

# ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, BROCKWORTH

## PARISH PROFILE



## WELCOME

A very warm welcome to our Parish Profile. We trust you will prayerfully consider whether God is calling you here to serve alongside us as we seek to fulfil our mission "To Journey in Faith and Share God's Love".



## WHO ARE WE ?

We are part of God's family here in Brockworth and in the wider world. Many of us are of retirement age, but we are delighted to include several young families in our number. There is a great sense of community and family here. We asked people what they liked about St. George's as part of preparing this profile and one said, "I love the friendship of the congregation and the casual visitors ... who have such goodwill to St. George's". Another said the Church has a "family, friendly atmosphere". Very much valued is the fact that people feel able "to share our doubts, beliefs and spirituality in safety, with no judgement".

We are part of a wider ecumenical movement here in the village and collaborate with St. Patrick's Catholic Church and The United Reformed Church.

We are a single Parish benefice within the Diocese of Gloucester and are guided by the Diocesan LIFE vision, more details of which can be found at <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/>.

Over the years we have been fortunate to have had several priests, all very different, but all very much loved, and we will enthusiastically welcome and work with whoever comes next.

## HOW DO WE WORSHIP ?

Our worship is Eucharistically based, with mainly traditional services which are very much cherished. However, we know that, in order to grow and thrive, we need to broaden our approach and appeal to a wider range of people. We use the contemporary Common Worship.



### Sunday worship:

with a regular average congregation of well over 50 people.

8am: Said Eucharist, with a Book of Common Prayer service on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays.

10am: Parish Eucharist, with a Family service on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays.

### Weekday worship:

9.30am: Wednesday in our Church centre Chapel, attended by 12 – 15 people. For some, this is their main weekly worship.

In Advent and Lent, Morning Prayer is led by members of the ministry team and is well attended.

Vestments are worn for the Eucharists.



	2017	2018	2019
Electoral Roll	111	106	86*
Easter	137	120	93
Christmas Crib Service	Adults 45 Children 110	45 135	
Midnight & 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	145	97	
Usual Sunday attendance	Adults 68 Children 4	Adults 52 Children 4	Adults 59 Children 4 (to mid-May)
Baptisms	Adults 2 Children 29	Adults 2 Children 23	6 children with 9 booked from June onwards
Weddings	21	15	7 +
Funerals Church	10	16	
Crematorium	19	15	

\*After complete renewal of the Roll. 17 members live outside the parish.

### Readers:

We are fortunate to have two experienced Licensed Readers who are involved in much of our worship.

One has said "We are a team and need someone who will use us and let us support them as well as supporting us".

One is skilled at taking funeral services and takes home communion to several parishioners, as well as a regular communion service and a Memorial service at one of our local care homes. The other is part of the chaplaincy team at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, along with another member of the congregation.

We benefit from the support and experience of two retired priests who live locally.

There is wide lay involvement in worship, with congregation members leading prayers, reading and administering the chalice.



## Children

Children are welcomed and included in worship.

They join in the Eucharist. Several young people are servers. There is an area in church set aside and equipped for younger children to use.

A comment from our responses says, "I love the fact that children feel comfortable and at ease here" The same person loves the fact that "laughter rings out in our services".



## Church bells:

The Church bells are rung regularly by a dedicated group of ringers. They ring on Sundays to welcome people to worship and for weddings and special occasions.



Organ:

The organ in Church was fully refurbished in 2013, though sadly for the past year or so we have not had a regular organist and sometimes use CDs. As a congregation we love to sing!

Special services:

There is a range of special services; for example, All Souls Service of Remembrance, Carols by Candlelight and a Christmas Crib service. Holy Week includes a Palm Sunday procession from the Church Centre to the Church and an ecumenical Good Friday procession around the village streets.



Initiatives for Primary schools:

As a Church we have successfully adopted the Gloucester Diocesan Experience Initiatives of Easter, Christmas, Harvest, Church and Pentecost which are run on an annual cycle and which invite parties of primary school children into Church to an interactive experience of Church festivals and traditions.





Open the Book:

Members of St George's lead "Open the Book" sessions in both Castle Hill and Brockworth Primary schools, neither of which are Church schools, working with members of the URC and the Catholic Church. Recently they have taken part in a special 'OTB' service to mark 20 years of 'Open the Book'



## WHERE DO WE WORSHIP ?

Sunday worship takes place in Church as it has since Norman times when it was situated on the edge of the village. Work is now just starting on a large new housing development of 1400 homes, immediately to the North of the Church.

The regular Wednesday service take place in the Church Centre Chapel. The Centre is ideally situated in the heart of the village, close to the library and shops, and adjacent to the Vicarage. It offers full accessibility for those who are less mobile.

This building includes a hall, meeting room, kitchen and storerooms. There is an office. Redecoration of the main hall, chapel and entrance hall has been carried out by volunteers over the past two years.

The hall is not only used for St George's functions and events but is also let regularly to various groups and for private hire within the community.



On Ascension Day at 7am, we have a short act of worship at the top of Cooper's Hill (famous for its annual Cheese Rolling competition).



## WHAT ELSE DO WE DO ?

MU – We have a thriving and well-attended Mother’s Union which meets monthly and supports MU work at home and abroad. MU runs a “Needles and Natter” group in which companionship is greatly valued.

Toddlers – Church members run a popular Toddlers group for pre-school children and their parents, grandparents or carers. For some families this has led to a closer involvement in Church life.

PCC – Our full PCC meets regularly, with sub-committees involved in fundraising, communication, Church centre management and Deanery Synod. We employ a Church Administrator for 18 hours a week.

