



# APCM REPORTS

For the Year Ending  
**31st December 2019**

# Chairmans Report

## Administrative Information

The correspondence address for the Parish of St. George's, Wilton is:

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The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered as charity number 1134647.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2018 until the date this report was approved, unless otherwise stated, are:

**Vicar:** The Revd G H James Clapham Chair  
(retired 04.11.19)

**Churchwardens:** Mr Peter Joyce  
Vacancy

**Deanery Synod Representatives** Mr Christopher Michell  
Dr Michael Yardley

**Secretary to the Church Council:** Mrs Bethan Baigent

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Mr Laurie Jeffery

**Treasurer to the Church Council:** Cdr John Page

### **Elected members:**

Mr Pete McKegney  
Mrs Hilary McKegney  
Mrs Rachel Neal  
Mrs Jenny Norman  
Mrs Rosa Parsloe  
Mrs Carole Smith  
Mrs Clare Steel  
Mrs Hilary Buckley

### **Ex-Officio Members**

Mr Christopher Michell  
Dr Michael Yardley

The charity Trustees are: Dr M Yardley, Mr C Michell, Revd J Clapham, Mrs C Steel, Mrs R Neal, Mrs H Buckley, Mrs C Smith, Mrs R Parsloe, Mrs J Norman, Mr P Joyce.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church representative Rules.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC has a Working Group overseeing the maintenance and management of the churchyard. It has produced a Churchyard Management Policy which has been approved by the PCC, and which is reviewed annually.

PCC members are the Managing Trustees of the Church Hall and the Scout Hut; the Diocesan Board of Finance is the Custodian Trustee.

The Church is the land owner of the Wilton Church Allotments (a charity) and the PCC is responsible for ensuring that they are kept in good order; that income and expenditure are in balance, and that a reasonable surplus is generated “for ecclesiastical purposes”.

## **Objectives and Activities**

It is our intention that St. George's Church, Wilton, its Hall, Churchyard, and Allotments should be available to the local community, whether they are church members or not. Wilton PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar (the Revd J Clapham) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the aforementioned properties.

## **Church Membership and Activity**

There are 113 members on the new Church Electoral Roll. The St George's 'worshipping community', as reported to the Diocese at 31st December 2019 was 168

St George's continues to enable the community to mark life's milestones. During 2019 there were 3 weddings and 12 baptisms in the church. There were 5 funerals either in the Church or at Taunton Deane Crematorium. All of these events bring the church into contact with people at very significant times in their lives and the ministry of the church is appreciated. It does present an opportunity to make those members of the community aware of other things the church is able to offer.

## **Finances**

Throughout the year it looked highly likely that we would default by one month's payment of the Parish Share. Yet the 2019 Parish Share was paid in full, but only thanks to an extremely generous donation from a single member of the congregation made in order to state in the Parish Profile that the share was paid in full, thereby helping to attract prospective applicants for the post of Vicar during the vacancy which began in November.

Voluntary Income for 2019 was £128,600, a reduction of £2,039 on the previous year. However, Christian Giving was up £3,392 and Hall Revenue was up £289. Thankfully, Maintenance costs were substantially down due in no small part to a Listed Places of Worship grant of £2,796 for work carried out in the Church. Regrettably, Disposable Assets fell by £9,902 since the beginning of the year due to Expenditure continuing to exceed Income, which resulted in a deficit of £10,576. The consolidated single CBF Investment made a significant gain of £3,259.

We were able to send £12,542 to charities from our Sunday collections this year.

The PCC will continue to set a budget with challenging objectives to pursue measures that improve the appearance and functionality of the Hall in order to attract greater usage and increase revenue, and also keep downward pressure on Expenditure in order to reverse the trend outlined above and thereby boost our Disposable Assets.

### **Reserves Policy**

The PCC is working towards maintaining a level of reserves for a three-month period, but that will become an ongoing challenge in the coming year due to the nature of our income and the strain of paying the Parish Share in full during the current vacancy.

### **Investment Powers and Policy**

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that sufficient cash is held to cover day to day expenses of the charity and the best returns available are achieved on surplus funds and the endowment fund.

### **Risk Management**

The trustees consider risk and other uncertainties regularly at their meetings. Where possible, policies are established and procedures adopted to mitigate those risks, whether they are financial or not. The level of voluntary income and settlement of the parish share are regularly reviewed and discussed, together with safety and protection issues for those visiting the charity's premises.

### **Achievements and Performance**

While there are areas of overlap, all the activities of St George's can be considered under three headings, worship, nurture and outreach.

Worship is what energises all our activities as a church. Love of God overflows into love for our neighbour, in service (outreach) and encouraging the best in others (nurture).

### **Worship**

- The congregation of St George's meets regularly at two Sunday morning services.
- The 8am service is always eucharistic, and so is the 10am service, with the exception of the 1st Sunday of the month when the 4Everyone service (All Age Worship) is held. It is a shorter, more informal and non-eucharistic service to enable those new to church services and families to feel more at ease.
- There is an opportunity for church members to catch up with each other as well as welcome visitors and newcomers, over freshly made coffee in the Church Hall after the 10am service.
- The 10am Tuesday morning Holy Communion service provides an opportunity for quiet, reflective worship during the week.
- 'Stay and Play', a group for toddlers with their parents or carers, meets weekly in

the Hall during term time. 'Harmony Club', for people with learning difficulties, meets three times a week in the Hall, and occasionally for a special short service in the Church.

