

The Foreword 2019

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Poynton was created in 1871 with boundaries very similar to the civic parish, presently comprising about 15,000 residents. We have two churches, St George's the parish church at the centre of Poynton, and St Martin's the mission church for Higher Poynton and Middlewood. Our regular congregations are mainly made up of those living in the parish, but also include a small number from adjacent areas, including Adlington, Pott Shrigley, Fiveways and Hazel Grove, Bramhall and Woodford.

There are four weekly congregations: two main congregations at St George's on Sunday mornings, a St Martin's Sunday morning congregation averaging 25 adults, and a 10.30 Thursday morning congregation at St George's averaging 30-35 adults. The St George's 9.30 averages 100 adults is most often Holy Communion order two with mainly classic hymns plus some classic songs and new songs. The St George's 11am averages 100 adults and 45 children/youth with mainly new songs and some classic hymns (a Keswick-type repertoire). We make all sorts of people warmly welcome under a clergy/lay leadership which is clearly evangelical and a style which is relaxed low church.

Our strengths are recognized as Bible teaching and fellowship. Our regular expository preaching ministry works consistently through a book of the Bible, this year Job, John, Psalms and 1 John, and occasionally other themes or moments in church history. At festivals we welcome larger crowds and make the most of evangelistic, all-age and pastoral opportunities at Remembrance, Christmas, Mothering, Easter, Civic and Harvest. Our fifteen (plus) weekly term-time homegroups study the Bible passages previously preached. Fellowship is also evangelistic (e.g. men's and women's breakfasts) as well as social and pastoral (eg wine society, men's and women's events, dementia support). Prayer is part of homegroups and is offered after every main service as well as intercession focussed at monthly Prayer First and daily Morning Prayer.

This year we have been glad to welcome a new full-time stipendiary curate Aled, and a full-time paid youth and schools worker Joe, who have joined Rob's staff team already consisting of part-time self-supporting associate ministers Andy and Christine. We said thankyou to Sarah after 3 years as our part-time Families Worker as she left our staff to join Christians in Schools Trust, and goodbye with gratitude to Beth who was our Youth and Children's Worker for just less than two years. The PCC has also been glad to supplement the weekday staff of Brian (5 mornings as our groundsman / caretaker / verger) and Val (5 mornings as office manager) with a new part-time Operations Manager Hannah. We have four licensed Readers, David, David, David and Les, and this year have gladly received the additional ministry of Jo (licensed with Woodford).

Monday evenings are the time for our business meetings including PCC, Finance & Standing, Churchwardens, Property, Leaders & Preachers, Prayer Ministry, Pastoral Care Hub, Children's leaders hub, Music leaders' hub, World Mission, Hall usage, Phase 3. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings are given to Homegroups, as well as daytime for others. Our Sunday children's/youth groups for Christian teaching and fellowship happen at the 11am service on all apart from the first Sunday (all-age service) and holiday Sundays (combined children's activities), with good sized groups for pre-school crèche, foundation stage (Pebbles), years 1-3 (Rocks), 4-6 (Boulders), 7-9 (Pathfinders), plus an evening group for 10-13 (Pulse). There are midweek clubs for years 3-6 (The Base) and 7-9 (The Mix) on Wednesday evenings, plus small groups for study, like the 4 B's.

We had a successful smaller weekend away for 35 people at Grange-over-Sands but our Harvest Weekender was cancelled and our biennial parish weekend for all ages at Abbot Hall may be making its final bow. Due to much lower than usual take-up from the 9.30 congregation and families with older children/youth, we will have a thorough review of how to reap the benefit of special weekends of teaching and fellowship in the future.

The next year will bring challenges, not least in the area of the finance team and the treasurer role, as our present treasurers wish to stop, and the PCC is undergoing a review of our systems in the hope of making things simpler to operate, while maintaining

a good level of management reporting information. We are hoping that a replacement treasurer may be found to help us forward.

The staff team is leading a season in which we seek to cultivate maturer and more meaningful relationships within the church and Care for One Another well as fellow disciples of Jesus. The teaching programme for May to July is based on a book with these aims, and homegroups will study it too.

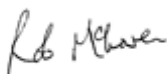
There are exciting plans for a youth weekend away at the end of September at The Quinta, including members of Pulse, Pathfinders and The Mix. This is our first church youth weekend away for many years and we hope a Launchpad for more growth within the youth groups, which have had a very encouraging year.

After a project to replace the chairs in St George's church hall, we are planning improvements to the lighting in the hall and the foyer, with an appeal in the Summer and to be completed later in the year.

These are just a few angles on the oversight of the work of the parish church, and a few aspects of our short and medium term aims as we seek to build up our churches and our congregations in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Thank you so much for your fellowship in the gospel and your service of the Lord.

Yours in Jesus' name.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rob McEwen". The signature is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Chairman and Vicar

On behalf of the PCC.

April 2019

The Parochial Church Council

At the APCM in April 2018 Valerie Vibrans and Helen Bradley were both elected Church Wardens.

The members of the PCC are:

Revd Rob McLaren (Chair), Revd Andy Livingston, Revd Christine Buckley, Revd Aled Seago, Joe Hadfield (Youth and Children's Worker), Valerie Vibrans and Helen Bradley (Church Wardens), Brian Clarke, Val Parry and Vivienne Metcalfe (Deanery Synod), David Alcraft, David Coleman, David Capener and Les Hutchinson (Readers), Eileen Shore, David Myers, Susan Dodd, Peter Walker, David Brackenbury, Bill King, Dave McClelland, Viv Evans, Joyce Corlett, Linda Bell, Victoria Timothy.

Susan Dodd

Finance & Standing Committee 2018

The members of this committee are:

Revd Rob McLaren (Chair), Helen Bradley and Valerie Vibrans (Church Wardens), Eileen Shore (Hon. Treasurer), Bill King and David Coleman (Treasurer's) and Susan Dodd (Secretary).

Matters discussed were predominantly financial but also included Parish Weekend, Youth Worker and Operations Manager.

Susan Dodd

Finance report 2018

In 2018 we put to good use the general fund surpluses we had accumulated over recent years. The notes to the accounts at the back of this report will give the detail of our expenditure on the church lighting and audio-visual facilities, the path between the church and the hall, the surfacing of the car park at St Martins and improving the facilities at our staff houses at Barnaby Road and Ivy Road. A Harvest Appeal from 2017 to early 2018 realised £11,000 for St George's Improvements and £6,600 for St Martin's carpark. A Harvest Appeal from 2018 to 2019 has raised £5,500 to purchase new chairs for St George's Hall.

