

# **The Parish Church of St. George Cam**



**St George**  
C A M

## **PAROCHIAL MEETING 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

### **Agenda**

### **REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2024-2025**

**St. George's Parochial Church Council**  
**Annual Report 2023-2024**  
**Legal and Administrative Information**

**Name:** Parochial Church Council of Cam St. George.

**Location:** St. George's Church is situated in Church Road, Upper Cam.  
Address for correspondence: The Vicarage, Church Road, Cam, Glos. GL11 5PQ

**Members:** Any elected member of the PCC can serve for up to a period of three years. From 2023 an amendment to Church Rules was made that members having served 3 years no longer have to stand down for one year but may stand for re-election at the next APCM if they wish.

At the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 19th April 2005, an amendment was made to the standing orders such that from 2006 the PCC shall consist of the Vicar, Associate Priest, two Church Wardens, two Deanery Synod representatives, plus up to 12 lay people from St. George's congregation who will serve for a term of three years. From 2023 this was amended to also include a Lay Reader.

**Members who served during the year were as follows:-**

Revd. Fiona Crocker	Chairperson <i>ex officio</i>
Revd. Andrew Hill	Associate Priest <i>ex-officio</i>
Revd Catherine Coomber	Curate <i>ex-officio</i>
Ken Hitchings	Lay Reader <i>ex-officio</i>
Mr. J. Irvine	Church Warden <i>ex-officio</i>
Mr M. Bateman	Church Warden <i>ex officio</i>
Dr. P. Smout	Deanery Synod <i>ex officio</i>
Mr. P. Coomber	Deanery Synod <i>ex officio</i>
Hazel Tomkins	elected 2022
Isobel Gamman	elected 2022
Sarah Ford	Elected 2023
Sara Smout	Elected 2023
Francis Jones	Elected 2023
Ian Robinson	Elected 2024
Neil Slade	Elected 2024
Richard Nuttall	Elected 2024
Christian McLean-Mair	Co-opted 2024

**Status:** The PCC is a charity, excepted from registration with the Charity Commission under the Charities (Exception from Registration) Regulations 1996.

**Independent Examiner:** Role to be undertaken by Janet Workman

**Banker:** National Westminster Bank plc

**AGENDAS FOR ST. GEORGE, CAM ANNUAL MEETINGS  
TO BE HELD IN ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH  
ON SUNDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025, AT 11:00AM  
  
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

- 1. Appointment of clerk for the meetings:**
- 2. Apologies:**
- 3. Election of Churchwardens for 2025/2026**  
Present Wardens are:        1) James Irvine        2) Mike Bateman

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**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING**

- 1. Apologies:**
- 2. Minutes of the last Annual meetings:** *(Pages 5-8)*
- 3. Matters arising from the minutes:**
- 4. Vicar's Report on 2024** *(Pages 9-10 )*
- 5. Treasurer's report and adoption of the accounts for 2024** *(Page 11-13)*
- 6. Presentation of the Electoral Roll** *(Page 14)*
- 7. Churchwardens report - as written and received** *(Pages 15-16 )*
- 8. Churchwardens report on the fabric - as written and received** *(Pages 17-19)*
- 9. Safeguarding** *(Page 20-21)*
- 10. .Deanery Synod Report** *(Page 22)*
- 11. Election of up to 2 Lay Representatives to Deanery Synod** *if applicable*
- 12. Reports from Church groups and organisations –** *(Pages 23-27 )* *as written and received*
- 13. Election of up to TWO members to the PCC:**
- 14. Appointment of INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS for 2025:**
- 15. Amendments to Standing Orders - if any**
- 16. Any other business**
- 17. Date of next meeting** *(Easter Sunday falls on 5th April in 2026)*

**MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS  
AGENDA**

**Present Officer**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Co-options required for a special purpose (if any)  |   |
| 2) Appointment of Deputy Church Warden                 |   |
| 3) Appointment of Lay Vice-Chairman                    | James Irvine  |
| 4) Appointment of Secretary                            | Sarah Ford  |
| 5) Appointment of Church Electoral Roll Officer        | Mike Bateman  |
| 6) Appointment of Treasurer                            | Ian Robinson  |
| 7) Appointment of Gift Aid Officer                     | Andrew Crofts   |
| 8) Election of Child Protection / Safeguarding Officer | Sara Smout  |
| 9) Election of Standing Committee                      | Andrew Hill, James Irvine, Mike Bateman,<br>Ian Robinson, Fiona Crocker |
| 10) Any Other Business:                                |   |
| 11) Date of first meeting for 2025/2026                |   |

*Suggested dates:*

*10<sup>th</sup> July 2025*

*11<sup>th</sup> September 2025*

*20<sup>th</sup> November 2025*

*15<sup>th</sup> January 2026*

*12<sup>th</sup> March 2026*

**P.C.C.:** May, July, September, November, January and March (+AGM)

**Standing Committee:** May, July, October, December, February (or as required)

**MINUTES OF ST. GEORGE, CAM ANNUAL MEETINGS  
HELD IN ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH  
ON SUNDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2024, AT 11:00AM  
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

Meeting opened 11:00am

**1. Appointment of clerk for the meetings:**

**Sarah Ford** – Proposed by Judith Ashman Margaret Robson, Seconded by – All in Favour

**2. Apologies:** Louise Hill, Richard Elliott, Mary Elliott, Nikki Yuden, Tim Yuden, Martin Gregg, Paula Gregory, Frances Wookey, Ann Preece, Jo Crofts, Andy Crofts, Ken Hitchings, Emily and Nadeem, Carry Thould, Ann Cross

**3. Election of Churchwardens for 2024/2025**

Present Wardens are:        1) James Irvine        2) Mike Bateman

James Irvine - Proposed by Derek Crocker, seconded by Bob Robson, all in favour

Mike Bateman – Proposed by Isobel Gamman, seconded by Alex Reeves, all in favour

Meeting closed 11:04am

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**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING**

**18. Apologies:** Louise Hill, Richard Elliott, Mary Elliott, Nikki Yuden, Tim Yuden, Martin Gregg, Paula Gregory, Frances Wookey, Ann Preece, Jo Crofts, Andy Crofts, Ken Hitchings, Emily and Nadeem, Carry Thould, Ann Cross

**19. Minutes of the last Annual meetings:**

The meeting of the last APCM meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023 were approved - Proposed -Derek Crocker, Seconded Isobel Gammon, all in favour.

