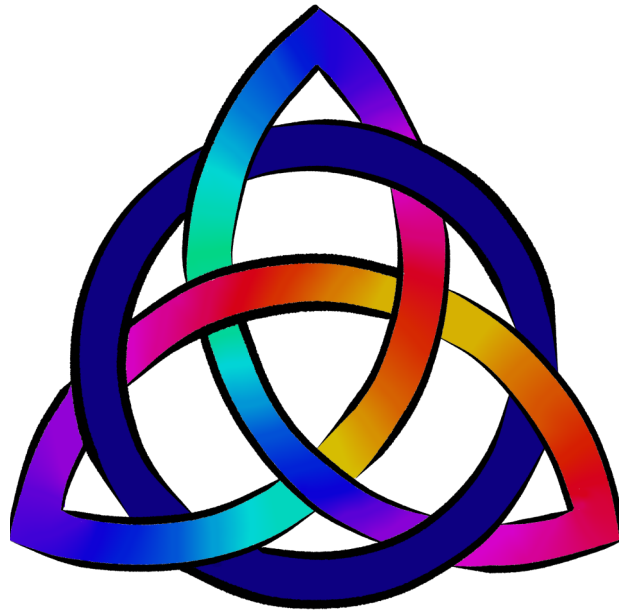


Forest Hill Team Ministry



APCM

30 April 2024

at St Michael & All Angels

St George's APCM Reports

CHURCHWARDENS — JILL PENNELL

We were happy to welcome new worshippers to the church throughout the year including several new families and young couples. Of course, it was lovely to see our regulars too!

I'm sure you are all pleased that the welcome rota has been re-established – thank you to Beryl, Lydia, Cassie, Joyce, Roy, Judy, Gertrude, Beverly, MaryAnn and Susie for ensuring everybody received a warm welcome into Church on Sundays.

The fabric of the church remains in good condition. The flooring and hall doors needed some attention but thankfully the cost was not as much as we feared it might be.

Our annual visitation from the Archdeacon was successful with all paperwork and record books being in order. We are currently preparing for our Quinquennial inspection - a complete, comprehensive survey of the building fabric due every 5 years - which will take place in October.

There have been 3 garden/church-clean working parties – thanks to everyone who volunteered.

The church hall has hosted the Christmas Fair, Lunch Club, Burns Night, our patronal bring and share lunch, scouts, guides and brownies and private parties – reinforcing the church's place within the local community.

I'd like too thank Tracia for stepping in as acting Churchwarden for the last couple of months and Sara and Ian for their ongoing support throughout the last year.

SAFEGUARDING — SARA SANBROOK-DAVIES, PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (PSO)

The DCC has a legal requirement to report on safeguarding progress and include a statement as to whether or not they have complied with their duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance." We can confirm that the DCC has complied with this duty. The Church of England continues to invest significant money and resources into safeguarding across the whole church. This in part is to remove the misconception that safeguarding is just about protecting children. The Church of England's campaign is called Promoting a Safer Church and they call all churches to share their commitments to safeguarding. We, as St Georges Forest Hill, share these commitments.

These commitments are to:

- Promote a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons

- Care pastorally for those how are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Respond to those that may pose a present risk

Over the past year members of the DCC have participated in safeguarding training through the Church of England, through a session run by the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and regular updates re safeguarding. The PSO has had the appropriate training and is kept up to date through the diocesan safeguarding team. Over the past year the congregation, both adults and children has been reminded who they can go to should they have any concerns.

The key message with all safeguarding is 'it could happen here' and it is everyone's responsibility.

MUSIC — GRAHAM LONG, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The small, yet dedicated, choir continues to work hard in making a valuable contribution to supporting the singing in our worship.

The formation of St George's Singers for our younger church members in February 2023 has continued to thrive and they sing once a month for The Celebrate Together services, with Clare Pollard as their dedicated Director of Music. We have also been very fortunate that Clare's son, Matthew, has also frequently joined us to play the trumpet which has been an additional musical bonus. Whilst mentioning instrumentalists I would like to express particular thanks to Sara Sanbrook-Davies for the outstanding contribution she often makes with her flute playing – particularly at Christmas, The All Souls Memorial Service and recently with The Passion Gospel, with musical accompaniment, for Palm Sunday. Naomi Soar also helps with some solo vocal work from time to time which also adds to the musical tapestry.

In the past year, it has been a delight to have Parochialis, our extended choir (made up of the choir plus some members of the congregation) to perform at particular times of the year – especially, Christmas and Easter. We were also pleased that Childe Rolande were able to perform for us again for our Carol Service. We have continued with some occasional Eucharists with Music at the Chapel for some Thursdays for special dates in the calendar.

Making music within worship is very important for many reasons and for many of us this is a way of expressing our faith - a vocation and an opportunity to use our talents to work for the greater glory of God, which we certainly do at St George's, and I am very privileged to be part of this.

Finally, I would like to thank all singers, performers and visiting organists for their efforts; the congregation for making a very positive contribution and to the whole Ministry team for their support, encouragement and sense of humour.

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL — JOANNA GOODRICH, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS & JILL BRAY VICE-CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

The school had its SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) this academic year 2023/24, published in February. The report was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the hard work of Darren Janes (headteacher) and the whole staff team.

The Inspector summarised the school's strengths:

- 'St George's Church of England Primary School's Christian vision is transformational. The calls to action: "Be brave, Be great, Be you" boldly inspire the school community. They are enthused to realise their God-given potential.
- Collective worship has great priority at the school. Pupils and adults enjoy rich times of reflection that are grounded in the vision
- The school is a harmonious community. Love, joy and appreciation are strikingly commonplace.
- The school effectively promotes and celebrates diversity. It intentionally reflects the community that it serves.
- Religious education (RE) is exemplary. Pupils are highly motivated by the subject. They develop a deep and rich understanding of world faiths.'

We have a strong governing body in place with one vacancy for a parent governor (elections to be held in the summer term). A new co-opted governor joined us this year: Lewisham Councillor for the school's ward, Susan Wise.

The school supports the welfare of the children with a focus on attention to emotional and mental health and wellbeing, and the church continues to support in practical ways through the Welfare Fund and donations to the school's own foodbank. Governors receive a termly report on how the Welfare Fund is spent, supporting families most in need.

Perhaps our biggest challenge is filling school places, particularly in the nursery and reception classes, at a time when school rolls are falling across the whole borough due to a drop in numbers of children of school age. We are working hard to address this, with publicity and weekly tours of the school for prospective parents.

Our church governors are Richard Lane, Yvonne Wheeler, Becki Wilkins, Patrick Clarke and Peter Akinbowale, Thank you to them for their hard work and commitment.