



**EAST CROMPTON ST JAMES**

*with St Saviour's*

# **ANNUAL PARISH REPORTS**

**For the year ending December 31, 2023**

*Curate-in-Charge:* Rev. Paul Pritchard

*Churchwardens:* Kath Moss & David Marsland

***Annual Parochial Church Meeting***

***to be held on Sunday, April 28, 2024***

***at 12.30pm in the Parish Church***

*Financial Statements are referred to  
but are available separately*

*The PCC is a charity exempt from registration  
with the Charity Commissioners*



**PLEASE READ THIS BOOKLET – IT CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH**

## **CURATE-IN-CHARGE REPORT**

The PCC met seven times during the term 2023-2024: there were six regular meetings, one extraordinary meeting for an additional urgent item of business and two Standing Committee Meetings. In addition to any specific items of business, all regular meetings include reports from or on clergy, finances, buildings, health and safety, safeguarding, the Electoral Roll, the Deanery Synod, and the Standing Committee.

### **January**

On 29th January Father Paul was licensed as Curate-in-Charge of St James', East Crompton with St Saviour. This was also the launch of the Mission Community comprising of St James' East Crompton with St Saviour, St James' Thornham, Holy Trinity Shaw and St Marys High Crompton, and we were commissioned by Bishop Mark to work together.

### **February**

We held our Mission Community Joint Planning Meeting where representatives from across the Mission Community joined the clergy to plan key events and services. Lent began towards the end of February with joint Ash Wednesday services taking place at St James' Thornham (morning) and St James' East Crompton (evening). Our joint Lent course began, Growing Good, thinking about the Church and social action. We held these courses in both the afternoon and the evening. We also prepared and admitted children from across the Mission Community to receive Holy Communion.

### **March**

The PCC met on 20th March. We discussed a range of topics including the key dates for the rest of the year so as to avoid event clashes. We discussed the Whitwalk which would be the first since the pandemic.

### **April**

We had a full range of services during Holy Week across the Mission Community. There was a joint Triduum (the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday) which was held at St James', East Crompton. In addition, there was Stations of the Cross at St Mary's, a Tenebrae Service at St James', and an all-age Stations of the Cross at Holy Trinity. Each church had its own services on Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

### **May**

On 4th May both churches were polling venues for the local elections. We celebrated the King's Coronation with prayers for the king in the run up to his coronation and a special Mission Community Songs of Praise held at Holy Trinity. We also celebrated Ascension Day together. We held a Whitwalk joining with Holy Trinity. Feedback was shared following this that there was a good response from residents, congregation and volunteers. On Thursday 11th May we began our 5.30pm Family Eucharist Service which has proven to be a great success. The Annual Parish Council Meeting was held on Sunday 14th May, followed by a short meeting to appoint PCC members to various roles for the coming year.

### **June**

During June, 25 children from across the Mission Community were prepared for and admitted to receive Holy Communion. Confirmation preparation for candidates across the Mission Community began. There were services held for Corpus

Christi at both East Crompton St James' during the day and Holy Trinity in the evening, with benediction. June featured the Archdeacon's visitation at Oldham Parish Church. It also involved saying goodbye to Kirsten Stott as she was ordained deacon. The PCC met on 26th June where Members of the PCC re-affirmed the code of conduct.

### **July**

In July, 14 people from across the Mission Community were confirmed at St James Thornham with an age range of 62 years. The School Year 6 Leavers' Service also took place in church.

### **August**

During August some of our activities lay fallow but there was ongoing and regular weekly worship, occasional offices and pastoral care. There were a significant number of funerals in August across the Mission Community.

### **September**

At the start of September, we blessed everyone who goes to or works in schools on 'Back to School Sunday'. We began two projects for working with young people. The first was a youth church for young people in school Year 6+; this meets twice a month on Sunday evenings. The second thing that happened was Mother Bec began her work as school chaplain for Crompton House. There was a Mission Community wide meeting with Grace Thomas, the Diocesan Environment Officer, about Creation Care. The PCC met on 18th September. We agreed the pattern of All-Age services across the Mission Community for this academic year, as well as the Advent and Christmas Services. Communication across the Mission Community was discussed and it was agreed to move to shared communications across the whole Mission Community, to include a weekly electronic newsletter (paper version available); a monthly paper magazine; a shared website; and joint social media. The Inclusive church statement of belief was ratified and the PCC agreed to become an Inclusive Church. The PCC committed to work towards being a fairtrade church, and also to twinning the church toilets.

