

Benefice of Gloucester St George and St Margaret, Whaddon



Growing God's Kingdom



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Welcome

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2 6-7

Thank you for taking the time to look through our Benefice Profile. We hope we will have the opportunity to discuss our future with you.

We support a spirit of fellowship and pastoral care as we celebrate God's love in both traditional and contemporary ways. We are an inclusive Benefice welcoming all people on their personal journeys of faith. We work as a collaborative team encouraging everyone to find and use their talents to serve as the Holy Spirit moves among us.

We are committed to a close partnership with our Christian brothers and sisters within the Church in Tuffley. This is not a formal ecumenical scheme, but rather a close collaboration of prayer and shared services and social events which has developed in recent years.

We are supported by a Pioneering Team, a Mission Group, and a Reader. In addition many more people share in our worship, administration and pastoral work. We are a Benefice that has enabled individuals to follow their calling to build up God's Kingdom in Tuffley, Podsmead and Whaddon.

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering - Growing God's Kingdom



Where next on our journey?

Our purpose is to seek the growth of God's kingdom in Tuffley, Podsmead and Whaddon.

As we continue that journey, we hope to grow in numbers, in faith, in generosity and in commitment.

We also want to strengthen our links with the wider Tuffley community.

If you are excited by the prospect of walking together with us on that path we can assure you of our love and support.

In return, we hope you will

Share our vision of Worshipping, Caring and Pioneering as our way forward

Share our commitment to collaborative ministry

Share our new adventure of working with our partners as The Church in Tuffley

Help us grow as God's family, and, not least...

Have a good sense of humour, too.

Benefice Overview

- United Benefice comprising St George's Tuffley (suburban) and St Margaret's Whaddon (rural)
- Part of the Church in Tuffley which brings together Anglican, Catholic and Baptist congregations
- Outreach developing through our Community Pioneering project
- Church centre facility attached to St George's church
- Work with young children include Messy Church, Family Praise and Open the Book
- Joint organisers of annual community Tuffley Festival
- Mission group supporting incumbent, comprising Reader and lay group leaders
- PCCs meet jointly (and Standing Committees)
- Benefice office and part time administrator

St George's



- Parish comprises part of Lower Tuffley and Podsmead in suburban Gloucester
- 3 Primary Schools and 2 Secondary schools
- Mixed housing, nursing and residential care, retail and light industry
- Pub, Library, Community Centre and Nurseries

- 1950's church building updated in 1980 including feature Last Supper reredos and enabling flexible layout.
- Attached recently refurbished Church Centre complex
- Nearby 4 bedroomed Vicarage with garage and garden





Growing God's Kingdom

St Margaret's

- A small, ancient church building, rural but close to urban development
- Loyal congregation with wider 'fringe' following from Tuffley and beyond
- Traditional but progressive style
- Regular Common Worship eucharist and BCP evensong
- Monthly all age Family Praise
- Traditional interior with pews and historic pipe organ
- Popular for festival and life cycle services
- Popularity with the community brings potential for wider ministry



Family Praise



Gallery



Joint PCC

Pastoral Team

Mission Group

Joint Standing
Committee

**Growing God's
Kingdom in
Tuffley,
Podsmead and
Whaddon**

Community
Pioneering
Team

Messy Church
and
Open the Book
teams

Church in
Tuffley

Centre
Management

What does the Church Community think?