**20. Matters arising from the minutes:**

There were no matters arising.

**21. Vicar's Report on 2023**

Fiona went through her report, a copy of which was sent out in advance of the meeting.

**22. Treasurer's report and adoption of the accounts for 2023**

The Finances and Financial report were sent out in advance of the meeting. Ian went through the reports and invited questions. Ian is awaiting the final sign off from the Independent Examiner and should have it this week.

Ian proposed that we formally adopt the accounts - Proposed by Isobel Gammon, seconded by Francis Jones, all in favour

Fiona thanked Ian for all he does with the accounts and finances.

**23. Presentation of the Electoral Roll**

Mike went through the Electoral Roll report, a copy of which was sent out in advance of the meeting. The Electoral Roll was revised prior to the APCM and at the end of the revision there were 105 people named.

Next year we have to prepare whole new Electoral Roll so everyone will need to fill a new form in for next year.

Fiona thanked Mike for all he does.

**24. Churchwardens report - as written and received**

Mike went through the Church Wardens report, a copy of which was sent out in advance of the meeting. Mike and James thanked everyone for all they do within the Church and for all their support.

**25. Churchwardens report on the fabric - as written and received**

The Churchwardens report on the fabric was sent out in advance of the meeting. James went over the highlights and thanked all who take on responsibility for bits of the fabric.

A visit is awaiting from a specialist to try and get the clock chiming again.

Welcome for All Project. James went over the information sent out in advance of the meeting. A response is due soon on a Faculty that has been requested and a further Faculty will be requested for further work and will be submitted in the Autumn.

James explained the plan for the Kitchen area and the benefits it will give. We have applied for permission for a dishwasher, the DAC are anti-this but we are going to push and try to get this approved. Most of the costs will be in the Kitchen area but we will be doing some work in the children's corner, reconfiguring the cupboards, having a fitted carpet and including a large cupboard for AV / storage.

The toilet is not big enough to have a fully disabled access but we are looking at refurbishing it to make it as disabled friendly as possible.

Current estimate for the internal work is £50,000 for internal work and £100,000 for the external work but this is a rough estimate only. We may be able to get grants for some of the outside work but less likely to get any for the internal cost so will need some fundraising.

If anyone would like to sponsor a dishwasher or something else please speak to James!

Fiona thanked James for the details and the pictures he put together to help everyone visualise the planned changes.

Isobel asked about the wall up the driveway that is crumbling, James confirmed this is a known issue and there are ownership issues that are being looked into.

**26. Safeguarding**

The Safeguarding report was sent out in advance of the meeting. Fiona thanked Sara Smout for her work as our Safeguarding Officer. Any Safeguarding concerns please speak to Sara or Fiona.

**27. Election of up to 3 Lay Representatives to Deanery Synod - *if applicable***

No elections are needed this year

**28. Reports from Church groups and organisations – *as written and received***

**29. Election of up to FIVE (5) members to the PCC:**

Ian Robinson - Proposed by, Claire Searle seconded by Jane Blackmore, all in favour

Neil Slade - Proposed by James Irvine, seconded by, all in favour

Richard Nuttall - Proposed by Sarah Ford, seconded by James Irvine, all in favour

**30. Appointment of INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS for 2024:**

Becky Hudson - Proposed by Ian Robinson, seconded by Derek rocker, all in favour

**31. Amendments to Standing Orders - if any**

There were no amendments to Standing Orders

**32. Any other business**

There was no other business

**33. Date of next meeting** (Easter Sunday falls on 20<sup>th</sup> April in 2025) – Possibly 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – tbc nearer the time.

Meeting closed 11:59am

**MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS  
AGENDA**

1) Co-options required for a special purpose (if any) Christian McLean-Mair  
(Christian was unable to stand at the APCM as he was not on the electoral roll in time. Christian has now gone on to the electoral roll). Proposed by Catherine Coomber, seconded by Fiona Crocker, all in favour

2) Appointment of Deputy Church Warden

3) Appointment of Lay Vice-Chairman James Irvine

4) Appointment of Secretary Sarah Ford

5) Appointment of Church Electoral Roll Officer Michael Bateman

6) Appointment of Treasurer Ian Robinson

7) Appointment of Gift Aid Officer Andrew Crofts

8) Election of Child Protection / Safeguarding Officer Sara Smout

9) Election of Standing Committee Andrew Hill, James Irvine, Mike Bateman,  
Ian Robinson, Fiona Crocker

Elected en-bloc - Proposed by Isobel Gammon, seconded by Francis Jones, all in favour

10) Any Other Business:

11) Date of first meeting for 2023/2024 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 – 7.30pm at the Vicarage  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
14<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**P.C.C.:** May, July, September, November, January and March (+AGM)

**Standing Committee:** May, July, October, December, February (or as required)



## **APCM Vicar's Report**

In the beginning of the letters to the churches in Ephesus and Colossae, Paul writes how he gives thanks to God for the faith found within those early churches. I want to begin this report by saying I too give thanks for all of you who remain faithful to the worshipping community here at St George. A very warm welcome to those who have joined us in this last year. I am so grateful for all those who do regularly support the church financially too and the reviews you put in place on your own personal finances to see if this can be increased with inflation rises.

Over the year, I have held these 2 Bible verses in mind.

Psalms 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
the builders labour in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
the guards stand watch in vain.

And Romans 12:

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

In being reminded of these verses, I noted firstly that it is God who we need to join in with when we are serving at St G. Where is God at work? Well that's where we need to join in. Also I can see a theme running through this last year which is the need for team and building connections. We need each other, as a body working together, each of us with their own unique gifts and capacities, no matter our age. I am so thankful for all who are part of a team enabling ministry or service to happen here in St G whether that it is in cleaning the church, setting up for services, singing in the choir, serving on PCC, serving refreshments, assisting with Messy Church, preaching, admin support, rota creating, praying, flower arranging, welcoming, churchyard maintenance, bell-ringing or building kitchen doors....and so the list goes on. I know that some of you are frustrated that where there have been life challenges your service has had to change or be limited and that's ok. I am sorry when some may feel that they join in and others do not notice it. I do my best to give out thanks on behalf of our church family but you may not hear it or I may miss some.

In the last year we have worked hard on asking ourselves, as members of St G and members of different teams, 'how are we keeping ourselves and others safe.' This is part of Jesus' commandment to love ourselves and our neighbour. I am grateful to Sara Smout who has worked hard to encourage us and train us to take safeguarding and safeguarding training seriously. I am grateful for all those who have worked on keeping themselves up to date with this.