- 'Prayer Space' is meeting of Church members for half an hour on Mondays with the exception of the 1st Monday of the month. It is a mixture of silent and intercessory prayer and takes place in the Winston Room of the Church Hall or in the Church in warmer months.
- St George's also holds regular services in local residential homes: St George's Residential Home, Elizabeth House and Mountbatten Nursing Home.
- Holy Communion is taken to a small number of housebound people who are not in residential care. The number has increased in 2019.
- We are very grateful to our talented Lay Readers (PTO) Peter Ball and Robert Dunning for their help in leading services and preaching. (That's in addition to the help they give to churches in other parishes.)
- Numerous church members make our services possible by generously giving their time to tasks behind the scenes such as cleaning the church, washing altar linen, running the PA system, decorating the church, maintaining our buildings and even keeping records of hymns and songs for the payment of copyright fees etc.
- Christmas and Easter services are particularly well-attended and enjoyable. As a church, we try to plan our services and events to be as accessible as possible to the many visitors and parishioners who attend church on and around these festivals. We offer opportunities for both quiet reflection and more exuberant worship. The church was full for the St George's Carol Service, and bursting at the seams once more for our Christingle service.
- We have on occasion met with other churches. On St George's day, members of St George's Roman Catholic Church joined with us for a Choral Evensong service. On Ash Wednesday, members of St Michael's Church shared in our communion service.
- Music is an important part of our worship. The choir are a great help, rehearsing regularly under the direction of one of our organists, Stephen Page.
- Our 10am Sunday service is heralded by the ringing of the church bells. Our dedicated team of ringers practice regularly. They have recruited and trained younger members to continue the tradition of calling the community to worship.

## Outreach

- Through Rev'd Jenny Jeffery, St George's has a very important link with Bishop Henderson CE VA Primary School. She gives so much to her role as School Chaplain where she meets many people who would not normally come to church but are grateful for her ministry. Unfortunately she has been on sick leave since November 2019, and we wish her a speedy and full recovery. St George's historical links with the School are also maintained through the Vicar being an Ex-officio Governor, and also through the nomination of a member of the congregation as a Foundation Governor.
- We enjoy getting to know each other socially through various events organised through the Church, including harvest supper and monthly soup lunches. These are also great opportunities to involve members of the wider community in the life of the church.
- The church website and notice boards are important sources of information for church members and local people. The number of enquiries coming through our website continues to increase.
- Many groups meet regularly in the Church Hall, which we also hire out for private

celebrations. It has been estimated that some 500 people use it every week.

- Several members of St George's are involved in service to the community on behalf of the wider church e.g. Street Pastors and School Pastors.

## **Nurture**

- There are two regular Bible study / home groups, including a monthly one run by a parishioner, and also a Christian discussion group, "No Holds Barred".
- Two Lent courses were held during the year: one with 16 participants held in the Church Hall and led by the Home Groups Coordinator; the other held in a local assisted living residence, and led by one of our Readers, Peter Ball.
- The nationally recognised 24/7 Prayer Course was held in the autumn in the Hall.
- Couples getting married at St George's are offered marriage preparation. This usually includes a day of face-to-face sessions.
- Stay and Play, our weekly toddler group, helps create friendship and support among those who attend.

## **Buildings: the Church, the Church Hall and Churchyard.**

- The Church building continues to be maintained in accordance with the recommendations of the last quinquennial survey which was carried out by our Church Architect, Jonathan Rhind.
- We continue to have over 500 people using the Church Hall each week. Our Church Administrator, Bethan Baigent manages all our bookings.
- The Hall is used for a huge variety of purposes: exercise classes, Morris dancing, Scouts, badminton, Antenatal classes and other uniformed organisations, support groups and private parties. We are committed to improving these facilities which are used by so many in the community.
- The Churchyard Working Group led by Jane Joyce has continued to maintain and improve the churchyard. Except during winter, it holds monthly gardening sessions with volunteers to keep the Churchyard in good order. At other times the grass is cut by both volunteers, and a contractor. The Churchyard is visited by many people and is a much appreciated haven for quiet reflection.
- On the south side of the Church, the Churchyard is maintained by a contractor, whose cost is largely borne by a generous, regular donation from the son of a former Associate Priest of St George's Church.

## **People**

Sadly, in March 2019 Rev'd James Clapham suffered a stroke whilst on holiday, and consequently he was on sick leave until June by when, thankfully he had made a good recovery. We were very fortunate to have the support of many retired clergy during this time. Subsequently, James decided that the time had come to retire with effect from 1st November 2019.

St George's owes a huge debt of gratitude to the large number of people who have given their time and talents to the work of the Church over the last year with generosity, good humour, faith and faithfulness as together they create the ministry of St George's.

Before he retired, Rev'd James Clapham kindly expressed his personal thanks particularly for the support he had received from all PCC members, including Peter Joyce, Churchwarden; John Page, Treasurer; and Bethan Baigent, Church Administrator.

He also expressed his gratitude for the dedicated and important work of the team of five Coordinators: Clare Steel (Home Groups); Rachel Neal (Prayer Ministry); Hilary Buckley (Pastoral Care); Liz Flower (Safeguarding); Rosa Parsloe (Social Events & Fundraising); Carole Smith (Christian Concerns).

Bethan Baigent has been the friendly, helpful and perpetually enthusiastic face of St George's to innumerable visitors to the Church Office. Always positive and exceptionally creative, she continues to have a huge impact on the running of our Church.

At its meeting on 23rd October 2019, the PCC recorded its gratitude and appreciation for the ministry of James Clapham at St George's. At a farewell party to which all Church members and friends were invited, we celebrated all that James and his wife Ciaran had done for our Church family life over the last seven years.

