety. Bob Rolison inspects the fabric on a regular basis.

Chair of the Fabric Committee: Reverend Jo Musson
Members: Bob Rolison (Convener)
Pamela Summers

Magdalene Room Booking Secretary

The Booking Secretary has the responsibility for the day-to-day running of the room, approving booking enquiries and making recommendations to the PCC for hire charges. Together with the Chair of the Fabric Committee, they report to PCC on all matters relating to the fabric, facilities and equipment of the building:

Booking Secretary: Barbara Rolison

Volunteers

In common with most churches, Saint George PCC's activities could not happen without the input of many volunteers who offer their services on every single day of the week. The PCC is immensely grateful for all the hard work of its volunteers who contribute many hours of their time to the church. Although the number of volunteers is large, more are needed because the harvest is still more plentiful than our labourers can manage.

Electoral Roll (*Janet Peplow*)

As at 31st December 2022 there were 54 names on the electoral roll, of whom 30 are non-resident in the Parish. 9 names have been removed during the year and 2 were added.

Ministers Report (*Reverend Jo Musson*)

Highlights - 2022 was an encouraging year, and we gave thanks that we could be back in church, and in the Magdalene Room, gathering, worshipping and socialising together again. Lay ministry flourished and many of our groups grew. More children were admitted to their first communion and the school came back into church. One of the highlights was an iSingPOP concert presented by the school following a 3-day workshop part funded by Saint George's PCC. What a joy it was to then have the boys and girls join us on the Sunday singing about Jesus!

A highlight for me and for both churches was the appointment of Tammara Adams as our new Parish Administrator following the resignation of Michelle Billings. Tammara has picked up the role brilliantly and is ensuring a caring and efficient service for both churches and the public. A huge thank you to Gwen Clifford and John Brady who continue to cover gaps and holiday leave and did a wonderful job training and supporting Tammara.

Saint George's played an important role as a place of worship and bereavement for two significant National events: the Jubilee and the death of the late Queen, Elizabeth II. The two joint Jubilee services were both well attended, with 90 communicants at St George's, the most we had had since before the pandemic. As we settled into a new normal we were blessed in so many ways and reminded that through it all, God has been there with us. Now we look forward to the future with some exciting new initiatives. I am as ever grateful to everyone who participates in the life and ministry of the church and most especially to Pam Summers, Patricia Greenwood, Lyn Crowther, Barbara Rolison, for their support and hard work and to all of the Ministry Team, in particular Rev Peter Davies upon whom I rely heavily.

Collaboration - Working Well Together

We began a process of exploring how we could work more closely with St Stephen's Church. Together with Reverend Andy Todd, Curate Reverend Lindsey Coulthard, lay people from St Stephen's and Saint George's we met to explore how the three local churches could work more effectively together. On 9th June the standing committees of St Stephen's, St George's, and Claines met to continue the conversation around 'Working Well Together,' with a lively exploration (using Lego) of what we might achieve for the community by working together more closely. In July we met again, this time facilitated by Rev'd Alison Maddocks who helped us explore further, assessing impact and outcomes and looking at 'what could possibly go wrong?' Having a social together was identified as a 'quick-win' start, and as a result 45 people in 3 teams enjoyed a Skittles Afternoon at the Alma Tavern. St George's won! It was a great start, breaking down barriers and preconceptions and I hope this will be the beginning of further socialising to break down any perceived barriers.

Mission

Once again we came together with the other North Worcester Churches and ran a stall at the Worcester Show. The Show was even bigger than usual and held on the Racecourse. With record temperatures, several toddlers and dogs appreciated the mini paddling pool which was initially intended as a prayer activity! Sadly there is no one from Saint George's on the North Worcester Group of Churches, with only 3 meetings a year could you do this?

The weekly Mailchimp newsletter now goes to more than 330 people via email and around 20 people by post. We hit our record recently with 204 people opening the email. By marketing standards this is

great. Thanks to the 'Posties' who deliver printed copies by hand every week to ensure that everyone gets to read the week's news.

Following a successful application, we were allocated a Mission Accompanier – Nigel Tween. His support and consultancy came through a grant from the Healthier Churches fund. Nigel will be able to help us access further funding from the Healthier Churches fund. Nigel is an experienced Pastor from the Elim Church, previously Principle of Regent's Bible College. As well as meeting with me for one-to-one coaching, and with the Parish reps, he has visited Kingdom Arts and Little Friends and is preaching at both churches in 2023. He is very encouraging of all that we are doing and wrote this: 'You have accomplished a huge amount of lasting change in just ten years and now offer a wide menu of activities in terms of worship and community focused events. You have built excellent connections with wider parishes, individuals and organisations.' Nigel is helping us explore the possibility of getting funding to employ a Children's, Families' and Youth Worker shared between the three local churches.

With Sue and Trevor Davies' joyous music we sang carols and even danced at Homenash and Gheluvelt Court, and with Pat Dorman (Rebecca's father in law) at Fernhill House and the Belmont Care Home. The Christmas Trees and flowers in church were magnificent and a true witness to the joy we encounter at Christmas. I am grateful to everyone who helps these happen.

Members of both parishes engaged with the National Consultation 'Living in Love and Faith.' Several people took part across the whole Deanery, organised by the Area Dean and with thanks to Ian Cramp as zoom driver. This was part of the consultancy around marriage and the blessing of same sex couples and the bigger picture of working towards being more inclusive.

We held several Bible Study Groups, with people attending in person and via zoom. During Lent we explored 'Women of Holy Week' by Paula Gooder and In Advent we read and discussed Paula's bible-based novel 'Lydia'. Both series were well received and attended.

Fabric and Fixtures

Fabric Update - the ancient radiator in the Lady Chapel leaked and caused much damage to the floor and carpet. The problem was addressed but this raises the question of the future. Susan Logan has advised that we begin to consider replacing the heating with a new eco system. The radiator in question was decommissioned and on the rare occasion the Lady Chapel is used we will use a fan heater.

We are still required to install a Fall Arrest Safety system to the North Tower. This is a requirement from the quinquennial for health and safety. The quote we had from 2020 was around £4,300 + vat and included installation, PPE and training. A faculty is required for this (Claines may be able to advise on this as they have one there).

Ministry Team

A major loss for both churches in 2022 was Reader Judy Morris who left Worcester to return to her hometown of Barrow. This left a large gap in the Ministry team, our funeral ministry and more generally across the breadth of missional events and socials at Saint George's. Judy is remembered fondly for her big heart for the marginalized and for being able to rustle up a feast for the masses without batting an eyelid.