Teamwork and connections has been a running theme through the work of Deanery Synod and the Deanery Strategic Pathway. There has been an increasing sense of working together more as clergy and lay leaders across the North End of our Deanery. Discussions are ongoing as to how we can best support our local Anglican churches in this geographical area of Berkley, Lower Cam and us here in Cam and Stinchcombe. A wider church body with different members, ie the Deanery team, with different skills means that we can be greater than the sum of our parts. I also encourage us to see that we are connected to the wider Anglican Communion and have discussed at PCC level the 'Living in love and faith' process and the prayers of blessing for same sex couples. We pray too for the next Archbishop of Canterbury. So many connections across the Body of Christ that can inspire and guide us.

Teamwork locally and in the wider Diocese has been important to us as we continued with our project, Welcome to All, completing Phase 1 at Easter 2025. I am grateful for the support that we received from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), our architects and the team of keen enthusiasts who demolished and

lovingly built our new kitchen. James needs a special mention for project managing the whole process as well as building a significant part of the kitchen and designing the refashioned children's corner. However he would be the first to admit that he needed those who could assist often in spontaneous moments of activity to get the job done – so thank you to all those who assisted in any way. This has meant that the whole project has saved many thousands of pounds with the labour charges being minimal. This Welcome to All project has greatly enhanced all that we can do in our community café which has continued to grow and bless so many across our wider local community. The joy of the café is seeing a great team working together supporting one another not just on a Thursday, seeing all ages being together in one place – children playing with carers, the art group growing in skills and friendship, and those who come in for company and fine cake all ministered to in our wonderfully reimagined building. Café speaks so much of team and connections and listening to our God who guides and helps us. We now look forward to Phase 2 and our outside disability access being built.

The fruit of connections was evident when we celebrated with Will and Ethan in their baptisms. Two young people who felt connected to St G from Cam Hopton CofE school and who chose St G as the place to mark this significant step on their journey of faith. We also held a confirmation service for Tom, Alex, Anico and Will, led by Rachel, Bishop of Gloucester. It was a truly magnificent time of celebration. As these people confirmed their connections with St G and also with our loving Heavenly Father, may this encourage all of us to consider how we can remain connected with each other and deepen our connections with each other and God, Himself. For example, would this be by committing to join in with daily Morning Prayer, online at 9am or in person on a Tuesday morning, or to join in with a Life group where faith can be shared and deepened? Only you know how and what suits you but I would encourage you to give this some thought as I am so aware of the increasing number of distractions there are fighting for our time, energy and commitment.

Finally I am thankful for those who had led with me this year, Andrew my Associate, Catherine my Curate, Ken, Roger, Mike and Peter. Just as Paul wrote of giving thanks for those who have remained faithful in his letters, I am giving thanks for those who have remained faithful and led across the benefice; in teaching, prayer, funerals, pastorally and for being 'them' in the context of the ministry team. We pray for Catherine who having been trained with us will be leaving in June to take up her first incumbency in the Wickwar Benefice and for Peter Smout as he is licensed as a Reader in September. I am thankful too for the church wardens and treasurer, James, Mike and Ian who hold much for us within the community here at St G. We are a church team and I hope that we all feel that we do not serve alone but are connected and supported by one another. I certainly feel this is so and I am very grateful.

To the future,

PCC will be reviewing our vision statement of 2025

**The faith development of children and families,  
Our diversity and inclusivity -to welcome all,  
Working with other Christians of the area (2-way),  
A Safe space for us and for others ,  
The Church as a place to be strengthened so as to go out as individuals,  
A Move from Clergy - led to lay-led outreach.**

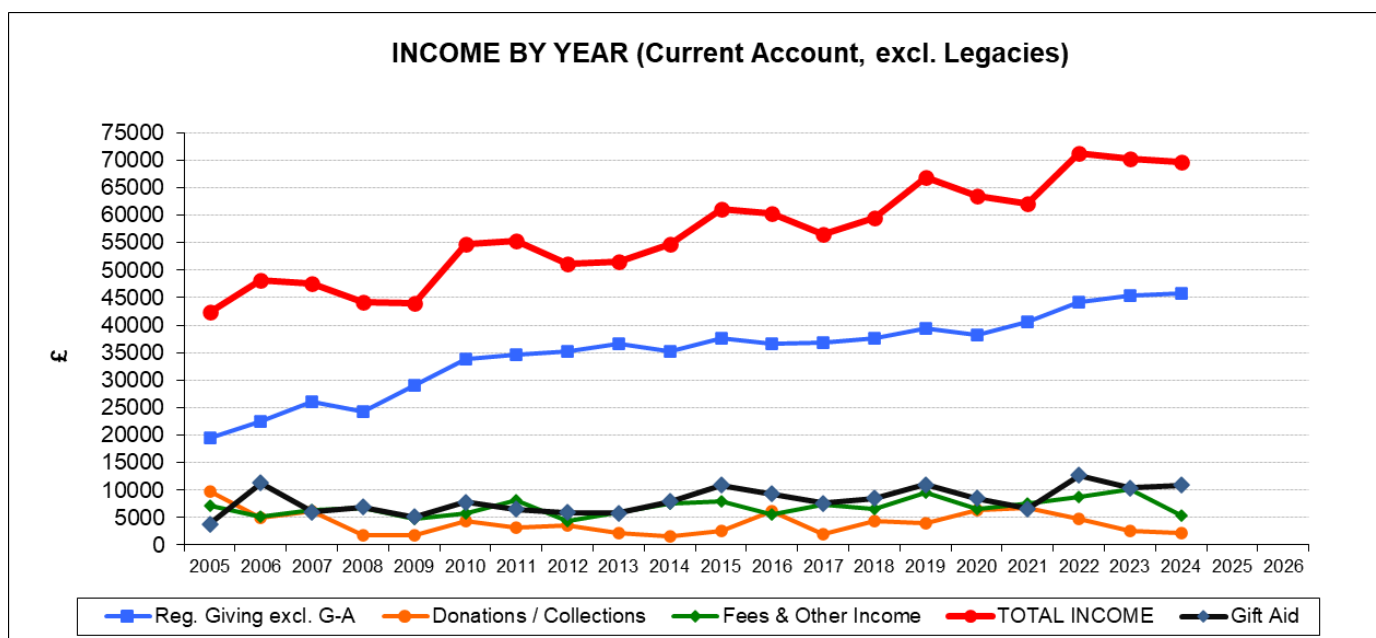
We will see how much we have achieved since this vision was set and maybe what needs to be changed or worked on more. We promised ourselves a time to pray to see the way forward. I pray that God will bless each of us all in our service at St G and bless those connections across the church and in the wider community. As we go forward, I pray that we ask the Lord as to which team we need to join in with and what new connections can we make as individuals or as a church body to share the love and story of Jesus Christ.