**Peter Joyce**

Churchwarden

19th May 2020

# Christian Concerns

The Christian Concerns Group at St George's manages the Church's relationships with outside organisations, both Christian Mission and Social Concerns, who seek to share God's love with those most in need of it both worldwide, within the UK and especially within our own town. Many members of our congregations are engaged voluntarily with some of these organisations and we seek to support them in this work.

Over many years St George's has developed a number of personal links with mission partners in a number of different mission situations and we are pleased to receive news and prayer requests from these 'Links' and to make this information available to Church Members. During this year of reporting there has not been much in the way of opportunities to welcome visits from Mission Partners, as we have done in previous years - where Church members have been able to meet with Mission Partners and to develop a greater understanding of their work and calling. However, we have continued to deal with the considerable quantity of information received from the organisations and to make it available to the members of the congregations.

Most of the Group's work is in arranging the programme of support for these outside organisations through the weekly Sunday pew collections which are all given to support God's work in the world. From time to time the Group will bring the attention of the congregations to situations of specific current concern or need and provide information to enable St George's to make a Christian response. During this past year the Group has also been able to make some occasional input into the 4 Everyone Services when the theme has been appropriate to our brief.

During this past year we have begun work to build a new link with St Paul's Church, Kawama, in Zambia which we hope will grow into an opportunity for us all to learn more of each other's lives. The Group has also begun work to explore the possibility of St George's becoming an eco-congregation.

**Carole Smith**

Co-ordinator, St George's Christian Concerns Group



# Churchyard Group

As in previous years the Group met on the third Saturday morning of each month from March to November unless prevented from doing so by bad weather. Fortunately, nearly all sessions took place, though some ended early because of the weather. The number of participants varied, with as few as one or two on occasion.

However, as the year progressed more people began to take part, both members of the congregation and other local residents. As before, the south side of the church has been kept in order by a commercial contractor paid for by the family of a former church member, and the north side has been regularly mown professionally. In addition, a number of people have come in at other times, either to tend individual graves or to do more general tasks.

The result of the efforts made has been a generally tidy churchyard, which has brought appreciative comments from people passing through or visiting. The dry spell in the summer helped by reducing the amount of mown grass needing raking, which on some occasions has taken up the whole morning, when the number of participants has been low. Other tasks, such as keeping weeds under control, have therefore sometimes had to be left undone.

The system of allocating places for interment of ashes seems to be working well. New or returning participants will always be welcome, for all or a part of the morning. There will always be another job which you could take on, and a break for refreshment and socialising is taken.

A set of tools is kept in the shed, but bringing your own tools will ensure that you have familiar equipment.

**Michael Yardley**

# Pastoral Care

Providing practical care and support in times of crisis or difficulty for church members and others living within the Parish is considered a strength at St George's.

We believe that we are all responsible for pastoral care to one another and those in our local community. However, we have a dedicated Pastoral Care team led by our Pastoral Care Coordinator who is working hard to develop a larger team of pastoral care support helpers.

The team encourages, organises and provides:

- transport to church for the less able
- social visits to combat loneliness
- visits to those in hospital
- on-call to help in emergencies.

**Hilary Buckley**

# Prayer

Prayer Space provides an opportunity for a small group to meet weekly and be quiet in God's presence, and have a time of open prayer. The purpose is to try to bring God into the centre of our life at St George's.

The Prayer Circle pray regularly for anyone who has a need and would like prayer, the information is confidential within the group. Members of the Prayer Circle pray independently once they have received a prayer request.

Prayer Ministry is provided by a small group who have undertaken training to enable them to support those requesting prayer in the best possible way.

Prayer ministry is offered at the 10am Holy Communion service during communion, and after the service.

Meetings are held regularly to provide support, prayer and sharing ideas for those involved with any form of prayer support at St. Georges.

**Rachel Neal**

# Home Groups

We have a small number of home groups, but this is an important area of church life that we would like to strengthen and grow as we aspire to many more people being part of a home group.

We would like to explore fresh ways of engaging people in group-based exploration of faith and Bible study.

At the moment we have or have recently been able to offer to our Church members:

- Advent Courses
- Lent groups
- 24/7 Prayer Course
- Alpha Course
- Daily Bible Reading Books

Our Church members have appreciated and found these teaching & learning tools very helpful as they have helped their faith journey and encouraged fellowship opportunities too. We are keen to explore new ways of learning together.

## Bellringers

The Bellringers of St Georges continued with their Tuesday evening practice, and ringing for the 10.00am Sunday Service, until Services were stopped on March 22nd due to the Covid 19 Virus. We had just arranged for Scarlett our youngest ringer to ring her first Quarter Peal. Sadly that was not able to take place.

Our young bellringers (apart from Scarlett) are all working now, Brad & Scott are in jobs which have unsocial hours so not so available on Sundays. We are so pleased when Matthew has been able to join us even for a short time.

We have also been grateful to Adrian Whatmore (son of Dennis who passed away age 95 in 2019) for often joining us on Sundays.

# Mothers' Union

This last year has seen many changes to the Wilton Mothers' Union group meeting.

Our Branch Leader and our Treasurer both were standing down and although we had found a new Treasurer in Pat Gaden, we were not able to find a new Branch Leader. So we had made the decision at the beginning of 2019 we would all become Diocesan (individual) members at the beginning of 2020 and the Wilton Branch would cease.

This would have the effect of freeing us from keeping accounts and we would keep as many of our activities going as found ourselves able to. The leadership of the group has been carried on by a small group and more people have taken on responsibilities. However all these changes only came into effect after our AGM at the beginning of February, and after one meeting in March we have had to cancel all further meetings for the present. Some of us have been able to join in the monthly Cathedral Prayers from Wells by U-tube and our Diocesan leadership have kept in touch but our older members without computers will have been bereft except for phone contact from other members.