Following an invitation to both congregations to consider whether they were being called to step up and fulfil a role in ministry, Phil Kear and Ian Cramp from Claines and Alison Clarke and Lyn Crowther from Saint George's, embarked on training to become Authorised Lay Ministers in Leading Worship. ALM is a one-year course which trains people to lead worship, to be aware of CofE guidelines and

resources, to write liturgy, reflections and prayers. They will be licensed in September 2023. Rachel Cramp commenced her second year of training to become a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) and successfully finished a 3-month placement at St John's in Bedwardine. She is already contributing to services and preaching, as well as continuing her role at Claines School as Governor and leading assemblies and Godly Play. We look forward to her licensing as a Reader (LLM) on 9th September 2023 with great anticipation. Please hold them all in your prayers.

Family Support and Occasional Offices

We continue to support families at times of loss through our funeral ministry, and several bereaved spouses joined the Quest group. I am grateful to Trish in particular and also to Margaret for her support and dedication to this group. Over the last year many families were catching up from lockdown and as a result we baptized over 40 children plus 2 adults altogether! I am grateful to Pam and Trish for attending Baptism preparation on zoom when we have families for Saint George's and also to Jan Hayden who kindly makes up the wedding and baptism packs for both churches.

Children's Ministry

The staff and pupils from Y6 and their parents came back into church for the first time since March 2020, to say farewell. The Autumn term felt like a return to normality with the whole school and their parents back at church for their Harvest Festival. Because of lockdown, for many of the children and their parents, it was their first time they had ever been inside the Church and there was a wonderful sense of joy and gratitude.

Rachel Cramp and I attended a Children's Work Training evening with the Deanery Synod and Elisabeth Witter and I attended the Calling Young Disciples End of project celebration where we recognised the progress we had made through working with Claines and St Stephen's over the years for children's events. Towards the end of the year we put on Children's Christmas Parties at both churches for our church families which was a great success.

Worship

I am most grateful to Sue Ashby-Davies and Alison Clarke for their contribution and flair in leading our music. The commitment of so many singers, and musicians is a real blessing to us all, and ensures a varied programme and something for all tastes.

It has been encouraging after the pandemic to see numbers at normal services creeping gradually back up, with an average of around 40 communicants. PCC decided not to bring back the common cup, having adopted the practice of the priest intincting the wafer in the wine, a situation which is reviewed regularly by the PCC. Some minor revisions to the pattern of worship were implemented which worked well and facilitated a better spread of clergy resource across each month. Reverend Peter reached a significant birthday (congratulations to him!) and quite rightly asked to have 2 clear weeks off each month which we have achieved through me not attending Café Church. I am hugely grateful to him for his support, dedication and prayerful ministry. It is a delight that Rev Jennie continues to be involved, and as well as her ministry, I thank her for her friendship and support. Her practical teaching sermons are always appreciated.

One of the positive things to come out of the pandemic is our ability to offer online worship and we have a small number of people regularly worshipping with us via ZOOM. This can be a real lifeline for people who cannot attend church and I am grateful to our three Zoom drivers Barbara Mitra, Elisabeth Witter and Janet Wilson for their continued dedication.

We ended 2022 with some wonderful worship and gatherings to celebrate the birth of our Lord, and it was wonderful to see people coming back to church for the Crib Services, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day. The Carol Service was truly a highlight and I am grateful to Barbara Rolison for all her

hard work and skill in choosing a wonderful selection of readings, and to Elisabeth and Sue and the Christmas choir for all their hard work. The Eco Christingle Communion was something new and our Eco Christingles of crocus bulbs planted in biodegradable pots were received by young and old alike.

On a personal note, I was grateful to everyone for their kindness and support following my Dad's death, it was reassuring to know my family were being held in your prayers and I am grateful to all those who held the fort in my absence. Thank you.

Looking ahead

2023 promises to be an exciting year, with the possibility of a paid children's, families' and youth worker and new Lay ministers. Saint George's is recognised as being a vibrant and effective missional community. We have much to offer and much to celebrate. Thank you to you all for your hard work and commitment. "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me." Jeremiah 29.11-13

Church Wardens Report (Pam Summers)

This is my third report as Church Warden. How have the church and myself changed during this time? In some ways not at all. My mission is to do my best to keep St. Georges a safe, friendly and welcoming space for regular worshippers, neighbours and visitors from far and near. I hope that everyone who comes through our door finds the peace and comfort they need.

Private Prayer had been a reason for some to step inside church for the first time. People who came in the darkest days of lockdown are now friends who visit us on a regular basis. My thanks go to Trish, Joy, Barbara, Bob and Margaret who continue to give up their Wednesday mornings to act as Welcomers. Thanks also to the Ministry Team who find time in their busy schedules to hold a Communion Service on the first Wednesday in the month.

What a year of change and challenge. Most lockdown restrictions were lifted but new challenges presented themselves. We welcomed Ukrainian Families and resumed some of our pre-lockdown events. The free lunchtime concerts offered a variety of instruments and themes. We cemented links with St. Stephens and Claines. As well as combining our resources at the Worcester Show there was a "friendly" skittles match at the Alma. We met together several times to find ways of combining our talents to offer a wide range of services and activities.

June 2022 saw the whole country celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, little did we know that just a short time after we would be mourning her passing. Once again members of the church stepped forward to ensure our church was open for anyone who wanted to express their loss and thanks for a life well lived.

St. Georges is more than a building, it is a family that has mixed talents. As you read through the reports please give thanks for all who have stepped forward to keep our doors open. Have you a talent to offer? Could you help with coffee, be a welcomer or be a steward at events? Would you be willing to welcome and sit with a visitor on Sundays?

As you read on you will come to the School Ministry report which refers to St. George's School but we also have another school in our parish not far away in Thorneloe Road, Riversides School. A small group of pupils and staff have visited the church twice. Once as part of their lessons and the second time to present Harvest Packages that were blessed and sent to the Foodbank. During the coming year we hope to extend our link with the Riversides School.

Safeguarding (Mark Hugill, Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Safeguarding Principles

We are committed to the safeguarding, care, and nurture of everyone within our community.