### **October**

We celebrated Harvest, donations were received for Oldham foodbank. At the end of October, a joint church service was held at St Mary's for All Souls'. We invited all the families for whom we'd taken funerals and it was good to see that many attended.

### **November**

In November we held another joint Admission to Communion weekend, this time with 47 children taking part from across the Mission Community. We also launched our Mission Community bereavement café, Coffee, Cake, Company and Conversation.

The PCC met in November. We discussed the possibility of exploring a formal Team Ministry and the PCC was in agreement that this should be explored. We agreed the joint Mission Community services for 2024.

### **December**

Advent began at the start of December. We prayed Compline, live-streamed from Zoom, each Tuesday evening during Advent and we also kept Advent on Sunday mornings during our worship. Our toy services took place on the second week of Advent, and the toys were taken to Oldham Athletic to join their toy appeal supporting families in need in Oldham

as well as some being donated to families via the Child Care Village. EC St James' School held their Christingle Service in church on 20th December and on 21st December the Child Care Village came into church for Christingle and Nativity. Our Christmas worship formed one part of the whole pattern of worship across all five churches. The Christmas Tree Festival and Café Church was held on the second weekend in Advent followed by the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols took place on the third Sunday of Advent. A big thank you to Howard Moston and all the choir for their conducting, playing and singing at this and throughout the year. On Christmas Eve there was a full programme of events and services for the mission community and a Eucharist was held on Christmas morning in all churches.

### Throughout the year

Throughout the year, of course, the daily work of the parish church has continued, with regular worship, pastoral care and occasional offices.

Prayer and worship the following form:

- 9.30 am Sunday Common Worship  
Sung Eucharist at St Saviour's
- 11 am Sunday Common Worship  
Sung Eucharist at St James

- 10 am Thursday  
Said Eucharist
- 5.30 pm Thursday Eucharist service aimed particularly at children and families.

In 2023, the average attendance at regular services was:

Sunday 9.30 am	46 adults and 35 children (48 and 28 in 2022)
Sunday 11 am	50 adults and 4 children (51 and 10 in 2022)
Thursday 5.30 pm	31 adults and 35 children (new service)

The Thursday morning Eucharist has a regular congregation in the region of 4 - 6 people.

At St James & St Saviour's in 2023, there were:

- 22 baptisms
- 14 children admitted to receive Holy Communion
- 6 confirmation from the parish
- 2 weddings
- 34 funerals (20 in church, 14 at the crematorium)

Members of the clergy and authorised laypeople visit and take communion to those unable to get to church.

**Father Paul**  
Curate-in-Charge

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## PCC SECRETARY

### March 2023-March 2024

Churchwardens elected to serve were David Marsland and Kath Moss.

Those that offered their services to serve on the PCC were: Jacqui Adams and Linda Forsyth.

Trevor Dunkerley was co-opted on for one year as Secretary.

### Appointments by PCC

Vice Chair:	Churchwardens
Secretary:	Trevor Dunkerley
Treasurer:	Alan Makinson
Register of Giving:	Lynn Briercliffe
Electoral Roll Officer:	David Westhead
Child Protection Officer:	Jacqui Adams
Standing Committee:	Vicar, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary

### Deanery Synod Representative (for three years from 2023)

Deb Warrington and Carly Fox.

### PCC Meetings

Up until March 2024 the the PCC had met seven times during the term 2023-2024: there were six regular meetings, one extraordinary meeting for an additional urgent item of business and two Standing Committee Meetings.

Attendance (actual attendances as a percentage of possible attendances) was approx. 65.5%.

The proceedings of the PCC are summarised in the formal minutes. After these have been approved at the following meeting they are available on request for inspection by anyone on the Electoral Roll (except when deemed by the PCC to be confidential).

As ever, the main agenda items were of finance, our ability to pay our way (Parish Share, expenses etc. etc.) and the formation of the proposed Team Ministry.

**Trevor Dunkerley**

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## PLANNED GIVING/GIFT AID

**O**NCE again, on behalf of your Parochial Church Council, may I pass on a sincere "Thank You!" to everyone who has contributed financially either by way of cash, donations or standing orders during the last year.