We have continued to contribute 10% of our previous year's income to our Mission Giving, details of which can be found in the Notes. A further £5,000 has been donated to help to establish a new church in Crewe and we will have a report later in the year to learn how this ambitious project is progressing. From our Christmas services we supported the

Hollies Pre-school and Garry Ion's Mission work.

The above projects meant that our expenditure in 2018 exceeded our income across all funds, but this had been planned and it is right to use our reserves for public benefit. Our long term investment with Brewin Dolphin fell by about 5% during the year but even so its increase since it was set up at the beginning of 2014 is equivalent to a growth of about 5% p.a. Currently the stock markets have rallied and it has almost returned to its value at the beginning of 2018, of just over £600,000. Our General fund, that is the one that accounts for our day to day operations, has a surplus of around £20,000 taking into account the costs of our Ministry and Events funds. This reflects the care we take in budgeting so that expenditure is kept under control. We are finding it increasingly difficult to find volunteers to do the cleaning in the halls and churches so we have had to employ contract cleaners and other suppliers which increases our expenditure.

In recent years we have been a growing congregation that has given generously to support the many aspects of the work of our church with our giving increasing each year. In 2018 we have seen a small decrease in giving particularly in pledged giving through standing orders and envelopes. Perhaps we need to make people more aware of how they can easily join these schemes.

2018 has been the year of handover between treasurers. This has brought into focus how we manage our finances. In 2019 we plan to move to electronic banking and with the demise of banks in Poynton we are considering which bank suits our needs. We need to be mindful of the fact that we still have a considerable amount of cash to bank and yet growing numbers of people carry little cash so we are looking at how we can cover both of these situations. We have already modified our banking procedures and are grateful to Chris and Mark for doing the banking that is prepared by Val, Tom, Sheila, Jane, Linda and Ann. We particularly thank Jane who has just retired from our banking team has covered Envelope banking for many years. Val in the offices manages our payments from fees and hall hire and Russ records our Envelope giving for Gift Aid purposes. Many people keep accounts from our many Ministry Events and activities all of which have to be integrated into our end of year accounts. The handover process has

highlighted what a complex process this is and we continue to look at means of simplifying our accounting procedures and yet comply with the regulation from the Charity Commission.

*Dave Coleman
Bill King
Eileen Shore*

Cheadle Deanery Synod Report

The purpose of the Synod is to provide a link between the local church and the Diocese, so that every church member has the opportunity to make their views on matters of importance to the Church of England more widely known. The representatives of St. George's and St. Martin's are Brian Clarke, Vivienne Metcalfe and Val Parry. There were 3 meetings in 2018; there were talks and discussions on a range of topics including "Transforming Lives Together" (a joint initiative between Chester Diocese and the Church Urban Fund), "how to make the most of festivals" and GDPR.

Val Parry

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll within the Church of England is the basic list of those entitled to vote and speak at the APCM. Each person entitled to be on the roll must be 16 years of age or more and be resident in the parish or be regular worshippers in church. At the 2018 APCM there was a total of 375 on the roll with 11 additions and 10 losses – representing a net increase of 1 during the year. To help maintain its validity the roll is completely renewed every six years and 2019 is a year when this happens. At the time of writing the process for renewing the Electoral Roll is underway.

David Myers

St. Martin's

The congregation has been in good heart throughout the year and their fellowship is strong. New attenders and visitors receive a warm welcome. The many volunteers ensure that all necessary tasks are done well. Lunches for the Retired are well attended and much enjoyed. The annual Carols and Cake service on Christmas Eve attracted a number of visitors and children - the hall was well filled and the service much appreciated.



David Alcraft

Fundraising Phase 3

The 2018 AGM Phase 3 Questionnaire left us in a quandary as there was similar enthusiasm for 3b (a glass room in the prayer corner for quieter prayer, a refuge for parents of babies and toddlers, a useful room for worship and meetings during the week) and 3c (toilets/servery in a small west end extension). We are committed to improving our church facilities but we cannot approach both together and our small team will struggle to help us to do either at present. In the meantime we have made progress updating the church hall, with a £5,500 Appeal for new chairs and researching lighting improvements for later in the year.

Revd Rob McLaren

Child Protection/Safeguarding

Joe Hadfield and Gill Golding are the safeguarding officers at St George's Church. They have worked on updating the new Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy, and continued to use the updated consent forms to include social media. As well as carrying out an internal audit on our safeguarding practices, we are also encouraging those who work with young people to attend the "Thinkuknow" evening, which is an education programme from CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) which seeks to raise awareness of new technologies young people are using and the main risks these online environments bring.

Joe Hadfield

Sunday Groups for Children

CRÈCHE

This year St George's crèche has continued to enjoy strong and regular attendance among the youngest members of our congregation in the 0-3 age range. Typical attendance on any given Sunday is usually between 3-8 children.

Each Sunday the children enjoy both a combination of free play with a range of toys as well as some structured activities. These include a Christian sing-a-long CD, a short age-appropriate toddler bible story as well as colouring or craft activities. We have also been very blessed since September to have had input from our new Youth and Children's Leader Joe Hadfield. Joe has provided us with a dedicated weekly activity resource book from TnT Ministries which has been a brilliant base to incorporate teachings about Jesus to such a young age group.

We have also been extremely blessed this year to welcome several new volunteers onto

the crèche team who take turns each week to lead and help with the running of crèche.

Their dedication and commitment is very much appreciated and is an excellent form of ministry to our young people. If you would be interested in joining this committed team, please speak to Elizabeth Walker.

Elizabeth Walker

pebbles

Pebbles is a group which meets during the 11 am Sunday Service for children aged 3 - 5 years. We regularly have between 8 - 12 children coming each week.

This year between January and July we have been learning about Jesus and his life. More recently (September to December) we have looked at God's promises to Abraham and his family in the book of Genesis.

As well as a bible story, we enjoy craft activities, singing and a variety of games.

Several of our regular Pebbles moved up to Rocks in September, but our numbers increase as new and younger children join us from crèche as they reach 3 years old.

Sarah Capener

rocks

The Rocks group has stayed at around 8-12 children this year and remains a lot of fun, with the children engaged and keen to learn about Jesus and the bible. We have had one term in Acts, one term in Genesis and are currently in John. We plan to keep aligned with the main teaching program moving forward and are grateful to Joe for this idea. One of our prayers for the children is that they'd form friendships that will encourage them in their faith in the years ahead and so a highlight of the year has been socials, with a games and rock painting session, film and popcorn, and bowling and pizza party (big thank you to the Cairns). Please keep the Rocks in your prayers!