The Church of England will:

- Promote a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Respond to those that may pose a present risk to others

The last 12 months since taking over as Parish Safeguarding Officer have been a steep learning curve, as I have sought to get to grips with online learning sessions for the role, the requisite training courses (Basic, Foundation & Leadership) as well as administering Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks (previously known as CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks) for participants in church activities involving children and vulnerable adults, as well as tracking progress in several areas on the Safeguarding Portal. The Diocesan office has been a major source of support and guidance to achieve this aim. I have also been able to take part in online Zoom networking sessions with other Safeguarding Officers across the Diocese.

Further to the Safeguarding Sunday service on 20th November 2022 where Rev Jo and I spoke to the congregation about safeguarding at St George's I can advise that a further Safeguarding Sunday is due to take place on Sunday 19th November 2023.

In line with Diocesan office processes, I have been reviewing various areas of church safeguarding, including Church Activities, liaising with representatives for updates and guidance where appropriate. This work is ongoing, and I aim to review it when I can – thank you to those of you who have provided me with feedback.

In relation to church activities please note that Church Safeguarding policy states that we must now adhere to the new Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance which can be found on the Church of England website under the Safeguarding header. [Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance | The Church of England](#)

Before any involvement as supervisor or helper in activities involving work with vulnerable adults and/or children and young people can commence ALL relevant training needs and DBS checks must be in place first.

13 new or renewed DBS checks have been done in the last year for Church members doing relevant activities. These now run for 3 years rather than the previous 5 years. I hope that the online process has been less arduous than the historic paper-only process.

Many people have already undertaken requisite Basic and Foundation training courses in support of their role in church activities – again hopefully this has been achieved without much difficulty with the online course whilst recognising the necessity of raising our awareness of safeguarding. Please let me know if you are having difficulties accessing the training portal, which can be accessed here: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>.

NB - The Basic Safeguarding Awareness course is available to anyone to do via the online portal. You just need to create login details (username and password) where prompted if you are new to the system. When entering the church details please enter **Worcester: St George with St Mary Magdalene**.

Safeguarding Statement

Please note under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016*** all authorised clergy, bishops, archdeacons, licensed readers and lay workers, churchwardens and PCCs **must have** 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops (this will include both policy and practice guidance). A duty to have 'due regard' to guidance means that the person under the duty is not free to disregard it but is required to follow it unless there are cogent reasons for not doing so. ('Cogent' for this purpose means clear, logical, and convincing.) Failure by clergy to comply with the duty imposed by the 2016 Measure may result in disciplinary action.

Financial Matters *(Trish Greenwood)*

**Independent examiner's report to the members of the Parochial Church Council of
The Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint George with Saint Mary Magdalene, Worcester.
Charity Number 1128943**

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2022

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissions (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - * to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - * to prepare accounts, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Douglas B Lee TD AIB
270A Birmingham Road
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire B61 0EZ

20th March 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment Policy

The PCC's investment policy is regularly reviewed by members. The Council seeks to maximise long term income without exposing capital to undue risk.

Reserves Policy

The PCC's policy is to invest funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

PCC Members Responsibility

The PCC members are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Charity Law requires the PCC members to prepare financial statement for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of the surplus or deficit of the PCC for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the PCC members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgement and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare financial statement on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will continue in business.

The PCC members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the PCC and to enable them to ensure responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Unrestricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£
The unrestricted income was	70918	60629
Less: the unrestricted expenditure	<u>56999</u>	<u>60926</u>
Net Incoming/ Outgoing Resources	<u>13919</u>	<u>-297</u>

The largest item of expenditure was in respect of the Parish Share which was £26,302 this is a decrease of £11210 on the previous year. Fund raising events which we have not had in the two previous years helped and therefore the accounts show a surplus in the year of £13919.

Restricted/Designated Funds	2022	2021
	£	£
Chapter 2 <u>Receipts</u>		
Chapter 3 Legacies		20956
Chapter 4 Donations, etc.	845	1131
Organ Fund	<u>12999</u>	
	845	35086
Less: <u>Expenditure</u>		
Legacies	535	47012
Other	<u>1238</u>	<u>925</u>
	<u>1773</u>	<u>47937</u>
Total	<u>-928</u>	<u>-12851</u>

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint George with Saint Mary Magdalene, Worcester Charity Number 1128943 Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2022							
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £ note 4	Designated Funds £ note 5	Restricted	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Funds 2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES	2						
Voluntary income		50122	317	528		50967	88605
Activities for generating funds		5597				5597	
Church activities		15029				15029	7006
Income from Investments		170				170	104
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		70918	317	528		71763	95715
RESOURCES USED	3						
Fund Raising costs		1041				1041	0
Mission & Charitable giving		3600				3600	4100
Church Activities		52358	70	1168		53596	57751
Legacies			535			535	47012
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		56999	605	1168		58772	108863
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE GAINS / (LOSSES)		13919	-288	-640		12991	-13148
Transfer between funds							
Gain and (losses) on investments: - on revaluation					-376	-376	144
Unpresented cheques		500				500	
Prepayment adjustment							-1505
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		14419	-288	-640	-376	13115	-14509
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2022		30941	1794	13643	3389	49767	64276
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2022		45360	1506	13003	3013	62882	49767

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint George with Saint Mary Magdalene, Worcester											
Charity Number 1128943											
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022											
						Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	2021
				Notes	£	£			£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS											
	Tangible assets			6							
	Investments			7					3013	3013	3389
						0			3013	3013	3389
CURRENT ASSETS											
	Debtors and Prepayments			8	2470					2470	7666
	Short term deposits							13003		13003	13003
	Cash at Bank				54701	1506				56207	26774
					57171	1506	13003			71680	47443
LIABILITIES											
	Amounts falling due within one year			9	11811					11811	1065
NET CURRENT ASSETS						45360	1506	13003		59869	46378
TOTAL NET ASSETS						45360	1506	13003	3013	62882	49767
PARISH FUNDS											
	Unrestricted Funds				45360					45360	30941
	Designated/Restricted Funds					1506	13003			14509	15437
	Endowment Funds								3013	3013	3389
					45360	1506	13003		3013	62882	49767
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on						and signed on its behalf by					
	Rev Jo Musson					P A Greenwood					
	PCC Chair					Treasurer					

**The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of
Saint George with Saint Mary Magdalene, Worcester
Charity Number 1128943
Notes to the Financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022**