During 2023 we recovered a total of £7776.08 of Gift Aid rebate from HMRC; this relates to qualifying contributions made by envelopes and standing orders from January to December 2022.

The money that we receive from HMRC, completely free of charge, is vital to the parish finances and relies on the congregations from both St.James' and St.Saviour's informing me that they pay income tax.

I would be grateful therefore if everyone who pays income tax double checks that any donations they make to the church are properly Gift Aided.

It is also just as important that anyone who, due to change in employment/personal circumstances, does now not pay income tax also lets me know so we don't claim in error.

It would also help if anyone who regularly uses the yellow "one off" Gift Aid donation envelopes, located at the back of both churches, considers giving by way of the weekly envelope scheme or by standing order.

The boxed sets of envelopes are available to any member of either congregation regardless of whether they pay income tax or not. Once again this year we are using up some envelopes we have left from previous years and these have been distributed to those requesting them but if additional sets are required please ask myself or one of the wardens for a box.

Another way of contributing, whether you pay income tax or not, is by a standing order directly from your bank, again just ask myself or one of the wardens for details.

If you require any further information about the weekly envelope scheme, paying by standing order or Gift Aid in general please speak to me in church or telephone 01706 845555 or mobile 07746 731591.

**Lynn Briercliffe, Registrar of Giving**



# CHURCHWARDENS'/HOUSEKEEPING REPORT

## ST JAMES' CHURCH

The North porch roof and doors are without insulation and needs to be considered to improve the temperature in the North porch. Due to the cold the walls are showing damp and mould ingress. The stained glass windows need to be restored.

The usual yearly maintenance work has been carried out which consist of the servicing the boilers. The gutters have been cleaned out at the lower level. The Fire Extinguishers have been serviced.

The 2018 Quinquennial report listed quite a number of items, one of the main areas is the Tower refurbishment. We are trying to raise money for this project and looking to apply for Lottery grants. The Quinquennial Inspection is overdue, they are normally done every 5 years. The spire is in the process of being re-pointed to stop water entering the Tower. The drains around the church have been cleaned out A tap has been installed in the toilet/boiler room for use for cleaning the rear of the building especially the paths.

## ST JAMES' CHURCH GROUNDS

The grass areas are maintained by an outside contractor. Joyce and Gerald Cooper keep the flower beds tidy near the Parish Rooms. The flower beds have been tidied up near the entrance. Some of the garden near the garden of remembrance needs to be tidied up. The grids are cleaned out on a regular basis. The walls around the church grounds need some attention especially the wall at the front of the building which is leaning onto the pathway. The paths at the rear of the building have had most of the moss removed. This is on going maintenance job that needs to be monitored for Health & Safety reasons. The steps outside the choir vestry need painting with anti-slip paint again this is an ongoing maintenance job. The Balustrade hand rail has been replaced outside the choir vestry door. The steps near the toilet need to be highlighted again with anti slip paint and reflective paint/ tape needs to be added.

## ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

The two boilers have been serviced and the radiators have been checked.

The sump pump in the cellar to pump out water to stop the cellar flooding and damaging the boilers is working well.

The gutters at lower levels have been cleaned out and part of the guttering near the toilets and a part of the fascia board near the toilets have been replaced. The Fire Extinguishers have been serviced. The tiles on the roof are in need of being replaced with some of them becoming brittle.

There is still other work that needs to be undertaken when funds are available.

## ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH GROUNDS

The grounds are maintained by volunteers. Parking barriers have been installed to prevent unauthorised parking to be used when necessary and a warning notice. This was becoming a problem especially on Sundays.

## ST JAMES' PARISH ROOMS

The two boilers have been serviced and the radiators have been cleaned. The glass washer and the drinks chiller behind the bar need to be replaced. A new extractor fan has been installed in the baby changing area. A new light fitting has been fitted in the kitchen and the bar lights have been replaced. Two gas water heaters have been replaced with 2nr 30 litre unvented electrical wall mounted units. A carbon monoxide alarm has been installed. A new Myson Hi-line heater has been installed in the corridor. A leaking water pipe in the ceiling up stairs has been repaired. A radiator in the ladies toilet has been replaced. Radiator covers have been installed in the toilets to comply with Health & Safety Regulations. New hinges and a new roof have been fitted to the gas meter cupboard outside the building and new gutter brackets over the cupboard. A new door lock has been fitted (St James Street side). The toilet pan in the additional needs toilet has been raised to obtain a better flow of water to discharge waste.