We will not be able to restart any meetings until we can meet in groups of at least 15 and have to await events. It may well be next Spring before this becomes realistic. However we have had more time to knit and I am sure our knitting bee members have been really productive.

**Helen Clegg**

# Chaplaincy Report

September 2019 began with a service at St Michael's for the induction of Mrs Rachel White as our new head teacher. The service was attended by the whole school, parents and governors, members of the Diocesan Ed dept and especially welcome were members of St Georges.

I was involved in listening to talks given by those wishing to stand for election for the new School Council.

I as school chaplain led the Harvest Services for Early Years, a second for Key Stage One and a third for Key stage Two. Harvest gifts were distributed by members of the School Council to Open Door and the Food Bank.

Hardly had the school year started when I became unwell and spent eight weeks in hospital. I was overcome by the immense wave of love and prayers, gifts, cards, and messages and visits, from Bishop Henderson, that surrounded me during my stay in hospital (much of which I was able to share with others in the ward) and during my recovery at home. Replicated too by members of St George's and St Michael's. During this time I kept in close contact with the school, leading Collective Worship via "Zoom" and pastoral care through visits to my home.

Then came Covid (the lockdown) and the day of my operation. The end of the Spring Term and the Summer Term continued with much on line activity, and with much support from Rev Justine at St Michael's.

And so we began with the whole school back in September 2020 but with many regulations and "bubbles" in place to keep us safe. The pupils have returned and adapted with great maturity. My visits are a little restricted still but it has been wonderful to return in person to that very special place. Currently along with everyone else we wait and see how things develop.

The staff have worked incredibly hard and are already feeling a little weary. We are grateful to the church for continued prayers, and especially for access to modern technology!

Rev Jenny Jeffery

# **St George's Church, Wilton, Taunton**

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

### **Churchwarden's Report: Premises, Goods and Ornaments**

#### **1. Church Records**

In accordance with The Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991, the **Log Book, Terrier and Inventory** are to the best of my knowledge up to date and accurate. These are available for inspection in the Church Office.

#### **2. The Church**

##### **2.1 Repairs and Maintenance**

Since the last APCM (28<sup>th</sup> April 2019), some repairs or maintenance to the Church fabric and fittings have been carried out, or planned. These include:

- Door Locks  
The lock on the South Porch door was faulty and had to be repaired. The lock on outer Vestry door also had to be repaired.
- Theft of Door Handle  
The large, decorative Victorian wrought iron door handle on the West door was cut off and stolen on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020. This was reported to the Police and our insurers. In due course a replacement will need to be made by a blacksmith. There is a similar handle on the South Porch door, and following the theft, the iron gates of the Porch were locked when the Church was unoccupied. Arrangements will need to be made to commission a blacksmith to produce a duplicate replacement handle in due course.
- 'Smartwater'  
The forensic liquid 'Smartwater' was re-applied to the main areas of leadwork on the Church roof on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. This should last for 5 years and was registered with our insurers, Ecclesiastical. This was prompted by a spate of thefts of lead from church roofs locally. A letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> February had been delivered to local residents asking them to help to 'keep an eye' on St George's, and report anything suspicious to the Police and Churchwarden.
- Lightening Conductor  
The lightening conductor on the tower was tested on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019, and found to be satisfactory, although not up to the latest standard.
- Boiler Room Light  
A faulty lamp and electric cable in the boiler room caused the power supply to the Vestry to fail. This was repaired and a new LED light was installed by Etech on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

##### **2.2 Other Work and Improvements**

- Quinquennial Survey  
The last Quinquennial survey of the Church was carried out in May 2014, so a fresh survey is overdue. All the urgent ('A') items from that survey had been dealt with; most but not all 'B' items (should be carried out within 12 months) had been actioned, and a few 'C' items (to be actioned within 5 years) had been dealt with. It was decided locally in 2019 to let the Church Architect take the initiative to undertake a fresh survey in view of the time required to prepare for James Clapham's retirement and the impending Vacancy, with only one Churchwarden in post.
- Temporary Lighting  
Some temporary directional lighting has been located close to the high altar during the Covid-19 restrictions to enable the recording of services that have been uploaded to YouTube for on-line viewing.

- Vestry Key Safe

A small key safe was installed in the Vestry to hold the keys to the large and the small safes, so that authorised church members could open the safes in the absence of the Churchwarden.

## 2.3 Triennial Inspection

- The triennial inspection of St George's was undertaken by Rev'd Phil Hughes on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019. This was signed off as satisfactory, although some points for action were noted:
  - Need for a notice advising where a key may be obtained from to access the Church when it is locked.
  - The need to carry out a Health & Safety Audit, and a Disability Access Audit in the Church and Hall.

## 2.4 Church Closure and Re-opening

The Church was closed for worship following Government and Church of England regulations on 15<sup>th</sup> March, and then re-opened twice a week (Tuesdays 10am – 12pm; Fridays 4.30 – 6pm) for private prayer on 30<sup>th</sup> June, and for worship (Sundays, 9am) following a risk assessment and guidance on 26<sup>th</sup> July. During the period of closure, regular safety and security checks were carried out several times a week on the Church building.