Bizzy Bowles

boulders

Boulders is the Sunday group for School Years 4-6. The leaders are David Brackenbury, Steve Kennon and Sarah Aldabbagh. This year we have been looking at heroes of the faith, at the work of the Holy Spirit in Acts, and God's promise to his people in Genesis. We have averaged about 5 young people a week this year. Please pray for us

that we will continue to teach God's word faithfully and relevantly and for the young people to know and love Jesus.

David Brackenbury

pathfinders

Pathfinders is the Sunday morning group for 11-14 year olds led by Joe Hadfield, Jo Seago and Michael Cairns. Since August the Pathfinders have followed the preaching series being taught in the Sunday service to help promote family discussion as part of supporting the whole family in spiritual growth. The young people in the group ask some fantastic and challenging questions, and it has been a huge encouragement to see them engaging with God's Word in our studies, and growing in the love and knowledge of our Lord.

Joe Hadfield

pulse

Pulse meets every Sunday night, and is led by Joe Hadfield, David Capener, and Vicky Timothy. Pulse is for 14-18 year olds and focuses on encouraging one another to continue to grow as young disciples of Christ as we gather around God's Word. During the last two terms at Pulse we have looked at various topics, including Christian Ethics, and Gender Identity, to help the young people discern the culture around them, whilst building a Christian Worldview. We also went through Paul's Letter to the Ephesians seeing how God's plan is to unite all things under Jesus, and therefore, as we know the plan, we can live out God's plan in our various relationships, seeking to build one another up in maturity of Christ, and putting on God's armour to help fight the spiritual battle. Pulse also has regular socials, and new since September we start the evenings by having dinner together which is cooked by various members of the church family.

Joe Hadfield

4 B's

4 B's stands for Boys, Bacon Butties and Bible. This group is for 14-18 year old males, and seeks to stretch the guys in the group in their discipleship of Christ. It is led by Joe Hadfield and meets every Tuesday after school. It usually kicks off by playing various games, before eating copious amounts of bacon, and then finishes with a bible study.

So far we have been working through the book "Dig Deeper" by Andrew Sach, for the purpose of helping to equip the young guys in

bible handling skills, helping them use certain tools to study the bible for themselves, and think about how they could also teach others with the skills they learn.

Joe Hadfield

the base

The Base meets every Wednesday evening in term time and is run by Joe Hadfield and Dave Brackenbury. The group is for children in school years 3-6 (ages 7-11yrs). It is a youth club with lots of energetic games and activities, followed by a Bible study and discussion to encourage the young people to learn more about who God is from the bible, with an opportunity for the young people to ask questions. Since September we have looked at who Jesus is and what he offers to all who believes (eternal life) from John's gospel, followed by studying the book of Exodus to see how God is keeping his promises made to Abraham, of growing his people, giving them a new land, under his loving rule and his blessing.

Joe Hadfield

the mix

The Mix also meets every Wednesday evening in term time, and begins after The Base finishes. The group is run by Joe Hadfield, and Beth Baguley and is for ages 11-14yrs.

The group runs similarly to The Base, with lots of games and activities for them all to enjoy, and we have also run the same teaching programme covering John's Gospel and the book of Exodus, but applying it more in-depth and age appropriate to the Mix.

Both these groups have more of an evangelistic focus to them, allowing plenty of time for questions and discussion. The aim is to create an environment where the young people can have a great time, but also to make it easy to invite their friends from school so many unchurched young people can hear the gospel and have an opportunity to get to know Jesus and believe in him.

Joe Hadfield

Assemblies and Schools Work

The "Open the Book" team has been going into Lostock Hall Primary School regularly using a Bible Society resource called Open the Book. Open The Book is a way of sharing bible stories with assemblies in a fun and engaging way, by dressing up and acting out stories. This year the team, run by Aled Seago, has been working through New

Testament stories, focusing of the life of Jesus. The Assemblies have been well received by the school and the children. There has also been a second team doing Open the Book which has been giving assemblies in Worth Primary school.

Joe has been going every week on Wednesdays into Poynton High School along with the youth workers of the Baptist church and PCF. Together they have been running a youth alpha course to encourage those who come along during the lunchtimes to think about who Jesus is from God's word, and to discuss and ask any questions they have on Christianity.

Before Christmas Joe also went in to run several RE lessons for the year 9's on 'How Christians make ethical decisions' and answering the students' questions about Christianity.

As well as this, Joe and other members of the staff team went in to year 8 lessons to answer students' questions on baptism and various other topics which church denominations differ on.

Both have been great opportunities to talk with students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to ask questions about Christianity, and to present the good news of Jesus in an engaging way.

Joe has also been in to give assemblies at Vernon Primary school, along with Sarah Williams in her new role, and he is also hoping to go into Lower Park school to give assemblies.

Joe Hadfield

Sandiley

Sandiley 2018 was so much fun: 9 young people from St George's were there. We all enjoyed the games such as four-balls and dodge ball. The evening meetings were very interesting and the theme for them was the Lord's Prayer. Each night we explored a different part of the prayer through a talk done by a leader. Sandiley is great as it gives you a chance to meet other young people and form long-lasting friendships. We enjoyed camp traditions such as the barn dance and going swimming in Bridlington. At this year's Sandiley we also had a water morning which we spent doing water-based activities. Overall, Sandiley is a great place to meet other young Christians like yourself and hear encouraging testimonies from all the leaders.

Hannah Capener

Holiday Club

2018s holiday club was on the theme of Team builders. We learnt how we could become part of team Jesus. Highlights included our puppet Simon with a dodgy welsh accent (thanks Aled) and many people trying to fit inside the "Team Jesus" T-shirt at once. Numbers were lower than previous years so please pray for us publicising holiday club this year and for Joe and Aled as they take over the running of Holiday Club.

David Brackenbury

Pancake Party



The Pancake Party will be held on Shrove Tuesday (5th March). We are hoping that a number of families attend for games and activities for the children, followed by pancakes for everyone.

Joe Hadfield

The Treat

The Treat is an event we host as an alternative to Halloween for families of the church and in for the wider parish community. This year The Treat was well attended by families and was a great chance to invite in some of the people who attend groups like Brightstars, and other groups/events that seek to reach out to families. The Treat this year involved a variety of stalls, ranging from apple bobbing, glow in the dark bowling, glass painting, and featured a candy floss machine. Families went home with buckets of sweets, but also hearing something of Jesus as the light of the world.