The Gutters and drains have been cleaned out. The Fire Extinguishers have been serviced. The alarm system has been checked and the alarm call out contract is up for renewal in March 2024.

## ST JAMES' NURSERY BUILDING

The boiler has been serviced and the radiators have been cleaned.

The gutters and drains have been cleaned out. The Fire Extinguishers have been serviced. The grounds are tidied up by an outside contractor.

## ST JAMES' VICARAGE

At present a new vicarage is not required,

## GENERAL INFORMATION

All electrical appliances in all of our Church buildings that belong to the church are PAT tested.

This is completed every twelve months.

Health & Safety reports are done on a regular basis. Risk Assessments are also carried out and are monitored and up dated. The Health & Safety report can be found at the back of both churches. All church activities are risk assessed by the organiser of the event. Hirers of any of the buildings have to carry out risk assessments, produce insurance details and are made aware of our safeguarding procedures which they have to agree to adopt.

*The Churchwardens would like to thank everyone at both places of worship for their support over the last twelve months. We would also welcome any volunteers to help with any work that needs to be carried out at our buildings and any fundraising events. If you cannot help just supporting our fundraising events helps. It is very rewarding and helps in forming new friendships and fellowship within the church community.*

**God bless you all  
Kath & Dave**

## ARCHDEACON'S VISITATIONS 2024

*All starting at 7.30pm*

*All Churchwardens, Deputy Wardens, Sidespeople, PCC Members are expected to attend*

Wednesday, June 5 – Chist Church, Ashton-under-Lyne

Thursday, June 6 – Oldham Parish Church (St Mary w St Peter)

Wednesday, June 19 – St Luke, Heywood

Tuesday, June 25 – St Chad, Rochdale

## FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

### Income

Total Income (Excluding Building Fund and return of funds from Childcare Village for short term loan) to 31st December 2023 is £80,745 compared to £92,583 in 2022. This includes all giving, parish room, fees, rebate for gift aid, general and charitable fundraising and all grants and donations, however, excludes building account transaction, summary of capital shown separately below. The main points to note are:

1. Total giving (loose collections, standing orders and envelopes) - £42,585 compared to £36,145 in 2022
2. Tax recovered for Gift Aided receipts – £7,776 compared to £11,929 in 2022 (note some of the 2022 amount included 2021 payment)
3. Other donations, grants and on line payments £4,695 compared to £3,968 in 2022
4. General fundraising (in addition to building fund) - £6,416 compared to £3,866 in 2022
5. '150 club' income was £3,730 compared to £3,381 in 2022
6. Fees for Wedding/Funerals £4,653 compared to £7,014 in 2022
7. The Childcare Village donations (excluding load repayment) were £8,000 compared to £24,000 in 2022

### Expenditure

Expenditure to 31st December 2023 is £88,235 (Excluding Building Fund and Childcare Village loan) compared to £97,169 in 2022.

1. Parish Share contribution in 2023 was £16,000, the same as 2022. Required payment was £47,850. Payments in previous years: £35,000 in both 2021 and 2020. £37,500 in 2019, £42,000 in 2018, £45,000 in 2017, £35,000 in 2016, £40,000 in 2015, £30,000 in 2014 and £60,000 in 2013.

2. The main maintenance and running costs for both Churches (general repairs, insurance, utility costs etc.) is £49,482 compared to £55,995 in 2022 (note exc. Building account capital expenditure). The majority being continued increased cost for utilities and general upkeep. Slightly lower in 2023 due to no printer rental fee and lower repairs costs in 2023.
3. Parish Room expenditure was £13,343 compared to £17,012 in 2022.

All other items of income and expenditure are outlined within the main financial summary.

Capital as at 31.12.2023.

### Current Accounts

- o Closing Balance £31,166 (note £17,080 in uncleared cheques)
- o CBF Church of England account ('legacy' account) £7,209.99 (opening balance £6,986.09)

### Building Account

- o Opening Balance £16,702
- o Closing Balance £12,284

The CBF account represents mostly monies from a historic legacy. The building account is for use for fundraising for the buildings and is required under the terms of the HLF Grant to maintain an ongoing building fund.