# 3. The Churchyard

## 3.1 Gardening and Maintenance Work

- Churchyard Gardening Volunteers and Contractors  
The Churchyard Gardening volunteers have continued their regular maintenance / gardening sessions on the morning of the third Saturday of the month, between March and November. Another volunteer (Peter Matravers) strims the grass, supplementing the work of three contractors (Cemetery Services Ltd; 'Cut No Corners'; Tim Denovan-Smith). The cost of garden maintenance on the South side of the churchyard continues to be met by a generous, gift-aided donation from Stuart Colwill. The long beech hedge was cut in September 2019 and August 2020.
- Churchyard Boundary Wall  
The low boundary wall under the beech hedge on the west side of the Churchyard, opposite the Vicarage forecourt was badly damaged when a car drove into it in September 2019. The repair work to the whole length of the wall was subject to an insurance claim which was settled for £2,250.
- Boundary Fence Replacement  
The fence in the north-east corner of the Churchyard was replaced in

# 4. Church Hall

## 4.1 Hall Maintenance

During 2019/20 the following maintenance work was carried out on the Church Hall:

- Refurbishment of the Men's Toilets  
The men's toilets upstairs were completely refurbished in June – July 2020, paid for from funds raised for the Hall Refurbishment Fund at Soup Lunches and craft sales, thanks to volunteers led by Rosa Parsloe.
- External Doors on Hall Extension  
The badly weathered external doors of the Hall's south end extension were re-painted in July 2020. The doors are structurally unsound and will need to be replaced in a few years' time.
- Lock Change  
The faulty lock on the main door to the Hall had to be changed, and a batch of new keys cut, and a new key safe fitted by the entrance on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

- Fire Alarm System and Emergency Lighting  
Various faults with the fire alarm system were rectified, and the emergency lighting was checked and extended in August 2020.
- Discoloured Water  
Following the Coronavirus lockdown and subsequent restrictions, the Hall was closed and not used for 6 months. When it re-opened in September, the water supply was rusty, despite lengthy flushing. Wessex Water is investigating whether this is caused by a rusty pipe under the driveway to the Hall (ie a Church responsibility), or because of a contaminated supply from the company's water main. After some time since reopening, the problem seems to have eased, but Wessex Water's conclusion is awaited.

## 4.2 Cleaning

- Following the lockdown caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, the contract with AIS Ltd to clean the Hall once a week was cancelled in March 2020. After the restrictions were eased, it was decided to arrange for a private individual (highly recommended by a member of St George's) to clean the Hall twice a week for two hours per session, at a lower cost than the previous commercial contract. This commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020. So far the arrangement has worked well, and the Hall is much cleaner than before.

## 5. Office and Vicarage

- In January 2020, the Diocese carried out work to separate the Church Office from the Utility Room of the Vicarage, and also to refurbish areas of the Vicarage in anticipation of letting the property during the Vacancy. Tenants occupied the Vicarage between February and August 2020.
- In September 2020, in the run-up to the interviews of applicants for the post of Vicar, some further repair work and painting of the Vicarage was arranged by the Diocese. Regrettably, the liaison with us about this work was poor: contractors sometimes arrived without notice, and there was a lack of information about the specification of the work. This problem was discussed with the Archdeacon, and there was some improvement in the working relationship. However, the Diocese has refused, unreasonably in my opinion, to pay for work initiated locally, to carry out essential gardening work (clearing an extensive area of brambles, weeds and debris).

## 6. Thanks

- Special thanks are due to the retired clergy who have greatly assisted us in maintaining our worship in Church (apart from during the lockdown) and on-line since November 2019 and during the pandemic, particularly Reverends Martin Kirkbride, David Ager, Jenny Jeffery, Geoff Treasure, Denis Cavaghan and Michael Hayes. Thanks are also due to our Readers Robert Dunning and Peter Ball.
- Also, we owe a special debt of thanks to Bethan Baigent for her hard work, and creativity, whilst working mostly from home in difficult circumstances, in preparing the recorded services and uploading them on You Tube, as well as preparing the services for projection in Church. She has also maintained our general communication and connectedness with church members through the weekly NewsBoard during a time when many have felt isolated.
- I would also like to thank the many volunteers who have helped with Welcoming in Church, those providing Soup Lunches, those helping with Churchyard Gardening, and our Flower Arrangers and Bell Ringers, as well as many others in often 'unsung' roles.

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Peter Joyce  
Churchwarden  
11<sup>th</sup> October 2020





# Our year of...



# ..adventure

# **1<sup>st</sup> (Taunton) Wilton Scout Group**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
2020 (Zoom)**



## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome & apologies
2. Approval of the minutes for the previous AGM
3. Approval of GSLs nomination of Chairman
4. Election of Group Officers – Secretary & Treasurer
5. Election and approval of members to the Group Executive (section leaders, nominations by GSL and parents)
6. Chairman's Report
7. Message from district
8. Group Scout Leader's (GSLs) Report
9. Section reports
10. Appointment of independent auditor
11. District comments
12. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts
13. Date of the next Annual General Meeting
14. Date of the next Group Executive Committee
15. Closing remarks / Any other business

### **Attachments**

- A/ AGM minutes 2019
- B / Accounts
- C / District section added during meeting



## Chairman's Report AGM 2020



The end of the scouting year in 2019 was marked by a very successful and enjoyable summer camp and closed off a changeable but strong year for the group. I think all the leadership, executive, parents and volunteers should be very proud of their work determination and resolve to always move 1st Taunton Wilton scout group forward, thank you as always for this support.

During this period and for most of 2019 we had fantastic help from Marian Scott to get us ship shape and Bristol fashion and it's great to see the results of that hard work now in the leadership team and new people who have volunteered to help. I would like to thank Marian, both personally and from the scout group, for her dedication to us in this time and it was invaluable, and we will miss you at our executive meetings.