Joe Hadfield

Parenting Group

With the end of Sarah's time as our Families Worker we have also reached a hiatus in our running of parenting courses, which we hope can resume in the foreseeable future.

Revd Rob McLaren

BrightStars

BrightStars is the St George's toddler group that runs every Wednesday during term time 9.30am - 11am, and offers refreshments of tea, coffee, juice and toast. Our main play area is in the hall where there are lots of different zones for the children to play in. We also have another room upstairs where there is craft, painting, sand/water play and a book corner. Each week at 10.40am we also gather together to hear a bible story (or a book based on a Christian story) and then have a

time of singing. The group is very popular with over 40 families coming every week.

At Christmas, there was also a special event where we hired someone from Jabberjacks entertainers to lead a session, followed by all heading over to church to sing some children's Christmas carols, and hear the Christmas story followed by a short talk. This was very well attended and very well appreciated by those who came.

Joe Hadfield

Who Let The Dads Out

'Who Let The Dads Out' meet at St George's Church Hall, 9.30am-11am on the second Saturday of each month (except August) and is run by Joe Hadfield along with help from Peter Walker and Michael Cairns. The group is attended by many dads and their children from church as well as the local area, and has also served well in promoting church men's events. Throughout the morning the children can play, eat toast, hear some stories and do some singing. The dads can play with their children, meet with other local dads and enjoy bacon butties cooked by Mike and Helen Bradley.

Joe Hadfield

1st Poynton Scout Group

I took over being the Group scout leader running 1st Poynton Scout Group 5 years ago and the group is thriving; this year we have grown again to 135+ youth members, making us the largest Scout Group in Macclesfield and Congleton! Well done everyone!



Our ages range from:

- Beavers: 6 - 8 years old
- Cubs: 8 - 10 ½ year olds
- Scouts: 10 ½ - 14 year olds

With 2 busy Beaver and Cub Packs, with prospective beavers being placed on the waiting list at age 1!

Throughout the year in addition to normal weekly meetings, members have enjoyed: District Handicraft Competition, Macclesfield Hike challenge weekend, extra practice hikes, Cubs hike and overnight sleepover in Scout HQ. Cheshire Hike weekend, our Cub District Camp, Cub Senior Camp, Group Camp, Poynton Packs Cub Sports, Cub Activity Camp, Scout week long Summer Camp, Parent & Cub Camp, District Cub Athletics Day, Scout Autumn Camp, Group Firework Display, Remembrance Service & parade, Poynton Christmas Fest, Churchyard tidy and

Scout Winter Camp in the Lake District. Thus achieving a tremendous number of extra activities, provided by many enthusiastic leaders. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated people giving so much of their time and experience to members.

We would not have been able to survive for the past 90+ years without the support of our community in Poynton. Our Leaders are all volunteers and if you would like to support 1st Poynton by joining us please contact me, we have many roles including admin as well as being a scout leader, so there could be something you are interested in.

Oliver Hardman, Group Scout Leader

1stpoyntonGSL@gmail.com Tel: 871766

1st Poynton (St. George's) Brownies

2018 was another happy and successful year at Brownies during which the girls experienced plenty of varied activities. Theme evenings were enjoyed as were also many crafts. Some of the badges taken included Water Safety, Stargazer, Agility, Toymaker, Writer and Hostess. We were very pleased Sarah Williams came to a couple of our Brownie meetings and helped the girls with their Discovering Faith Badge. Sarah took the girls around the Church and gave explanations of what was in Church. The Brownies really enjoyed this, especially when they were able to visit the Vestry.

The Brownies sold quizzes to members of the congregations at St. George's and St. Martins and friends and family, to raise money to twin three of toilets in St. George's Church Hall and one toilet in St. Martins Church Hall. Rob came to Brownies one evening to receive the certificates. 1st Poynton Brownies and Leaders would like to thank everyone who supported them in this venture.

Away from the meeting place the girls enjoyed a visit with 4th Poynton Guides to Jodrell Bank. They attended a North West Region event called "Energise" in Blackpool Stanley Park on a very hot day in May. They had a fun afternoon trying out various sports and dancing. In September they enjoyed a residential weekend away at Waddow. Some of the activities undertaken were making a den and trying to make it waterproof, low ropes, archery, taking a look in the archive room where they were able to try on Brownie and Guide uniforms from 1910, grass sledging and a campfire.



The Brownies attended Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday Parade, and were delighted to be asked to decorate the Church Hall Windows, and would like to thank Jeanette Wood for her assistance, they collected rucksacks and contents for the homeless, presenting them at December Church Parade.

During our Christmas party they were delighted to receive a visit from Father Christmas, who chatted to all the girls, had a snowball fight with them and gave them a gift.

*Shirley Ross, Guider
1st Poynton Brownies*

Pastoral Care Hub

The leaders of the different areas of pastoral care meet termly with Stephanie Rookwood as coordinator and we have seen improvements in our communication as visitors, and among different groups. The Pastoral Care of the Retireds at St George's is heading towards change. As key members of the Retireds' Lunch team are retiring in September, we want to say a big thankyou to Margaret Goode and her team and we will need new helpers or a change of provision.

Revd Rob McLaren

Pastoral Care for the Retired Members of our Congregation

This is a way of helping people at their point of need but not leaving them there, whatever this need may be, but within the framework of our spiritual and practical limits.

This year we have visited people in hospital and at home in times of illness and maybe prayed with them; certainly praying for them.

Lifts have again been organised for people to attend church and for hospital appointments.

If someone has been missed from church after a week or so contact has hopefully been made, either by text or phone and any problems helped as possible. This is the most difficult area to manage and we are sorry for any omissions- we look to do better next year.

Members have hopefully been made to feel welcome in church, whether new or long-timers, on Sundays at 9-30am and Thursdays (these services being the main ones for our Retired members). Trips on The Mary Sunley canal boat have been arranged with fish & chip lunch. The annual day was to Castleton with a short service in the local Parish church.

The Home Groups (now overseen by Sue

Coleman) and Afternoon Chat'n'Teas (A,C.T,s) and the Retired Lunches have been and still are ways in which people can keep in touch with one another and pray with and for one another and offer help as and when needed.

All these arrangements could not happen without the committed leaders of the home groups & members of the organising team and the 'back room boys' that help set up the lunches. Grateful thanks are due to them- Ann, Anne, Ruth, Eileen, Jane, Maureen, Susan, Brian, Russ, Alan and Ralph and the leaders of the various groups. Mostly, though, we continue to thank God for the blessings he gives in what we do together.