*For any questions prior to AGM or a copy of the full income and expenditure list by email please contact [alan.makinson1@ntlworld.com](mailto:alan.makinson1@ntlworld.com)*

## ECO CHURCH REPORT

FIRST of all a big shout out to our Church Lads' & Girls' Brigade who have been busy making bird feeders which are now in place around both St James' and St Saviour's outside spaces. We thank them for all their hard work. They are now busy making Bee, bug and insect hotels to encourage wild life into our outside spaces.

We are going to create wildflower areas in each of our church grounds and will be observing **No Mow May** which encourages insect life.

St Saviour's took part in the RSPB birdwatching event in February, we will be observing 'Creationtide' in September and we will be keeping a 'Day of Intentional Prayer' each month focusing on an 'Eco Issue'

### Toilet Twinning

There are donation boxes at the back of both churches.

St James has successfully twinned our outside toilet with a toilet in Malawi and we are well on the way to twinning another of our toilets as well as working towards twinning all the toilets in our associated buildings.

St Saviour's are well on their way to twinning a toilet in Zambia which should be achieved by Easter.

You can also twin your own toilets at home.

### Fair Trade

We held a Fair Trade Coffee/Tea Taster Session at Holy Trinity, which gave us opportunity for fellowship as well as being very informative. An added bonus was that we were able to give a

donation to Fair Trade and as a result will now be using Fair Trade products for after church refreshments.

We will be using eco-friendly housekeeping consumables including toilet paper and we will be working towards maximising recycling of waste in our churches and associated buildings and we encouraged 'going green' for Lent.

Both churches were awarded **Bronze Eco Church** status earlier in the year, (from A Roche UK) and we are now working towards gaining the Silver awards.

*For further information regarding Eco Church please contact myself for St James' and Jenny Dryden for St Saviour's.*

Warm Regards  
Deborah Warrington

## PARISH MAGAZINE

THE magazine continues to be published as an online publication viewable on our website and also via the link on our Facebook page and the Mission Community weekly mailing.

This seems to be working well with one of the benefits being that it has allowed us to produce in full colour.

There are plans to have one magazine for the Mission Community which, hopefully, will launch in the summer.

My thanks to all who continue to contribute and support the publication and it is really pleasing to see how many are viewing it via our Facebook page.

Trevor Dunkerley

# EAST CROMPTON ST GEORGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN SCHOOL

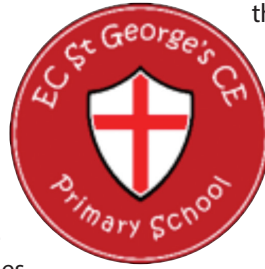
This year in collective worship we have focussed on drawing all elements of our worship together to ensure a holistic approach which feeds LIGHT into daily collective worship. We use a variety of avenues for worship such as the 'Roots and Fruits' resources, weekly visits from a minister from the local Parish, class worship, half termly visits from the Trust Chaplain and celebration. Annual Trust themes are threaded through and begin from the Roots and Fruits material. Every collective worship offers time for reflection, encouraging pupils to consider their role: self, family, school and/ or the wider community.

Faith Champions have been introduced this academic year in KS2. These pupils support collective worship through readings, prayer, leading sections of collective worship through drama and story. Children are keen to be allocated this role within school. Many pupils regularly make valuable contributions to the interactive collective worship display, which is changed each half term, with a new focus each week.

This year each class has led their own collective worship, open for parents to attend. This has increased opportunities for pupils to lead collective worship further. Children have chosen the theme for their class collective worship with themes such as 'Let Your LIGHT Shine' and 'Everyone has Rights'. Pupils have also linked themes from their PSHE and Music lessons to deliver worship around 'Bullying' in an alternative manner.

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN OF OTHER FAITHS IN THEIR FAITH

Throughout collective worship and through our curriculum, children are invited to consider their own faith and that of others. Opportunities are given for children to share special celebrations in class, bringing photographs and talking about their personal faith. Children learn about other faiths through



the RE curriculum and their involvement in these lessons brings their faith to life for other pupils, opening up questions from pupils to increase their knowledge and understanding.

## TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT FAITH

The Blackburn Diocesan syllabus is currently used to deliver RE across the school. Over the next academic year, we will transition to the newly created syllabus from the Manchester Diocese. Key staff have attended training to ensure they understand the changing RE curriculum:

*"The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living."*

This new syllabus reflects current thinking and research around religion and worldviews. There will be opportunities for the thematic study of religious belief (through comparing beliefs on a theme) and the developing of associated skills in this area. It also includes planned opportunities for systematic study, approaching one religious' tradition at a time.

This new syllabus incorporates the 'Understanding Christianity' approach which will enable school to continue to use these resources and develop further good practice.

## OTHER EXPERIENCES THAT TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT FAITH

Pupils from year 5 and 6 have enjoyed experiences offered through Blue Coat within the curriculum in Design Technology for bridge building and food technology. Through our annual residential, pupils were able to take part in trust building, collaboration and negotiation skill building sessions.

Pupils from Year 5 visited the local War Memorial and were then invited to attend a Heritage event at the Oldham Art Gallery to meet with the mayor and other dignitaries to showcase their learning.

## FAITH IN ACTION AND COMMUNITY

Pupils are encouraged to take ownership of 'living like Jesus' in the way they respond to each other, their family and those around them in the wider community. This can be seen around school in the way older children care for younger children e.g., leading them into, and setting the example of how to sit and engage in collective worship. Responsibilities of roles such as eco-council, school council, ambassadors and faith champions also give children the opportunity to 'lead the way' in living out our mission to 'Let Your LIGHT Shine'. Pupils are given opportunities to serve one another such as helping to clear and tidy at lunch time and have supported our local community through our links with the Shaw foodbank and Dr Kershaw's Hospice. During the Summer term, year 6 pupils took part in the 'Grow £5' enterprise project. This developed collaborative working skills as they worked in teams to create, market and sell products with only a £5 start-up figure. Following the project, the children decided to donate over half of the funds raised to Cancer Research – a charity they all strongly wanted to support due to the health condition of one of their parents. Many of our pupils have taken part in Charity events outside of school with two children participating in climbing a mountain for charity with a parent.

## THE AWE AND WONDER ASPECT OF SPIRITUALITY

This year our choir attended 'Young Voices' in Manchester

Promoting  
**a safer church**

*The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church*

**House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy for children, young people & adults**

**IF YOU ARE CONCERNED**  
*that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.*

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:  
Name: Jacqui Adams  
Role: Parish Safeguarding Officer  
Tel: 07708 928271  
E-mail: jacquiadams19@icloud.com

Name: Reverend Paul Pritchard  
Role: Curate in Charge  
Tel: 07561 471185  
E-mail: ffatherpaulp@gmail.com

Name: Abbey Clephane-Wilson  
Role: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser  
Tel: 0161 828 1400  
E-mail: Safeguarding@manchester.Anglican.org

Local Authority Social Services:  
MASH team 0161 770 7777 / 6936

**IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999.**

**OUR COMMITMENTS**

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

**HELPLINES**

- NSPCC: 0800 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Stop It Now: 0808 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0808 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Family Lives: 0800 800 2222
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Men's Advice Line: 0808 8010 327
- National Careline: 0800 0699 784

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**  
www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding



## **EAST CROMPTON ST GEORGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL (continued)**

and were able to not only experience a live concert but be part of one. The joy was clearly evident on their faces! The choir also sang beautifully at St. James' Church during a special celebratory Leavers Service for our year 6 children.

A 'Quiet Space' has been set up as a dedicated room for students to use during lunchtimes. This has given opportunities for mindfulness activities, jigsaw building and many creative tasks away from the bustling outdoor playgrounds.

Pupils have taken advantage of learning opportunities within the local area looking at the mills and the rivers that are close to school. Visitors have included representatives of the Oldham Mountain Rescue team and some visitors also transported children back to the time of the Great Fire of London!

Pupils have also ventured out to enjoy a wide variety of educational visits to Castleshaw, Eureka, Tatton Park, Mahdlo, Summit Up, and also, Bluecoat School to support and enhance learning across many curriculum areas.

Pupils from years 5 & 6 enjoyed a residential activity at Robinwood showing resilience and determination when facing challenges. Year 4 students have also attended swimming sessions since Easter.

School offer a broad spectrum of extra-curricular activities including Lego, science and sports clubs. In addition to clubs offered by school, we also offer our facilities for karate and dance clubs run by private organisations on our school site. This supports our families by giving children the opportunity to access more specialised clubs at a reduced rate.