2 INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Funds 2021
	£	£		£	£	£
Voluntary income						
Planned giving						
Gift Aid Donations	28,344				28,344	26,708
Tax recoverable	8,898				8,898	8,875
Non gift aid	5,563				5,563	7,801
Collections (open plate) at all services	4,680				4,680	4,811
Sundry Donations	1,962	317	528		2,807	2,304
Legacies						20,956
WCC Grants	675				675	4,201
Organ Fund						12,949
	50,122	317	528		50,967	88,605
Activities for generating funds						
Fund raising	5,462				5,462	0
Traidcraft	135				135	0
	5,597				5,597	0
Church Activities						
Fees	1,081				1,081	702
Lettings - Church	4,870				4,870	1,965
Lettings - Magdalene Room	9,078				9,078	4,339
	15,029				15,029	7,006
Income from investments						
Interest	170				170	104
	170				170	104
Total incoming resources	70,918	317	528		71,763	95,715

**The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of
Saint George with Saint Mary Magdalene, Worcester
Charity Number 1128943
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022**

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Funds 2021 £
Fundraising Costs	1041				1041	0
Missionary & Charitable giving						
Overseas	2000				2000	1000
Home	1500				1500	2000
Other Charities	100				100	1100
	3600				3600	4100
Legacies		535			535	47012
Church Activities						
Ministry:						
Diocesan Parish Share	26302				26302	37512
Ministry Support Fund	4000				4000	
Clergy expenses	1082				1082	1087
Music and Worship	3720				3720	1927
Church buildings						
Running expenses	1869				1869	4284
Insurance	5477				5477	5170
Utilities	3211				3211	2885
Children's Work	124				124	
Magdalene Room - costs	1896				1896	710
Magdalene Room - utilities	1399				1399	1031
Sundry costs	1033				1033	487
Parish Office contribution	2149				2149	1497
Fixed asset depreciation					0	164
Community Projects		70	1168		1238	925
Professional Fees (Audit)	96				96	72
	52358	70	1168		53596	57751
Total resources used	56999	605	1168		58772	108863

**The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of
Saint George with Saint Mary Magdalene, Worcester
Charity Number 1128943
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022**

4	Unrestricted Funds					
	The movement in the unrestricted funds for the current year can be analysed as:					
				General Funds	Bequests Designated	Total
				£	£	£
	Total Incoming Resources			70918		70918
	Total Outgoing Resources			56999		56999
				13919		13919
	Balances at 1 January 2022			30941		30941
	Unpresented cheques			500		500
	Transfer from Restricted Funds (net)					
	Balances at 31 December 2022			45360		45360
5	Designated and Restricted Funds					
	The movement in the restricted/designated funds for the current year can be analysed as:					
					restricted	
		Small Funds	Legacies			
	Incoming Resources					
	Voluntary Income	845				845
	Legacies					
	Organ					
	Total incoming resources	845	0	0	0	845
	Resources Used					
	Church Activities	70			1168	1238
	Legacies		535			535
	Total resources used	70	535	0	1168	1,773
	Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources					
	Transfer to unrestricted funds					
	Balances at 1 January 2022	1259	535		13643	15437
	Balances at 31 December 2022	2034	0	0	12,475	14,509

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint George with Saint Mary Magdalene, Worcester Charity Number 1128943 Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022				
6	Fixed Assets used by the PCC		None	None
7	UK Investments		Market Value	Market Value
	Endowment Funds comprise four funds held in the name of The Worcester Diocesan Trust Registered (as Trustees), for the PCC:-		2022 £	2021 £
	The CBF Church of England Fixed Interest Securities Fund			
	6896.96 Income Share -Charity for Ecclesiastical Purposes		66	74
	The CBF Church of England Investment Fund - 55 Income Shares			
	Bequest of the late Emily Hughes for Assistant Clergy		1135	1,286
	The CBF Church of England Investment Fund -79 Income Shares			
	T A Jones Discretionary Trust		1631	1,848
	The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund		181	181
			3,013	3,389
8	Debtors: Amounts falling due withing one year		2022 £	2021 £
	Income tax recoverable		1,082	1,101
	Debtors		1,388	6,565
			2,470	7,666
9	Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year		2,022 £	2,021 £
	Creditors		11,811	1,065
	No remuneration or expenses have been paid to any of the trustees during the year.			
	Fund Details			
			2022	2021
	The designated Small Fundsf include :			
	Flower Fund		81	30
	Quiet Garden		163	203
	Worcester Show		48	78
	Kingdom Arts		1,132	862
	Noahs Ark		85	85
	During the year we have made payments and supported various charities: Ukraine Appeal, Christian Aid, Childrens Society, Fairtrade, Worcester Foodbank, Bible reading Fellowship, Medecins Sans Frontiere, National Churches Trust, Myriad Centre, Ripple effect, Mission Air Flight, British red Cross (Ukraine) Quiet Garden Trust			

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for a particular purpose are also unrestricted. Endowment funds are funds of which the capital must be maintained. Only the income from the investment may be used as unrestricted income.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust, donation or grant received for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Realised gains or losses on investments are recognized when the investment is sold. Unrealised gains or losses on investments are accounted for in the valuation of the investments at the year end.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross. Church activities expenses consist of costs in undertaking the PCC's work to meet its objectives. Governance costs consist of the expenses incurred in overseeing the work of the PCC.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value. Unrealised and realised gains and losses on investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC in respect of fees, rent or other income are shown as debtors less provisions for amounts that may prove not to be collectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds or with Lloyds Bank plc.

Activities in the Parish

Worcester Deanery Synod (Paul Fulbrook)

Saint George's does not have a representative on Deanery Synod. This a major omission in our means of communicating and learning what is happening in the Diocese with Mission and Finances. Who will take on this important role? It is not an onerous task with only 3 meetings a year and they are usually interesting and informative. Thanks to Paul Fulbrook for providing this summary.

There were three meetings of the Worcester Area Deanery Synod in 2022 with numbers rising from 33 to 39 over the year. Understandably, there will always be people who find that their diaries have a clash of commitments, but it is sad when one hears comments from people in parishes that they had not been aware of a recent initiative or change in Diocesan policy direction. The question usually then asked is why that PCC is not disseminating the information to parishioners given to them by their Deanery Synod Representatives?

Our first meeting of the year was in April at St Wulstans, chosen especially so that there would be well lit streets to park in with a bright and cheerful building to sit in where we could be gathered in a friendly manner around tables, rather than serried rows of uncomfortable pews. Our Area Dean, Revd Diane Cooksey reported on the results of the 'Deanery Enquiry' questionnaire that had circulated. Unfortunately, some Parish representatives had either not consulted their parishioners or had declined to answer: there were only 26 replies from 31 Churches. The aim of the survey had been to get a 'Base Line' of what is happening around the deanery as we came out of the pandemic. We were shown a map of the Deanery so that members could get an idea of the geography. Across the new Deanery we have: 42 Church Buildings; 31 Parishes; 12 Benefices, 14 Stipendiary Clergy; 4 Curates; 12 Readers with 4 in training; 27 A.L.M's.