Margaret Goode

Prayer Ministry Team

When Ann McClelland stepped down as leader of the Prayer Ministry team it was decided to reconfigure Prayer Ministry. So from Autumn 2018 there is a team for each Sunday morning service.



Colin and Stephanie Rookwood look after the 9.30 service and Fiona Kennon and Les Hutchinson lead the 11.00 team.

Several members serve the 9.30 service: Jayne Boden, Katy Briggs, Christine Buckley, Margaret Goode, Alice Lees, Colin and Stephanie Rookwood. The members of the 11:00 team are Alan Tokley, Alison Moverley, John Buckley, Ann and Brian Harwood, Hannah Brackenbury, Helen Livingstone, Francis Cooke, Mike Holt and Sue Coleman.

Prayer is offered at the back of church following the services every Sunday.

Once a month those providing this service meet together to pray for those known to be in need in the life of the church and community.

Once a quarter we have a prayer ministry service at either 9:30am or 11:00am service during which people are encouraged to come forward for prayer. For these services both teams unite to provide a larger ministry support. As a team we value these services as an opportunity to raise the profile of prayer for one another, and as a team we long to see this type of prayer have a larger part in the lives of all our fellow worshippers.

It is still early days for the new team, we are still forming bonds, but we are all committed to pray for the needs of our congregations. We have two WhatsApp groups where we share confidential prayer requests and

answers to our prayers (one for each service).

Colin, Fiona and Les want to thank you for the opportunity to lead such a powerful ministry and service to the church.

*Colin Rookwood
Fiona Kennon
Les Hutchinson*

Business Chaplaincy

I have continued visiting shops and businesses in Park Lane, London Rd and the side roads. It's good getting to know shopkeepers well, building confidence and trust. This helps when I have the opportunity of sharing the Gospel. It is good to be able to listen to people's problems and worries. It's a great help being able to give out invitation leaflets for Christmas, Easter and Harvest services etc at St George's - and even to special Guest Services. This encourages people to come and the invitations are almost always received courteously. I'd be grateful for your prayers.

I would like to run another Alpha Course at some point in 2019 as some of the shopkeepers express on-going interest, but on the whole people find the timing and commitment to an evening course difficult as they are so busy.

Revd Francis Cooke

Alpha 2018

No Alpha courses were run in 2018.

Revd Christine Buckley

Christianity Explored

We sought to run two courses this year after a good response at the Christmas services but have continued to struggle to find times when interested outsiders will commit themselves to six weeks in a row at the same time in the same place. One course didn't start and the other dwindled from a promised eight down to three because of genuine absentee reasons and lost its momentum. This is frustrating but we remain committed to basics courses with genuine newcomers and have developed more one-to-one courses.

Revd Rob McLaren

Northumbrian Quiet Services

We have been leading quiet services based on the Northumbrian Community Evening Prayer liturgy on an alternate monthly basis during the year, with a break during the summer months. This takes place in the prayer corner

at the back of church. Attendance is around 15, and those who come along seem to value the opportunity to have a period of unhurried quiet reflection which is welcomed in our busy lives.

Meryl & Peter Stowe

Home Groups

There are currently fourteen small groups which meet regularly - usually weekly in term time - in homes or in the church hall. There are daytime groups and evening groups. Each have one or two leaders, appointed by the Vicar, and membership is entirely voluntary. The groups attract members from the different congregations. They vary in size, from six to twelve people who attend regularly, and also in age profile. Some of the groups are male or female only but the majority are mixed. There are currently about 140 people who attend a home group regularly.

The purpose of the groups is three fold - Bible study, prayer and pastoral support. The Bible study is designed to follow the current teaching series on a Sunday or Thursday. At the start of each series the Vicar gives the leaders an overview of the material which may be produced 'in house' or imported from another source.

The group members are encouraged to share and pray for one another's needs or concerns. In most groups this takes the form of open prayer but in some groups only the leaders direct the prayer times. Attention is also drawn to the prayer points on the study sheets and members are encouraged to pray for these in addition to the needs of their group.

Through meeting regularly members get to know one another well enough to offer or accept practical help and support as and when needs arise. Each group does this in different ways as is appropriate and relevant. Most of the groups have occasional social gatherings such as a Christmas meal together or summer barbecue.

If you are interested in joining a home group please have a word with the Vicar or myself and we would be delighted to help you find a suitable group.

Susan Coleman

Parish Weekend – Grange-over-Sands 2018

Last April 39 people from St. George's and St. Martin's set off in glorious sunshine to Grange-over-Sands for the parish weekend away. Our destination was Thornleigh

Christian hotel which overlooks Morecombe Bay. Our speaker for the weekend was Revd John Varty ex-vicar at All Hallows', Cheadle and Christ Church, Alsager. His topic for the weekend was Balak and Balaam from the book of Numbers chapters 22 to 25. Most of his hadn't met these two characters before! But we learnt plenty from them.

On Saturday afternoon we split into various groups to visit Sizergh Castle or just stroll along the prom into Grange to look at the many variety of ducks in the duck pond or even have a coffee and cake at one of the many cafes. Though I'm not sure how folk had room for cake as the food served by the hotel was both delicious and plentiful!

On Sunday morning we had our final talk given by John and a service of Holy Communion. We met together after lunch to reflect on the weekend and say our goodbyes before departing for home (though 11 of us stayed on for an extra night!). The hotel is already booked again for April 2020 so maybe think about coming next time!

Helen Livingston

Keswick Convention 2018

The refurbishment of the Keswick Pencil Factory to provide an exciting new and complete convention site is now due to open in 2020. Many thanks to Mike Grist for his past years' coordination of bookings. Rob & Jean have helped bookings this year and a good number have already signed up.

Revd Rob McLaren

Churches Together in Poynton

Continuing the exodus of ministers, Geoff Warr left us and Lostock Fellowship in February and John Wiseman left PMC in July. Andrew Allan became Assistant Pastor of PCF and has continued to lead CTiP with Rob, as the last ones standing. Mandy Hawkyard enables page 2 of Poynton Post, St George's shares the Easter Cross and every other Christmas Midnight, while Poynton Action Trust oversees DPYK which has morphed into a new wider-covering Parenting Course. We enter a season of rebuilding of the partnership as new ministers arrive at PMC and PBC and Lostock.

Revd Rob McLaren

Sunday Services

Despite some challenges for the 11 o'clock service we have made good progress with much appreciated teaching series in the Psalms, and the Book of Job. Our 9.30am, St Martin's and Midweek services have held

up well as the Lord has added to our numbers as well as taken away to infirmity and glory.