Our 'Celebration' day this year focussed on Sports, with children taking part in Zumba, orienteering and a highly interactive drumming workshop. Our annual celebration day always seeks to offer something different and engaging for our pupils to inspire new interests. Funding for this was raised through a school council led sponsored event incorporating a healthy lifestyle activity when pupils and staff were challenged to climb the height of a mountain by walk up and down the school driveway. They managed to climb the equivalent of several mountains

including Mount Kilimanjaro.

Children are encouraged to share their personal achievements when attending clubs and events outside of the school day. We have many talented pupils who complete reading challenges with the local libraries and represent our community in local and regional competitions in varied sports such as dance and rugby.

### **ROLE OF THE CHAPLAIN AND OTHER CLERGY**

The role between the school and Clergy from the local parish remains strong. Sadly, Reverend Dave retired from our Governing board and the parish earlier in the year. School have continued to develop links with Reverend Katy Cunliffe, who resides over the 'Local Mission Community' churches and Father Paul, Curate in Charge of St James's and St Saviours churches. We are supported through weekly collective worship on Tuesday's, linking to our whole school weekly theme. Mother Katy joined our Governing body this year and offers great support for the wider school in this role. Father Paul offers pastoral support to the school and has enhanced this by adding a Leaver's Service this academic year for our year 6 pupils. The pupils were extremely touched by the service, it certainly added to their feeling of belonging to the community and how this would continue as they journeyed on to their secondary schools. They were also very grateful for the gifts of a pen, inscribed with quotes such as 'make it happen', 'be kind', 'life is sweet' and 'believe in yourself', and the tea-light reminding them to continue to 'shine their light' in the future.

Our pupils have continued to enjoy the inspiring Worship led by Mr Ford, Blue Coat's Chaplain, every half term. This gives further opportunity for Collective Worship links across our family of schools within the Trust. Mr Ford also meets with St George's RE and Collective Worship lead towards the end of the academic year to support planning of the next academic year collective worship themes. This enables St George's to embed coverage of key themes we believe we need to cover within the coming year whilst still following the Trust overview.

**Rachel Ross, Headteacher**

## **EAST CROMPTON ST JAMES' PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**O**UR school continues to thrive for the benefit of our children. We have been developing our core curriculum further this year. The introduction of a new phonics scheme, Read, Write, inc has been successful, with all our staff in the Federation being trained in its delivery. Standards in reading and writing for our younger children have improved. Staff have become more confident and are now experts in delivering phonics to the children.

Last year our current math's scheme was discontinued, we have been in search of one to replace it. Currently we are trialing 'Maths no problem' in years 2 & 6. The children are loving it! It provides lots of opportunity to problem solve and for every child to reach their potential. We will be rolling out the whole program in September.

At St James' we pride ourselves not only high-quality curriculum provision but also inclusion. We have had several families recently choose our school because of the emphasis on children's mental health. In September we became Trauma informed accredited. This has involved whole staff training throughout the year. Mr. Cull our mental health lead continues to provide therapeutic support for pupils across



the Federation. He has been joined by another team member, Tia the therapy dog. Tia has been funded through a grant and has had training to become a working therapy dog. She is proving to be invaluable, her interaction with pupils and staff puts a smile on everyone's face. We all must be Tia ready as well, which makes us tidy and talk in quiet voices!

To support our future vision for inclusion we placed a bid with the local authorities SEND team to enhance our facilities for physically disabled children and children with additional needs. We were successful! Building will start in April to create a barrier free life skills room, SENCO office, sensory room, and a room for mental health support. We anticipate the rooms to be ready for the 2024/25 academic year.

Finally, a big thanks to our governors who work tirelessly to ensure the children at St James' get the best education possible. Also a big thanks Rev Paul and Howard for being fully involved in the spiritual journey of our school.

Best wishes.

**Adam Laskey B.Ed (Hons), NPQH  
Executive Headteacher**

## BRIGADE

**F**IRSTLY, we must place on record our thanks to St Saviour's for allowing our continued use of their building on Wednesday evening for our Brigade nights. The space suits us well and hope we are not too much of a hindrance!