Concluding the recent leadership changes Nadia Atherton has now been appointed group scout leader (GSL) from earlier this year and she has now taken over 1st Taunting Wilton scout group in fine form and ready to deliver exciting programs for all the young people who attend. I would personally like to congratulate Nadia on this position, and this has been well deserved. Nadia's energetic work ethic, inclusive style and solid leadership I am sure will radiate through the group.

### ***Now the tricky bit.....how do we deliver the program of events.***

In simple terms the scout organisation has the following activity risk levels and we are currently set at amber (previously red) and we follow the "scout level" column.

Readiness level	NYA level	Scout level
<b>Red</b> Rate of infection is remaining consistent or growing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online and digital youth services</li> <li>Detached youth services and 1-2-1 sessions with vulnerable young people outdoors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital programme delivery</li> <li>No face-to-face activity or meetings</li> <li>No residential activities</li> </ul>
<b>Amber</b> Rate of infection is reducing consistently in all parts of the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online and digital youth services</li> <li>Small group sessions can take place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital programme delivery</li> <li>Small group sessions can take place outdoors</li> <li>No residential activities</li> </ul>
<b>Yellow</b> Number of cases low and decreasing, full Track and Trace system in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online and digital youth services</li> <li>Indoor group sessions can take place</li> <li>Outdoor learning, trips and visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital programme delivery</li> <li>Small group sessions can take place indoors and outdoors</li> <li>No residential activities</li> </ul>
<b>Green</b> No new cases or a vaccine is readily available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All services open as per normal yearly operations</li> <li>Overnight trips and visits allowed</li> <li>International travel allowed within FCO advice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All activities can resume in line with government guidance</li> </ul>

It would seem likely that we are many many months away from green so we will need to find a way of operating between amber and yellow. In coming weeks, the scout organisation may change this advice and we will update you accordingly.

Perhaps now the children are returning to school this is a good time to return to some type of regularity in the program. Maybe as parents you could also consider how you feel about attending face to face events again on a weekly or bi-weekly basis? Your input would be helpful perhaps discuss this with your section leadership.

I am sure as a group and a movement we will adapt and overcome these challenges and get back to providing the happiness and enjoyment for the groups young people. Perhaps more than ever, for them, it is imperative we do so in a safe and responsible way.

A very big thank you to all our youngsters, parents, friends, young leaders, uniformed leaders, partners of leaders, executives and all members of the group who work tirelessly to provide first class scouting to our young people, week in and week out. It's always wonderful to see everyone come together with a common goal of providing enjoyment and opportunities to the young people of the group.

Without your support all of this would simply not be possible, thank you.

For myself this will be my last AGM as chair, and I will be passing over to Steve Contreras who I wish every success in the role going forward.

Look forward to seeing you soon with a full program of scouting in the very near future

Thank you.

**Graham Cox**  
**Chair**

## A message from the District Commissioner

2019 saw an increase in the number of adults and young people in the District. However, there were still a large number of young people waiting to join us, some may never be given the opportunity due to the lack of supporting adults.

The good news is that those young people who were members have been offered a wide variety of activities. Not only are they fun but, they are also progressive to ensure that the young people have the best opportunity to gain their top awards. We need to make sure that as many young people as possible manage to gain their top awards as well as their skills for life. I am not sure where all the leaders get their original ideas, but long may it continue.

In 2019 more young people were taking part in activities outside the weekly meetings – Ten Tors, Duke of Edinburgh, Gang Show - something to cover all the talents. There was an increase in the number of leaders gaining activity permits which has helped provide support for these activities and many more.

All the activities and weekly meetings would not be possible without the commitment of all the leaders, supporters, instructors, ASU members and Huish Woods staff. To all of those mentioned, I give my thanks for all the hard work that you have done. I look forward to your continual support in your Scouting roles.

At the time of writing this “face to face” Scouting is suspended due to COVID 19. However, the leaders out there are showing their ingenuity on how to support young people to continue Scouting. Adults are developing their own skills to be able to use modern communication techniques; such is their commitment. We must not forget the leaders who are key workers and are putting in those extra hours. The campsite has been closed except for some maintenance; however, the wildlife is enjoying the site even if we cannot. We do not know when we can resume Scouting in whatever means we can, but let’s hope it will be soon.

Meanwhile everyone take care.

**Pam Gaines**  
**District Commissioner**





## **Group Scout Leader's Report AGM 2020**

I was appointed as Wilton Group Scout Leader in January this year and what a challenging nine months it has been! I would like to thank Marian Scott who steadied our ship whilst we had no GSL and made sure we were all shipshape in terms of training.

I would like to thank all of our section leaders who put in a huge amount of their time. They are the people who make this group successful, providing quality fun programmes that are accessible to all.

I would like to thank all of our volunteer helpers and young leaders who support each section every week, without them the leaders would have far more headaches!!!

We also have a very supportive executive committee who oversee the Group, ensuring that the Group remains successful and financially sound. The committee has given the go ahead to complete the Scout Hut repairs and I am pleased to say that this is nearing completion.

Each section prior to lockdown was running at maximum capacity and we had a long waiting list. Since lockdown we have been running a virtual programme and have decided not to take on any new members until the COVID 19 crisis is over or we can meet face to face .

For many years now, the Group has been able to hire the Wilton Church Hall for Beavers and Cubs. This is an arrangement that we are looking to continue in the future, ensuring that the Group remains in the local community. I would like to thank the Church for continued support.

Graham Cox our Chairperson is stepping down after 5 years. I would like to personally thank him for his time, commitment and for helping us through some especially difficult times. He is not leaving us though and we look forward to seeing him helping out at Scouts in the near future.

I hope that we can get back to face to face scouting in the near future as we have already missed a whole summer of camps and adventures, and most importantly seeing the wonderful children again!