Revd Rob McLaren

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

This ministry continues to flourish and during 2018 we had 19 baptisms including 2 adult baptisms. We had three thanksgiving services. We held 5 courses during the year led by clergy. The first meeting of each course is held to help parents decide between a baptism service and a thanksgiving service. For those who choose baptism there is a four-week course where we study Mark's gospel and cover the basics of the Christian faith. We are pleased that following the study some of the couples do attend church regularly.

Revd Christine Buckley

Weddings and Funerals

The number of funerals has declined this year, partly due to our churchyard being full for new graves. The PCC has responded to the situation by finally gaining permission to build new remembrance walls by the Garden of Remembrance, allowing the purchase of small name plaques for those whose ashes are in the Garden, and the 10-year lease of a place on the wall. There is a lot of interest already, the walls are not finished but we have 25 orders for plaques. Weddings continue to go well as we are a great venue for a special and meaningful service, but demand is slowly falling as weddings become more private and 'privatised' by venues.

Revd Rob McLaren

Bereavement Team

St George's Bereavement Team visit the next of kin of those who have been bereaved and live in the Poynton area. We meet in alternate months to pray and plan the visits. We have offered visits and support to over 30 families between April 2018 and March 2019. Many of those families accept the offer of a visit and some attended the Service to Remember in November and the Blue Christmas Service in December. Currently there are 5 members in the group, who are committed to supporting the bereaved members of our community.

Viv Evans

Music Report

9.30 music has continued to work well with Catherine as choir leader and Carole as coordinator, David and Peter as organists and Mike's group as a monthly ensemble. We are grateful to Mike as



he retires from leading the group and are keen to discover new musicians and singers. 11am music has been well led and coordinated by Louise and Rick with Andrew also taking turns to lead the groups. A special evening to recruit more musicians/singers had quite a small response. The St Martin's rota of keyboard players are very much appreciated and it's going well. At Midweek 10.30 we have one hymn accompanied by CD which serves us well. Festival services with special musical items have continued to go well and serve our overall vision for growth and witness in the village.

Revd Rob McLaren

Drama and Puppets

These ministries continue to tick over in a low key way.

Revd Rob McLaren

Christian Aid 2018

Christian Aid week 2018 was very successful for both St. George's and St. Martin's, collecting a total of £2,361.86, a small increase on last year's collection - the week ran very smoothly. My grateful thanks go to all the fantastic collectors and my great team who helped to count all the money. As some of the 'regular' collectors may be on holiday or unavailable, perhaps you would consider joining thousands of volunteers to take part in the UK's longest running fundraising week, so please give me a ring or tap me on the shoulder! I look forward to another successful collection for the 2019 Christian Aid Week 12th to 18th May.

Linda Bell

Direct Mission Partners

We plan to visit our partner church San Andres Salta later this year in order to further our partnership. And we shall have another go at catching up with our partners among the people of the forest in South India. We enjoyed a Sunday visit from Garry Ion, our other direct mission partner, whose work in Uganda and surrounding countries is going well despite conflicts. His personal delivery allowed our large Christmas giving to support a training church leader in a refugee camp on the South Sudan border, and the building of classrooms in a very isolated school in SW Uganda.

Revd Rob McLaren

St. Martin's Bonfire Party

The day of the 5th November 2018 did not bode well for the annual festival of light that is St Martin's Bonfire and Firework extravaganza. Inclement weather and rising winds made the team wonder how many folks would brave the conditions especially on a Monday night. Thankfully the Lord had the whole event in hand and we were blessed with hundreds coming through the door. For their very modest contribution they were treated to a very impressive fire (almost too impressive!) and a fantastic fireworks display laid on by Matt and team. Inside a cornucopia of burgers, cakes, soups and sweets beautifully complimented external events to ensure all were satisfied visually and bodily.

Thanks to all those who attended and especially to all those who burned, exploded, cooked, served and BBQ'd on the night. We are now looking forward to doing it all again next year.

Steve Kennon

Women's Breakfasts

We hold two breakfasts each year on a Saturday morning, one in spring and another in autumn. The aim of this event is to give women an opportunity to meet over a relaxed and friendly breakfast which they haven't prepared. The women enjoy listening to an inspirational speaker who shares their experiences and unique faith journey. The Women's Breakfast team always like to encourage new women to join them as it's a great way to meet new friends offering fellowship and support.

Jayne Boden

Women's Events

Our Women's Events have had another positive year, meeting every few months to encourage friendship, welcome in new members and provide opportunities to invite friends along.

Events this year have included a book evening where we discussed a favourite book and swapped with another, a visit to a coffee shop/bookstore where we spent a lovely morning browsing and catching up with friends. The highlight as always was the Christmas event where under the excellent guidance of our star baker Helen Kershaw we made gingerbread decorations for Christmas and listened to two lovely Advent reflections.

Our events are aimed at women of all ages in the church and we look forward to welcoming you along this year.

Deborah Myers

Men's Events

The Men's Events group had a varied programme during 2018 which saw the customary breakfasts with testimonies and curry-based evening, as well as another wine-tasting evening hosted by Dave McClelland. The summer saw the opportunity for those with an interest in cycling to attend a free-run session at the Manchester velodrome, and a visit to the microbrewery at Bollington. We also had the chance to be transported back in time with a visit to the Stockport Air Raid shelters to experience what life would have been like for those living locally during the Second World War.

Our hope is that 2019 will provide further opportunities for men of all ages from St George's and St Martin's to meet together and have fellowship whilst partaking in various activities and inviting others along as an opportunity to evangelise.

Rhys Williams

Make & Take Team

The Make and Take team was established in order to support members of our congregation who might be going through a tough time..... maybe they're poorly, just out of hospital, nursing a relative or need a little help when a new baby comes along. Members from our two congregations volunteer their services to make a meal on a given day. A rota is set up where they can choose a date and the meal they wish to provide and then the meal is taken round on their given day. So many of our members have benefitted from this caring service and it really does seem to make a difference to know that someone is not only thinking about you, and preparing a meal for you, but also praying for you. If you would like to help and be on one of our teams please contact Krys Turner if you attend the 9.30 service, or Julie Briggs if you attend the 11am service. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this service please also contact one of the above.

Many thanks to all our lovely volunteers for their hard work and generosity.