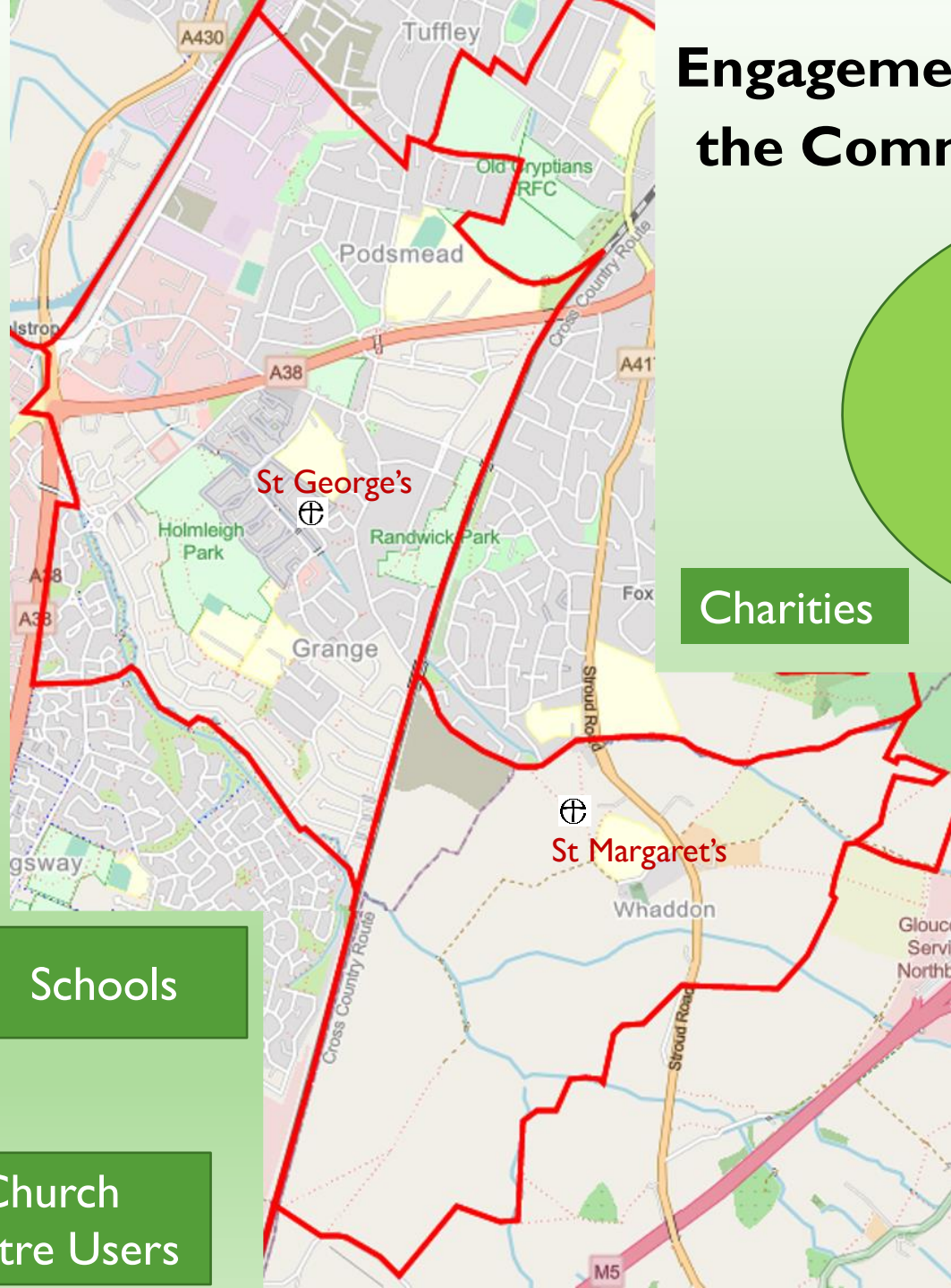


From a list of answers from a previous survey, congregations were asked to identify the two answers they most agreed with.

A selection of the popular comments are shown below:-

What do you most value about Church?	What are your hopes for the future?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anglican style of worship• Sharing in the Eucharist• Pastoral support / caring people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thriving church• Growing church – attracting newcomers• More families and young people• Church that represents the people
What are the challenges the church faces?	What would you like to see in the new vicar?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of people (of all ages)• Maintaining finances• Being relevant to the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energetic and enthusiastic• Friendly and approachable• Keen to grow the church family

Engagement with the Community



supported the RE curriculum and given children individual and group opportunities to experience, or gain insight, into key aspects of the Christian beliefs

Charities

Pike & Musket

Sheltered Accommodation



Tuffley Festival

I would hope for...a person of prayer, full of Faith and the Holy Spirit, with a deep love of our Saviour Jesus Christ, committed to bringing the Good News to the people

Church in Tuffley

very welcoming people who are passionate about creating a great community feel

always there if you need it

Library

made a significant difference to the children and adults alike

Schools

Councils

Church Centre Users

Community Links



We enjoy keeping in touch with the community around us, including our local:-

Library

Charity - Gloucestershire Bundles

Council representatives

Neighbours in sheltered accommodation

Family run shops and businesses

Pub – The Pike and Musket

Schools - Relationships are developing with our local schools. Our work with them is greatly appreciated. With two Open The Book teams, Collective Worship and a fun Reflect Club, we have regular contact with our local children.