Communication - Our website is well-used, often as a first point of contact: [www.st-george-brockworth.org.uk](http://www.st-george-brockworth.org.uk) and we have Facebook page. There is a Facebook “Brockworth Notice Board” page on which we can advertise special events. A Parish magazine is issued 10 times a year and we have a weekly pew sheet.

Quiet days – have been held twice a year at Brownhill Monastery and are very much appreciated and valued for their opportunities for spiritual growth.



Taking part in “Ride and Stride” for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

A Bible study group and Lent and Advent courses – give another opportunity for study and discussion.

Flower Guild – our talented flower arrangers enhance the beauty of our Church and are involved in weddings and in setting up the stations for our Primary school “Experiences”.



Treefest –  
Many organisations and families enjoy participating in our Christmas tree festival, held in mid-December.



Charity and Mission – We are enthusiastic supporters of the Gloucester Foodbank and strive to be an environmentally-friendly Fair-Trade Parish. We have installed solar panels on the Church centre roof and make full use of local recycling services. Although we respond to disaster appeals worldwide, we like to support more local charities whenever we can. We also support charities such as The Cobalt Unit, the James Hopkins Trust, Sightsavers, Alzheimer’s and Guide Dogs for the Blind, by collecting recyclable items such as greetings cards and milk bottle tops.

Successful St. George's Day celebrations have been held for the past 4 years. The community is taking an ever-greater part in their organisation.



## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE.

We consider ourselves to be a welcoming, supportive and friendly congregation with a strong spiritual base and a sense of belonging. One of our strengths is a good core of willing, though ageing, volunteers who will tackle projects such as baptism and marriage preparation courses, cleaning, churchyard maintenance and pastoral visiting.

A major challenge for our new vicar will be to guide us as we find a way to engage with the fast-growing population of the village, and especially the 1400 new homes about to be built close to the Church.

We need to maintain the good links we have with the Primary schools, to build up links with the High School and to find new ways as a Church to encourage and engage with the young people of the village.

We would really like to improve the way we retain and build on contacts made during occasional offices, for example wedding couples and baptism families, (although latterly an annual tea party has been laid on for families of those baptised within that year) and to continue to work towards a higher profile within the village.

There has been a Church on this site since the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. It has undergone rebuilding and restoration over the centuries. Inevitably maintenance and repair are on-going. The church is generally in good order apart from some cracking in the North and West walls which is currently under investigation, in consultation with the diocese and structural surveyors. We now need to implement work to repair this which has been monitored under the guidance of a structural surveyor over the last two years and has recently undergone a comprehensive geological survey.

Finance remains a challenge. We have managed to pay our committed amount for Parish Share for several years, but 2019 will be difficult. The current forecast shows that we will need to raise an additional £13K to balance the general fund this year. 29 regular givers use the Parish Giving Scheme and 22 use our own envelope scheme. We have a QR code which links to our Just Giving account.

## MIGHT GOD BE CALLING YOU ?

Are you a person of firm faith who will walk alongside and guide us as we seek to journey in faith, wherever we are on that journey, and share God's love?

When we asked Church members what skills and attributes would be desirable, several felt a "sense of family" was important, along with a sense of humour, understanding and experience. To be "Down to earth and good natured", friendly, approachable, someone who can delegate and work with a team and "honour the traditions of worship but also explore ways to help us think and grow" were all felt to be important. Looking outward, we need someone who can help us reach out to our community

Our hopes and prayers are for:

A priest who can connect with children and young families through the schools, uniformed organisations and community-run schemes.

A leader who will guide and inspire us in reaching out to people in the new housing development.

Someone who will engage with the wider and changing world.

A priest with good organizational and communication skills.

You will be enthusiastically supported by the ministry team and the whole congregation.



## SOME MORE ABOUT WHERE WE LIVE.

The parish of St. George, Brockworth is within the Diocese of Gloucester and is in the Severn Vale Deanery and the Archdeaconry of Gloucester.

The semi-rural village of Brockworth lies between the city of Gloucester to the West and the spa town of Cheltenham to the North East. Gloucester is rich in history, dating back to Roman times and the magnificent cathedral lies in the centre of the city. Gloucester Docks hosts The Tall Ships Festival every two years. The regency town of Cheltenham hosts many cultural events and festivals, and, of course, the famous racecourse.

There are excellent transport links, especially the nearby M5 with its easy access to Bristol in the South and Birmingham to the North. Other road and rail links connect to Swindon and London to the east and Cardiff and South Wales to the west.

There is mixed housing, both privately owned and rented. Much of this was built between 1940 and 1960, to accommodate the workers at the Gloucester Aircraft Company during its heyday of Jet engine research and aircraft manufacture. The site of the GAC has undergone redevelopment as a Business Park with extensive residential development (2000 plus dwellings), known as Coopers Edge. This development is divided between our parish and two others.

The population of the village is currently around 8500. Further development of 1400 houses on the North-East edge of the village is in the early stages of construction. This presents both challenges and opportunities.

People are involved in a wide range of employment. Some work locally, but many travel to Gloucester or Cheltenham, or commute further, for example to Bristol or Swindon.

At the village centre there is a community library, bank, post office, cafe and local shops and there is a large supermarket and other retail outlets on the Business Park. In addition, there is a chemist, another Co-op and a medical centre in Abbotswood, the other side of Ermin Street. There are also several hairdressers and a barber in the village.

Uniformed organisations within the village include Scouts, Guides and Army Cadets.





Thank you for taking the time to read our profile. If you have any questions, please get in touch with The Archdeacon of Gloucester, the Ven. Hilary Dawson, email: [archdglos@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:archdglos@glosdioc.org.uk)

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