

Parish Profile

St George's Church

Brockworth



Introduction

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. The regency town of Cheltenham hosts many cultural events and festivals, including Greenbelt which takes place at 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.



The features of the area

- The Parish is within the local authority areas of Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council.
- 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 is undergoing redevelopment as a Business Park with extensive residential development (2000 plus dwellings), known as Coopers Edge. This development is divided between three parishes.
- During the last seventy years the village has expanded significantly, from a population of approximately 500 to the current level of 6900. This continues to present unusual 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.
- There are three schools within the parish, two primary schools and a secondary school that has become an Enterprise College. A further new primary school has opened this September on the Coopers Edge development.
- There are two residential homes for the elderly.
- The local authority runs a new community and youth centre which offers many activities and services.
- There is a Roman Catholic Church (St. Patrick's) and a United Reformed Church within the parish.
- The British Legion has a branch in Brockworth.
- At the village centre there is a library, bank, post office and local shops and there is a large supermarket and other retail outlets on the Business Park.
- Uniformed organisations within the village include Scouts, Guides and TA.

St George's Church

The Church is situated on the edge of the village and it is likely that a church has existed on this site since Saxon times. A Norman building was consecrated in 1143 but all that remains of this are the font and two arches supporting the central tower. The church was largely rebuilt in the late 14th century and a major refurbishment undertaken in the mid-19th century when the tower was heightened and the six bells installed. The internal fabric was completely reordered at this time and this is largely as it is today though in the last few years there has been some reorganisation of the font area and replacement of some pews with chairs.



The church is generally in good order and there is an ongoing programme of re-ordering and consideration of appropriate heating and lighting.

There is access to the Parish Burial Ground from the churchyard.

St George's Church Centre



The Church Centre was built in 1991 and is next to the Vicarage in Court Road, Brockworth. The building is on Glebe land, which is leased from Gloucester Diocese. Discussions with the Diocese are currently in progress over the future development of this Glebe land.

The building includes a hall, meeting room, kitchen and storerooms. There is also a Chapel and an office area. Some

reordering of the Church Centre is under consideration by the PCC.

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.

Church Centre Chapel



St George's Toddler Group
Christmas party



Church Life

The present pattern of the main Sunday services is:

8am - Holy Communion

10am - Parish Eucharist (1st Sunday a family service)

Both these services are Common Worship (contemporary language) with the exception of the 8am on the 1st Sunday, which is BCP. Vestments are used at all these services.



Regular weekday worship is held on Wednesdays at 9.30am with Communion at the Church Centre Chapel followed by coffee and chat.

Saints Days/Feast Days:

There is a range of special services, for example, All Souls Requiem Mass and Carols by Candlelight. Holy Week includes a Palm Sunday procession from the Church Centre to St. George's Church and an ecumenical Good Friday procession around the village streets.

As a Church we have successfully adopted the Gloucester Diocesan initiatives of Experience Easter and Experience Christmas, which invite parties of school children into Church to hear the Gospel stories.

The Church is open every day in term time.

On Saturday mornings there is informal prayer and meditation.

Two experienced licensed readers assist in leading worship and preach regularly. There is wide lay involvement, with members of the congregation leading prayers, reading and administering the chalice. An informal choir leads the singing at the 10am Sunday Worship. The church bells are rung regularly on Sundays, for weddings and on a weekly practice night. The style of worship is considered to be moderate catholic though a variety of liturgy is used. Children take part in services and there is a "Round the Table" led by a team of adults who arrange activities for children relating to the Gospel story. This takes place within the Church and the children join in the Eucharist.

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 volunteers who will tackle projects such as baptism and marriage preparation courses, cleaning, Churchyard maintenance and pastoral visiting.

Other activities include -

An active Mothers Union group with a membership of 40 covering a wide age range and both sexes. All are welcomed at events and meetings. It has fostered strong links with the local Sure Start Children's Centre and is valued by them, providing voluntary help at several of its activities. The MU also welcomes visitors to a "Needles and Natter" social group which meets every Thursday morning.

Members of St George's lead "Open the Book" sessions in both Castle Hill and Brockworth Primary schools, working with members of the URC and the Catholic Church.

A weekly toddlers group which is run by members of the congregation, a talented flower guild, an art group which meets weekly, and a wide variety of well supported fund raising and social events.

There is an ecumenical Bible study group and a lay led prayer group in the village.