Julie Briggs

St George's Tennis Club

Higher Poynton Tennis Club is a small, well maintained and thriving tennis club, which is accessed from Carleton Road. There are two courts surfaced with Italian clay. These are available to members of St George's and St Martin's and their friends on a Tuesday evening from Spring, throughout the Summer and in to the Autumn. Play begins soon after the clocks go forward and is available typically from 6:30pm until dark. Players of all abilities are welcomed – and rackets can be provided if necessary. If you are interested in playing this season please contact David Myers for further details (874911).

David Myers

The Bellringers'

Ringling for the 9.30am service on Sundays has again been fully supported by our regular ringers. We rang for 5 weddings during the year.



Our team in the Branch striking competition at Taxal won the shield for the best Call Changes.

The extra special Remembrance Day ringing on November 11 to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the World War 1 was well received by the people of Poynton.

In addition, to our Annual Dinner, social events included Ten Pin Bowling, Poynton Players, a walk around Bollington, a mini outing to ring at four churches in Shropshire and Cheshire, and a "Ding and Dine" evening at Nether Alderley.

Rosemary Spencer (Tower Secretary)
David Friend (Tower Captain)

St George's Wine Society

Held on the 4th Friday of each month throughout the year, the wine society offers members and guests the opportunity to sample many different wines from all over the world. We meet at 7:45 pm for a prompt 8pm start and finish around 10:15 pm with 6 different wines to taste – typically 3 white followed by 3 red. The tastings are fun and relaxed – great for bringing your friends and family to – and we continue to learn about the world of wine. Our monthly attendance is typically 30-40. The main theme throughout 2018 was Italian wines.

The August BBQ and December Hogmanay themed tastings were again a big hit and our April dinner at Arighi Bianchi a huge success and is being repeated in March 2019.

Why not come and join us. Taste a little wine! Eat some food! Enjoy good company! And have fun!

Dave McClelland

Twenties & Thirties

TnT is an active group which aims to provide fellowship, belonging and friendship for people in their twenties and thirties. In 2018, the group met about 5 times in the year with a wide range of activities from a summer BBQ where we enjoyed the beautiful summer weather we had last year, a walk along the canal and a Christmas event. We have been blessed with new members over the last couple of years and we have enjoyed growing in fellowship with each other. We are looking forward to the new calendar for 2019 with Aled Seago getting involved in organising events such as regular Take-away and Topic evenings.

Louise Coleman

11 o'clock coffee

We have a great group who make and serve coffees and teas (and sometimes brownies too) after the 11am service, which is much appreciated. We'd like more people to stay and are always on the lookout for people to welcome newcomers there.

Jean McLaren

Church Flower Team

The 100 year commemorative remembrance was embraced by the congregation and friends who knitted and crocheted poppies for the alter table display. Over 450 poppies were sown or stuck by Pat Dean with a little help from me. The rest of the team did a splendid job in the church and porch. We had displays in the Church and in the Church Hall created by Brownies and Guides from the various packs. We displayed pictures of the men who went to war some of whom didn't come back, there was information of where they lived and their regiments. (Thanks to Val in the office for printing and laminating them and the Civic Hall Team for the original pictures and facts). Men in Sheds provided us with our very own "Tommy" and the High School created and designed their own cross and poppies which were in the entrance to the Church Hall. Glyn from the British Legion lent us his WW1 tomb stone and barbed wire. All very thought provoking and appreciated by the Village/Town/Church members. Rob kindly gave permission for the displays to stay up longer for people to see.

Christmas came round very quickly and the ladies worked brilliantly to create a beautiful

Advent Ring and decorations all around the church and porch entrance and the magnificently lit Christmas tree was decorated by Brian.

Thank you to all those who have donated money for flowers in memory of a loved one; it is very much appreciated. If anyone would like flowers arranged for them in memoriam let us have your request, date and donation and we will do our best to accommodate you on the anniversary requested.

The small team of ladies have been a pleasure to work with again and have given me great support this year.

*Jeannette Wood and her team,
Kath, Anne, Linda, Val and Pat*

Friends of St George's Church

The Annual General Meeting in June was attended by twenty members who enjoyed a sandwich buffet before the business agenda.

Open discussion on the year's programme, ideas for the coming year and possible use of our funds followed.

A talk by Professor Morison, "The Beauty of the Heavens" attracted a good audience, a coach trip to the World Heritage Site of Saltaire, near Bradford, proved most interesting and entertaining and a joint commemoration, with the Twinning Association, of the end of WW1, produced eighty people, including three visitors from Haybes, eager to present their ration cards for corned beef hash and apple pie, and to hear something of the War history of Haybes, our twin town.

The Friends have made a donation to the bellringers, specifically the handbell ringers, towards the purchase of a tenor bell. Meanwhile we are investigating the possibility of a suitable way to acknowledge St. George in the Church.

Susan Warrington

The Walking Group

Every month on the second Saturday, a group of stalwart and hardy walkers from St George's, plus a few well behaved dogs, head out to the hills and valleys of Cheshire and Derbyshire. Our walks are varied, with different people leading, of between 4 miles long in winter to 8 miles long in summer, to suit daylight hours. Our reward is often a cosy pub or cafe at the end. If you like exercise, fresh air, friendship, fun and maybe



mud and would like to join us you would be very welcome.

Ruth Howitt

Property Committee 2018

It is perfectly true that the large amounts of time the members of the Committee and other willing helpers give to making the church, its buildings and its houses fit for the purpose for which they are intended is very evident; such condition is only achieved with a lot of hard work. I am extremely grateful for all the unstinting and good humoured work of the members of the Committee.

St George's

A faculty has now been granted for two new walls around the Garden of Remembrance and on which will be placed the names of those whose ashes are interred within the Garden. The most suitable type of plaque is being investigated.

St Martin's

The car park area has been given a makeover and is now completely covered in tarmac. The whole area looks very smart and it has also meant that the grit was not carried into the hall and ruining the wooden floors. Next year the floor will be treated to sand and lacquer in line with the Hall at St George's.

Vicarage

Some internal decorating had been carried out in the cloakroom.

Ivy Road

After the tenants moved out and before the new curate arrived, we decided to put in a completely new kitchen together with new fitted appliances; new tiling around the walls and work surfaces were also installed.

At the same time, we put a new carpet in the dining room/lounge and kitchen flooring was also laid.

Barnaby Road

In order to bring the property up to standard for a young family we carried out considerable work over a few months. Firstly, we installed a fridge/freezer which had been in Ivy Road for just a few months. New carpets were installed in the lounge and up the stairs.

The upstairs loft room had no heating or radiators and to make full use of the space as a bedroom we had new pipework and two radiators installed. This is now warm and up to standard.