Our ‘**Tuffley Says Thanks**’ project last year, run by a committee which included representatives from the pub, the council, the library, a local charity and our church, awarded heroes in Tuffley who were nominated by the community. Tuffley Festival brings the community together for a huge family event each summer..

Church in Tuffley



One of our strong points is our involvement in the Church in Tuffley. Partnering with the local Baptist, Catholic and other Anglican church has joined us together, not only in worship and growth in faith, but also in serving the community around us. We enjoy experiencing the different styles of expressing our faith, praying and studying the Bible together in our monthly Refresh meetings and have fun at social events, usually gathered around food. Events like Alpha, The Bible Course and others have all benefited from the church being united in team and focus.

Children & Young People

Outside of COVID we have a thriving Messy Church which is developing into one big community family. See our link [here](#) to get an idea of how it went when the Bishop came to visit.

St Margaret's do an interactive family service once a month and St George's offer a dedicated lesson plan for anyone who might show up on the day at our Jesus and Me group.

We are currently working with the Church in Tuffley to develop youth work

And from our Tuffley children:

We would like someone who

makes us
laugh

tells
stories

reads
the
Bible

has a
smiley
face

knows the
right
answers

likes
making
things

can talk to
us
about God

likes
me

knows
Jesus



Community Pioneering Report September 2020



The last few months

COVID meant that many of the planned activities and events for families, The Church in Tuffley and summer at St George's had to be cancelled, postponed, or re-imagined. This has included the last few weeks of The Alpha Course that was running from my home, The Diocese Mission Project, Easter events, member confirmations, Soul Space, Messy Church, Schools work, Young Tuffley Heroes, The Diocese ABCD project, Tuffley Festival and others.

Pioneer Team

Earlier in the year, Pete and Lorraine Best were authorised and commissioned by the church as associate pioneers and have been wonderful team members joining with me in all ongoing projects, prayer walking and planning for the future.

During COVID and recent weeks

I began a neighbourhood group for the Randwick Road neighbours. This has now grown into a self caring community which many of the members really appreciate.

Tuffley Festival went ahead, albeit in a very different form. Many of our local friends and organisations contributed to the videos which were well received by many who thoroughly felt that the spirit of community in Tuffley was captured well.

We continued to send out newsletters and activity packs to all our Messy families, making the most of hand deliveries and greeting parents and children at their doors. The October pack is being written and assembled by other members of the team.

I have kept track of weekly family visits or phone calls, supporting at least three vulnerable families over the lockdown period and into the current situation. One family in particular are in great need just now and I'm thankful that I and some of our team are able to step in and help.

We recently ran online Open The Book training as a requirement from the Bible Society.

The Church in Tuffley

It has been exciting to welcome St Barnabas Church as another partner in The Church in Tuffley. I have worked with Sarah previously so already have a great relationship to go forward with.

I began running The Bible Course from The Bible Society in August. A few members of our partner churches have also joined us. The course finished just a couple of weeks ago but has been a source of enlightenment for all of us attending. It would be good to do this one again some time. The group are already asking for more study evenings.

I continue to meet with the Church in Tuffley leaders for prayer and have a meeting this coming weekend with the extended leaders team to plan our next steps.

We have a number of projects lined up for the coming months, including hampers for schools, tree planting (possibly becoming an environment care team), Open The Book assembly filming, Christmas advent windows in the community.

Soul Space - We are looking for ways to re-start this relaxed service again soon.

Messy Church and work with families - The Church of England update their guidelines on a regular basis. I am waiting on a hint that will allow our families to meet again in church. Although groups can meet in certain circumstances, we feel that our families, most of whom have little ones, would not be comfortable with the restrictions we would have to impose on their movement around the church and building. How do you tell a toddler they can't go see their playmate?