# Treasurer's Report for 2024

## Summary

- Current account expenditure exceeded income by £345, but this was only made possible by allotting £5052 of interest payments to the current account.
- We ended the year with a current account balance of £15,942, having created the *Legacies Fund* and transferred legacy money into it. We received £20k of legacies this year.
- We achieved our parish share target of £58,500 which both exceeded the initial diocesan request and took us nearer to "paying our way".
- **Restricted Funds** reduced slightly over the year in total and the year-end figures were *Fabric Fund* £4,743, *Bell Fund* £1,940 and *Woodward Sweets Fund* £270.
- The **Designated Funds** year-end totals were *Organ Fund* £2066, *Choir Fund* £1810, *Churchyard Fund* £146, *Legacy Fund* £73,107, *Welcome To All* £5006.
- Giving overall was flat compared to 2023, but *Regular Giving* (including gift-aid) covered 97% of the Parish Share. We were below budget on donations, collections and particularly fees income, compared to budget.

## Income



**Regular Giving** (excluding gift-aid) showed a slight increase compared to last year, due to new givers and because most people in the *Parish Giving Scheme* have chosen to have automatic inflation increases.

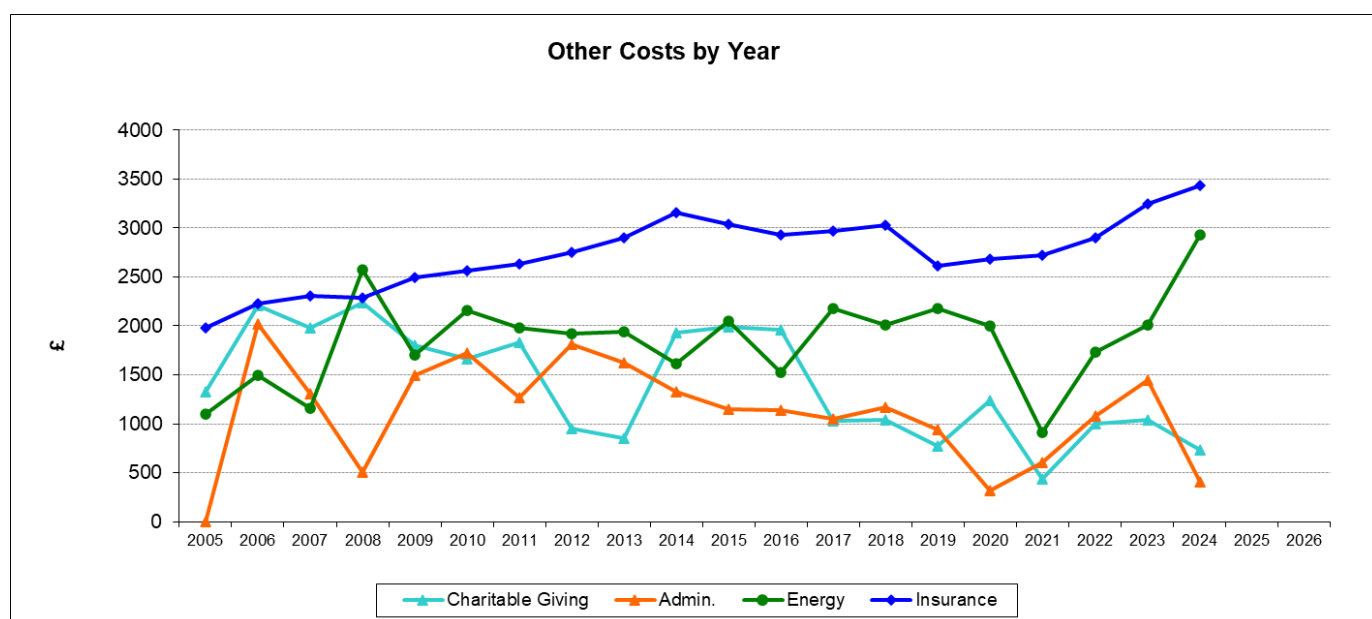
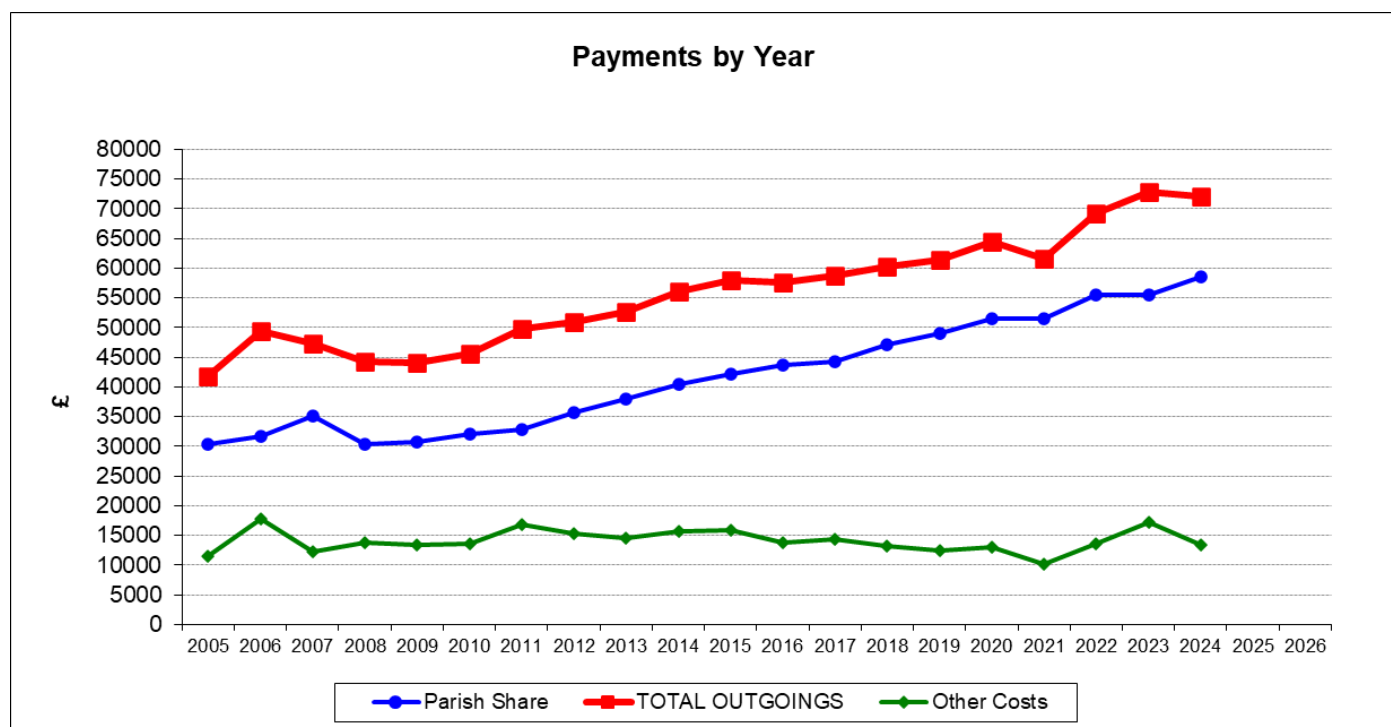
One-off **Donations** were down again year-on-year.