**Nadia Atherton**



## **Beaver Scout - AGM 2020**

### **Leadership**

In some similar developments changes to last year, the Beaver colony has experienced another change of Leadership this year. Mark Cox has taken over as Beaver Leader with Nadia Atherton moving up to become Group Scout Leader. Just before lockdown, the Beavers we were fortunate enough to gain a new Assistant Beaver leader in Louise Atkins. Hopefully in the next few months Scarlett Atherton will also become an Assistant Beaver Scout leader.

Wilton Beavers will have one young leader in Liam Atherton, three Sectional Assistants and one parent who is hopefully going to continue as part of the Active Support Unit, Debs Smith. Unfortunately, two of the Sectional Assistants will be leaving us soon to go to university or to pursue jobs in other countries.

The priorities for the next few months will be to ensure all training is up to date and to recruit more help for when we can resume face to face Scouting. This will enable us to have outdoor meetings and take on more Beavers.

### **Numbers**

Last year we had 24 Beavers. However, this has now reduced to 15 as the 5 oldest Beavers moved up to Cubs at the end of the Summer term. The intention is to move some children off our waiting list as soon as we can resume face to face Scouting. Until that point, we have taken a decision not to take on any new Beavers due to the complications of getting them involved via Zoom meetings alone.

### **Camps**

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic our District Beaver camps scheduled for June 2020 was cancelled. However, we did manage one night away at the very start of March. The oldest Beavers within our section were invited by James, the Cub Leader, to attend their Winter Camp at Flip Out. A good, fun night with lots of bouncing was had by all. We look forward to possibly participating in future winter camps with the Cubs.





## Badges and Activities

Although there was a change of leadership, we have maintained the concept of lodge names and tables and young leaders attached to each lodge. At the start of each session Beavers will go to their table and write / draw about something they have done that week. This has proved successful as it seems to focus their mind on the night ahead. The Beavers also participate in a flag ceremony at the start of the evening.



The Autumn term saw the Beavers have a night with the Somerset Road Safety Team, a Science Evening led by one of the Beavers parents and two evenings with an international theme. One of these included an international café where the Beavers invited their parents into the café to sample the food, they had cooked that evening. On the activities front we had an evening of Bowling, a hike to Cotlake Hill and a swimming session.

The Spring term saw an additional science evening, some Archery sessions, another international night focussing on languages and just before lockdown a nature night in Wilton lands. The highlight of the term was the two evenings spent "Putting on a Show!" This involved the Beavers rehearsing and acting out a show for their parents based on the story of "The Giant Pancake".

When face to face Scouting was stopped, the Beavers took part in several Zoom sessions. These included a Scavenger Hunt, a cookery evening led by Scarlet and Eley and a quiz evening. For final evening of the term we held a Beach Party where all Beavers had to be dressed ready for the beach and then go on a scavenger hunt around their house to find the items they would need for the party.

All the activities we do are based around the badge scheme and lots of badges have been awarded this year. Some of the Beavers even undertook additional badges whilst they were at home.

Wilton Beavers continues to be one big happy family. Beavers would not have been able to participate in such a wide range of activities if it were not for the support of other leaders in other sections. Until we resume face to face meetings, we will continue with Zoom meetings from September.

A big thank you must be said to Nadia Atherton for the support she has given the section this year.

**Mark Cox - Beavers**





## Cub Section Report AGM 2020

**CSL:** James, **ACSL:** Rob & Sarah, **Section Assistant:** Mark, Mick, Lisa, Molly & Elly.

**Parent Rep:** Greg **YL's:** 4 **Cubs:** 34-36.

We are a strong section with between 34-36 Cubs (6 Sixes) and have a most capable and flexible Leadership Team, including 4 YL's. We were very fortunate to have 1 YL, Molly who turned 18. become a Section Assistant.

Our Cub waiting list remains closed, with a steady flow of Beavers joining our Pack.

We have, up to the middle of March 2020, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, had an active programme focusing on core Challenge Badge work, making the most of every opportunity to be outside. We started the summer of 2019, with our all Sections summer camp and were lucky enough to fit in a joint Cub/Beaver winter camp at the start of March 2020, at FlipOut Somerset.



Over the last year our Cubs had been able to take part in a variety of weekly activities such as archery, local night hikes, cooking, science, emergency aid, bowling, crafts, understanding carbon, swimming, kayak and canoeing and a few Cubs also helped with Parkfield summer and Christmas fetes.

My aim as our Sections Leader, Akela, is to get everyone involved, with new ideas all aimed to create an inclusive, safe, open and fun environment, with as many Cubs as possible achieving their Silver Chief Scout Award.

In summary, we are a pack going from strength to strength, with amazing cross section support making this all possible.

**Yours in Scouting, James.**





## Scout Section Report AGM 2020

Much like football, the past year in Scouts has very much been a game of two halves.

September through to March was very much as we expected it to be, post March, wasn't. The most well known Scout motto is 'Be Prepared'. It's probably fair to say we were not prepared for what happened in March but it's equally fair to say that everyone took it in their stride and did a great job in dealing with the challenges that we have faced.



### Leadership

Adult leadership is good, with sufficient support from others not directly in Scout section roles and it has been a nice period of stability in terms of leadership for the Scouts. From a young leader perspective this is an area that will require a renewed focus when we get back to face to face Scouting as we only have Aidan and James at present. I would like at this point to say a huge thank you to every single person that has helped to plan and run sessions or even just to attend to help ensure that the required ratios are met.