The main feedback was a lack of a cohesive Youth Programme and that funding this would be the best way forwards for 'Growing the Kingdom'. The meeting was handed over to guests, Simon Hill and his colleague Emma who passed out to the meeting identical sets of Lego © which were then used to express concepts that we were being offered on a range of subjects. The aim of this was to encourage people to respond to the question 'What is the deanery for now?' It certainly got people talking and feedback was collected afterwards for the Leadership Team to peruse later.

The 5th Session was held in rural splendour at St John the Baptist, Suckley on 5th July. Revd Anne Potter was acting as Area Dean because Revd. Diane Cooksey had departed on sabbatical leave. Again, the meeting was in a comfortable hall. We were then treated to an exceptional talk by Geoff Sansome, Head of Agriculture at Natural England who had worked in both Russia and Ukraine for several years, about the history, culture, and current situation in Ukraine. He went on to speak about the refugee and invasion problems caused by Russia and local efforts to help in Worcestershire.

Our 6th Session was in November and held in St Stephen's, Barbourne. The Area Dean having returned to harness welcomed us to the meeting and it was gratifying that more Synod representatives felt able to attend. Revd Andy Todd, the Vicar introduced us to the church building where although we were warm and well lit, we had to sit in pews. Guest speakers, Sian Morgan and Helen Laird gave an input to the meeting about the 'Calling Young Disciples' Scheme. A short introduction and a short video included descriptions of youth work in: Kidderminster; Halas; Stourbridge; Leigh; and also Warndon. As we had discovered on the Deanery questionnaire post-

covid this was the area that all parishes in our Deanery wanted to develop. Members were then able to explore the opportunities offered and ask questions about how their parishes could engage.

On a slightly downbeat note, Revd Andy Todd gave the meeting the current Diocesan budget view on the new Ministry Share system. His message was clear. If you as a Church can meet the financial demand, then OK, but if not then there may be repercussions about future levels of clergy ministry. Some churches will become uneconomic. Unrepresented churches will lose that discussion opportunity. Revd. Diane Cooksey spoke more on the 'three priorities' and Developing Diocesan Strategy document that is now available on the Diocesan website. The Kingdom People Vision had not been replaced by this, but the strategy highlights the direction of travel and intentionality in the use of resources to encourage and enable church growth. The continued diocesan vision for all churches to become Healthy and Sustainable reiterated the point that sustainability includes being able to fund the Ministry as well as the Mission.

One of the priorities focussed on connecting with children and young families with the possibility of employing some Children/Youth/Family Workers in a couple of parishes in each deanery. The hope is that across the diocese each major centre of population will have at least one flourishing church with children/youth and families. As always current and up to date information was provided to members to pass on to their PCC's and also to their congregations.

Another priority spoken of was around the developing New Worshipping Communities e.g., walking church; forest church; café church with the emphasis they will involve new people rather than recycling existing congregations. This is something that all parishes are being asked to get involved with and we hope to devote some time in Synod during 2023 to focus on this. Bishop John has made it clear that training will be provided to support clergy and laity and we will pass this on as soon as we hear how that develops. As ever, the ages of Deanery Synod members increases, and I urge you all to consider recruiting younger parishioners to take on the task ahead.

Church and Magdalene Room Bookings 2022/23 (*Barbara Rolison*)

The role of booking secretary continues to be busy, the enquiries and ad hoc bookings have increased since my last report. Grateful thanks for their continuing support, to those who have helped me out this year especially Trish and Pam. I must include Bob, for sorting out all the computer technicalities, and invoice glitches!

Hire charges were debated around the increase in costs of heating and maintenance and were raised in December. The charges for 2022: regular hire for the hall £16 an hour; the party rate is £60 for 3 hours with hourly hire £25. For the church it is £40 an hour, or £55 for Ad Hoc and £250 for day hire for a concert. The need for an increase has been accepted by all, although two groups ended due to falling attendance and two reduced their hours. There is a delicate balance between our costs, with the huge rise in energy charges and the affordability for hirers.

Church

Church services are held weekly and weekly silent prayer includes meditation and Holy Communion each month. There were joyful occasions with several Baptisms and a wedding in August.

A Ceilidh was held in October organised by Elisabeth and our intrepid musicians and dancing shoes were back in action!

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra continue to use the church weekly for rehearsals. The Barbourne Singers discontinued in December as their numbers were reduced.

Kingdom Arts returned from September to a full programme, and a soup lunch was included.

Saint George's school were able to hold school services for Leavers, Harvest, Remembrance, and a Christmas Carol service. Candlemas was celebrated in February. They also took part in an I Sing Pop concert, another joyful celebration.

The free lunchtime concert continued on the 3rd Wednesday each month at 1.00pm. Shulah Oliver organises the varied programme and it is wonderful to welcome new faces to our lovely Church. www.lunchtimeconcertseries.co.uk There is a voluntary collection to cover costs and a donation to church funds. We have served hot drinks during the winter.

Magdalene Room

At the beginning of 2022 further improvements to the hall included a refurbished floor. The kitchen and toilet facilities are also a good advert when people look around for a venue.

Thank you to Kathy, our regular weekly cleaner for her thoroughness and eagle eyes. Eco cleaning and recycled products are currently being used, bought in bulk when possible.

We were thrilled that the Summer fair was back in July filling the square, the garden, the church and the hall and it really brought back many happy memories and raised funds!

All year there were regular classes namely: Me-time Pilates, Pilates Therapy, Core Pilates and Pilates For All, Stay Young Yoga, Lynlees Dance classes, and Classical Guitar Society. who also gave a summer concert in the quiet Garden.

The Village midwife ran two blocks of pre-natal and post-natal classes. There was also a day's hire for NHS training.

The Mothers Union hold monthly meetings either in the church or the Hall. The MU Spring Fair was most successful.

There were party bookings both for Baptisms, five children's birthday parties, a cricket AGM, a Wake, plus, a Christmas party.

I can't believe this is my third year as the "new Booking Secretary" and I will endeavour to enjoy the next challenge with good humour!