At the front of the property we had the garden removed and the whole area except a flower bed down the path, covered in tarmac in order that a car could be parked off the road. In order to do this, we successfully applied to the council to drop the kerb. Our next-door neighbour wanted us to share the cost for replacing some interwoven fencing to which we agreed and the whole area now looks so much better.

Fencing with a gate at the back of the property was erected thus making the area safe for young children. The back garden was full of rubble and a lot of hard work (to which the Vicar will testify!) was carried out. Skips for removal of rubble, concrete paths etc were used before the laying of turf and soil.

All this work has improved the property enormously and contributed to improving its value.

Graveyard and Churchyard

Brian Clarke continues to be a stalwart worker in and around the church and its grounds and under his guidance volunteers from outside the church have assisted in some tasks. We continue to monitor the state of the trees in the churchyard which are under Tree Preservation Orders and have applied to Cheshire East to remove a diseased large tree and to plant a replacement.

The gravestones had their annual safety check. The neighbours around the graveyard were concerned at some of the overhanging tree branches and these were removed.

The Hall

The floor in the main hall was sanded down and three coats of Junckers HP lacquer was applied. This should provide a 15-year life span with periodic subsequent maintenance skims. The carpets had their annual clean.

It should be emphasised that the overall condition of the Hall is very good.

Valerie Vibrans

Church Buildings Usage Committee

The committee meets approximately every 2/3 months. We aim to ensure that the buildings continue to be a welcoming and pleasant venue for our users. We now pay for our cleaning and sanitary services. During 2018 after consultation, the decision was made to replace all our chairs. We are due to take delivery of these in the very near future.

We are, as always, extremely grateful to the teams of volunteers who work hard to clean and maintain our premises.

Helen Bradley

The Sound and Vision Team

The AV provision has undergone significant changes both to equipment and training in the past year. The team continues to work closely with band leaders and in March last year cameras and screens were fitted. New radio microphones are now in use and a new bulb for the projector is under consideration.

In 2018 we did a call out for new volunteers to try and relieve the pressures on the AV rota and encourage a greater number to join the AV team. As we enter 2019 I am happy to report that we have a further 4 people who are training on both screens and sound. We are always happy to take on more volunteers and we will do a call out in 2019.

I would like to thank those who have volunteered and assisted on the AV team.

Hayley Whittaker

The Church's Website

There are two main aims for the website. The first is to provide information and resources for church members: activities, events, sermons and study notes for home group topics. The second aim is to present the church in such a way that it will be attractive to those looking for a church in the area.

For a 12 month period up to 3rd February 2019 the website, www.poyntonpc.net, was visited 10,345 times by 5488 users recording a total of 28,318 page views. This is slightly up on last year. 137 users viewed the site on Christmas Eve – the busiest day for the website. The day before bonfire night was also busy.

The five most visited pages were Alec Motyer Archive (3042), Events and News (2361), Service Details (1773), Sermons (1730) and About Us (1409). The figures in brackets indicate the number of times a page was visited in a year.

Some of the Church Group pages are out of date. If you lead a group you may wish to look at your web-page and, if necessary, send updated information to webmaster@poyntonparishchurch.org.

David Coleman

Church Cleaning

We are very grateful to the teams who have cleaned St George's church fortnightly for

many years. Just recently we have recognized the need for a change and are in process of arranging for the company who clean St Martin's to do so monthly at St George's as well, while reminding church users of the need to Hoover/sweep up after themselves.

Revd. Rob McLaren

St George's Hall Cleaning

The cleaning team continued to work hard to keep St George's Hall clean and welcoming. But it wasn't all hard work - we enjoy each other's company and celebrate special occasions. New members are always welcome. Items left in the hall are kept in the Lost Property boxes in the cloakroom for three months. Items not claimed by then are taken to a charity shop.

Joyce Corlett

Grapevine

The editor is very grateful to Rob and Andy who uncomplainingly produce a letter and the prayers respectively, each month, and to all those who agree to compose articles on a wide variety of topics. Unsolicited articles are also welcome.

Bearing in mind that many copies are delivered to non-Church members, the outreach function of Grapevine is not measurable but we know also that it is a useful contact, perhaps especially, for those who are no longer able to attend Church.

The Grapevine team includes the essential and much appreciated skill of Pat Robbie and the support of Tom Barrie and the many deliverers who do their rounds every month, many of them for years.

Susan Warrington

Church Office

Life in the Parish Office shows no sign of slowing down, and now that we have a new curate, new youth worker, as well as two associate ministers, it can get quite crowded at times! However, it is always a pleasure to meet and help the various people who pop into the office for whatever reason.

A rather time consuming project over the last eighteen months has been the plan to replace two of the walls around the Garden of Remembrance, with two new walls onto which small memorial plaques can be fixed, to remember those whose ashes are interred in the Garden. I was very relieved and glad that we eventually received the Faculty from Chester Diocese to go ahead with this scheme. Hopefully the walls will be completed

by Spring 2019 and we already have several people who have purchased memorial plaques.

My thanks, as always, to all those who help out in the office especially when I am away on holiday. They are getting too numerous to mention individually!

Val Parry

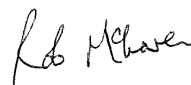
St George's Living Well

We have now been meeting fortnightly at Living Well for two years; where has the time gone... We generally have between 20 and 30 guests every other Tuesday afternoon and have a sing-along, gentle exercise, crafts, quizzes and bingo. Notable events have been a canal boat trip on the Mary Sunley, where a light lunch with refreshments was served by our volunteers, and a Christmas party with sandwiches, cakes and mulled wine! We were also entertained with some festive music by Hullabaloo. We have received very encouraging feedback from our guests, and it is very rewarding to know that we are making a real difference. During 2018 we also arranged for the following organisations/individuals to come and support us with various activities: *Cheshire Dance (gentle exercise sessions)*, *Elle Beauty (who provided relaxing hand massages)*, and *Worth Primary School who entertained us with a Christmas Recital*.

Of course, none of this would happen without the fantastic support of our volunteers, too many to mention, but every one of them does a great job. We have received several donations including; £2,800 which was monies raised by Sarah-Jane, the Mayor of Poynton, (we were her nominated charity for 2018). We also received a cheque from Sally Jolley, who runs the Just Sing Choir in Poynton, for £351.

All the volunteers recently met together for lunch at Mike and Helen's, with the aim of coming up with fresh ideas for events and activities for the year ahead, and we look forward to putting these into action.

Mike & Helen Bradley



Chairman and Vicar
On behalf of the PCC.
April 2019

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