Thank you for all your support and prayers.

Helen McGeoch Community Pioneer



New Housing at Whaddon



The first major housing development in the parish is being built now, at Yew Tree Gardens, Grange Road. A start has been made with visiting new residents with welcome packs. There will eventually be 250 new homes here.



In the longer term there is the possibility of a massive new development known as Whaddon Fields, which would bring nearly 3000 new homes to the open farmland to the south of the church building. There is naturally much local concern about the likely effects on the neighbourhood and its infrastructure.

Jonathan McKechnie-Jarvis
Reader

Vicarage

The vicarage is situated on Grange Road next to St George's Church and Centre and is a modern purpose-built detached family home.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a bathroom.

On the ground floor there is an extended living room with double doors onto the garden, a separate office/study and a second reception room/dining room.

There is a large kitchen with built in oven and hob and a utility room. The windows are double glazed and there is gas central heating. There is a garage with additional driveway parking.

The good sized garden is not overlooked and affords some privacy; it is mainly laid to lawn with patio, shrubs, fruit trees and vegetable plot .

The area has good transport links (the M5 is ten minutes away). There is a range of excellent schools within walking distance.



St George's Church Centre



Our main hall seats about 100 in theatre layout; probably about 75 in a dining room set up. Our small hall would seat around 25 in meeting layout. There is also a lounge, which can accommodate 20 and has softer seats. Both main and small halls have an access hatch to and from the kitchen. The small hall and lounge have a sliding door between them so can be used as one venue.

Electrical power points in all rooms and Gas fired central heating.

St George's Church Centre has a performing rights licence.

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers groups meet weekly as do Guides, Brownies and Rainbows.

St George's Church Centre is also used for community groups including a weekly Coffee Pot where you can come along have tea/coffee, breakfast and even a cooked breakfast as well as chatting to friends old and new.

Mothers' Union meet monthly, Slimming World sessions occur every week. Aphasia Now! and Speakability groups for those recovering from strokes and some other disablements meet in the Centre. We have a thriving Lunch Club for the elderly and a mixed age concert band rehearsing each week; there is also an entertainment group which meets each week and puts on an annual pantomime as well as other concerts/shows often for charity. Many of the regular users have had to change their meeting arrangements due to the COVID-19 situation and the lockdown scenarios but we anticipate that they will all be able to meet again when restrictions ease.

There is access for the disabled throughout the Centre, fully fitted kitchen, three recently refurbished toilets one with baby changing facilities.

We have managed to get some extra lets during this time of change and currently have a karate club and a home care service provider who use the facilities for team training.

St George's Church Centre is also used as a polling station on occasions.

Some church groups use the small hall and lounge.

The Centre can be hired by casual or regular users.



Lounge



Kitchen



Small Hall

Darrell Stevens,
Chair, Centre Management Committee

.....And during the pandemic?

We have worked to continue God's mission during the interesting challenge of a Vacancy during a pandemic by:-

- Keeping in contact by telephone with a 'buddy' scheme
- Hand delivering weekly newssheets which include readings, prayers and homily
- Keeping in touch with Messy Church families through hand delivery of activity packs.
- Recording 'shell' services and updating them with new hymns and readings each week during lockdown
- Publishing them on YouTube for those with internet access.
- Distributing them on DVD for those without internet access
- Producing audio recordings of actual services and distributing them for those unable to attend.
- Using Zoom for meetings and fellowship
- Having quiet prayer times available at St Margaret's
- Holding regular services at both church buildings when permissible.
- Developing exciting and innovative Christmas schemes
- Making use of a wonderful support network of local clergy.
- Caring for and supporting each other..... and smiling(even behind the facemasks!)

Is God calling you to join us in
the wonderful challenge of



Growing God's Kingdom

in Tuffley, Whaddon and
Podsmead?

In conclusion...

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Thank you for your interest in reading our profile.

We hope this has whetted your appetite to find out more.

The Appendices listed on the next page contain articles and background information which may be of interest.

Our website home page can be accessed by clicking [here](#)

We look forward to meeting you to explore how we might work together to continue our journey.