Numbers have remained steady throughout the last 12 months with around 12-14 attending regularly. The group – with quite a wide age-range – have very quickly formed into a lovely group of young people who enjoy each other's company. They have undertaken a series of craft sessions making, to name just a few, Mothers' Day Cards, Wind Socks, Christmas Tree Decorations etc.

It has been great for the Brigade to be involved in the All Age Worship Services and over the past few months we have provided readers – surprisingly all willing volunteers – who have all done really well.

It's also been good to see relatives and friends of those taking part supporting the young people at these services. Thank you and thanks to Paul for involving the group in these services

We haven't, as yet, had our usual trip out but that will hopefully soon be organised.

The annual end of season 'Water Fight' continues to be as popular as ever and it is a chance for the young people to get their own back on the leaders – that is those leaders who are brave enough to step out of the building that is!

As ever my thanks go to everyone who has supported the organisation over the last 12 months especially the leaders who give up their time voluntarily.

**Trevor Dunkerley**

## Music

### THE CHOIR

Since the pandemic ended, we have continued to operate as a "hybrid" choir. That is, we mix the voices of those who are present with recordings of themselves, which they made earlier. This way of working has lifted the standard of the music that we can offer, because, if any slight mistakes have been made, the recordings can be edited and so we have effectively have more voices than those who are actually present. We started the recordings during the pandemic, and since that time, have built up a whole library of hymns and anthems, which we used when we offered the online Sunday services. Some of those recordings still continue to be used by other churches, who cannot produce music for themselves. This includes our own St Saviours, which has not had a choir for many years now. This means that not only that the congregation can sing with more confidence, but also that we can introduce new music.

Since the introduction of the software that we use for the recorded element of our hybrid choir, we have also had the opportunity to add realistic "other instruments" such as flutes, violins, trumpets and oboes, which has also enhanced some other pieces that the choir sing.

As I write this, we are preparing for a new Royal Schools of Church Music Service for Palm Sunday evening, which we hope will be something that we will offer in future years as well.

Please remember that new members are always welcome and that there is no audition. If you enjoy singing and want to make your offering to God in this way, then please approach any choir member or myself.

### THE ORGANS

The organs in both our churches continue to give good service and I am always so glad that we took the decision in the late 1990s to move to electronic technology. The advantage of these instruments is that they never need tuning and servicing and only need attention when something goes wrong. Their running costs are therefore really quite small. They can also be played without an actual organist being present, which again has saved us a great deal of money over the years. The organ in the Parish Church is a particularly good organ and visitors to our Church have spoken enthusiastically of its realistic sound.

**Howard**

## SAFEGUARDING

**P**ARISH Safeguarding continues to remain a priority within the church, we aim to provide a safe environment for all who visit and worship here. It is the responsibility of us all and is discussed at PCC meetings. In the past year there has only been one Safeguarding concern which was recorded and monitored with no action required at the time.

Our Safeguarding Policy and Domestic Abuse Statement are displayed in both churches and are published on the Church website. All users who hire our hall or vestry are required to sign documentation to agree to abide by the required safeguarding provisions. We continue to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Guidance.

All Church officers and Junior Church volunteers are DBS checked and have completed the relevant Safeguarding Training. Reverend Paul Pritchard and I have completed Safer Recruitment Training and Reverend Howard Moston and I have completed Domestic Violence training. All PCC members have now completed Basic Safeguarding training and will be completing the Foundation Level this year. These are reviewed every three years as required. Information regarding training and Safeguarding guidance can be obtained on the Diocesan website: <http://manchester.anglican.org>.

This year we are pleased to welcome Emma O'Donnell as Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer who is based at St Saviour. She is currently undertaking the required training modules. Also, this year our Mission Community has set up a Safeguarding network. Meetings are held termly and provide shared knowledge, support and guidance. One member of the group is also a representative on the Diocesan Networking group and reports back to our network.

Following safer recruitment guidelines, we have now produced a volunteer handbook which will be rolled out this year. All roles are issued with the Code of Safer working Practices. Risk Assessments are completed for our church buildings and for specific events, these are held centrally.

We rely almost entirely on volunteers and are grateful to everyone who supports the Church by offering their time and skills. Volunteer role descriptions are available for some posts. During the coming year we hope to expand our church and community activities and would welcome interest from anyone who would be interested in helping to support these activities with ideas, time and talents.

**Jacqui Adams**  
Parish Safeguarding Officer