This year we saw five Scouts drop out across the year although this is quite normal as their diaries start to fill with other activities and social commitments. We still have a very healthy troop though with currently 31 scouts at year end. Three of these will leave after the Summer break but we have two moving up from Cubs to give us a nice round thirty. Before lockdown we consistently saw a very high level of attendance and during lockdown we regularly saw over 50% attendance for the online Zoom sessions.

### Events

Hunger games was attended by 20 Scouts who all had an amazing time. The event was really well run and despite the atrocious weather it was a huge success. Roll on the next one.

We had two teams enter the Moonraker challenge and again, despite the horrendous weather and seriously deep mud in places, both teams did incredibly well and finished ahead of many adult teams. Well done Scouts!





The district raft race took place in September with a number of the Scouts coming first in their class.

### **Activities**

Again, a very varied year (well first half anyway) with a good mix of indoor and outdoor activity. In addition to a bunch of team games designed to deliver a whole bunch of skills the Scouts took part in activities such as cooking, taskmaster style challenges, moviemaking and a 'Hunted' style evening around the town centre which proved to be really popular.

During the lockdown period we have run quizzes, cooked pizza and donuts in a cup, played guess who and ran an online virtual monopoly run around London which the Scouts particularly enjoyed.

As always I would like to express my gratitude to all of the adults and young leaders that continue to support the section. It wouldn't be a success without you all.

**Mike Brunton**  
**Scout Leader**



## Explorer Scout Report AGM 2020



We have a full Explorer section with over 25 teenagers. We still have the usual battle-scarred leaders! I Can't quite seem to get rid of any of them!! Mark, Simon, Richard, Sasha and Katrina are all totally invaluable with a group of energetic youths. This year we have kayaked in the swimming pool with Taunton Canoeing Club, made several visits to Huish Woods and even managed some backwoods cooking. We have carved statues, completed a taskmaster challenge

and orienteering. We have also built boats and then watched the children sail/sink them on the canal. One of our most memorable sessions was our visit to the local food bank. The children were very engaged, helpful and learned a lot.

We attended the Somerset Moot in October but sadly our annual trip to Gilwell was cancelled because of the current COVID crisis.

Mark has inspired the children to participate in our Duke of Edinburgh schemes and Ten Tor's and has been instrumental in 8 of our children being awarded their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards, 1 being awarded Silver and two Gold awards. Mark and other volunteers have helped the children with fortnightly Ten Tor's training, and it was a great disappointment when this was also cancelled. Last summer 6 of our Explorers went to Kenya and spent time at a Kenya school helping to refurbish and rebuild it.

Since lockdown we have carried on with virtual sessions with quizzes and cooking evenings. Zoom has been a massive bonus in these times.

As always we hope to build skills for life, and I am really hoping to get back to face to face scouting as soon as possible

**Anwar Watson**  
**Explorer Leader**





## Quarter Master's Report

This year we purchased another event tent and some more Vango to replace old stock. Whilst it has been sad that there are no face to face scouting sessions the store has finally had a good sort out. It has been the only real positive in this current crisis. Lots of old unused stock has been retired and will hopefully be sold so we can get much needed funds. It's a real joy to be able to walk in the store without falling over things.

**Anwar Watson**  
**Quartermaster**

## Treasurer's Report to the Annual General Meeting

This year the group has made a large loss. This is partly due to the COVID Pandemic as we have had to cancel the London Camp and refund the money to the parents which has cost the group around £1800. We are still feeling the effects of our increased rent and have experienced an increase in membership fees and a large increase in Huish Woods fees.

We have also bought a large number of adult and young leader uniform items. We have spent a large amount on uniforms to sell but have not had the income to cover the cost this year. The group has also spent a significant amount at the badge shop. We have taken some steps to address this and from September increased subs by £2 so that beavers and Cubs are now £10 per month and Scouts and Explorers are now £12 per month.

The group cannot sustain losses on this scale in the future and next year's budget will focus on spending the minimum amount and cutting costs where possible. The church has not charged us rent for the Spring term and we are hoping that they will do the same in autumn and this will help us conserve our funds. The Dartmoor in a Day Challenge was a very enjoyable and successful leader's activity – walking 30K – and raised in excess of £1600 towards the hut renovation, unfortunately further fundraising was disrupted by Covid as the bag packing at TESCO had to be cancelled, as was the marathon and quiz night.

The Exec. may wish to explore fund raising ideas in the following year along the lines of family challenges, bike rides etc that our members can complete independently, to help boost our funds.

It was decided that parents would not be charged subs during Summer 2020 to ease the pressure on parents and leaders. However, fees will have to be reinstated in September to help the group remain solvent. An added pressure is that Headquarters will be increasing their portion of the membership fees significantly. The group is expecting a Gift Aid claim which will help us to meet our costs for the following year. The group also has outstanding deposits for London camp and Summer camp that need to be redeemed in the future.

This year the money that has been fundraised for the hut has been moved into a restricted fund. As this money has been raised for hut restoration it cannot be spent on general outgoings such as membership fees. Doing this separates it from other funds giving us a clearer picture of the money available for running the group.

We received a grant from the Somerset Community Foundation to buy more tents, a trolley and event shelter. The grant conditions state that this had to be reported in the accounts in Restricted Funds.

It would be advisable to change the nature of our bank accounts. At the moment each account is a separate one and this causes problems when we have to change signatories, as it is a complicated process that is time consuming and inefficient. I



propose that we change the accounts so that the group account is the main account and the other accounts are sub accounts. They will operate in the same way as at present but will only require one mandate to change signatories. The chv1 form for HMRC will also have to be changed to add new authorised people, as Exec. members change roles. Our GSL Nadia needs to be added to this.

**Sasha Collard**  
**Treasurer**