Quest Group (Trish Greenwood)

The group is for someone who has recently lost a loved one and can chat to others in a similar same position. The numbers have stayed at a steady 12-15 including 2 new members we hope they are enjoying the fellowship. We meet every third Thursday of the month for tea and cake.

During the year we had afternoon tea at Davids Nurseries which was very enjoyable. We all entered a competition and won a bench which is now in the Claines Church Hall Garden. We had Christmas Dinner at the New Inn, Ombersley Road, we could not fault the meal and they looked after us all very well. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Rev. Jo for more details.

The Altar Guild - Sacristy (Trish Greenwood)

The Lord's Table is prepared each Sunday by a team of ladies. The team consists of Judith Peachey, Carolyn Corfield and me.

Everything is prepared ready for the Sunday Service. Silver polished, candles checked, wine and wafers put ready with the linen. It is then ready for the Eucharist Assistant to put on the altar on Sunday morning. Thank you, ladies, for all you do, and covering for me if I'm away.

Summer Fair (Elisabeth Witter)

The last time we ran the Summer Fair was in 2019 and we were delighted that so many of you were able to help with the preparation and running of this lovely event. We seemed to all remember and those who had not helped before, just stepped in and sailed along beautifully!

On the day, the sun shone, Avonbank Brass Band played beautifully, and the people flocked to enjoy the revival of such a wonderful, community event. Thanks to all of you who gave your time, your talents and your prayers. We raised a whopping £3873!

Note We Witters would also like to extend our thanks to all those who stepped up to take our places as we were faced with a family tragedy. We won't try and name them all here, as we'd probably miss someone out (we were in such a fog), but our especial thanks to Anthony, Karen and Judy.

Children's Work (Elisabeth Witter)

Becky L, Pam H and myself have been running a Children and Youth group every first Sunday of the month. This has been really successful and gives us all a boost! Our numbers fluctuate, generally getting between 2 and 8 children.

We have talked about possibly also having something on the third Sunday. We haven't been able to do that yet but are ever hopeful 😊 If you would be interested in playing a role in our outreach and mission to children and young people please see me or Rev Jo. PS thanks to Barbara R and Lyn for stepping in whenever we need them ❤️

We are very hopeful about getting Messy Church going again in the Summer Term. We'd appreciate your thoughts and prayers – plus any help that you might be able to offer!

Carol Service (Elisabeth Witter)

We were delighted to be able to have our Carol Service back in 2022 and even more delighted with the number of dedicated and talented people who gave up their time to join in with the choir.

Thanks to those who organised the mulled wine and cakes following the service and to our fabulous Sue for all of her hard work 😊

In previous years, we have invited the Worcester Young Voices and the church has been filled to the brim. Unfortunately, the numbers for that choir did not pick up again after Covid and, sadly, they have disbanded. The numbers attending the Carol Service were lower than we would have liked - in the end, we were also competing with England in the World Cup Final!

We do need to consider how to promote this wonderful service around, so that more people can benefit from the peace and joy that it gives. Any ideas welcome!

Zoom (Elisabeth Witter)

Once again we have continued to share services each week via Zoom.

Creating the PowerPoint each week, was a huge task and this has been stopped. Instead we have given out hymns book and service booklets to all who wished to have them. Additionally, we Zoom hosts can find the hymn words online, or type them up, and we now have most of the service booklets in a way that we can share them on the screen. It's all been simplified and made far more practical, so that we can continue to share our services with those who are at home, or away from home, for the foreseeable future.

We have struggled a little with cover this year, as we are down to three people on the team and we really need five to run this in an ideal way - one for each week and one to cover the fifts Sundays and holidays.

To make best use of our Zoom hosts and to ensure that we are able to share the service each week, we have changed the format so that we do not always have a Zoom host. This works simply and well, continuing to allow people to connect with our services, but it doesn't allow them to view any service booklet words or hymn words, nor does it give them the chance for a natter after the service.

We three are all delighted to be hosts in our lovely churches. If any of you would like to talk about what being a host involves, do ask – it's SO much easier to do, than it was during lockdown!

Kingdom Arts Report 2022 (Alex New and Sue Ashby-Davies)

It has been such a blessing to be back again in full swing at Kingdom Arts. We are grateful to God and look to celebrate in this report all that God has done for us this year. We have enjoyed our new theme, looking at different "Heroes of the Faith" and it has been so interesting following the lives and faith journeys of Oscar Romero, Mother Theresa, Gladys Aylward and John Newton to name a few. Thank you to those on the team, who researched their hero and presented it in such exciting ways. It was glorious too to look at the different places in the world where these people lived and worked and match up our art expressions to the art and culture of S America, India, China and Africa.

We have also experienced our own sadness this year as we mourned the death of lovely Vikki (a wonderful artist, seamstress and saxophonist) who untimely and sudden death happened in October. We have grieved with her husband David (one of our Worship leaders and website provider. We are so grateful to him for continuing in these roles. We hold him in our prayers.

Do look at our website and see the artwork in the Gallery and unbelievably wonderful creative writing which is created each month (kingdom-arts.co.uk)

We are developing and encouraging more people to take roles in running some of the "art" tables. We are amazed at the talent God has brought and is continuing to bring to our fellowship. We are hitting numbers we have never had before. God is good!

None of this would happen without the support, care, love, hard work and encouragement for the amazingly gifted team. Each member brings their own particular and unique gifts and talents to be used unstintingly. Barbara and Bob, Clive and Lyn, Jan Butterworth, Pam, Trevor, Margaret Stokes, Carolyn and our "Soup Maker Supremo" Jan Kear.

We can't thank you enough. Thanks also to Rev Jo for her never-ending support and encouragement.

Christian Aid – annual report (Alison Clarke combined report Claines and St George’s)

Christian Aid Week 2022 - ambitious plans for royal themed walks around Worcester and a celebration tea to mark HM Queen Elisabeth’s platinum jubilee did not come to fruition due to family and personal illness. Nevertheless, between our two churches we raised a fantastic £1,263.27. Thank you! Claines – a collection raised £163.45. St George’s – a collection raised £564.82. The Five for Silver folk concert raised a further £535 in ticket sales and generous donations. In addition a further £92 came from GiftAid. Christian Aid Week was the theme of our May Café Church at St George’s.

East Africa Hunger Appeal - a devastating drought in East Africa (the worst in 40 years), compounded by general food supply difficulties caused by the war in Ukraine, brought the threat of serious famine in East Africa in summer 2022. As an emergency response church our September 2022 collection at St George’s raised £100 for this appeal.

Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal - following the devastating earthquakes on Monday 6 and later on 20 February this year, upwards of 50,000 lives have been lost and countless homes, buildings and infrastructure destroyed. Together we raised £1413, with an additional £793 in GiftAid, in just over a week. I was bowled over by your generosity. The money was sent via Christian Aid to the DEC appeal.

Annual Fish and Chip Supper - it was great to see some St George’s friends amongst the 50 or so people who came to Worcester Christian Aid group’s annual supper. We had a fine meal, provided by Paul at The Golden Gourmet fish bar, enjoyed a quiz and a natter with friends and learned a lot about growing pigeon peas (a climate change resistant crop) in Malawi – the focus of Christian Aid Week 2023. We were warmly hosted by Ombersley Road Methodist Church in their church hall and delighted to meet our new West Midlands manager for Christian Aid, Batanai Padya and to greet again our former West Midlands manager, Kate Ormerod, who is now managing the whole of England!

Thank you for your warm, generous and ongoing support for Christian Aid.

Advent Travellers (Becky Lowe and Sam Hibbert)

The Advent Travellers stayed with lots of old and new friends in 2022. This is an important tradition to many of our families and also a lovely way for the children of the Parish to experience the wonder of Advent.

In 2022 we built on the efforts we have used in the past 2 years to use social media (Facebook) to share pictures of the travellers, even before their journey starts around the Parish, to explore the build-up to Advent to bring their stories to life. Our school community joined in too and school and different classes hosted the travellers. Families can comment and share their thoughts and messages on the Advent Travellers Facebook group and we shared these with permission. It is touching how even the older children look forward to seeing the knitted characters each year, especially donkey and sheep and we are so grateful for the work that goes into making them.

Bible Reading Fellowship (Joy Kyte)

In the week preceding the writing of this report two friends/readers of the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) notes said to me how reassuring and relevant the reading and accompanying prayer and comments had been to their particular situations recently. This I am sure, many will agree, is not unusual. We do need God’s Word in our everyday lives, even more in difficult times; it so often leads

us into prayer and guides our actions. The notes also often help to explain difficult to understand bible passages.

Earlier this year I was particularly pleased to find a new contributor to the notes: David Walker, Bishop of Manchester, who many of us will remember from when he was Bishop of Dudley and whom we had met here at St George's. His theme was "David" (King David, who is referred to throughout the bible).

For those who don't know, BRF booklets are issued three times per year at an annual cost of £14.85, post free if ordered through myself, or a large print version is available at £18.75. Do please speak to me if you would like to try these out for yourself.

Gift Aid Secretary (Yvonne Parker)

I work closely with Trish Greenwood, our Treasurer. At the end of each quarter, she supplies me with gift aid and non-gift aid giving figures which I collate onto spreadsheets and submit the gift aid figures to HMRC for us to recover tax from the donations. Once HMRC agree the figures they pay the amounts directly into the Church's bank account. In 2022 this figure was £5,100.95. There are 17 people paying by standing order and 7 people using the envelope scheme.

We have been members of the Parish Giving Scheme since 2019. This scheme offers an easy way for people, regardless of whether they pay tax or not, to make regular donations by direct debit to the life of our church. In 2022 we received £3,796.56 in gift aid from givers using PGS.

Please speak to Rev. Jo or our treasurer Trish if you would like to join any of these giving schemes. At the end of 2022 there were approximately 48 people supporting our parish vision and the wider church with regular donations.

Finally this will be my last report as I resigned from the position as at the end of December 2022 and will just sign off with a big thank you to everyone for their continued support and don't forget to review your giving and increase it by any small amount you can afford.

The Flower Guild (Jan Tovey)

The first celebration of the new year is the wonderful season of Easter, shortly followed by the St. George's Day festival and Pentecost. This year brought a special reason to celebrate – this being the Platinum jubilee of our Queen Elizabeth II, followed all too soon by the sad parting of Her Majesty, for which we tried to make a fitting tribute. Harvest takes us into Autumn, followed by Remembrance Day and into Christmas which calls for something special. I try to keep an arrangement permanently all year, tidied and watered each week. Thank you for your continued support by way of generous donations and comments – both are truly encouraging and appreciated. I will try to continue – with God's help – to decorate our beautiful church in a worthy way.

Worcester Foodbank (Lyn Crowther and Margaret Stokes)

As a church community we support Worcester Foodbank by giving a regular supply of both food and essential household goods (this came to 368.85 kg between March 2022 and March 2023). We also give both financial (£1000 was given from church funds over the past 12 months plus many individual donations) and volunteering support, all of which is gratefully received. We are now in the middle of a storm due to increasing costs of food and fuel and we have seen an increase of 29% more people especially children being fed by the Foodbank during the past year. To help with this increase the Foodbank opened for an extra day each week before Christmas but instead of going back to 3 days a

week it has had to remain at 4 days and looks like it will for the foreseeable future. This means that our regular giving of food, goods, time and money are essential to the ongoing work of the foodbank here in Worcester. A heartfelt thanks to you all.

Café Church (Lyn Crowther)

During 2022 we were back in the Magdalene Room for Café Church for the whole year which was a joy. We try to have an informal atmosphere with plenty of time for interaction and we have shared some moving testimonies which have been made possible by the setting of a café with worship. For example, in Christian Aid week in May we discussed Climate Injustice and compared two islands – one rich using many of the earth's resources and one poor using very few. We related it to how we have been tasked with looking after God's Creation. Then we made a climate injustice alphabet banner for others to see in church.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Judy earlier in the year and sent her off with our love and best wishes. Then, in December, Rev. Jo had her last café church with us as it is impossible for her to be in two places at once. We miss her being with us but feel that she has empowered us to plan and take the service as a strong team. Unfortunately, this has also meant that we struggle with café church now being on the 4th Sunday of the month and this is something we are looking at. If anyone would like to help with this service, we would very much welcome them. We do appreciate the help we receive particularly from members of the Hibbert and Huang families.

The band play an important part of our worship at café church and many thanks go to Alison Clarke, (who also now does the Powerpoint presentations), Ade Musson, Barbra Mitra, Rhea Huang and Des George for all their uplifting singing and music. The team of Alex New, Pam Summers, Alison, Jan Kear, Clive and I look forward to welcoming you to café church in the Magdalene Room on the 4th Sunday of each month.