Appendices



1. Current Service Pattern
2. Benefice Statistics
3. Census 2011 Summary information
4. Summary Receipts and Payments 2019
5. Financial Position

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday	Midweek
St George's	10.30 Eucharist	10.30 Eucharist	10.30 Eucharist	10.30 Eucharist	10.30 Eucharist	Wednesday 8.15 Morning Prayer (Zoom)
St Margaret's	10.30 Family Praise	9.00 Eucharist		9.00 Eucharist	9.00 Eucharist	Thursday 10.30 Said Communion
	5pm Evensong		5pm Evensong			

Current Benefice Service Pattern

NB Not all priest-led!

Benefice Statistics



	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<u>St George's</u>							
Baptisms	13	14	21	24	16	20	20
Confirmations	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
Communicants	2,613	2,648	3,564	2,990	3,737	3,279	3,688
Attendances	6,156	5,794	6,761	12,210	5,928	8,637	8,283
Weddings	0	2	0	2	0	4	0
Funerals	28	25	31	35	38	47	47
Electoral roll	65	79	80	84	82	85	88
<u>St Margaret's</u>							
Baptisms	7	6	4	4	5	11	13
Confirmations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Communicants	919	624	715	-	-	-	-
Attendances	2,720	2,643	1,995	-	-	-	-
Weddings	6	2	3	5	6	5	7
Funerals	6	7	2	1	2	2	6
Electoral roll	36	36	-	34	34	-	38

Summary of 2011 Census information on population and households



Whaddon

St Margaret's parish is a tiny hamlet of 100 people in 40 households,

Tuffley

The St George's parish population of approaching 10,000 includes 600 children of pre-school age (0-4years), 1,200 school age children (5-15) and 1,900 people aged 65 and over.

Of the 4,000 households, 30% are single people, 49% married, 3% are separated, 10% divorced and 8% widowed.

Overall, over 2,000 adults are living alone; these include 600 aged 65 and over.

Of the 1,100 households with dependent children, around half (52%) are married families, 20% are cohabiting families, and 28% are lone parent families.

Over half (55%) the households live in semi-detached houses, 21% in terraced houses and 7% in detached houses; one in seven (14%) are in flats.

The large majority of the population (94%) are white, and born in the UK (94%); almost everyone (98%) has English as their main language.

In terms of health and wellbeing, most people say they are healthy and well. However, 1,800 (19%) say they are limited in their daily activities, and 600 (6%) say they are in bad or very bad health.

One in seven adults (14%) are qualified to level 4 or above; approaching a third (29%) have no qualifications.

The largest groups of residents at work are in the wholesale, retail or motor vehicle repair trades (21%), manufacturing (12%) or construction (8%); 6% are full-time students. One in three (31%) work part-time.

One adult in 20 (5% - 320 people) have never worked and are long-term unemployed.

Summary Receipts and Payments 2019



		St George's £'000	St Margaret's £'000	Total £'000
Receipts				
	Planned Giving	22.5	8.1	30.6
	Tax reclaim	5.7	3.1	8.8
	Solar panels	3.6		3.6
	Other	11.4	10.1	21.5
	Total Receipts	43.2	21.3	64.5
Payments				
	Parish share	26.0	9.8	35.8
	Solar panels	3.6		3.6
	Other	11.5	4.6	16.1
	Total Payments	41.1	14.4	55.5
Net Total		2.1	6.9	9.0

Financial Position



St George's

- 2019 Position supported by £5k one-off donations.
- Planned giving is falling as a result of the loss of a series of significant contributors.
- £4k-£5k deficit forecast for 2020 from combined effect of loss of contributors (including one-off donations) and effects of lockdown on fundraising and plate giving.
- Worst case £12k deficit forecast for 2021 assuming no change in Parish Share contribution and no significant improvement in fundraising and plate giving.
- Solar panels funded by Diocesan loan (£22k outstanding) being paid off using feed-in tariff income from energy generated.

St Margaret's

- Positive 2019 position with high planned giving base.
- Recent significant fundraising efforts to support new roof.
- Potential further significant expenditure in 2020 to support porch repairs.
- Breakeven position forecast for 2021 with minor reductions in planned giving, fees and plate giving as the result of the Covid-19 effect.