We had another great contribution from **Tax Recovered**, receiving £10,887 in gift-aid, and as usual, I must thank Andy Crofts for recovering Gift Aid tax refunds.

*Fund-raising* was £617 this year; mainly for *Welcome To All*. My thanks go to the Reeves family for *Ride 'n' Stride*, to Richard Elliott for encouraging *easyfundraising*, to Ann Braley for her super concert and to anyone else who helped raise money.

## Expenditure

Current account expenditure dropped slightly year-on-year, despite increases in our 3 largest items: Parish Share, Insurance and Energy. Parish Share represented 81% of our total expenditure. There was a large increase in energy costs as old, cheaper contracts expired and had to be replaced.



The balances of the various funds on 31st December 2024 were as follows, representing a decrease in assets of £4,635.03:

	£
General Fund	15,942.16
Restricted Funds (see statement of assets)	6,953.17
Designated Funds (see statement of assets)	82,134.66
Endowment Fund	5,000.00

Deposits with NatWest Bank plc and Central Board of Finance represent the general, restricted and designated funds and the endowment fund is represented by units in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

## Fees Account

In addition to the main bank account, there is a Benefice Fees Account, which is kindly administered by Chris Tomkins and processes fee income for weddings, funerals and the like. This account makes payments to the main account (shown as fee income in the accounts), to St. Cyr's, and to the diocese.

A summary of this account for 2024 is follows:

### STINCHCOMBE & CAM FEES ACCOUNT 2024

Opening Balance 01/01/2024			£2,845.10	Bank reconciliation £2,845.10
Receipts	Funerals etc	£10,147.00		
	Weddings	£4,530.00		
	Wedding Deposits	£250.00		
	Credit from St Cyr's/Organist	£75.00		
	Banns	£54.00		
	Baptisms	<u>£0.00</u>		
Total			ex accounts £15,056.00	£12,847.00 Ex Statements
Expenses	DBF	£3,777.00		
	St George PCC	£4,838.00		
	St Cyr PCC	£1,742.00		
	Organists	£565.00		
	Vergers	£565.00		
	Heating	£220.00		
	Ministers	£664.00		
	Bells	£720.00		
	Travel	<u>£120.00</u>		
Total			ex accounts £13,211.00	£15,738.00 Ex Statements
Closing Balance 31/12/2024			ex accounts £4,690.10	£4,690.10 Ex Statements

*Ian Robinson, May 2025.*

## **A report on the Preparation of a new Electoral roll in 2025**

### **Presentation of the new Electoral Roll for the Parish of Cam St George**

A New church electoral roll has been prepared in accordance with Part 1 of the Church Representation Rules 2022. It was open for applications to join from 2 March 2025 until 28th April 2025 due notice having been given by notices placed in the Church porch and announcements in Church and pew sheets.

The New role has 90 members names included.

The names of the those currently on the roll were published on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 when the new roll became effective and a copy of the published list of names of those eligible to vote at the APCM will be available for inspection at the APCM.

No other names may be added to or removed from the list until after the end of the APCM.

The 2024 church electoral roll prior had 105 members names at the end of the last APCM.  
The new roll has 19 members not previously on the 2024 roll.

Approximately 65% of members are from within the Parish and so 35% from the surrounding Parishes.

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Mike Bateman

Electoral Roll Officer

# Churchwardens Annual Report 2024

This report reflects aspects of life at St George's Church during 2024

Our Sunday pattern of worship has not changed with Communion services on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and a non-communion all age worship on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays. We continue to hold benefice services on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, usually alternating between St George and St Cyr.

The weekly Tuesday evening prayer service, which used to take place generally in church or online during the darker evenings has ceased as attendance had dropped

However, we continue to hold morning prayer on Facebook on Monday to Fridays and in church on Tuesdays.

A Sunday Evening service – Soul Space a quiet relaxed style with Worship or Taizé style songs is held most months on the second Sunday.

On-line streaming of our services has continued twice a month on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays; we have a small, regular, on-line congregation and more watch during the week

We still use the projection screen for all Sunday morning and some other services, paper service sheets are now used very rarely.

Messy Church continued to run in the church and churchyard monthly during term, led by Sara Smout and Nicky Yudin. Many of the families who started coming to Messy Church also join the monthly all age Sunday Worship. Sunday Kidz runs in the tower room on 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

Multiple classes from Cam Hopton and Cam Everlands took part in Easter and Christmas services either in church or at the schools. A team visits Cam Hopton regularly with Open the Book during term time and Fiona and Catherine also support regular Assembly and other project at the schools.

At Christmas we held another outdoor carol service, again well attended by the local community and a more traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service was also very popular and warmer and dryer; as well as special Carol services for Peak Academy along with Café and Rotary community groups.

The PCC has met regularly and a standing committee meets when necessary. James Irvine and Mike Bateman were elected as churchwardens this year.