GREEN TEAM/ ECO CHURCH REPORT TO APCM (Alison Clarke)

GREEN TEAM Recycling continues to work well at the Green Team base table in the church. The soft plastics collection box needs frequent emptying. I take these, along with batteries, to the bigger supermarkets which have collection points. We have also recycled printer cartridges and thereby contributed to RNLI - a worthy cause. This summer we hope to organise at least one 'nature' trip and a visit to EnviroSort at Norton.

ECO CHURCH

Eco Church as a scheme is very much about encouraging us all to recycle and reuse, to respect and encourage nature in all its forms and to work towards net zero in our personal and church lives. **Eco Church award** – I am delighted that we were awarded our Silver Eco Church award before Christmas. You can see the award – framed – on the Green Team table. Gold next..... In fact, we will get much closer to the Gold award by....

Working towards net zero – The Church of England has the ambition for all churches to reach net zero by 2050. How should we prepare for this? Clearly, our gas boiler in the church is unlikely to last that long. I think it would be a good idea to bring together a small group (reporting to PCC) to research options, costs, available grants and ultimately bring together a plan. We would welcome members of the church family (not just PCC members) who have an interest. Susan Logan, diocesan advisor on green energy issues and a member of our congregation, has visited and reported on the church building.

First sensible steps, as already discussed at PCC, would seem to be to make the energy consumption in the Magdalene Room as efficient as possible. So a priority would be to fully insulate the loft. At the same time the glazing in the doors and windows needs to be replaced. In the longer term we should consider the installation of solar panels on the roof and possibly storage batteries.

As a start, Rev Jo has applied to Worcester City Council for a **grant** of up to £1000 as a contribution to work on the roof insulation.

I would recommend the A Rocha / Eco Church website for those interested. There are some interesting case studies of churches which have introduced sustainable heating and lighting arrangements into some quite ancient buildings. [Buildings - Eco Church \(arocha.org.uk\)](http://arocha.org.uk)

School Ministry (Pam Summers)

St. George's School and Church are pleased that we are now able to resume our joint activities in person. Zoom saved the day during lockdown but nothing compares to face-to-face interaction.

Once school was fully open regular activities returned. The School resumed its visits to church by holding an iSing Pop concert that was originally planned pre-pandemic. As a result we invited them to sing at one of our Sunday services and what a success they were.

The leavers service in July was well attended and was such an important occasion to acknowledge the work of both staff and pupils after the disruption of the previous two years. A leavers party (organised by the parents) was held in the Magdalene Room and was enjoyed by all. (There were quite a few tears from adults and children.)

Year 1 (now year 2) visited the Quiet Garden. We had a lovely time listening to different sounds, finding plants, blowing bubbles (I think this was their favourite activity), playing catch and creating garden spinners from yoghurt pot lids. There was a lot of discussion about what we can do to help nature and be good friends.

During the heatwave we offered the church as a cooler venue for KS1 end of term shows.

Autumn Term 2022

Disappointingly Reception intake was quite low. There continued to be leavers and new starters through the school. We also had some staff changes which resulted in Claire moving from year 5 to year 1 and Steffi, our new staff member, leading year 5. Strong measures are in place to support all pupils who need extra support. One reason might be because English is not their first language.

Lower numbers do have an impact on funding. This will bring a big challenge: the costs involved in running a school have gone up dramatically. Staff wages, electricity, buildings and public liability insurance are all costing more. General maintenance (such a simple thing like changing a lightbulb or battery) costs more than pre pandemic. Then there is the increased cost of exercise books, rulers, soap, paper towels, hand sanitiser, pens, pencils and of course GLUE STICKS. Balancing the accounts is an increasing challenge as funding has not kept pace with the increased costs.

Parents of pupils have recharged "The Friends of St. Georges" a group who fundraise for the school. As a result of their varied activities more books have been purchased for the school library which is now a welcoming space which is well used.

Since the new school year we have hosted services led by the school for Harvest Festival, Remembrance and Nativity. All were well supported by parents and carers. The Foodbank was amazed and thankful at the generosity of the donations.

Church has many links with the school. Barbara Rolison, Alison Clarke and myself are on the Governing Body.

Unfortunately due to health issues our Open the Book Team has not returned to school. Barbara and myself lead regular Monday assemblies using Open the Book stories so keeping the link going. We are hopeful a new team will be able to resume the sessions in 2023. Our best wishes and thanks from all the staff and children go to Pearl Capewell, Jan Tovey, Brenda Taylor, Helen Gilbert and all the previous teams who have contributed to this important relationship with school.

Teddies knitted by members of the Mothers' Union were as popular as ever with Reception children. I was able to go into school and explain who made the Teddies and that they had been blessed in church. I suggested ways they might be a special friend to the children. We finished the session with a story about friendship.

Could this be the highlight of the year? At last Ofsted announced it was coming into school. After the long wait it was a relief to be able to show the Inspector what a great school we are. The inspection takes place over two days and nothing is off limits. As well as looking at books and observing lessons children and parents are interviewed about the school. It is a very stressful time for all the school community. The Headteacher and Governing Body are told the outcome but cannot tell anyone (not even the teaching staff) the grade until it is officially published. Everyone connected to the school had a smile from ear to ear once it was announced we are officially a GOOD school.

Social Media (Reverend Jo Musson)

Website <http://www.saintgeorgesworcester.org.uk/> is managed by Francis Burton and Bob Rolison

St George's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/saintgeorgesworcester> is administered by Rev Jo, with editors: Elisabeth Witter, Alison Clarke, Jan Butterworth, Barbara Mitra, Peter Davies and Beck Lowe

We now have 890 followers on the church Facebook page. One of our best posts was about the Easter service when Bella, Dexter and Ethan received their first communion. This post was read by 431 people and with shares had an extended reach of 1432 people. If you don't follow saintgeorgesworcester on facebook please do and if you share our posts with your friends you can help us get the word out about faith and events even more.

Make a Lasting Difference (Trish Greenwood)

Legacies are the largest single source of income for many charities in this country today. Once you have provided for your family and friends, leaving a small gift to Saint George's Church will ensure that our work can continue for many years to come. All legacies are tax free; if you make such a gift in your will, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated. If you are thinking about leaving a legacy or have already remembered us in your will, we would love to talk to you about it; everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence. We would love then to have the opportunity to thank you for your generosity. When considering leaving a legacy, we recommend that you consult a solicitor who will be able to give you specialist advice according to your own individual circumstances.

Remembering your Church in your will is a wonderful way both to thank God for the blessings you have received and to help your Church ensure it can meet the needs of future generations.