Rev Catherine Coomber continued as training curate and is nearing the end of her placement in 2025. Catherine and Fiona continue to work brilliantly together with the rest of the Ministry team. Our supporting clergy, Andrew and Frances, and readers, Ken and Roger, continue to do so much to support Fiona and the Benefice. The clergy team have been helping support in other local parishes covering services and we have occasionally welcomed Graham Stacey (Area Dean and PIC Lower Cam and Coaley)

We continue to send regular, weekly, communications via email and Facebook, we still have 200+ email subscribers in the benefice with a wider community reach via Facebook. The benefice 'link' magazine is produced 10 times a year, with Bob Robson chasing and editing content; the magazine is distributed both electronically and in print.

The church admin aspects (calendar and rotas and electoral roll) are still managed using the to the iKnow church cloud platform. Mike Bateman continues to manage this, and our Charity Microsoft account is still awaiting final set up to secure our other admin information including finance and PCC information and emails appropriately. Minor changes to the website have been made and the A Church Near You site has been updated.

We have not appointed our Charity of the year and need to consider this.

The Community Café has continued to grow in strength and numbers – we still need additional volunteers from time to time especially to help set up and serve in the Kitchen and Welcome teams. Permission was obtained to continue funding the café from the remaining CLF grant and all grant moneys were used up by November 2024

A team of volunteers run the café and great thank you to them for their commitment and service, The café is visited by members of the local community on a regular basis and range of church members drop in and use the café, the group of mums and young babies and toddlers attend weekly and seem to appreciate the community and child friendly play spaces. The café enables our outreach in the local community and some of the visitors have joined in worship on Sundays.

The Eco Church team has lost some of its leadership but still produces some articles for the church magazine and prayers for the Environment on a regular basis. Richard Elliot has stepped down from managing the Churchyard maintenance team after many years and this has now been taken up by Isobel Gamman who with the other volunteers that maintain the churchyard so well,

We thank all who assist in any way with the running of St George's: cleaners; flower arrangers; choir; sacristans; organists and music group, lesson readers; intercessors; Sunday Kidz leaders; bell ringers; techies; church yard team; gift aid and social events organisers. And many more working hard to help running our Parish.

Major improvements to the kitchen and servery areas have taken place over the later part of 2024 and into 2025. Our great thanks to the expert team who have managed this James, Derek and the others who have helped including Francis, Neil, Isobel, Peter and Alex.

The second phase for the outside and step free access plans have been submitted for advice from DAC who have given conflicting advice, clarification on some aspects of the plans is being sought and the Faculty application will be revised to reflect the outcome. Major Funding Grant applications will be needed for the second Phase.

Finally, as ever, feel free to approach the Churchwardens if you have any questions or queries relating to any Church matter.

Mike Bateman  
May 2025

James Irvine



# **Churchwardens Annual Fabric Report for the Year 2024**

## **Clock**

Hour chime has been non functional all year. Intent was for a 3rd party (not Smith of Derby) to attend at start of year, but this fell through. Smiths attended in July to service the clock and look at the auto-winding system for the hour strike. They advised a complete replacement of the winding motor and controller would be required at a cost of £4,200+vat, they said it may be possible to a 3rd party to rewind the existing motor. Subsequent to this we removed the winding motor to examination, it is non functional and winding fault.

At of now (May25) this is still outstanding, repair option has not been found for this motor and funds not agreed for the expensive replacement.

## **Bells**

In February a bell rope snapped during practice. Five ropes were repaired by Avon ropes with new terylene tops and or new tail ends and have been fitted, the current rope on the Treble bell is serviceable but will be repaired similarly in due course.

Inspection was carried out during the year by Alex Reeves and Mike Bateman

## **Organ**

The organ failed in early Feb rendering it unplayable (Blower system and a coupler). Clevedon Organs visited the following week and repaired and tuned while they were on site.

In May they returned to repair the 16ft stop (outstanding from 2023) and tune the organ. Some very technical (geeky) feedback on the quality of the voicing of the Fagotto and Clarion stops (“a jumble of odd pipes added in 1960s & 70s”) but overall Peter & Gareth are happy with the outcome “not all the ranks are perfect, but collectively they make a joyful noise, and the organ feels great as a result of the work completed.”

They raised concerns on a potential damp/humidity issue in the Organ Chamber (may be historic), Mike purchase and installed a hygrometer to measure and inform future action.

Tuned in December. All playing fine, nothing to report.

## **Heating**

The heating system worked fine all year, it was not serviced during the year due to an oversight, service is outstanding and still required as of May25

A new internet heating control system has been researched and purchased, will be installed during the warm months.

## **AV System**

In May the projection screen failed to deploy correctly during setup for a Messy Church service. A temporary screen was hung for a few weeks; issue was resolved by resyncing remote later in the month.

2 new screens and stands for the side aisle were acquired from Encore (a Global AV provider) as a donation, some work in outstanding to allow all screens (side aisles and chancel) to work simultaneously.

## **General Maintenance**

In May Birds (rooks or crows) forced entry into the top of the tower by breaking the mesh in several places. In June Nick Williams fitted chicken wire to the inside of east and north openings in the belfry to block access by birds. This should be considered a mid-term (5year?) repair; more significant mesh will need to be fitted.

Nick Williams cleared gutters & gullies in December. He identified some failed pointing on the south aisle high level windows, weather did not allow re pointing at this time. Will be revisited in 2025

Mike repaired leak around toilet in December.

In February the Roof alarm service/maintenance contract was resigned (change in ownership of provider), no change to terms. Roof alarm serviced by Ace Alarms in September. 2

### **Periodic Inspections**

Fire Extinguishers inspected by James Irvine in August

Churchyard Monument Inspection ('wobble test') by James Irvine in November.

### **Church Yard**

Mowers were serviced in February ready for the season, a repair was required to one of the Honda mowers in May (collision with grave?).

Maintenance has continued throughout the year with some larger clearups in June (focusing on the Garden of Remembrance) and in September (to clear the cut from the wild flower meadow). Many thanks to all those who assist.

Isobel has done an amazing job – taking on some major projects: clearing the lower churchyard, especially around the 'clay pile' on the north boundary and drastically reducing the inside face of the Garden of Remembrance hedge – creating space for many (80+) more ash interments.

We received a faculty to enable installation of 2 cycle racks on the east side of the porch, these were installed in November through a Stroud District Council scheme.

### **Churchyard walls**

Concerns have been raised with the condition of walls in the churchyard:

- Dry stone wall adjacent to Hopton road exit – bulging reported. James has reviewed and there is no evidence of recent movement or visible risk of collapse. To be kept under review
- Entrance wall (to left of drive, boundary with Bell Court) – Pointing and some repairs are now in poor condition with some pointing failing and falling from the wall. Nick (owner of Bell Court) has provided an estimate of £8,340 (inc VAT) for repairs. Ownership of wall is unclear, and probably unlikely to get resolved? Wall adjacent to Vicarage is in slightly better condition, but is also a retaining wall (vicarage garden is 6' higher than drive). This wall is being kept under observation, intent is to raise funds for this work alongside Welcome to all Phase 2.

### **Quinquennial Inspection Outstanding Works**

There are some, non urgent, works outstanding from the 2020 Quinquennial survey carried out by architect Toby Falconer, primarily sulphation on high level stonework / parapets. A schedule of works has been prepared, also including repointing of the North Aisle West corner, fund raising with Welcome to all Phase 2.

We are grateful to all who assist with organising maintenance visit and assist with upkeep on the church and churchyard. Especially those who have taken on responsibly for specific areas: Richard Elliott and Isobel Gammon (churchyard), Alex Reeves (bells/clock), Peter Smout (organ), and Derek Crocker (Heating). 3

## **Welcome To All Project**

### **Phase 1 (internal works)**

We received the faculty (for the kitchen and children's corner) in late November and work started immediately to replace the staircase and fit the server base unit.

Work continued into 2025, without requiring any closure of café, and by Easter 2025 the work in the kitchen/server and children's corner was complete.

Much of the work has been carried out by members of the church so the costs for the element are significantly under budget. Oak from the existing staircase and doors from the old units were recycled and used in the construction of the staircase and kitchen.

The scope was increased to include sanding/sealing the floor at the back of the nave and in the side aisle, also replacement of the carpet in the prayer corner.

Remaining element of phase 1 are in hand:

- Large cupboards each side of the rear nave
- Refurbishment of toilet (faculty approval reserved)
- Fix of screens in chancel (faculty approval reserved)

### **Phase 2 (external works)**

We have prepared full plans and submitted a faculty for review by the DAC in December. This follows various discussions about detail with our architects and representatives of the DAC.

- Ramped access to church by raising the area outside the porch and ramping the drive
- Replace the main church doors with more welcoming oak/glass doors
- Reconfiguration of the path around to west door to link to raised area outside porch
- Addition of disabled parking / turning space(s)
- Improved drive lighting and drainage

In April we received agreement in principle to the ramped access and associated changes, but with significant concern and queries on the requirement and detail of the assessable parking area. We, and our architect, are working on these with the DAC at present.

Part B faculties will be submitted in the next few weeks for the Stone works and repairs to drive wall.

Once DAC agreed scope is clear we need to obtain supplier quotes and apply for grants / fund raise to complete the project.

James Irvine

# **May 2025 - Safeguarding Report for St George's Church Upper Cam**

## **Introduction**

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting. All members of the PCC have an enhanced DBS and have undertaken basic, foundation and domestic abuse safeguarding training. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) has undertaken training and can deliver in house basic and foundation level safeguarding training.

## **Formal Obligation**

St George's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016, ensuring that all relevant roles have been safely recruited. DBS's have been completed and appropriate training given.

## **Safeguarding Roles**

Sara Smout is our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) She has a DBS and has been trained and authorised to carry out basic and foundation training. She is also our in-house recruiter and verifier. Kate Peake is our Diocesan recruiter and verifier.

## **Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information**

Our website contains up to date information on who to contact for safeguarding. Telephone numbers are provided for both the PSO and the clergy and details of what to do if help is required. There are also links given to the Diocesan safeguarding pages as well as numbers of agencies who could provide help. Our safeguarding Policy is also available on this page.

Details of how to get help with a disclosure or to report any concerns are also available on the Church notice board in accordance with Diocesan procedures.

## **Safeguarding Learning and Development**

There has been considerable encouragement for as many people as possible to complete the on-line basic safeguarding training. All relevant roles have been instructed to and have completed the necessary basic, foundation and domestic abuse training. The PSO has also recently qualified as a mental health first aider for children and young people.

We aim to continue to offer face to face training in basic, foundation and domestic abuse on an annual basis.

## **Safer Recruitment and People Management**

All relevant roles within the Church have been considered and structures put in place that comply with the Church of England directives on safer recruitment.

Relevant Roles at St George that require safer recruitment.

All Clergy/ Readers and those with Permission to Officiate

Church Wardens

Bell ringer/ teacher

Bell Tower Captain

Head of Choir/ Music

Leader of Children's activities

- Sunday Kidz
- Messy Church leaders
- Café Craft Leaders

PSO

Lay Worship Leaders

AV Team leader

Life Group Leaders

Café Leader

All local roles will be reviewed annually and any changes confirmed at the PCC meeting before the APCM.

### **Concerns Raised**

There has been one safeguarding concern shared with the PSO during the reporting period.

The Diocesan safeguarding team are always available to help with any queries or concerns that may arise within the Parish.

### **Next Steps**

Our next steps are to provide some dates for in house domestic abuse training as this is the area that some roles need to complete.

## Deanery Synod Report – APCM 2025

Since the 2024 APCM, the Wotton Deanery Synod to which our Benefice belongs has held four Meetings in the year since May 2024-to March 2025. Co-Chaired by Area Dean Rev'd Graham Stacey, incumbent of Lower Cam with Coley, and Lay Chair . The Main focus of the meetings was the implementation of the Deanery Strategy and working with the Diocese on updating the Parish Share allocation process.

The Area Dean and DSPG have continued work on the five priority areas; Growth (working across the benefices to co-ordinate and optimise planning), Buildings (sharing our collective knowledge of requirements, skilled trades etc.), Financial (working across the Deanery to try to balance income with expenditure), Governance (including sharing best practice between PCC secretaries, Treasurers and other role holders) and Local Ministry (involving the formation of local ministry teams).

Although progress has been slow some changes have been made.

With regard to Parish share The Deanery has a responsibility to Gloucester Diocese to ensure that funds are collected as equitably as possible from all member Benefices so that clergy can be paid, housed and trained, and offered a proper pension when they retire. Proposals for a new system of determining Parish share have been progressing and will now not impact until 2026.

Whilst the emphasis is on encouraging finding other sources of funding within parishes and or deaneries as there is an acceptance that for some parishes continuing to put ever more financial burden on dwindling congregations cannot be the answer.

Collaboration and sharing good practice is also being encouraged.

The Parish Church of Cam St. George is represented on Deanery Synod by Clergy Rev'd Fiona Crocker, and Lay members Mike Bateman, Peter Smout and Paul Coomber.

We have all been supporting the Strategic Plan which continues to evolve and is slowly taking effect. Please speak to one of us if you would like to know more, and please pray for the work of Deanery and Diocesan Synods as they strive to play their part in growing the Kingdom of God.

Also our thanks to Paul Coomber for his support over the past year as he is stepping down from being our Deanery Synod Representative and PCC.

Fiona, Mike, Peter and Paul

May 2025

## **Children at St George 2025**

### **Sunday Kidz**

We have a growing number of children who meet upstairs in the tower room during the 9:30am service at St George's Church. Children from 4 to 11 years are welcome to join us. We use a resource called 'Click' which provides quality Bible teaching for the whole primary age range.

Thanks to financial support from the PCC we now have a lovely, organised space which is child friendly and caters for the needs of the many different activities that take place in the Church building.

### **XTB (Explore The Bible)**

XTB ran for two terms at school during the summer of 2024.

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church for families continues to take place on the fourth Sunday of the month at St George's Church. It is generally very well attended and appreciated by those who come. Messy Church involves a simple Worship time with singing and an introduction to the theme which is then explored more fully through a range of creative and active activities designed to give opportunities for questions and discussion. A celebration time including prayers concludes our Worship time before a shared tea with yummy sandwiches and cakes.

A number of leaders have had to finish recently; please contact Sara or Fiona if this is something you might be interested in helping with.

Sara Smout

# St Georges Community Café:

The St Georges Community Café has celebrated yet another remarkable year, continuing to serve as a warm and inviting hub for our local community. This success is undeniably thanks to the dedication and hard work of our incredible team of volunteers—18 in total—whose tireless efforts we deeply appreciate.

Each week on Thursday, the café becomes a bustling space where over 40 adults and children gather to enjoy the welcoming atmosphere. Helenna and Lynda enrich these weekly sessions by offering engaging craft activities, which are always a hit. Families also delight in our play corner and play equipment, making it a true haven for all ages. Our homemade cakes, fresh fruit, and hot beverages remain crowd favourites, while sausage rolls and toasties are consistently sought-after lunchtime treats.

School holidays are a particularly vibrant time for the café, as we host additional activities that draw even larger numbers of visitors. These events further highlight the café's role as a vital community hub.

Undoubtedly, the most exciting development this year has been the installation of upgraded kitchen facilities, featuring a dishwasher, oven, and hot water dispenser. This transformation has made the space far more functional and efficient. A special thanks goes out to James and the team for their exceptional efforts in bringing these improvements to life.

As Catherine prepares to transition to her new role this summer, we are delighted to announce that Lin Jones has graciously agreed to take over the coordination of café activities. Lin brings with her a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, ensuring that the welcoming spirit of the café will continue to flourish.

Reflecting on the year past, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who contributes to making the St Georges Community Café such a cherished place. Here's to another year of community, creativity, and connection!

Catherine Coomber



## **Bellringers Report: May 2025**

We have tried to ring for all Sunday morning services and for special events. We are helped out at our Tuesday practices from ringers from neighbouring towers. One ringer has transferred from Dursley to our band.

We have tried to train up new ringers, found via Facebook, and have one left who seems very keen. Our attendance at the Cam and Dursley Society and Club Fair has resulted in one possible new recruit.

Our bells are in good working order.

At the end of April we, and ringers from Coaley had an outing to in and around Worcester. Our first tower was an eight bell tower, where Alex was taught to ring in the late-80s, the second a heavy six bell ring, then a pub lunch, followed by an anticlockwise (hence very different) eight bell tower, ending with a six bell tower attached to a National Trust property.

(Photo removed for GDPR/ safeguarding reasons)

## St George's Choir Report

The Choir have continued to sing for as many services as possible and it was lovely to sing at St Cyr's again on Good Friday.

Some of the choir again joined the Stinchcombe Scratch Choir and sang at the St Cyr's Carol Service last Christmas.

The Choir enjoyed singing at St George's indoor Carol Service and doing Carols by the Choir leading in to Midnight Mass. Many thanks to Gareth for putting the Carol Service program together and to Francis and Debbie Jones who very kindly arranged mulled wine and mince pies after the service. It was well attended and some good feedback was received from people who attended.

The Choir is very low on numbers at the moment and we could really do with some new members. Experience is not necessary and we do not expect 100% attendance – we very much believe in 'the art of the possible' – if you think you might like to give us a try, please speak to Sarah (Ford) or Gareth, or just come along to Choir practice on a Monday nights (excluding bank hols) at 7pm and have a go!

Many thanks to Gareth who has played for most of our Choir Practices and some services in the last year. We would also like to thank Kate Reeves who has been playing for some services, and Peter for all he does.

The choir would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Coomber who is a choir member. We would like to wish Paul and Catherine all the best for when they move to their new Benefice in the next few months when Catherine takes up her new role.

Thanks also to all of you who are in the Choir for all of your support and singing!

Sarah Ford (May 2025)

# **St George's Mothers' Union Annual Report April 2025**

We have had another busy and enjoyable year.

In May we enrolled 3 new members, Sherri Taylor, Stella and Gemma. Gemma has recently started her role as our MU Diocesan Secretary working alongside our Diocesan President Doreen. However, as well as welcoming new members we were also very sad to lose valued and dear members Sheila Everett and Margaret Bird who died in during the year.

Highlights this year have included:

- Fiona's sabbatical
- The Lady Day Service at Wotton-under-Edge
- The Summer Lunch at Waterend Farm Coaley
- The Summer Garden Party at Mill Cottage when over £130 was raised
- Nicky Yudin's visit to Norway
- The Quiet Day at Harnhill
- Christmas lunch at the Tudor Arms Slimbridge
- Participating through prayer in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

At our monthly branch meetings, we have enjoyed worshipping together and undergoing refreshment through services led by Fiona and Catherine.

Annual subscriptions have been collected by Hazel Tomkins and sent to MU Central funds where they will be used to support MU projects at home and abroad. We have also supported the 'Summer of Hope' initiative, raising over £100, and donated to 'TheBigGive' .

In January, we entered a new triennium, and our new Worldwide President Kathleen Snow was installed.

We continued to enjoy 'Tea and Hymns' at Elm Lodge, and assisting with Messy Church, Baptism Services and Thursday Café.

My thanks go to all who support the branch in various roles, and I look forward to another enjoyable and fulfilling year of fellowship and worship.

Mary Elliott

Branch Leader